

Lesson 53: At the Post Office

By Xandra

1. Dialogue

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, practice each role.

Akira: Hello. I'd like to send a package to Japan. Can you tell me how I should go about it?

Bob: Do you have the items right now?

Akira: They're in my car. Do you need to see them?

Bob: It is best to have them checked by a USPS employee before you **seal** them **in** a box.

Akira: Can I ask why?

Bob: It's just a safety precaution that the US government is undertaking, sir. What with all the terrorist attacks going on, everything that goes in and out of the country has to be strictly regulated.

Akira: Let me get the stuff for you. Give me a sec. (After a few minutes) Here you go, sir.

Bob: There's nothing strange or suspicious here. But I'm afraid you can't send this to Japan, sir.
(pulling out a paper bag with a sandwich in it)

Akira: Oh! That's my lunch. I grabbed it in the car by mistake.

Bob: I can now pack the stuff for you using a USPS box. (Smiles) You could take a seat and enjoy your sandwich while I work on your package.

2. Today's Phrase

First, repeat after your tutor. Then, make a few sentences using Today's phrase.

1. A: (in the produce market) Are these vegetables any good? B: The vacuum pack **seals in** the freshness.
2. According to Chef Ramsey, cooking steak in a really hot pan will **seal in** the meat juices.
3. Historians say that some Egyptian slaves were **sealed in** Queen Cleopatra's tomb alive.

* seal in ... / ...を封じ込める、封印する

3. Your Task

You would like to send a box of treats to your family in Japan. The postmaster (=your tutor) wants to know what's in the box that you've carefully packed and sealed. Tell him/her what you're sending. Tell him/her that the treats are factory packed and assure him/her that there are no perishable or dangerous substances in the box.

4. Let's Talk

Which is better: to receive letters/cards by traditional mail

or to receive them by email? Why do you think so?

Do you still send cards through the mail for special occasions?

Why or why not?

5. Today's photo

Describe the photo in your words as precisely as possible.



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