

❖ Lesson 3

Explaining Things

「説明する」

Challenge!

Work with the whole class.

**You think Tokyo is the best place
to live.**

**Give 3 reasons and explain why you
think it is the best place.**

Explaining Things 「説明する」

When you explain things in English,
it's important to follow a certain order
so the listener will understand you better

物事を説明する時には、一定のルールに従うことで、相手がより理解しやすくなります。
特に英語ではそれが強く求められます。

This lesson introduces two rules to follow.

■ Rule 1: Explaining Things in Chronological Order

時系列に説明する

There are three steps to making curry.

First, cut all the vegetables and meat.

Second, stir fry* them.

Third, add some water and boil them thoroughly*.

* stir fry 炒める

* boil thoroughly 煮込む

➔ Substitution Practice

- *Work with your partner. Practice the above explanations substituting with the following.*

1. • removing a stain from your shirt
 - place the shirt on a wet cloth with the stain side down
 - tap the stained area several times
 - machine wash the shirt
2. • buying a train ticket
 - look for your destination on the fare chart
 - put your money into the ticket machine
 - press the fare button

■ Explaining Things in Chronological Order

There are three steps to _____.

First, _____.

Second, _____.

Third, _____.

This lesson introduces two rules to follow.

■ Rule 2: Explaining Things in Level of Importance

重要度順に説明する

When an earthquake occurs, **the most important thing is** to stay calm.

Then, make sure to turn off the gas.

Finally, wait for the quake to stop, avoiding falling objects.

➔ Substitution Practice

- *Work with your partner. Practice the above explanations, substituting with the following.*

1. • in order to keep your dog happy
 - to feed it regularly
 - walk it regularly
 - talk to it often
2. • when you can't sleep
 - to stop worrying about it
 - turn on your reading light
 - start reading a boring book

■ Explaining Things

in Level of Importance

_____, the most important thing is _____.

Then, _____.

Finally, _____.

Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation.*

■ Chronological Phrases

- in the beginning / in the middle / at the end
- in the early stages / then gradually / last

■ Level of Importance

- first of all / secondly / finally
- most of all / then / lastly

Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation.*

■ Phrases for Practice 1

- take a trip to a local place
- unexpected person* 予想外の人
- murder occurs
- surprising reason
- person under suspicion* 疑わしい人
- places of interest* 名所

Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation.*

■ Phrases for Practice 2

- preparation is most important
- prepare visuals
- make an outline
- interact with the audience
- practice your presentation
- equipment to use

Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation.*

■ Phrases for Practice 3

- lower taxes
- educational reform
- enrich public welfare
- clean up political corruption

★ Practice

- *Work with your partner. Practice explaining the following.*
- *Then, present your explanation to the class. Use the above phrases and/or other phrases if needed.*

1. How the Tuesday Suspense Drama on TV works.

- Include “chronological phrases”.
- Use all of the “Phrases for Practice 1”.

■ Chronological Phrases

- in the beginning / in the middle / at the end
- in the early stages / then gradually / last

■ Phrases for Practice 1

- take a trip to a local place
- murder occurs
- person under suspicion
- unexpected person
- surprising reason
- places of interest

★ Practice

- *Work with your partner. Practice explaining the following.*
- *Then, present your explanation to the class. Use the above phrases and/or other phrases if needed.*

2. How to make a good presentation.

- **Include phrases for “level of importance”.**
- **Use all of the “Phrases for Practice 2”.**

■ Level of Importance

- first of all / secondly / finally
- most of all / then / lastly

■ Phrases for Practice 2

- preparation is most important
- make an outline
- practice your presentation
- prepare visuals
- interact with the audience
- equipment to use

★ Practice

- *Work with your partner. Practice explaining the following.*
- *Then, present your explanation to the class. Use the above phrases and/or other phrases if needed.*

3. How to make Japan beautiful .

- You can use either “chronological phrases” or phrases for “level of importance”.
- Use all of the “Phrases for Practice 3”.

■ Chronological Phrases

- in the beginning / in the middle / at the end
- in the early stages / then gradually / last

■ Level of Importance

- first of all / secondly / finally
- most of all / then / lastly

■ Phrases for Practice 3

- lower taxes
- educational reform
- enrich public welfare
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Outlining Your Explanation

アウトラインをつくる

Before explaining something, outline your ideas so that people can understand them better. Outlining prevents you from getting away from the theme or the topics of your explanation.

In English, the topic sentence comes first, followed by supporting ideas. You never talk about anything else but your topic, while in Japanese, it is possible to talk about anything, even if it's not related to the topic.

何かを説明する際には、説明する内容をあらかじめアウトライン化しておく効果的です。

アウトライン化することによって、話しの焦点がずれるのを防ぐことができます。

日本語は、雰囲気や情緒にまかせて話が色々な方向へ展開していきませんが、英語でそういう話し方をすると、聞き手は混乱します。英語では、自分が何を話すのかを最初に言い切ってしまう(結論)、その詳細について順を追って展開し、その内容以外のことには触れません。



Outlining Your Explanation

アウトラインをつくる

* Example: You want to explain why you like coffee.

■ 【Outline】:

- **Topic sentence:** I like coffee for three reasons.
- **Reason 1:** It smells great.
 - a. refreshing
 - b. relaxing
- **Reason 2:** It tastes good.
 - a. black is nice and bitter
 - b. goes well with milk and sugar
- **Reason 3:** It wakes me up.
 - a. in the morning – getting ready for work
 - b. at night – keeping me awake to work overtime
- **Conclusion:** That's why I like coffee.



Outlining Your Explanation

アウトラインをつくる

* Example: You want to explain why you like coffee.

■ 【Explanation】:

I like coffee for three reasons.

First of all, it smells great. I can refresh myself after work.

I can also relax when I'm nervous or tense.

Secondly, coffee tastes good. Black coffee is nice and bitter. It also goes well with milk and sugar.

Finally, coffee wakes me up. It helps me get ready for work in the morning. It keeps me awake when I have to work overtime.

I like coffee for these three reasons.



Outlining Your Explanation

アウトラインをつくる

- *Now it's your turn. Choose one of the following topics. Make an outline. Then explain it to your partner or to the class.*
 1. A fruit you like
 2. A restaurant you like
 3. A drink you like
(for example, beer, sake, or shochu, etc..)
 4. A place you like to visit