

LESSON 4

明宏	お盆休みはどうするの？	お盆休み Obon holidays	Akihiro	What are you gonna do during Obon Holidays?
涼子	実家に帰るつもりだけど。	実家 parent's home	Ryoko	I'm going home.
明宏	いいねえ。実家ってどこなんだっけ？		Akihiro	Great. Remind me where your home is.
涼子	岡山だよ。		Ryoko	Okayama prefecture.
明宏	岡山か。結構遠いね。もう新幹線のチケットは予約した？	新幹線 bullet train 予約する reserve	Akihiro	Oh, Okayama. Quite far. Have you reserved a ticket for the bullet train yet?
涼子	もちろん。もう1ヶ月前にはしたよ。すぐに予約でいっぱいになっちゃうからね。絶対自由席なんかで帰りたくない。	自由席 non-reserved seat	Ryoko	Of course. I already did that a month ago, since the seats are sold out fast. I never want to count on a non-reserved seat.
明宏	それは大変だもんね。お墓参りも行くの？	墓参り visit family graves	Akihiro	I know, that would be hard. Are you gonna visit your family graves there?
涼子	そりゃあお盆だから行くわよ。田舎はそういうの結構大切な。明宏は行かないの？	田舎 country	Ryoko	Oh yes. It's Obon, you know. In this country that sort of thing means quite a bit. Aren't you going to, Akihiro?
明宏	うちは親が住んでるのは東京なんだけど、父親も母親も出身は九州なんだ。遠いから滅多に行くことなんてないよ。だからお墓参りとか全然行ったことない。実家が東京都内だから帰ろうと思ったらすぐ帰れるからね。お盆休みは俺にとって毎年ただの連休だよ。	うち my home, my family 出身 hometown 滅多に…ない rarely 全然…ない never, not...at all	Akihiro	My parents live in Tokyo, but both of them are originally from Kyushu. It's too far away to visit often so I have never been to the family grave. Since my home is in Tokyo, I can go there whenever I want to. Obon is just a series of holidays to me each year.
涼子	実家にすぐに帰れるのはうらやましいな。遠いと毎回新幹線代高いんだもん。	うらやましい envy, be jealous …代 costs of ... adj +だもん since, because	Ryoko	I wish I could go home right away, too. When it's so far away, the bullet train costs a lot.
明宏	俺は田舎があるのが逆にうらやましいけどね。でもあんまり方言でないね。	逆に on the contrary 方言 dialect あんまり…ない not ...so much	Akihiro	On the contrary, I wish I had a home in the country. You don't slip into your dialect too much, though.
涼子	東京にももう長いからね。でも岡山帰ったら岡山弁でしゃべるよ。使い分けができるようになったみたい。	place +弁 …dialect 使い分ける To use properly	Ryoko	I've been in Tokyo for a long time. but when I'm back home, I speak with an Okayama dialect. I seem to be able to switch between the two now.
明宏	岡山って言ったらきびだんごが有名だね。他に何があるっけ？全然知らないや。	きびだんご millet dumpling だんご dumpling made of rice	Akihiro	Okayama is famous for millet dumpling. Anything else? I know nothing about there.
涼子	他にもいろいろあるよ。実は白桃とかマスカットも美味しいって有名なんだよ。	白桃 white peach マスカット muscat grapes	Ryoko	There's a lot more there. Actually, their white peaches and muscat grapes are also famous for their exquisite tastes.
明宏	そうなんだ、知らなかった。さすがに詳しいね。	そうなんだ you don't say さすが(に) as might have been expected, be worthy of …だからね because	Akihiro	Oh ok. I didn't know. As might have been expected, you are familiar with your own home, aren't you?
涼子	もちろん！岡山ラブだからね。		Ryoko	Of course! Because I love Okayama.

【POINT】

・お盆の帰省ラッシュ The Homecoming Rush during the Obon Holidays

お盆 (Obon) is an event based on a traditional Japanese belief that the ancestral spirits come from the other world to visit their families and spend a happy time before they go back.

At present, it designates the four days between August 13 and 16 in general, when many businesses are closed.

During these holidays, there are many who go back to their homes where they were born and grew up. "帰省ラッシュ (The Homecoming rush) " causes reservations for public transportation such as bullet trains and airplanes to be filled and long traffic jams on the highways.