

The Lecher

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THIS LESSON IS AIMED AT STUDENTS WITH AN UPPER INTERMEDIATE LEVEL OF ENGLISH.

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Listening

Watch the video and answer the questions.

1. Kenjiro Sato is a heavy drinker.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. What is Kenjiro Sato's hobby?
 - a. Reading comic books.
 - b. Drinking and smoking.
 - c. Undressing his colleagues.
 - d. Commuting with other passengers.

3. Kenjiro did not dribble while reading.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. What didn't Kenjiro want his daughter to do?
 - a. Brush past him.
 - b. Disturb his concentration.
 - c. Wear short skirts to school.
 - d. Get a clip around the ear.

5. The girl was irritating Kenjiro with her behavior.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. The old woman didn't think that Kenjiro had been looking at the girl's legs.
 - a. True
 - b. False

7. The old woman hit Kenjiro because she thought he was a dirty old man and a pervert.
 - a. True
 - b. False

8. The old woman shouted at the girl because...?
- a. She was wearing a very short skirt.
 - b. She was behaving badly.
 - c. She was careless about letting her skirt ride up.
 - d. All of these.
9. Who was the young man?
- a. Kenjiro's friend.
 - b. The old woman's friend.
 - c. The girl's friend.
 - d. Just a passenger.
10. Why were the boy and girl laughing?
- a. They were friends.
 - b. They had been shocked and subdued.
 - c. They had the carriage to themselves.
 - d. Their plan to steal money had worked.

Listen to the first part again and put in the missing words.

Kenjiro Sato. Loving **a.**[] and father and respected head of sales at a large company in Tokyo, surprisingly for a salaried worker, drank little and **b.**[] not at all. His only vice was a love of the racier sort of comic book full of illustrations of young women in interesting states of undress. And it was this unfortunate pastime that had led to his colleagues at work calling him, 'The lecher' – behind his back of course. However, had he known of his **c.**[], it wouldn't have bothered him. Everyday he was joined on his long commute by **d.**[] of other male passengers clutching the same soft porn comics, or furtively reading over the shoulder of someone who had one.

The best that could be said of his habit then, was that he didn't let his tongue hang out or dribble while lost in his **e.**[] reading material.

Words and Expressions

Read the sentences below (A and B) and for the words in bold write in the meaning from the lists a ~ k. The first has been done for you.

A

- [**e**] He looked **furtively** around the corner then slid quietly into the room.
- [] My own **vice** is chocolate. I eat way too much of it. I can't help it though because I love it.
- [] Stop **fidgiting** like that and keep still while I button up your coat.
- [] She moved over to the counter in a **slovenly** way and took out the customers change.
- [] The baby was **dribbling** all over my shoulder. Look at this mess!
- [] That's a **racy** looking tie.
- [] If you don't stop being naughty right now, I'll give you a **clip** around the ear.
- [] I know it's a teenager thing, but I wish Joanna wouldn't spend hours **preening** herself in front of the mirror.
- [] As he fell backward over the edge of the cliff he **clutched** desperately at something to hold onto.
- [] Playing the piano seems to be his **pastime**.
- [] Simon looked very **disconcerted** when I met him just now. I wonder what's happened.

- a. Something that is like a bad habit.
- b. Loud, colorful, erotic.
- c. A hobby or interest.
- d. To grab at, or try to hold.
- e. To do something while trying not to be noticed.
- f. To let fluid or spittle come out of the mouth.
- g. To hit.
- h. Careless and sleazy.
- i. To make yourself look good with combing, brushing etc.
- j. Constantly moving around.
- k. To be upset in some way.

B

[c] This advert for a free holiday in Jamaica looks a bit **dubious**. What do you think?

[] Don't be **hasty**. Think about it for a few days before you make a decision.

[] What's wrong with Janet? I just saw her **stalk off** looking very angry.

[] Well that gave me a bit of a **jolt**. It was very unexpected.

[] Ben is **infuriated**. He's just heard what the boss said to Sally.

[] Okay. **settle back** and let's watch the movie.

[] That guy is a bit of a **pervert**. He's always walking up stairs behind girls wearing short skirts.

[] Quiet! Quiet! What is all this **commotion** about?

[] Graham is wearing a big **grin** on his face. I wonder if he got that raise he was hoping for.

[] Lost in **reverie**, I didn't hear the bell ring for the students to go home.

[] I don't know what Jill has done, but it must be bad. I've never seen the teacher **berate** anyone like that before.

a. Relax.

b. Sudden surprise.

c. A little suspicious. Not to be believed.

d. Memories. Thinking deeply about something.

e. Somebody who has strange sexual tastes.

f. To make very angry.

g. Do or decide something too quickly, without thinking about it.

h. A noisy argument, debate or ruckus.

i. To tell off or scold someone strongly.

j. Walk off stiffly in anger.

k. A large, happy smile.

- **... the best that could be said ...** *Used when you want to show something / someone's good points, however few these are. Examples are;*

The best that could be said of the hotel food was that there was a lot of it.
Graham school grades were always low. The best that could be said of him was that he tried hard.

- **... lost in ...** *completely concentrating on something. For example;*

Sorry, I didn't hear you. I was lost in this book.
Lost in thought, Jane didn't notice that the chicken in the oven had started to burn.

- **... in spite of ...** *Used to compare two states. One of which is a negative. Similar use to '..even though..' Examples are;*

The country was rich because of oil. In spite of this, its people were poor and had little food to eat.
In spite of being the best student in the class, Sandra was never any good at maths.

- **... caught red handed ...** *Used when somebody is seen doing something wrong. Examples are;*

Did you hear about John? He was caught red handed, taking money from the office safe.
Caught red handed, there was nothing the burglar could do except give up and go with the police.



Reading

Read the section below and answer the questions.

In Japan, manga are widely read by people of all ages, so that a broad range of subjects and topics occur in manga, including action-adventure, romance, sports and games, historical drama, comedy, science fiction and fantasy, mystery, horror, sexuality, and business and commerce, among others. Since the 1950s, manga have steadily become a major part of the Japanese publishing industry, representing a 481 billion yen market in Japan in 2006 (approximately \$4.4 billion dollars). Manga have also become increasingly popular worldwide.

Manga are typically printed in black-and-white, although some full-color manga exist. In Japan, manga are usually serialized in telephone book-size manga magazines, often containing many stories each presented in a single episode to be continued in the next issue. If the series is successful, collected chapters may be republished in paperback books called *tank_bon*. A manga artist (*mangaka* in Japanese) typically works with a few assistants in a small studio. If a manga series is popular enough, it may be animated after or even during its run.



Manga for male readers can be characterized by the age of its intended audience: boys up to 18 years old (*shonen* manga) and young men 18- to 30-years old (*seinen* manga), as well as by content, including action-adventure often involving male heroes, slapstick humor, themes of honor, and sometimes explicit sexuality.

1. What age group reads manga in Japan?
2. Are manga only popular in Japan?
3. How big is a typical manga magazine?
4. What is a *mangaka*?
5. Who are *seinen* manga for?

Writing

There are several topics for writing this time. Choose one of them.

- 1. What do you think of men who read erotic or sexual comic books in public?*
- 2. There are four people in the movie 'The Lecher'. Write an analysis of each of their characters.*
- 3. Which of the characters in the movie do you think is a bad person (more than one is OK) and why?*
- 4. Do you have a manga(comic) culture in your country. What is your favorite comic and why?*
- 5. Do you think Kenjiro Sato is a bad person? Why or why not?*

Transcript

For this transcript I have highlighted the words and expressions I think are difficult for this level. Students can look them up in a dictionary or review the lesson.

Kenjiro Sato. Loving husband and father and respected head of sales at a large company in Tokyo, surprisingly for a salaried worker, drank little and smoked not at all. His only **vice** was a love of the **racier** sort of comic book full of illustrations of young women in interesting states of undress. And it was this unfortunate **pastime** that had led to his colleagues at work calling him, 'The lecher' – behind his back of course. However, had he known of his nickname, it wouldn't have bothered him. Everyday he was joined on his long commute by dozens of other male passengers **clutching** the same soft porn comics, or **furtively** reading over the shoulder of someone who had one.

The best that could be said of his habit then, was that he didn't let his tongue hang out or **dribble** while lost in his favorite reading material.

Today, however, there would be trouble. His problems began when a young high school girl brushed past him – disturbing his concentration. She sat down opposite him and he noticed immediately the very short skirt. This upset him. Despite his **dubious** choice of reading matter, Kenjiro was at heart a family man, and he knew that if his Ayaka came home from school dressed like that...Well, she'd get a **clip around the ear**, no mistake.

Still, it wasn't his problem and he went back to his comic book. However, his attention was dragged back to the girl again and again by her **slovenly** and selfish behavior. First, by her loud use of her cell phone, and also by her continuous **preening** and **fidgiting**. He decided to say something to her, but as he closed his comic, she gave a yawn, shut her eyes and started to sleep.

A little **disconcerted**, he tried to **settle back** with his reading material, but he

couldn't help noticing over the top of his book, the girl's short skirt riding higher and higher as she slumped in her seat. Fascinated, in spite of himself, he was **jolted** out of his **reverie** by a bump from the train moving off. Looking up, his eyes locked with an old woman sitting next to the girl. And the expression on her face told him that she'd seen what he'd been doing.

As the full horror of his situation hit him, the woman rose from her seat and started to rain **invective** down on his head – calling him everything from a dirty old man to a disgusting **pervert**.

Kenjiro, caught red handed and deeply embarrassed tried to explain himself. This seemed to **infuriate** the old harridan even more and she took up her handbag and set about his head with it until cowed and humiliated he made a **hasty** exit from the train. The woman's cackling laugh hurrying him on his way.

The girl – suddenly woken up and confused by the **commotion** going on around her was the next target of the old woman who **berated** her mercilessly over her appearance and behavior until she eventually reached her station and **stalked** of the train.

In the quiet of her departure, the girl, shocked and subdued, held her head in her hands.

After a few seconds a young man with a large **grin** on his face moved across next to her. There was no one else in the carriage.

Suddenly, the girl looked up, smiling. Her boyfriend gave her a brief flash of Kenjiro's wallet and they both burst out laughing and congratulated themselves mightily. At the next station they **skipped lightly** off the train – not forgetting the old woman's handbag. They'd need it. They had a lot of shopping to do.

Teacher Notes

You can find the answers to the exercises on this page with a few guidelines for teachers.

VIDEO AND LISTENING

- Play the video through once with sound off. Ask the students (in groups) to write down what they think the video is about and make a note of any words or expressions they think may appear in the script. Also, what do they think the narrator is saying? These can be discussed in class and will give the students a background from which to start the listening section. One exercise would be to get students to make their own narration for the video. If necessary, give students practice with the vocabulary and word sections before showing it.
- Play video again with sound on. Students are asked to answer the first set of questions 1~5.

Answers; b a a c a b a d c d

- Listen again to the middle portion of the story. Fill in the gaps with the words you hear.

Answers; a. husband b. smoked c. nickname d. dozens e. favorite

- Read the sentences and put them in the correct order.

Answers; c d a e b

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- As well as the exercise here I might practice the words introduced in this section by use of short quizzes or vocabulary games. There are many.

Answers A; e a j h f b g i d c k

Answers B; c g j b f a e h k d i

READING

- The reading text expands the lesson to include cross culture experiences. For my own classes, depending on the level, I ask the students to read the text first without a dictionary. They then answer the questions and then we will come back to the text and go through it again with the aid of a dictionary to cover any new words or expressions.

Answers;

- 1. All age groups.**
- 2. No. They are popular worldwide.**
- 3. The size of a telephone book.**
- 4. A manga artist.**
- 5. Young men, 18 – 30 years old.**