

ONI DOJO 鬼道場

N2

JLPT N2 Workbook

Work, news and opinions

Formal written patterns, set expressions and the vocabulary of work, society and argument.

30

LESSONS

89

GRAMMAR POINTS

357

WORDS

8

READINGS

784

EXERCISES

with Kurenai 紅 · Slettvoid Security · slettvoid.org

How to use this workbook

“Welcome to my dojo. I am Kurenai, your sensei, and yes, I am an oni. Don't worry, I only bite lazy students. Work through one lesson at a time, write your answers by hand, and check them at the back. Then do it again in a week. That's the whole secret.”

1. **Read the grammar.** Each point has a short explanation and examples. Read the examples aloud.
2. **Learn the words.** Tick the box when you know a word without looking.
3. **Read the dialogue** and cover the English to see how much you understand.
4. **Do the practice** on paper without looking back, then check your answers in the answer key.
5. **Read the stories** placed between the lessons. They only use what you have learned so far.
6. **Review.** Come back to a lesson after a few days and a week. Spaced review is what makes words stick.

Furigana (small kana above kanji) is shown in grammar, dialogues and stories. Try reading without it first. In the practice sections there is less help, as in the real test.

This workbook follows the N2 course in the **Oni Dojo** app (slettvoid.org/onidojo), where every sentence also has audio, flashcards and typed answers. You can use the book on its own or together with the app.

Contents

Lesson 1	Although, granted	Lesson 18	N2 adverbs
Lesson 2	If only, because (excuses)		Reading: The night shift
Lesson 3	On top of, not only	Lesson 19	As if, like
Lesson 4	While, on the side	Lesson 20	Amounts and correspondence
	Reading: The empty house		Reading: The tsunami stone
Lesson 5	Hard to, could end up	Lesson 21	That's what ... is
Lesson 6	No choice but to	Lesson 22	Only, ever more
Lesson 7	Unless, as soon as, depends on		Reading: From overwork to a new life
Lesson 8	After much ..., after doing	Lesson 23	Since, now that
	Reading: The apprentice	Lesson 24	For, considering, even if
Lesson 9	Based on, concerning	Lesson 25	Far from, no way
Lesson 10	Regardless, despite		Reading: The ghost of the old school
Lesson 11	On the occasion of, through	Lesson 26	Possible and impossible
Lesson 12	When it comes to, as far as	Lesson 27	Turning points
Lesson 13	Because of, given that	Lesson 28	Hard to do
Lesson 14	Nothing but, best to	Lesson 29	Formal letters and requests
Lesson 15	Unbearably, can't help	Lesson 30	Review: reading an editorial
Lesson 16	Soft opinions		Reading: The girl in the snow
	Reading: Do we still need to learn languages?	•	Answer key
Lesson 17	Logical connectors	•	Word list

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the selection here follows common practice.

FREE SAMPLE
slettvold.org/onidojo/workbooks.html

N2 · LESSON 1

Although, granted ものの・とはいえ・といっても

In this lesson you will

- Concede a point with ～ものの
- Use the written ～とはいえ
- Downplay with ～といっても

Grammar

① ～ものの *although ..., but ...*

Plain form (な-adj である/な, noun である) + ものの: the first fact is true, but the result is not what you'd expect: 免許は取ったものの、車がない "I got my licence, but I don't have a car". It's written or formal; in speech use けど.

日本語を勉強し始めたものの、なかなか続かない。

I started studying Japanese, but I can't seem to keep it up.

新しい仕事に慣れてきたものの、まだ不安なことも多い。

I've got used to the new job, but there's still a lot I'm unsure about.

頭ではわかっているものの、実行するのは難しい。

I understand it in my head, but putting it into practice is hard.

② ～とはいえ *even so, granted that ...*

Plain form or noun + とはいえ: admits a fact, then contradicts the expectation. Very common in writing: 春とはいえ、まだ寒い "It's spring, but it's still cold". At the start of a sentence: とはいえ、… "That said, ...".

春とはいえ、朝晩はまだ寒い。

It may be spring, but mornings and evenings are still cold.

簡単な仕事とはいえ、油断はできない。

It may be simple work, but you can't let your guard down.

景気は回復しつつある。とはいえ、生活は楽にならない。

The economy is recovering. Even so, life isn't getting easier.

③ ～といっても *although I say ..., (it's not much)*

といっても corrects an impression: 料理ができるといっても、カレーぐらいです "I say I can cook, but it's only curry". It lowers what was just said.

旅行といっても、近くの温泉に一泊するだけです。

I say "a trip", but it's just one night at a nearby hot spring.

社長といっても、社員三人の小さな会社だ。

He's a company president, but it's a small firm with three employees.

Vocabulary

WORD	READING	MEANING	✓
免許	めんきょ	licence	☐
実行	じっこう	carrying out, practice	☐
不安	ふあん	anxiety	☐
朝晩	あさばん	morning and evening	☐
油断	ゆだん	carelessness	☐
景気	けいき	economic conditions	☐
回復	かいふく	recovery	☐
楽	らく	easy, comfortable	☐
一泊	いっぱく	one night's stay	☐
社員	しゃいん	employee	☐
理想	りそう	ideal	☐
現実	げんじつ	reality	☐
矛盾	むじゅん	contradiction	☐
譲歩	じょうほ	concession	☐
挑戦	ちょうせん	challenge	☐

Dialogue: The N2 wall

You return to the dojo after a long break.

紅 ひさ べんきょう すす
久しぶりね。N2の勉強は進んでる？

Long time no see. How's your N2 study going?

あなた きょうかしょ か さん よ
教科書は買ったものの、まだ三ページしか読んでいません……。

I bought the textbook, but I've only read three pages...

紅 いそが さん すく
忙しいとはいえ、三ページは少なすぎるわね。

Even if you're busy, three pages is too few.

あなた いそが
忙しいといっても、ゲームをしていただけなんです。

Well, I say busy, but I was just playing games.

紅 しょうじき きょう おに しゅぎょう
正直でよろしい。今日から、また鬼の修行よ。

Honest, at least. Starting today, it's oni training again.

Kurenai's culture corner

Many learners hit a "plateau" between N3 and N2: textbooks get abstract, and progress feels slow. Japanese has a word for steady effort through it — 地道 (じみち, "plain, steady") — and N2 is often the level employers ask for, so the reward is real.

Practice

1.1 Match the word to its meaning

Match each Japanese word with its English meaning.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. ____ 油断 | a one night's stay |
| 2. ____ 挑戦 | b licence |
| 3. ____ 現実 | c carrying out, practice |
| 4. ____ 実行 | d recovery |
| 5. ____ 朝晩 | e carelessness |
| 6. ____ 矛盾 | f morning and evening |
| 7. ____ 社員 | g reality |
| 8. ____ 一泊 | h challenge |
| 9. ____ 免許 | i contradiction |
| 10. ____ 回復 | j employee |

1.2 Choose the right word

Choose the word that fills the blank ____.

- 免許は取った____、車がない。(I got my licence, but no car.)
a からは **b** ものなら **c** ものの **d** といっても
- 春と____、まだ寒い。(It's spring, but still cold.)
a しても **b** すれば **c** はいえ **d** いても
- 旅行と____、一泊だけです。(I say trip, but just one night.)
a しても **b** いても **c** はいえ **d** すれば
- 頭ではわかっている____、実行は難しい。(I know it, but doing it is hard.)
a もの **b** ものだ **c** もので **d** ものの
- 簡単な仕事とは____、油断できない。(Simple work, yet you can't relax.)
a いて **b** いうと **c** いえ **d** いえ
- 社長と____、社員三人の会社だ。(He's president, but of a tiny firm.)
a したら **b** いても **c** すれば **d** なると

1.3 Translate into Japanese

Write each sentence in Japanese (kana is fine), then check against the model answer.

1. I started, but I can't keep it up.

2. It's spring, but it's still cold.

3. I say I can cook, but only curry.

4. That said, life isn't easy.

1.4 Understand the dialogue

Match each line from the dialogue to its meaning.

1. _____ 久しぶりね。N2の勉強は進んでる？

2. _____ 教科書は買ったものの、まだ三ページしか読んでいません……。

3. _____ 忙しいとはいえ、三ページは少なすぎるわね。

4. _____ 忙しいといっても、ゲームをしていただけなんです。

5. _____ 正直でよろしい。今日から、また鬼の修行よ。

a Well, I say busy, but I was just playing games.

b I bought the textbook, but I've only read three pages...

c Honest, at least. Starting today, it's oni training again.

d Long time no see. How's your N2 study going?

e Even if you're busy, three pages is too few.

N2 · LESSON 2

If only, because (excuses) ものなら・ものだから

In this lesson you will

- Express an impossible wish with ～ものなら
- Warn of consequences with ～ようものなら
- Give excuses with ～ものだから／～もので

Grammar

① ～ものなら *if (it were) possible ...*

Potential form + ものなら: a wish that's hard to achieve: 戻れるものなら、学生時代に^{がくせいじだい}戻りたい "If I could go back, I'd go back to my student days". The second half is often a wish or challenge: できるものならやってみろ "Do it, if you can".

行けるものなら、今^{いま}すぐ日本^{にほん}へ行きたい。

If I could, I'd go to Japan right now.

やり直^{なお}せるものなら、やり直^{なお}したい。

If I could start over, I would.

② ～ようものなら *if (you dare to) ..., (disaster)*

Volitional + ものなら warns that even a small action would bring terrible results: 母^{はは}に口答え^{くちごた}しようものなら、一週^{いっしゅうかんぐち}間口をきいてもらえない "If I so much as talk back to my mother, she won't speak to me for a week".

この店^{みせ}で写真^{しゃしん}を撮^とろうものなら、すぐ^{おこ}に怒られる。

If you so much as take a photo in this shop, you'll get told off immediately.

先生^{せんせい}に遅刻^{ちこく}しようものなら、大変^{たいへん}なことになる。

If you're late for Sensei, you're in big trouble.

③ ～ものだから／～もので *because (excuse, explanation)*

Plain form (な-adj な, noun な) + ものだから gives a personal reason, often as an excuse or apology: 道^{みち}が混ん^こでいたものですから、遅^{おく}れてしまいました "The roads were busy, so I'm afraid I was late". もので is softer and very common in polite speech.

電車^{でんしゃ}が止^とまっていたものですから、遅^{おそ}くなりました。

The trains were stopped, so I'm late.

あまりにおいしかったもので、つい全部^{ぜんぶ}食^たべてしまいました。

It was so delicious that I ended up eating it all.

初^{はじ}めてなもので、よくわからないんです。

It's my first time, so I don't really understand.

Vocabulary

WORD	READING	MEANING	✓
やり直す	やりなおす	redo, start over	☐
口答え	くちごたえ	talking back	☐
口をきく	くちをきく	speak to	☐
あまりに		too, excessively	☐
言い訳	いいわけ	excuse	☐
事情	じじょう	circumstances	☐
遠慮	えんりょ	restraint, holding back	☐
恐縮	きょうしゆく	feeling obliged/sorry	☐
願望	がんぼう	wish, desire	☐
時間を巻き戻す	じかんをまきもどす	turn back time	☐
取り返し	とりかえし	recovery (of a mistake)	☐
激怒	げきど	fury	☐
慌てる	あわてる	panic, rush	☐
うっかり		carelessly	☐

Dialogue: The late arrival

You arrive 30 minutes late to a meeting with Kurenai's friend.

あなた もう わけ 申し訳ありません。でんしゃ おく 電車が遅れていたものですから……。
I'm terribly sorry. The train was delayed...

紅 てんぐ じかん きび 天狗さんは時間に厳しいの。いっぶん おく 一分でも遅れようものなら、やま かえ 山に帰ってしまうわ。
Tengu-san is strict about time. If you're even one minute late, he goes back to the mountains.

あなた えっ、もう かえ 帰ってしまったんですか。
What, has he already gone?

紅 ええ。じかん もど 時間を戻せるものなら、もど 戻してあげたいけど。
Yes. If I could turn back time, I would for you.

あなた つぎ いちじかんまえ き 次は一時間前に来ます……。
Next time I'll come an hour early...

Kurenai's culture corner

In Japanese apologies, explaining circumstances (事情) is fine, but the apology must come first: 申し訳ありません, then the reason with ものですから. Starting with the reason sounds like you're dodging responsibility (言い訳).

Practice

2.1 Match the word to its meaning

Match each Japanese word with its English meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. ____ 言い訳 | a restraint, holding back |
| 2. ____ 戻る | b fury |
| 3. ____ あまりに | c circumstances |
| 4. ____ 遠慮 | d speak to |
| 5. ____ 取り返し | e too, excessively |
| 6. ____ 事情 | f redo, start over |
| 7. ____ 激怒 | g carelessly |
| 8. ____ やり直す | h recovery (of a mistake) |
| 9. ____ うっかり | i excuse |
| 10. ____ 口をきく | j return |

2.2 Choose the right word

Choose the word that fills the blank ____.

1. ^{もど}戻る____、^{がくせいじだい}学生時代に^{もど}戻りたい。(If I could go back...)
a ものだから **b** ものの **c** ものか **d** ものなら
2. ^{はは}母に^{くちごた}口答えしよう____、^{たいへん}大変だ。(If I dared talk back to Mum...)
a ものなら **b** もので **c** ものか **d** ものの
3. ^{でんしゃ}電車が^と止まっていた____、^{おそ}遅くなりました。(The train stopped, so I'm late.)
a ものの **b** ものなら **c** ものですから **d** ものか
4. ^{はじ}初めてな____、よくわからないんです。(It's my first time, so...)
a もので **b** ものの **c** ものを **d** ものなら
5. ^{いっぶん}一分でも^{おく}遅れ____^{かえ}ものなら、帰ってしまう。(If you're even a minute late...)
a ない **b** た **c** よう **d** る
6. ^{なお}やり直せる____、^{なお}やり直したい。(If I could start over, I would.)
a ものなら **b** もので **c** ものの **d** ものだ

2.3 Translate into Japanese

Write each sentence in Japanese (kana is fine), then check against the model answer.

1. If I could, I'd go back to my student days.

2. The train was late, so I'm late.

3. It's my first time, so I don't understand.

4. If you dare be late, you're in trouble.

2.4 Understand the dialogue

Match each line from the dialogue to its meaning.

1. _____ ^{もう わけ} 申し訳ありません。 ^{でんしゃ おく} 電車が遅れていたもの
 ですから……。

2. _____ ^{てんぐ} 天狗さんは ^{じかん きび} 時間に厳しいの。 ^{いっぶん おく} 一分でも遅
 れようものなら、 ^{やま かえ} 山に帰ってしまうわ。

3. _____ えっ、 ^{かえ} もう帰ってしまったんですか。

4. _____ ええ。 ^{じかん もど} 時間を戻せるものなら、 ^{もど} 戻してあ
 げたいけど。

5. _____ ^{つぎ いちじかんまえ き} 次は一時間前に来ます……。

a What, has he already gone?

b Yes. If I could turn back time, I would for you.

c Tengu-san is strict about time. If you're even one minute late, he goes back to the mountains.

d Next time I'll come an hour early...

e I'm terribly sorry. The train was delayed...

続く...

That was lessons 1 and 2 of 30 lessons.

“Not bad, pupil. The full JLPT N2 workbook has every lesson, every reading, the complete answer key and the word list. Come and get it, I'll be waiting.” — Kurenai

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