



“I think it will take a long time.”

SCENE: Masa Santos is asking his accounting supervisor (経理主任) his opinion on some changes that need to be made in their office.

Masa: Where are we on the sales report, Oscar?

Oscar: To be honest, we are running late (遅れを取る) on the figures again.

Masa: That's a problem. How do you feel about cutting lunch hour to get them finished?

Oscar: I don't think that's a good plan. Our staff is already doing their best.

Masa: But we really have to make some adjustments. (調整) Do you think we should change our accounting system? (会計制度)

Oscar: I think it will take a long time to train staff to use a new system, but I do believe that it is smart to plan for the future.

Masa: Right, because planning now may save us a lot of time and money!

Oscar: Probably. (恐らく) By the way, here's the first part of the report.



PRACTICE 1: Practice asking your instructor's opinion about something. Use the phrases and the topics below.

USEFUL PHRASES:

- Do you believe that...?
- Do you think...?
- How do you feel about...?

EXAMPLES:

- Do you believe that working on flextime makes you a better worker?
- Do you think that working on flextime is a good idea?
- How do you feel about flextime?

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- Length of workday/lunch break (勤務時間・休憩時間)
- Working on weekends
- Having a party with your co-workers
- Surfing the Internet at work
- *Other ideas?*



PRACTICE 2: Practice expressing your opinion on other topics that are familiar to you.

USEFUL PHRASES:

- I think... / I don't think...
- I believe... / I don't believe...
- I feel... / I don't feel...

EXAMPLES:

- I think people need to start biking to work.
- I don't believe that cars are safe.
- And I feel that cars are too expensive!

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- Taking long vacations
- Getting a pay raise
- Going to work by train
- Working flextime
- *Other ideas?*



PRACTICE 3: Remember the topics from Practices 1 & 2. Tell your instructor your opinion about something, but this time, tell him or her why you feel that way (何故そう思うか). Look at the examples below for ideas. Ask your instructor's opinion if there is time.

USEFUL PHRASES:

- I think... / I don't think flextime is a good idea **because...**
- I believe... / I don't believe...bikes are safe **because...**
- I feel... / I don't feel...my lunch break is long enough **because...**



Task: Imagine that your company is planning to build a factory in China. What do you think of the idea?

Express and exchange opinions with your instructor.





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