



Survival Phrases - Japanese (Part 1)

Lessons 1-30

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Part 1 (Lessons 1-30)

- ★ Basic Greetings, etiquette and manners
- ★ Basic survival communication for every situation

- ★ Ordering the food you want at restaurants
- ★ Table manners that will impress!
- ★ Basic Counting
- ★ Internet Cafe, not as easy as you think!
- ★ Finding your way in the local market and SHOPPING
- ★ Money exchange and tips on money usage
- ★ Taking the subway, long distance trains, and buses with confidence

Be sure to read the lesson notes for additional tips and information that will make learning basic Japanese and Japanese culture even easier.

Best regards,

Sachiko Nakagome

Survival Phrases - Japanese - Linguist and Cultural Guide

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In Part 2 the following are just a few of the topics you'll master:

- ★ Taking a taxi without being taken advantage of
- ★ Getting around and asking directions and actually understanding the answer!
- ★ Learning Japanese using Japanese, and making lots of friends in the process
- ★ Making the most of a hotel stay, and exploring alternatives to the beaten path
- ★ Visiting the Post office and mailing thing home
- ★ Phone rentals and phone cards, don't travel without one!
- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly
- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood

- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will "wow" hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn



Lesson 1: Thank You!

ありがとう!

LESSON NOTES

As in other languages, there are more casual and more formal ways of saying "Thank you." Let's start with the casual form. "Thanks" is "Dōmo" or "Arigato." This is the shortest, simplest way of saying "Thank you." So there is no excuse for you not to know this. This phrase is used among friends, or in other casual situations. However, until you get the hang of it, it might be better to keep things formal.

Now in Japanese, politeness level is very important. "Arigato" is okay, but to be more polite we say, "Arigato gozaimasu." The addition of "gozaimasu" increases the politeness level of the phrase. It is highly probable that you will come into contact with this phrase when you are visiting places of business. When you purchase something you will surely hear this phrase, or a derivative of this.

For very special occasions when someone goes above and beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or for any other time you're extremely grateful, we have the following phrase to express extreme gratitude: "Dōmo arigato-gozaimasu." Thank you very much." The first word "dōmo" raises the politeness level. This is followed by "arigato," which is "thank you." And finally there is "gozaimasu," which also is used to increase the politeness level. When these three components are used together in the same sentence, they form an extremely polite phrase for expressing ones gratitude.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どうもありがとう ございます。	どうもありがとう ございます。	Dōmo arigato gozaimasu.	Thank you very much. (very formal)

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どうも	どうも	dōmo	(A phrase used to elevate the politeness level of words following it.)
ありがとう	ありがとう	arigato	Thank you.

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません	すみません	sumimasen	Excuse me. I'm sorry. (formal)
ごめん	ごめん	gomen	Sorry. (casual)

QUICK TIP

Today's Sachiko's Secret has to do with culture. In Japan, sometimes we say "sorry" when we actually want to thank someone for doing something. We say sorry to mean, "I appreciate your efforts, and I'm sorry for the inconvenience I may have caused." For example, if someone gets out of the way so you can move, or someone offers their seat to you on a train, the one receiving the favor may say, "Sumimasen," which means "Excuse me" or "I'm sorry" instead of saying, "Thank you." Amongst friends, we may use the casual form of "sumimasen," which is "gomen," or "gomen ne." In Japan, we are taught that the biggest sin is to inconvenience other people or disrupt harmony in society. So whenever we feel that we inconvenienced someone, we apologize. And many times, that apology is taken also as expressing gratitude. It may sound strange and difficult to understand now, but when you come to Japan and see it often enough with your own eyes, you will start to understand how the culture works.

QUICK TIP 2

In Japanese, we like to use English words in our day-to-day lives. But we inevitably pronounce them the Japanese way. The term "Thank you" is no different. Because we don't have the sound for "th" in Japanese, we substitute it with the "s" sound. We don't have the thick "a" sound as in "apple" or "thank" either, so we substitute it with the light sound heard in "sun." So when a Japanese person tries to say "Thank you," it sounds more like "Sun kyu." You might hear this a lot because people assume all foreigners speak English. So keep your ears open! When they say "Sun kyu," they mean "Thank you." Another random tid bit: "Sun kyu" phonetically sounds like the Japanese words for three and nine, as well as maternity leave, depending on the intonation you use!



Lesson 2: You're Welcome

どういたしまして

LESSON NOTES

The most common way of saying “You’re welcome,” is “Doutashimashite.” This is a polite form that can be used with friends, colleagues, senior colleagues, supervisors and those significantly older than you. And you would use it in situations where you feel comfortable being thanked. In other words, if you thought your actions deserved an expression of appreciation and a mention. If someone thanks you for giving her a gift, or answering her question, you could say “Doutashimashite,” because it’s pretty natural for you to be thanked for gestures like that.

But if you think your actions did not deserve to be thanked or mentioned, you might want to say a phrase that means “Don’t mention it.” In Japanese, we have casual and formal ways of saying this. In a casual situation, you would use “lie, iie” which is literally translated as “No, no” to mean “It’s no big deal.” For example, when someone thanks you for giving up your seat in the train or picking up something that they dropped, saying “lie iie” conveys the feeling that you thought it was only natural for you to give up your seat (or pick up the object) and so you deserve no credit for it. But again, this would be used in response to casual gestures and situations. Most likely in such situations, they’ll thank you in a casual form as well, like “Domo arigato.”

For more formal situations, we use “Tondemo naidesu.” Like “lie iie”, “Tondemo naidesu” means “What I did is really no big deal.” But this should be used in situations where the deeds were a bit more serious and for situations in which both parties benefited from. For example, if you went to a job interview and the interviewer thanks you for coming, you should say, “Tondemo naidesu” to mean “Oh, no. Thank YOU for taking the time out of your busy schedule to interview me.” Another example would be if you went to visit a friend in the intensive care unit, the sick person’s family would probably go to great lengths to thank you politely. For reference, they would probably say, “Domo arigato gozaimasu.” And since they’re being so polite and the situation is so serious, you should respond with the same degree of politeness and seriousness. In this situation, “Tondemo naidesu” is the most appropriate response to convey that feeling of “Of course I came. She was such a close friend of mine.”

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どういたしまして。	どういたしまして。	Doutashimashite.	You're welcome.
いいえ、いいえ。	いいえ、いいえ。	lie, iie.	It's no big deal. Don't mention it.

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
とんでもないです。	とんでもないです。	Tondemo naidesu.	Oh, no. Thank YOU! (polite form)
こちらこそ。	こちらこそ。	Kochira koso.	The pleasure is mine. (polite form)

QUICK TIP

And now for Sachiko's Secret. I'll introduce a phrase I like to use in conjunction with the phrases we learned today. After saying, "Don't mention it" I often add "Kochira koso" which literally means "Me, too" in a polite way. But it would be translated as "No, no, I should be thanking you" or "The pleasure was mine." That way I feel like we can share the appreciation we have for each other and connect on a deeper level! And they won't feel obligated to return the favor. Speaking of obligations, Japan has a strict custom of gift-giving. People give each other gifts for every opportunity possible. For example, if you have children, you'll get gifts for your children's birthday, enrollment into a new school, graduation, Christmas and New Year. And – strictly speaking – each time you get a gift you're supposed to give back a gift that is roughly half the price of the gift you received. Yes, each and every time!! It can get really busy sometimes! Especially if you just got married or had children, you'll be showered with gifts – greats! – but you'll have a huge to-do list waiting for you!! To avoid this mess, I usually ask my friends to come to my birthday parties empty-handed.

QUICK TIP 2

A word on gestures to go with "You're welcome." In a casual setting, when we say, "Iie, iie" (No, no, don't mention it) we typically wave our hand back and forth as we talk. When you say, "Doitashimashite," we typically nod our heads a bit, as if to offer a slight bow. When using the most polite form "Tondemo naidesu" we typically do both -- wave our hand and bow. But the bow here would be a bit more formal, meaning that we would bow our heads lower than we would in a casual setting.



Lesson 3: This Please

これ下さい

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Please" is "Kudasai." The most rudimentary way of using "Kudasai" is pointing at something while saying it. But let's try and build this up a bit, shall we? Let's start with the expression, "This please" which in Japanese is "Kore kudasai." In English, "this" comes before "please." In Japanese, the word order is the same. In Japanese, the word for "this", "kore," precedes "kudasai."

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is "sore." The phrase "That please." would be "Sore kudasai." So if you're at a store, you can simply point to the items you want to buy and say, "Kore kudasai." If you point to something but they get the wrong product, you can say, "Chigaimasu" which means, "You're wrong," or in this context, "You got the wrong one." And proceed to point to the one you need.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ下さい。	これください。	Kore kudasai.	Please give me this.
それ下さい。	それください。	Sore kudasai.	Please give me that.
お願いします。	おねがいします。	Onegai shimasu.	Please take care of this. Please take this on. (polite form)
お願い。	おねがい。	Onegai.	Please! (casual form)
違います。	ちがいます。	Chigaimasu.	It's wrong.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
下さい	ください	kudasai	please, please give me
これ	これ	kore	this
それ	それ	sore	that
切符	きっぷ	kippu	ticket
地図	ちず	chizu	map

QUICK TIP

Tokyo has a great variety of restaurants to choose from, so I highly recommend eating out! But what do you do if you can't order your food eloquently in Japanese? Don't worry! Most restaurants in Japan offer menus with pictures, so you can simply point at the pictures of foods and beverages you want to order. Or you can point at the numbers on the menu. I actually do that myself! It avoids confusion when there are dishes that look or sound similar. And the pictures are so delicious-looking, I just can't help myself!

QUICK TIP 2

Another word used to describe the feeling for "Please" is "Onegai" (casual form) or "Onegai shimasu" (polite form). Children often use the word "Onegai!!" when begging their parents to buy them something or let them do something. Adults use this word as well but only amongst close friends. It's very casual. The phrase "Onegai shimasu" is also often used in business settings to mean, "Please take this on," or "Please take care of it."

Let's also go over some key vocabulary you will be using during your trip to Japan. Public transportation is very convenient and essential to getting around metropolitan Japan, so you'll probably need to get tickets, which in Japanese is "kippu." Maps will come in handy too, so remember the word "chizu." To ask for these objects, simply replace the word "kore" and "sore" with the item you need. Let's practice, shall we? "Please give me a ticket" would be "Kippu o kudasai." "Please give me a map" would be "Chizu o kudasai." The "o" in the middle is an object-marking particle. (There should be an "o" in "kore kudasai," but it's often ignored in spoken Japanese.) And regardless of how many tickets or maps you want, the noun does not change between single and plural form. It's always "chizu" and "kippu."

We'll go over how to buy bus tickets and train tickets in upcoming lessons, so be sure to tune in!



Lesson 4: Basic Greetings

おはようございます

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Good morning" is "Ohayou gozaimasu." The first sound "o" is an honorific form for the next word. "Hayou" is a conjugated form of the word that means "early." This is followed by "gozaimasu," which is the polite way of saying "is." So it sounds like we're saying, "It's early," but it's used to mean "Good morning."

In Japanese, "Good afternoon" is "Konnichi wa." The first word "konnichi" is one way of saying "today." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." So if you notice, the greeting literally just means "Today is." It sounds like an incomplete sentence doesn't it? That's because it is. Long ago, Japanese people used to greet each other by talking about the weather, like, "Today is sunny, isn't it?" And since all the greetings start with "Konnichi wa," this part became the greeting itself. It simply became "Konnichi wa," literally meaning "Today is," or "Good afternoon!"

And finally, we have the evening greeting which is "Konban wa." The first word "konban" means "tonight." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." So if you notice, the greeting is similar to "Konnichi wa," in that people used to greet each other in the evening by talking about the weather. For example, "Konban wa samuidesune" which means "Tonight is chilly." And the greeting itself got shortened to just "Konban wa" to mean "Good evening."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
お早うございます。	おはようございます	Ohayou gozaimasu.	Good morning.
今日は。	こんにちは。	Konnichi wa.	Good afternoon.
今晚は。	こんばんは。	Konban wa.	Good evening.
お蔭様で。	おかげさまで。	Okagesamade.	Thanks to you.
お元気ですか？	おげんきですか？	Ogenki desuka?	How are you? (Are you doing well?)

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
今日	こんにち	konnichi	today
今晚	こんばん	konban	tonight

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
はい	はい	hai	yes
元気	げんき	genki	healthy, energetic

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. I don't know about the media in other countries, but when I worked in the Japanese media, people used to greet each other with "Ohayo gozaimasu" -- or "Ohayo" for short -- even in the afternoon or night. It seems like an industry term used to greet someone for the first time that day. So even at 3pm or 9pm, we would say "Good Morning" to each other! Strange....So don't be surprised if someone in Japan says "Good Morning" to you at 11pm! It's probably just a media person!

QUICK TIP 2

As you may already know, "konnichi wa" is often used generally to mean "Hello" at any given time of day. So if remembering all three phrases is too much, just remember "konnichi wa."

Now on the PDF, you'll notice that the Japanese letters for "konnichi wa" and "konban wa" are actually written as "konnichi ha" and "konban ha." That's because when the "は" is used as a particle, it's pronounced "wa." And as we mentioned in Sachiko's Secret, the "wa" in "konnichi wa" is originally the topic-marking particle and part of a longer sentence, like "Today is sunny, isn't it?"

Also, I'll introduce another sentence often followed by "Hello." In Japanese, "How are you?" is "ogenki desuka?" The first sound "o" is an honorific prefix. "Genki" means "energetic" or "healthy." "Desu" is a copula - the rough equivalent to the English word "to be" - and the last "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. So altogether we have "Ogenki desuka?" And the typical response would be "Hai, okagesamade." "Hai" means "yes." The next word, "okagesamade" means "thanks to you." So this sentence simultaneously says "I'm fine" and thanks the person asking the question. Japanese people don't like to take credit for anything so they tend to thank others for their accomplishments or anything positive in their lives, including their health.



Lesson 5: Goodbye

さようなら

LESSON NOTES

An expression that can be used for all occasions is "Sayounara," which literally means "Goodbye." I know that it is often pronounced as "sayoNARA" but in Japanese, there is no strong intonation. We just pronounce it flatly. "Sayounara" is fairly polite, so you can use it for most occasions.

The more casual way to say "Goodbye" is "Bye bye!" or "Ja-ne!" But this is used only amongst close friends. It would be considered rude if you use it on someone significantly older than you. So be careful! When I say, older, I mean even if the person is a few years older, it could be considered rude to use such casual words depending on the relationship. For example, even when I get to know an older colleague enough to joke around with them, I would still use honorific form or the polite form. I would never say "Ja-ne" or "Bye bye."

And for business settings, neither "Sayounara" nor "Bye bye" is acceptable! The best thing to say is "Shitsurei shimasu," which could be translated as "Please allow me to excuse myself." And when you say this, don't forget to bow! An even more formal way is to say, "Shitsurei itashimasu." For example, with colleagues, you could say "Shitsurei shimasu." But to a company president or a corporate client, you would say "Shitsurei itashimasu."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
さようなら。	さようなら。	Sayounara.	Goodbye. (casual and polite form)
バイバイ。	ばいばい。	Bye bye!	Bye bye! (casual form)
じゃあね。	じゃあね。	Ja-ne!	Bye bye! (casual form)
失礼します。	しつれいします。	Shitsurei shimasu.	Goodbye. (polite form)
失礼致します。	しつれいいたします	Shitsurei itashimasu.	Goodbye. (more polite form)
お疲れ様でした。	おつかれさまでした	Otsukaresama	Goodbye (used among colleagues)
	。	deshita.	

QUICK TIP

Today's Sachiko's Secret is about my favorite topic, talking on the phone! We'll go over how to start and end a phone conversation. Now the first thing you say when picking up the phone is "moshi moshi." This is short for the term "Moushimasu moushimasu" which is a polite way of saying, "I am about to speak." So when the phone rings, you say, "moshi moshi," or "hai," which is "yes." After a nice long conversation, you can use the phrases we learned today to wrap up. Typically, you would recap the next time you will see or talk to that person, such as "So I'll see you Sunday" then put a cushion "jaa" or "dewa" then say, "Goodbye" either in the polite form or casual form, depending on who you're talking to. For example, the casual way would be "Jaa-ne. Bye bye." The polite way would be "Dewa, shitsurei shimasu."

QUICK TIP 2

When colleagues part, they often say "Otsukaresama deshita," which roughly means, "It's been a long hard day." It's sort of a way to acknowledge and congratulate the hard work that everyone has put into that day. It's a nice little phrase that builds a sense of unity amongst colleagues. But beware, you should only use it for colleagues, not with people from other companies or people you work for.



Lesson 6: Where's the Bathroom?

トイレはどこですか？

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Where is the bathroom?" is "Toire wa doko desuka?" Let's take a look at the components. The first word "to-i-re" means "toilet." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." Next, we have "doko" which means "where," followed by "desu" roughly meaning "is," and "ka," which turns a sentence into an interrogative.

In Japanese, we have another word to mean toilet -- "otearai." This is a bit more polite. The first sound "o" is an honorific prefix. The next two characters stand for "hand" and "wash." All together, the words mean "toilet."

Now when you finally get to the bathroom, there may be one last hurdle. In some instances, only the Chinese characters are written on the doors to indicate which is for men and which is for women! What to do, what to do? Well, you can stop by the website and find the characters for man and woman inside the PDF, or if you have an ipod, click the center button and you can find them there.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
トイレはどこですか？	トイレはどこですか？	Toire wa doko desuka?	Where is the bathroom?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
トイレ	トイレ	toire	toilet
どこ	どこ	doko	where
お手洗い	おてあらい	otearai	toilet (polite form)
女	おんな	onna	women
男	おとこ	otoko	men
御手洗	みたらい	Mitarai	Mitarai (last name)

QUICK TIP

Now for Sachiko's Secret! In Japan, many logo marks or signs are used to indicate bathrooms. The most common is simply the profile of a woman wearing a skirt and a man wearing a tuxedo. You know which room is which, right? Another logo is the alphabet WC. Historically I guess it was used to mean "water closet," but in Japan, some people call it Washington Club! Why? I have no idea! Another sign would be the "kanji," or Chinese character, for "otearai." But beware, some people have last names that are written in the same kanji as "otearai," but pronounced "mitarai." So if you get a business card from a "Mr. Mitarai" don't call him "Otearai" (toilet.)

QUICK TIP 2

In Japan, it's not too difficult to find a bathroom. Even if you're not in a restaurant or anything, you can walk around and find decent bathrooms within department stores, shopping malls and train stations. And the signs are universal, so you won't have much problem finding them! The problem, though, is flushing them!! There are so many toilets that flush just by putting your hand above a sensor, but they don't always work. One time, I was at a toilet in Shinjuku Gyoen park, and I had my hand over the sensor for about two minutes and still nothing happened. I put my hand over other parts of the sensor, thinking I had it wrong. But there was a sign up that said, "Hold your hand above the sensor for more than one minute," so I knew I was placing my hand on the right spot. I just needed to hold it up for a longer period of time. In the end, I finally got the toilet to flush after holding out my hand for more than five consecutive minutes! Boy, was that a long visit to the bathroom!



Lesson 7: I Don't Understand.

分かりません。

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Excuse me" is "Sumimasen." This can be used for both apologizing and for getting someone's attention. So in this case, you're kind of doing both. Apologizing for the fact you don't understand, and trying to get the person's attention, in case she's still talking to you at 500 miles per hour!

The phrase "I don't understand" is "Wakarimasen." So together, you would say, "Sumimasen. Wakarimasen." The dictionary form of the verb "understand" or "know" is "wakaru." "Wakarimasen" is the polite way of negating it. So it means "don't understand." Now in Japanese, you don't always have to specify the subject. In this case, if you say "Wakarimasen," it's pretty obvious that you don't understand, so you don't need to clarify the subject.

Let's build on this and say, "I don't understand Japanese." That would be "Nihongo wa wakarimasen." The first word "nihongo" means "Japanese." Typically, to say the name of a language, you say the country name -- "nihon" in the case of Japan -- and add the word "go" which stands for "language." So together it's "nihongo." Spanish would be "Supein go" because it's the language used in Spain.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません。	すみません。	Sumimasen.	Excuse me.
分かりません。	わかりません。	Wakarimasen.	I don't understand.
日本語は分かりませ ん。	にほんごはわかりま せん。	Nihongo wa wakarimasen.	I don't understand Japanese.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
日本語	にほんご	nihongo	Japanese
スペイン語	すぺいんご	supeingo	Spanish

QUICK TIP

In today's Sachiko's Secret, we'll reveal a truth about Japanese people you'll be relieved to hear. Most Japanese adults – unless they're over 70 and were forbidden from studying English when they were in school during World War II – have had three to ten years of English -language education. (three years in junior high, three years in senior high, and four years in college) So they can at least understand written English. They may lack speaking and listening comprehension skills, but if you write a message in English, they can make sense of it.

So worst case scenario, just write down, "Where is Shibuya station?" and show it to people. Most likely, they'll be able to point you in the right direction. Adults (particularly in metropolitan areas) are a safe bet when it comes to reading English. Try talking to kids, too. Some kids are familiar with English because many young parents these days are taking their kids to private English conversation schools in a bid to make them bilingual.

QUICK TIP 2

Check out our upcoming lessons to learn how to say, "Can you speak English? " and "Can you say it again?"



Lesson 8: Can You Speak English?

英語は話せますか？

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Can you speak English?" is "Eigo o hanasemasuka?" The first word "eigo" means "English." This is followed by the object-marking particle "o." "Hanasemasu" is the polite way of saying "can speak." And the last particle "ka" turns a sentence into an interrogative. Japanese requires no subject in each sentence, so "hanasemasu" only means "can speak," not "can you speak." But it's translated as "can you speak," because it's implied that you are asking whoever you are talking to.

Now let's try a different language. How about Spanish. The Japanese word for Spanish is "supeingo." "Supein" is the Japanese pronunciation of the word "Spain." Usually, it's the country name (in this case Spain) followed by the word "go" which means "language." So "Can you speak Spanish?" is "Supeingo o hanasemasuka?" Let's try another language. How about French? The country that speaks French originally is France. So it's "Furansu" (the Japanese pronunciation of the word "France") plus "go", for "French." So "Can you speak French?" would be "Furansu go o hanasemasuka?" Easy, right?

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
英語は話せますか？	えいごははなせますか？	Eigo o hanasemasuka?	Can you speak English?
スペイン語は話せますか？	すぺいんごははなせますか？	Supeingo o hanasemasuka?	Can you speak Spanish?
フランス語は話せますか？	ふらんすごははなせますか？	Furansugo o hanasemasuka?	Can you speak French?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
英語	えいご	eigo	English
話せます	はなせます	hanasemasu	can speak (polite form)
スペイン語	すぺいんご	supeingo	Spanish
フランス語	ふらんすご	furansugo	French

QUICK TIP

And now for Sachiko's Secret. Today's secret is the origin of the word "eigo," which means "English." Like I said, typically a country name precedes "go" to refer to a language spoken in that country. But in the case of "eigo," there is no country named, "ei." Then how did the word come about? Well, "eigo" is short for "eikokugo." "Eikoku" means the United Kingdom. Way back when, Japanese people were taught two types of English -- British English and American English. British English was called "eigo," (an abbreviation of the word "eikokugo") while American English was called "beigo," because the United States can be called "Beikoku" in Japanese. My parent's generation were taught different sentences for "eigo" and "beigo." In "eigo" class, they learned to say "Have you a pen?" while in "beigo" class, they learned to say "Do you have a pen?"

QUICK TIP 2

A quick and dirty way of saying, "Can you speak English?" would be simply saying, "Eigo OK?" or even "English OK?" Most people in Japan will understand the word "English" and they'll see that you're a foreigner, so this should be no problem. But again, it would be much more polite and impressive if you said "Eigo o hanasemasuka?" So give it a try!



Lesson 9: Can You Say It Again?

もう一度言って下さい

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Can You Say It Again?" is "Mou ichido itte kudasai." The first word "mou ichido" means "once again." This is followed by "itte," which is the conjugated form of "iu" or "to say." The last word "kudasai" means "please." So all together we have "Mou ichido itte kudasai." Literally this means "Again, say, please."

Now if someone just keeps repeating the same sentence at lightning speed, you may want to ask that person to slow down. Except you may want to ask that politely. In Japanese, "Speak slowly please." is "Yukkuri hanashite kudasai. The first word "yukkuri" means "slowly." This is followed by "hanashite", which is the conjugated form of the root verb "hanasu," which means "to speak." The last word is the now familiar word "kudasai," which means "please." So all together, we have "Yukkuri hanashite kudasai." Literally this means "slowly, speak, please." or "Please speak slowly."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
もう一度言って下さい。	もういちどいってください。	Mou ichido itte kudasai.	Can you say it again?
ゆっくり話して下さい。	ゆっくりはなしてください。	Yukkuri hanashite kudasai.	Please speak slowly.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
もう	もう	Mou	another
一度	いちど	ichido	again
言う	いう	iu	(dictionary form of) say
下さい	ください	kudasai	please
ゆっくり	ゆっくり	Yukkuri	slowly
話す	はなす	hanasu	(dictionary form of) speak

QUICK TIP

For Sachiko's Secret, we'll give you another quick and dirty way of getting through today's phrases. Now, it's much more polite to say the entire sentence we covered today. But if it's a bit too long to remember, you can get away with just the first half of the sentences. "Mou Ichido" which is literally just "once again" and "yukkuri" which is simply "slowly." But because these phrases alone could sound abrupt and might come off as rude, you may want to bow your head a little as you say it. That's a gesture of respect in Japan. Or perhaps even add the English word "Please" at the end. "Mou ichido, please" or "Yukkuri, please." Japanese people know the English word "Please," so they'll know that you're trying your best to be polite.

QUICK TIP 2

When you have someone repeat a sentence for you, be sure to express your gratitude! You can do that by bowing and saying, "Domo arigatou gozaimasu," which is the most polite way of saying, "Thank you."

And if you still can't catch what the person is saying, you can always ask them to write down the message. We'll cover how to ask that question in another lesson!



Lesson 10: I'm Sorry

すみません

LESSON NOTES

We'll start with "Sumimasen." This literally means "Excuse me." You can also say "gomen-nasai," which is a bit more casual way of saying "I'm sorry." Both phrases can be used in situations like when you accidentally step on someone's shoes. This may not happen to you often, but it happens everyday in the crowded trains in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka and other major cities!

Considering how crowded the trains are, there is a strong possibility that other people might step on your shoes and apologize to you as well. (Don't take it personally, it really is difficult to avoid stepping on people or pushing people when you're on a train during rush hour!)

What do you say when someone apologizes to you? Well, when someone says "Sumimasen" to you, you have two choices: (1) You can simply nod to acknowledge the person's apology (2) or you can say "Iie iie," which means "No, no, that's fine," or "Don't worry about it." The latter choice would probably leave a better impression and help relieve the tension.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません。	すみません。	Sumimasen.	Excuse me.
ごめんなさい。	ごめんなさい。	Gomen-nasai.	Sorry.
いいえ、いいえ。	いいえ、いいえ。	Iie iie.	No, no don't worry.
失礼いたしました。	しつれいいたしました。	Shitsurei itashimashita.	Excuse me. (polite form)

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. You can also use "Sumimasen" to simply catch someone's attention. For example, you can use it to call the waiter at a restaurant or a sales clerk at a store. Typically, we would say this in a soft tone so as not to sound like we're demanding attention. We say it more as if to say, "Um...I was wondering if I can get someone here..." And raising your hand slightly will help the waiter or sales clerk find you in the crowd of people.

QUICK TIP 2

A most polite way of saying "Excuse me" is "Shitsurei itashimashita." This would be appropriate for business settings or when speaking with a person significantly older than you. You can also use it for more serious mistakes such as when you show up late, bump into someone, or (yikes!) spill coffee on them!



Lesson 11: Business Greetings

いらっしゃいませ！

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, the polite greeting you'll hear when you enter a place of business is "Irasshai mase." "Irasshai" means "please come." The last sounds "mase" means "won't you?" So all together, "Irasshai mase" means "Won't you please come in?" or "Welcome, thanks for coming." This is the polite way of saying it. They'll say this in almost any kind of store or restaurant. In a more casual place, they may simply say "Irasshai."

In most cases, the store clerks say this as you walk into the establishment. The employees will say it in unison. I like it, because the attention makes me feel like a queen! Now, what should you do in response? You could simply nod and smile to acknowledge their attention. That would be nice. But most Japanese – either because they're shy or desensitized to this custom -- will simply continue walking without acknowledging the greeting.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
いらっしゃいませ。	いらっしゃいませ。	Irasshaimase.	Welcome to our store.
いらっしゃい。	いらっしゃい。	Irasshai.	Welcome. (shorter, casual form)
しゃい。	しゃい。	Shai.	Welcome. (the shortest form.)
ありがとうございます しました。	ありがとうございます しました。	Arigatou gozaimashita.	Thank you very much (for having shopped here.)

QUICK TIP

Sometimes, people say "Irasshai mase" so fast that all you hear is the last part of the phrase, "Shai!" Especially small mom-and-pop joints or casual eateries will say "Shai" instead of the full "Irasshai mase" because it suits the friendly atmosphere.

QUICK TIP 2

When you leave an establishment, the store clerks will say, "Arigatou gozaimashita" which means "Thank you very much" in the past tense. So it means "Thank you for having shopped here." They may also add long sentences effectively meaning, "Please come again," or "We look forward to seeing you again." One thing they won't say is "Have a nice day." It's just not in our custom to say that to customers!



Lesson 12: Restaurant 1

何名様ですか？

LESSON NOTES

When you first walk into a restaurant, most likely you'll hear, "Irasshaimase," which in Japanese is the polite greeting you hear when customers enter a place of business.

Then you'll be asked, "How many people in your party?" which in Japanese is "Nanmei sama desuka?" "Nan" is one way of saying "what." In this case it means "how many" because it's followed by a people counter "mei." "Sama" is an honorific word used after "mei." "Desu" is a copula roughly meaning "to be." And "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. Altogether, "Nanmei sama desuka?" literally means, "how many people, is?" or in this context, "How many people are in your party?"

To answer this question, simply say the number of people in your group, followed by "mei." For example, you would say "ni mei" to say "two people." Remember, the word "sama" is an honorific form, so you should never use it when referring to yourself or your party. That's similar to how you would never call yourself Sachiko-san, or Ms. Sachiko. To say "four people" you would say, "yon mei." Now these aren't exactly full sentences but they will suffice when answering the question.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
いらっしゃいませ。	いらっしゃいませ。	Irasshaimase.	Welcome.
何名様ですか？	なんめいさまですか？	Nan mei sama desuka?	How many people in your party?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
何	なん	nan	what
様	さま	sama	(polite word added to the people counter)
二	に	ni	two
名	めい	mei	(people counter)
四	よん	yon	four

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. What I do when I enter a restaurant is simply hold up my fingers to indicate how many people I'm with. This helps avoid confusion. Because even if you are fluent in Japanese, it's sometimes so loud in the restaurant the wait staff can't hear you. And if you hold up your fingers, the wait staff can see it from far away. Sometimes they won't have to come all the way to the door to greet me. They just smile and point to the seat I can take. This saves time when I'm on a short lunch break.

QUICK TIP 2

Here's a tip on how to avoid crowded restaurants. If you're in a busy business district, there'll be long lines for lunch between noon and 1:30pm (the typical lunch hour for Japanese corporate employees) and for dinner between 7pm and 9pm. So try to avoid those hours, or if you must, go in small groups. If you're in a party of four or more, you'll most likely have to wait quite a while until enough seats open up. Generally, you should try and get reservations if you're dining in a group of more than four. As for closing time, many restaurants stop taking food orders at around 9:30pm or 10pm, so you need to get in before that.

We'll go over numbers 1 to 10 in an upcoming lesson, but in case you need it urgently, here it is in order of 1 to 10 -- "ichi, ni, san, yon (shi), go, roku, nana (shichi), hachi, kyu, juu." Be sure to check our lesson on number 1-10 to get the pronunciation and intonation right!



Lesson 13: Restaurant 2

禁煙、喫煙どちらにしますか？

LESSON NOTES

Now, remember when you enter a restaurant in Japan, you'll hear "Irasshai mase," which is the polite greeting used to welcome customers into a place of business. Then they'll ask you how many people are in your party. We've covered that much in our previous lessons. Today, we'll go over the next question that comes up -- "Smoking or non-smoking?"

"Non-smoking" in Japanese is "kin-en." The first character "kin" stands for "prohibited." This is followed by "en" which is the character for "smoke." The Japanese word for "smoking" is "kitsu-en." This one word together means "smoking."

When the wait staff ask you if you want smoking or non-smoking seats, they will most likely ask, "Kin-en, kitsu-en, dochira ni shimasuka?" which literally means "Non-smoking, Smoking, which would you do?" "Dochira" means "which," "Ni shimasuka" Means "will you do?" "Shimasu" is the polite form of the verb "suru" which means "to do." "Ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative.

So together, the question would be "Kin-en, kitsu-en, dochira ni shimasuka?" To answer this, simply say, either "kin-en" (non smoking) or "kitsu-en" (smoking). Pretty easy, eh?

Now, you can also beat them to the punch by saying how many people in your party and ask for non-smoking before they even ask. As we covered in our previous lesson, you can tell them the number of people in your party by saying "ni-me" for "two people" or "yon-me" for "four people." Then add "kin-en" and you're all set. Ready for an exquisite dining experience in the heart of Tokyo!

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
禁煙、喫煙、どちらにしますか？	きんえん、きつえん、どちらにしますか？	Kin-en, kitsu-en, dochira ni shimasuka?	Which do you prefer, smoking or non-smoking?
いいですか？	いいですか？	lidesuka ?	May I? Is this alright?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
禁煙	きんえん	kin en	non-smoking
喫煙	きつえん	kitsu en	smoking
どちら	どちら	dochira	which

QUICK TIP

Now here's a little Sachiko's Secret. Many restaurants in Japan have separate seating for smoking and non-smoking, but the two areas are so close together that smoke often filters into the non-smoking area. Or the table right next to you is part of the smoking section, so you could end up inhaling smoke all through dinner. So when you enter a restaurant, pay attention to the layout of the place. And if the smoke starts to bother you during a meal, insist on moving to a better seat. Simply point to an empty seat further away from the smoking section and say, "iidesuka ? " which means, "Is it alright?" If they looked confused as to why you're asking to be moved, simply do the smoking gesture and frown! that's what I do!

QUICK TIP 2

During your trip to Japan, you may bump into a small glass house standing in the middle of the street. It'll have no furniture, just people inside standing around smoking. What is this house? It's a public facility specifically built for smokers! It's the strangest thing! During weekday afternoons, they're typically filled with men and women in dark business suits, all looking tired and grim. They'll just stand there, surrounding the ash tray in the middle of the house, and not really speaking to one another. Each person spends about five to ten minutes in there and steps out when they're done. They're really strange. I'm sure there are more of them, but the one I found was on the main street of Roppongi. Check them out if you get the chance!



Lesson 14: Restaurant 3

何がお勧めですか？

LESSON NOTES

When you enter a restaurant, you may first have to get a hold of the wait staff. You can accomplish this by waving your hand and saying "Sumimasen" which means "Excuse me."

Once the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can simply point to the menu and say, "This please," which is "Kore kudasai" in Japanese. Or you can point to the number or pictures on the menu. You can also replace the word "kore" with whatever it is you want to eat. For example, to order tempura (deep-fried vegetables, meat, fish etc), you would say, "Tempura kudasai."

Now if you're feeling ambitious, you could ask "What do you recommend?" which is, "Nani ga osusume desuka?" As for the number of plates you want to order, just go through the one to five we covered in other lessons or hold up the right number of fingers to let them know. (For reference, the numbers (1-5) are "ichi, ni, san, yon (shi), go, roku, shichi (nana), hachi, kyuu, juu.")

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません。	すみません。	Sumimasen.	Excuse me.
これ下さい。	これください。	Kore kudasai.	Please give me this.
何がお勧めですか？	なにがおすすめですか？	Nani ga osusume desuka.	What do you recommend?
ご注文は？	ごちゅうもんは？	Gochuumon wa?	What are you ordering?
お飲み物から。	おのみものから。	Onomimono kara.	Start with your drink order, please.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	This
下さい	ください	kudasai	please give me
何	なに	nani	What
お勧め	おすすめ	osusume	recommendation
注文	ちゅうもん	chuumon	order

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
飲み物	のみもの	nomimono	drink

QUICK TIP

And now for Sachiko's Secret! The great thing about Japanese restaurants is that their menus often have pictures of the foods. So you can really get a feel for what is being served without being able to read the menu! Sometimes, they even have life-size models of the meals displayed in a glass case outside their restaurant. Have you seen those in guidebooks? They're really useful, not to mention cute! But beware, the portions are much smaller than they seem in the pictures or displays! You'll probably need to order many more dishes than you would at home!

QUICK TIP 2

Let's go over the questions waiters may ask you. If they want to get your drink order first, they'll say, "Onomimono kara" which literally means, "starting with your drink orders...?" The first sound "o" is an honorific prefix on the word "nomimono" which means "drinks." (The honorific form is placed because the drink will be consumed by the customer, who should be respected.) The next word "kara" simply means "from." So together, "Onomimono kara" means "starting from your drinks, sir."

The next question would be, "Gochuumon wa?" which means "What is your order?" Again, the first sound "go" is an honorific prefix placed on the following word "chuumon" which means "order." (honorific prefixes are typically either "o" or "go" depending on the word that follows it.) The last sound "wa" simply means "is." So altogether, it means "Your order is?"

Now, if you're feeling ambitious and you want to actually pronounce the things you're ordering (instead of just pointing to a menu) the easiest thing to order may be drinks. That's because most of the Japanese words used to describe drinks are simply the English words pronounced in a Japanese way.

For example, "beer" is "biiru." "Milk" is "miruku." "Coffee" is "ko hii" (We don't have the "f" sound in Japanese, so we replace "f" with the "h" sound.) There are exceptions though, like the word for "Coke." In Japanese, we say "Coca cola" instead. People here really would not understand the word "Coke," because we don't use it at all. And for "English tea" we say "koucha." One important word to know is "mizu" which means "water," because you don't want to be dehydrated during your vacation!



Lesson 15: Restaurant 4

会計お願いします

LESSON NOTES

When you finish eating at a restaurant and want to pay the bill, you will first have to get a hold of the staff. Again you can accomplish this by saying "Sumimasen," which means "Excuse me."

Once the wait staff is at your table, you can ask for the check. In Japanese, "Check, please" is "Kaikai onegai shimasu." The first word "kaikai" means "the check." This is followed by "Onegai shimasu" which means, "Please take care of it." The wait staff will then come back to your table with a check. You'll need to take the check to the cash register (usually by the entrance) and pay when leaving the restaurant.

Now if you'd like to tell the wait staff or your companion how good the food is, you can say, "oishii," which means "delicious." That's the present tense so you would use it while you're still eating. If you're done with a meal, you can say this in the past tense, which would be "oishikatta," or "It was delicious."

There is also a set phrase to say after finishing a meal. It's called, "Gochisousama deshita." This roughly means, "Thank you for the wonderful food." It's typically said to the person who cooked the food, the person who took you to the restaurant and the person who paid for your meal. So you can say that to the wait staff, too. I'm sure they'll be delighted to hear this from you.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません。	すみません。	Sumimasen.	Excuse me.
会計お願いします。	かいかいおねがいします。	Kaikai onegai shimasu.	Check please.
お願いします	おねがいします	Onegai shimasu.	Please take care of it.
ご馳走様でした。	ごちそうさまでした。	Gochisousama deshita.	Thank you for the wonderful meal.
頂きます。	いただきます。	Itadakimasu.	I am about to have this wonderful meal.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
会計	かいけい	kaikai	check
おいしい	おいしい	oishii	delicious
一括	いっかつ	ikkatsu	lump sum
別々	べつべつ	betsu betsu	separate

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. Like I said earlier, when you pay at the restaurant, you need to take your checks to the cash register, typically near the entrance of the restaurant. When you do, a staff will ask if your party would like to pay individually or pay as a group. They typically ask "ikkatsu de yoroshii desuka?" which means "Paying in a lump sum?" "Ikkatsu," means "lump sum." "Yoroshii desuka" means "Is it okay?"

To pay as a group, you can say "ikkatsu," or one person can simply pay the total amount. If you want to pay separately, you should say "betsu betsu" which means "separately." Then each person should tell the staff which dishes they ordered. The total amount for each person will be calculated. And good news! There is no tipping in Japan, so there's no need to leave a tip at the table.

QUICK TIP 2

There is also a phrase to say before eating a meal. It's called, "Itadakimasu" and it can be roughly translated as "I am about to have this wonderful meal." Again, it should be said to the person who cooked the meal or to the person who took you to the restaurant. (At home you would say it to your mother. At the restaurant you could say it to the person who invited you.) But we also say it just as a routine thing. And another important thing to remember is wait until the main dishes have arrived for all the people in your group before eating yours. Of course, if the others tell you to go ahead and start your meal before it gets cold, dig in!



Lesson 16: Counting 1 to 10

一、二、三

LESSON NOTES

There are many sets of numbers in Japanese, but we'll go over the most common and modern set. And please note, there are two ways to say "four" and "seven" in this set alone.

Here we go:

One is "ichi," two is "ni," three is "san," four is "shi" or "yon," five is "go," six is "roku," seven is "nana or shichi," eight is "hachi," nine is "kyu" and ten is "juu." "Zero" is simply "zero" but pronounced a slightly Japanese way.

To practice these numbers, try saying your phone number in Japanese!

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
一	いち	ichi	one
二	に	ni	two
三	さん	san	three
四	し、よん	shi,yon	four
五	ご	go	five
六	ろく	roku	six
七	しち、なな	shichi, nana	seven
八	はち	hachi	eight
九	きゅう、く	kyuu, ku	nine
十	じゅう	jyu	ten
名	めい	mei	(counter for people)
枚	まい	mai	(counter for paper items)
杯	はい	hai	(counter for cup/glass/bowl)
個	こ	ko	(counter for general objects)

QUICK TIP

Now for Sachiko's Secret. As I mentioned before, there are several different ways of saying numbers in Japanese. Some are old traditional words, some are modern. (The ones we introduced today are the modern ones.) The elderly population in rural Japan, for example, might still use "hi fu mi" for "one, two and three."

So if you hear another set of numbers, just repeat the numbers you know, to let the other person know that you're familiar with a different set of numbers. And if all else fails, just hold up your fingers! Numbers are universal!

QUICK TIP 2

When using numbers in Japanese, we often put a counter after each number. For example, for paper items like tickets, we put the counter "mai" after the number. "Ichi mai" means "one ticket" or "one piece of paper." To count people, we add "mei," among other options. So "two people" would be "ni mei." And "four people" would be "yon mei." Remember these phrases because they'll come up frequently when buying tickets or ordering at a restaurant.

Let's introduce some other counters. For a cup/glass/bowl or any container used for drinks and liquids, we use the counter "hai." Depending on the number this is coupled with, the pronunciation changes slightly. For example, "one cup" is "ippai," "two cups" is "nihai," "three cups" is "sanbai." So if you want to order "two glasses of sake," you would say, "Sake ni hai kudasai." (Please give me two glasses of sake.)

And lastly, the most common counter for objects in general is "ko." Again the pronunciation changes slightly depending on the number. "One piece" is "ikko." "Two pieces" is "niko," "three pieces" is "sanko."

And there is another set of numbers that is similar to "ikko, niko, sanko" and mean "one piece." That set would sound like this: "hitotsu, futatsu, mittsu." We won't go through all of them here, but just know that there are various ways of saying numbers in Japanese.



Lesson 17: How much?

いくらですか

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "How much?" is "Ikura desuka?" The most rudimentary way of using "Ikura desuka?" is pointing at something while saying it. But let's try and build this up a bit, shall we?

Let's start with the expression, "How much is this?" Which in Japanese is "Kore wa ikura desuka?" The first word "kore" means "this." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." And the last segment "Ikura desuka?" means "how much?" When pointing at something a bit further away from you, you can say, "Sore wa ikura desuka?" which means, "How much is that?"

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
いくらですか？	いくらですか？	Ikura desuka?	How much?
これはいくらですか？	これはいくらですか？	Kore wa ikura desuka?	How much is this?
それはいくらですか？	それはいくらですか？	Sore wa ikura desuka?	How much is that?
安いですね。	やすいですね。	Yasui desu ne.	It's cheap, isn't it?
高いですね。	たかいですね。	Takai desu ne.	It's expensive, isn't it?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	this
いくら	いくら	ikura	how much
それ	それ	sore	that
安い	やすい	yasui	cheap
高い	たかい	takai	expensive

QUICK TIP

And now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! There's a quick and dirty way of asking "How much," and it's simply "ikura?" But beware!! If you get the intonation wrong, you could be asking for salmon eggs instead!!! The word "ikura," without an intonation, will salmon eggs! To ask how much, you should raise the intonation at the end of the sentence. Be careful! You don't want to end up with salmon eggs when you're trying to buy Chanel!

QUICK TIP 2

To understand the response to "How much is this?" be sure to check out Lesson 16 to learn numbers one to ten, and Lesson 19 on the currency as well as numbers 100 to 10,000. In our next lesson, we'll go over how to bargain with sales clerks!

If you want to comment on the price, you can say, "Yasui desu ne" to mean "It's cheap, isn't it?" and "Takai desu ne" to mean "It's expensive, isn't it?" "Yasui" means "cheap," "takai" means "expensive." "Desu" is a polite way of saying "to be" and the last "ne" is added in spoken Japanese to simply mean, "isn't it?"



Lesson 18: Please Lower the Price

まけて下さい

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase is related to the phrase "How much?" which in Japanese is "Ikura desuka?". We also introduced "How much is this?" "Kore wa ikura desuka?" and "How much is that?" which is "Sore wa ikura desuka?"

If you're not happy with the price they offered and you want to ask for a discount, you can ask the phrase "Please lower the price." In Japanese, that's "Makete kudasai." The first word "makete" is a conjugation of the word "makeru" which means "to give a discount." "Kudasai" means "please." Together "Makete kudasai" means "Please give me a discount." To say "more" as in "give me a bigger discount," you can say "motto." If you're okay with the suggested price, simply say "Okay" or "Good." Most Japanese people will understand these simple English phrases.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
まけて下さい。	まけてください。	Makete kudasai.	Please lower the price.
まけてくれんか？	まけてくれんか？	Makete kurenka?	Can you give me a discount? (Osaka dialect)
あっちのお店では。 。。円。	あっちのおみせでは 。。。円。	Acchino omise dewa ... yen.	At the other store, (they offered) ... yen.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
まける	まける	makeru	to give a discount
下さい	ください	kudasai	please, please give me
もっと	もっと	motto	more
お店	おみせ	omise	store
あっちの	あっちの	acchi no	the one over there
円	えん	en	yen

QUICK TIP

Now for Sachiko's Secret. In my hometown of Osaka, there is a lot of bargaining. Because the city is historically a town of merchants, people love to bargain. And there is a distinct rhythmical way of saying "Please lower the price" in the Osaka dialect, or Osaka-ben as it is called in Japanese. The Osaka-ben for "Please lower the price" is "Makete kurenka?" As you may have noticed, Osaka-ben usually sounds very rhythmical and kind of warm!

QUICK TIP 2

Some other appropriate places for negotiating prices would be electronics stores. Most store employees expect to be asked for a discount, anyway, so don't ever settle for the first price they give you. Suggest figures that you think are a bit too big of a discount and they will choose a middle ground. Sometimes I even lie, saying, "Well, the other store just offered me this price, so if you can't beat it...." This works every time! In Japanese, you would say, "acchi no omise dewa....en." (Insert the price on the dotted line) "Acchi no omise" means "the other store." "Dewa" is like saying "at." The last "en" means the Japanese currency "yen."

(This is a simplified, slightly broken down Japanese for beginners. There is a more sophisticated way of saying this, but we won't get into it at SurvivalPhrases.com)



Lesson 19: Currency, Counting 100-10,000

千円、五千元、一万元

LESSON NOTES

In English, we refer to the Japanese currency as the “yen.” But in Japanese, we say “en.” It’s a much lighter sound. Now, the foreign exchange rate is always fluctuating, but I like to calculate the rate as roughly 100 yen per one US dollar. Using this rough equation, a 1,000 yen bill is like a 10 dollar bill. As for phrases necessary for foreign exchange, we’ll cover that in another lesson.

Let’s first go over how to say large numbers in Japanese. We covered 1 to 10 in a previous lesson. (To recap: One is “ichi,” two is “ni,” three is “san,” four is “shi” or “yon,” five is “go,” six is “roku,” seven is “nana” or “shichi,” eight is “hachi,” nine is “kyu” and ten is “juu.”)

And to say any number between 10 and 99, you simply combine words for 1 to 10. For 68, you would literally say “six, ten, eight” (“roku juu hachi.”) So if you needed to pay 68 yen, the store clerk would say, “roku juu hachi en desu.” What coins would you use to pay 68 yen? Well you can combine one 50 yen coin, a 10 yen coin, a 5 yen coin and three 1 yen coins.

Aside from these coins, we also have 100 yen coins and 500 yen coins. In Japanese, one hundred is “hyaku.” To say 500, simply say the words “five” and “hundred.” That would be “go hyaku.” The same goes for most numbers. Now, there are exceptions to this rule. 300 becomes “sam byaku,” 600 becomes “roppyaku,” and 800 becomes “happyaku.” That’s because it’s easier to pronounce that way.

Next, let’s go over the bills. We have a 1,000 yen bill, 5,000 yen bill, and the 10,000 yen bill. We also have a 2,000 yen bill, which was printed back in the year 2000 to celebrate the new millennium. But I rarely see them used. Perhaps people are keeping them at home as souvenirs. I know I did that for a while!

Let’s go over how to say these large numbers. One thousand is “sen.” “One thousand yen” is simply “sen en.” “Two thousand yen” is a combination of “two, thousand, yen.” (“ni sen en.”) “Five thousand yen” is “go sen en.”

Now comes the complicated part. In Japanese, 10,000 yen is not simply “ten, thousand.” We have another word “man” which stands for “ten thousand.” “Ten thousand yen” is “ichi man en.” “Twenty thousand yen” is “ni man en,” which is literally “two ten-thousand.” Thirty thousand is “san man” and so forth.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
円	えん	en	yen
百	ひゃく	hyaku	hundred
千	せん	sen	thousand
万	まん	man	ten thousand
ご縁	ごえん	go en	destiny
五円	ごえん	go en	five yen

QUICK TIP

In today's Sachiko's Secret, we'll talk money! Yes, my favorite topic...Not! I actually have a very sweet story. The five-yen coin is considered a good luck charm to help people find that special someone. Why would such a cheap coin that buys almost nothing be considered lucky? Because it covers the 5% consumption tax when you buy a 100 yen product...Just kidding. No seriously, "five yen" is called "go en" in Japanese. This is a homophone with "go-en" (ご縁), a word that means "karma" or "destiny to meet someone." That's why five-yen coins are commonly given as donations at Shinto shrines, and you'll see a nicely wrapped five-yen coin in a box at a souvenir shop. That's a gift that says, "I hope you meet that someone special in your life." Try it. Get one for yourself or for a friend and see what happens. If it works, tell us all about it!



SurvivalPhrases.com

A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 20: Internet Cafe

ネット カフェ

LESSON NOTES

In Japan, there are many Internet cafes (or "Netto Cafe" which is simply the Japanese pronunciation of "Net Cafe.") near train stations or on the streets of a commercial or residential area. They're not so hard to find. But sometimes, they're disguised in the form of a "manga kissa," or "comic book cafe," which offers access to the computer as well as to libraries of comic books.

The first word "manga" means "comic book." "Kissa" means "cafe." So together, "manga kissa" means "comic book cafe." In residential areas in particular, manga kissas may be easier to find than straight -forward Internet cafes. So when you ask around, be sure to ask for both.

In Japanese, "Where is an Internet cafe or manga cafe?" is "Netto cafe aruiwa manga kissa wa doko desuka?" "Aruiwa" means "or." So "Netto cafe aruiwa manga kissa," means "net cafe or manga cafe." "wa" is the topic marking particle and "doko" is "where". "Desu" is the copula and "ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. To understand the answers, check out upcoming lessons on directions!

Manga kissas are a dream come true for "manga otakus," or comic book maniacs! They have huge libraries of mangas stocked from floor to ceiling. Their inventory includes all types of manga old and new. And they also offer fashion magazines, tabloids and other light reading for non-manga readers.

Manga kissas are really comfortable too! They have cushiony chairs and sofas for manga readers to relax in, and computers lined up in one corner of the store for Net surfers. Some have secluded private rooms with leather chairs and your own computer! Others offer premium seats with luxuries, like reclining leather seats!

In addition, they often have all-you-can-drink bars that offer tea, coffee, soft drinks and soda pop. (No alcohol, unfortunately...) And they sell all sorts of snacks and instant foods you can eat at the computer or on the sofas. Some manga cafes let you bring in food from other stores.

Now, let me walk you through what you need to do once you locate a manga kissa. When you walk into the store, approach the reception desk and tell them what you're here for. Just say "Internet" or "manga." And they'll print out a tab that states the time you signed in. When you leave, simply bring that tab to the counter and they'll charge you for hours you stayed. The price is usually about 400 yen to 500 yen per hour, regardless of whether you used the Internet or

read manga. The price is all inclusive for the time you stayed at the store. Some places have a discount for longer stays, like 1200 yen for three hours, or an overnight discount package, so be sure to look over the entire price list before making a decision.

Another critical question for all you laptop-packing world trekkers is "Does this store have WIFI?" In Japanese, "Does this store have WIFI?" is "Kono omise ni wa Wai Fai arimasuka?" The first word "kono" means "this." This is followed by "omise," which is a polite way of saying "store." "Ni" is a particle roughly translated as "in, at or on". "Wa" is a topic-marking particle. "Wai Fai" is simply the Japanese pronunciation of the English word, "Wi Fi" and "arimasu" is the polite way of saying, "there is." The last particle "ka" turns a sentence into an interrogative.

In Japan, Wi-fi access is available at various stores, cafes and train stations. So many different companies offer these services so we can't mention them all here. But the most familiar stores to non-Japanese may be Starbucks and McDonalds. Usually, a Japanese communications service company offers the service in conjunction with the store. So users would have to sign up with the communications firm, and the payment and access methods will depend on the service provider.

To ask "How do I access the Internet?" you would say, "Netto niwa douyatte setsuzoku shimasu ka?" The first word, "netto" is the Japanese pronunciation of the word "Net." "Ni" is a particle roughly translated as "in, at or on". "Wa" is a topic-marking particle. "Douyatte" is a casual way of saying "how do I" and "setsuzoku" means "connect." "Shimasu" is the polite way of saying "will do," and "ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative.

And when you sign up you'll be asked for a username and password. In Japanese, "Username and password please" is "Yuuzaa neemu to pasu waado o onegai shimasu." "Yuuza neemu" is the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "username" and "pasuwaado" is the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "password." "O" is the object-marking particle and "onegai shimasu" is the polite way of saying "please take care of it." When they ask you this, simply provide a username and password, and you're on the Internet highway!

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
このお店にはワイフアイありますか？	このおみせにはわいふあいありますか？	Kono omise ni wa Wai Fai arimasuka?	Does this store have WiFi?
ネットカフェ、あるいは、漫画喫茶はどこですか？	ねっとかふえ、あるいは、まんがきっさはどこですか？	Netto cafe aruiwa manga kissa wa doko desuka?	Where is an Internet cafe or manga cafe?
ネットにはどうやって接続しますか？	ねっとにはどうやってせつぞくしますか？	Netto niwa douyatte setsuzoku shimasu ka?	How do I access the Internet?
ユーザーネームとパスワードをお願いします。	ゆーざーねーむとばすわーどをお願いします。	Yuuzaa neemu to pasu waado o onegai shimasu.	Username and password please.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
ネットカフェ	ねっとかふえ	netto cafe	Internet cafe

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
漫画喫茶	まんがきっさ	manga kissa	manga cafe
あるいは	あるいは	aruiwa	or
どこ	どこ	doko	where
この	この	kono	this
ワイファイ	わいふあい	Wai Fai	WiFi
あります	あります	arimasu	there is
ネット	ねっと	Netto	Internet
接続	せつぞく	setsuzoku	connect to, access
します	します	shimasu	to do (polite form)
ユーザーネーム	ゆーざーねーむ	Yuuzaa neemu	Username
パスワード	ぱすわーど	pasu waado	password
お願い	おねがい	onegai	favor, please
お店	おみせ	omise	store (polite form)

QUICK TIP

If you miss your last train at night and you can't afford to stay in a five-star hotel, you can spend the night at a manga kissa until the first trains start running at around 5 a.m. Some are open 24 hours a day and offer overnight packages. The sofas are pretty comfortable and you can also sleep in the secluded private rooms. Great idea, isn't it? I've had to resort to this measure several times after late-night karaoke. Trains don't run 24 hours in Tokyo so you have to always beware of the last train heading home.



Lesson 21: Riding the Bus 1 成田空港までの切符を一枚下さい

LESSON NOTES

Let's practice getting a bus ticket to Narita Airport. There are many ways to get to the airport, but if you have a lot of luggage, the bus may be the easiest because you can check your baggage in and just relax or sleep for a few hours on your way to the airport. If you took the trains, you may have to lug your baggage up and down the stairs to get to the platform and you'll take up a lot of space on the train.

So let's go over getting tickets for a long-distance bus ride to Narita Airport. In Japanese, "One ticket to Narita Airport, please" is "Narita kuukou made no kippu o ichi mai kudasai." The first word "Narita Kuukou" means "Narita Airport." This is followed by the word "made" which means "to" as in destination. "No" is a particle indicating the possessive form. "Kippu" means "ticket." The next word "o" is an object-marking particle. And "ichi" is "one." "Mai" is a counter for tickets and other paper objects. And the last "kudasai" means "please" or "please give me."

If you want to buy more than one ticket, simply change the word "ichi" (one) to the number of tickets you want to purchase. For example, if you wanted to buy 2 tickets, you can change the number to "ni-mai." (Check out our lessons on counting numbers!) So the whole sentence would be "Narita kuukou made no kippu o ni mai kudasai."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
成田空港までの切符を一枚下さい。	なりたくうこうまでのきっぷをいちまい ください。	Narita kuukou made no kippu o ichimai kudasai.	One ticket to Narita Airport, please.
バス停はどこですか？	ばすていはどこですか？	Basu tei wa doko desuka?	Where is the bus stop?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
2枚	にまい	ni-mai	two tickets or pieces of paper
成田空港まで	なりたくうこうまで	narita kuukou made	Narita Airport to

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
切符	きっぷ	kippu	tickets
バス停	ばすてい	Basu tei	bus stop

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! If you're going to ride the local buses that circle around a small neighborhood, you won't need to buy tickets beforehand. Usually, a local bus ride is one set price regardless of how long you ride it. (Fares are usually the equivalent of about 2 US dollars for a one-way ride) When boarding a bus, you simply pay the fare into a machine right next to the driver. If you don't have exact change, you should tell your driver first because there's a separate slot you need to put your money into. Show the driver the money you have and he'll point to the appropriate slot that dispenses change.

While on the bus, the driver will call out the names of the next stop, so keep your ears open! Because right before your next stop, you need to press a red button to let the driver know you'll be getting off. If there's no one standing by the bus stop and none of the passengers are getting off at that bus stop, the bus will not make a stop. So be sure to press that red button located all over the bus next to each seat. You don't want to be left behind when you're trying to stick to your itinerary!

QUICK TIP 2

In Japan, the local bus stops are typically very small. They don't come with huge roof-top stalls. Most of the time, you'll find just a small round sign on a stick. So you may have difficulty finding the bus stop. (There will be a timetable underneath the sign, so that might help in identifying bus stops.) But just in case, let's go over how to ask where the bus stop is. In Japanese, that would be "Basu tei wa doko desuka?" The first word "basu" is the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "bus." "Basu tei" means "bus stop." The next word is the topic-marking particle "wa," followed by "doko" which means "where." "Desu" is the rough equivalent of the verb "to be." And "ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative.



Lesson 22: Riding the Bus 2

次のバス停はどこですか。

LESSON NOTES

Once you're on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers of where the bus will stop next. If there's no English announcement, you may not catch what the driver is saying. So the phrase "What is the next stop?" may be indispensable. In Japanese, "What is the next stop?" is "Tsugi no basu tei wa doko desu ka?" The first word, "tsugi" means "next." "No" is a particle used to express possession. "Basu tei" means "bus stop." So far, we have "Tsugi no basu tei," which means "the next bus stop." Then we have the topic-marking particle "wa," followed by "doko" which means "where." "Desu" is the rough equivalent of the verb "to be," and "ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative sentence.

Another way of checking if your bus is headed toward your destination could be asking if your destination is the next stop. For this phrase, we'll use Narita Airport as the destination. So the phrase "Is Narita Airport the next stop?" is "Narita kūkou wa tsugi desu ka?" The first word "Narita kūkou" means "Narita Airport." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa," then followed by "tsugi" which means "next." "Desu" is the copula, and "ka" is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. So altogether, we have "Narita kūkou wa tsugi desu ka?" to mean "Is Narita Airport the next stop?"

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
次のバス停はどこですか？	つぎのばすていはどこですか？	Tsugi no basu tei wa doko desu ka?	Where is the next bus stop?
成田空港は次ですか？	なりたくうこうはつぎですか？	Narita kūkou wa tsugi desu ka?	Is Narita Airport the next stop?
教えてください。	おしえてください。	Oshiete kudasai.	Please tell me.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
次	つぎ	tsugi	next
バス停	ばすてい	basu tei	bus stop
どこ	どこ	doko	where
成田	なりた	Narita	Narita
空港	くうこう	kōkou	airport

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
教える	おしえる	oshieru	(dictionary form of) teach
下さい	ください	kudasai	please

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! In this lesson, I'll show you how to make sure you're on the right bus and have the bus driver remind you where to get off at the same time. Kill two birds with one stone! Because there are so many buses in Tokyo, it's really difficult to figure out where each bus is going. So this is what I do. When you step onto a bus, check with the driver before you pay the bus fare. To confirm whether this bus stops at your desired destination, you can simply say the name of the desired destination and wait for the driver to nod or shake his head. Then ask him to tell you when the bus reaches that destination. You can do that by simply saying the destination name followed by "Oshiete kudasai," which means "Please tell me." That way, he can call out to you when he stops there!

QUICK TIP 2

If you get a chance, I would suggest riding a small local bus. They're really small and short so they can get through the narrow streets of Japan. They're adorable to look at. And you'll be amazed by the driver's skills for dodging pedestrians, cyclists and baby strollers.

And because they're so small, we have to cooperate in keeping the flow of passengers nice and smooth. You can do that by exiting from the doors in the middle of the bus. The front doors are reserved for passengers getting onto the bus. By keeping the flow of passengers one way, we can prevent the small buses from cramping!



Lesson 23: Riding the Rails 1

東京駅までの切符を一枚下さい。

LESSON NOTES

In Japan, we can buy train tickets at the ticket gate window or vending machine within each station. In Japanese, "One ticket to Tokyo Station, please" is "Tōkyō eki made no kippu o ichi-mai kudasai." The first word "Tōkyō eki" means "Tokyo Station." The following word "made" means "to" as in "to a destination." This is followed by "no," which is the rough equivalent of "of." This is followed by "kippu" which means "ticket." So far, we have "Tōkyō eki made no kippu" which means "ticket to Tokyo Station."

Let's look at the latter half of the sentence. First we have the object-marking particle "o." "Ichi" means "one," and "mai" is a counter for sheets of paper, tickets and other paper objects. The last word "kudasai" means "please give me." So the latter half, "o ichi-mai kudasai" means "Please give me one piece." So altogether we have "Tōkyō Eki made no kippu o ichi-mai kudasai." Literally this means "To Tokyo Station, of, one ticket, please give me" or "Please give me one ticket to Tokyo Station."

Next, let's learn how to ask where a train is headed. In Japanese, "Will this go to Tokyo Station?" is "Tōkyō eki made ikimasu ka?" The first word "Tōkyō eki" is again, Tokyo Station. "Made" is used to indicate "to" as in "to a destination." "Ikimasu ka" means "Will it go?" The dictionary form of the verb "to go" is "iku." "Ikimasu ka" is the polite way of asking "Will it go?" All together, "Tokyo Eki made ikimasu ka?" literally means "Tokyo Station, to, will it go?"

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京駅までの切符を一枚下さい。	とうきょうえきまでのきっぷをいちまいください。	Tōkyō Eki made no kippu o ichi-mai kudasai.	A ticket to Tokyo Station, please.
東京駅まで行きますか？	とうきょうえきまでいきますか？	Tōkyō Eki made ikimasu ka?	Will this go to Tokyo Station?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京駅	とうきょうえき	Tōkyō Eki	Tokyo Station
切符	きっぷ	kippu	ticket

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
行きますか	いきますか	ikimasu ka	will it go (polite form)
一枚	いちまい	ichi-mai	one sheet, one piece

QUICK TIP

Today's Sachiko's Secret is encouraging news about the Tokyo subway system. I don't remember when this happened, but decades ago, all the station names were written mostly in Japanese or just alphabetization of the Japanese names. So foreigners had no choice but to memorize really long and complicated names like "Shinjuku San-chōme."

But now, in addition to the original Japanese names, each station has an alphabet indicating the train line and a number indicating the stop. For example, the station called "Shinjuku San-chōme" on the Marunouchi Line is also written as M9. "M" stands for the Marunouchi subway line. "9" means the 9th stop, so "M9" means the ninth stop on the Marunouchi Line. When you look at a map or look at the platforms when riding the trains, all you have to remember is "M9." That's much easier to remember than long names like "Shinjuku San-chōme" or "Akasaka Mitsuke."

QUICK TIP 2

If you look at a Tokyo subway map, you'll notice that it's very colorful! Now, the colors indicating each subway line are not just random colors the printer used when printing the map. Each subway line has a symbolic color, and that color is used on the platforms, maps, trains and everything! For example, the Marunouchi Line, which we talked about earlier, is always red. So if you're at the maze-like Shinjuku Station (where numerous train lines merge) and looking for the Marunouchi Line, you can simply follow the directions marked in red. The word "Marunouchi Line" is most likely written in red to catch your eyes. This little knowledge could help you from going insane underground! Oh, and watch out for the pink Ōedo Line! Because it's the newest line built, it's located really deep underground. This means you have to take many, many flights of stairs to reach the platform! It can get really exhausting commuting on the Ōedo Line everyday!



Lesson 24: Riding the Rails 2

大阪駅までの切符を下さい。

LESSON NOTES

The fastest Shinkansen model, the super express Nozomi, connects Tokyo and Osaka in about two and a half hours. That's about 500 km in distance. It's really convenient! So let's work on getting the ticket.

To get a Bullet Train ticket, we need to ask, "Ticket to destination please." In today's lesson, we'll use Ōsaka Station as a destination. In Japanese, "station" is "eki." So our location is "Ōsaka eki." In Japanese, "Tickets to Osaka Station please" is "Ōsaka eki made no kippu o kudasai." The first word "Ōsaka eki" is obviously "Osaka Station." This is followed by "made," a particle that can be translated as "to" as in "to a destination." The particle "no" can be roughly translated as "of." "Kippu" means "ticket." So to recap here, we have "Ōsaka eki made no kippu." Literally this means "Osaka Station, to, of, ticket" or "tickets to Osaka Station." Let's take a look at the remaining sentence. "O" is an object-marking particle. And the last word, "kudasai," means "please." So altogether, we have, "Ōsaka eki made no kippu o kudasai." Literally, this means "Osaka station, to, of, tickets, please" or "Tickets to Osaka Station, please."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
大阪駅までの切符を下さい	おおさかえきまでのきっぷをください	Ōsaka eki made no kippu o kudasai.	Tickets to Osaka Station please
地元のご馳走は？	じもとのごちそうは？	Jimoto no gochisō wa?	What are the local delicacies?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
大阪駅	おおさかえき	Ōsaka eki	Osaka Station
切符	きっぷ	kippu	Tickets
下さい	ください	kudasai	please
地元	じもと	jimoto	local
ご馳走	ごちそう	gochisō	delicacies

QUICK TIP

And now for Sachiko's Secret. I always take the Shinkansen when I go home to Osaka from Tokyo, where I now live. So I'm a seasoned pro! Let me take you through the steps of buying Shinkansen tickets. First, get to a JR station where the Shinkansen stops, like Tokyo Station or Shin-Osaka Station. (JR is the name of the previously state-owned train line that covers almost all parts of Japan.) Find a Shinkansen counter and tell the person your destination. They'll tell you which Shinkansen route you need to take. There are many different Shinkansen routes depending on the destination, so be sure you have the right one. For example, the Tokyo-to-Osaka route would be on the Tokai Shinkansen Line. So you would go to the counter for the Tokai Shinkansen.

At the counter, tell them if you want seats in an ordinary car or the first-class "green car." All seats in the green car are reserved seating, so you will get a specific seat number. But if you want a seat in the ordinary car, you can choose between a reserved or non-reserved seat. The great thing about reserved seats is that you are guaranteed a seat. But you have to make sure you get on that specific train. I personally prefer non-reserved seating because I don't want to worry about making it on time for a particular train. With non-reserved seats, there is always the risk of not being able to sit on the Shinkansen. But reserved seats sell out quickly, so a non-reserved ticket may get you on an earlier train. Once you get the tickets, find out which platform your Shinkansen leaves from, and make sure you're there when the bullet train pulls in. Enjoy!

QUICK TIP 2

When you get yourself a seat on the Shinkansen, pay attention to the vendors that come by. They often sell delicacies from the local regions that the Shinkansen is passing by. For example, on my way from Osaka to Tokyo, I can buy "uirō" a type of jelly snack that is a delicacy from Nagoya. Yummm.... If you're not sure what the local delicacies are, just ask the vendor, "Jimoto no gochisō wa?" which is a simplified way of saying, "What are the local delicacies?"



Lesson 25: Riding the Rails 3

東京駅まで行きますか。

LESSON NOTES

When you're on the platform and you want to confirm if the train is going to your destination, you can ask a fellow passenger or an employee of the railway company, "Will this train go to" followed by a destination.

In today's lesson, we'll use Tokyo Station as our destination. In Japanese, "Will (this train) go to Tokyo Station?" is "Tōkyō eki made ikimasu ka?" The first word "Tōkyō eki" means "Tokyo Station." The following word "made" means "to" as in "to a destination." "Ikimasu ka" means "Will it go?" The dictionary form of the verb "to go" is "iku." "Ikimasu" is the polite way of saying "it will go." The last sound "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. Altogether, "Tōkyō eki made ikimasu ka?" means "Will this train go to Tokyo Station?"

When you use this phrase, be sure to point to a train, because the phrase itself does not contain the subject "this train." Japanese sentences can function without subjects, so there is nothing wrong with this sentence. We could have taught the full sentence, but since this is SurvivalPhrases.com, we decided to introduce short simple sentences.

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京駅まで行きますか？	とうきょうえきまで いきますか？	Tōkyō eki made ikimasu ka?	Will this train go to Tokyo Station?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京	とうきょう	Tōkyō	Tokyo
駅	えき	eki	station
行きますか	いきますか	ikimasu ka	will it go?

QUICK TIP

Today's portion of Sachiko's Secret is about what to be careful of when riding trains. My first tip is to always double check where your train is headed. Be careful, because some train lines split into different train lines at certain stations. That's really convenient for people who need

to transfer to that other line, because they won't have to go up and down the stairs to get to another train line. But when you're taking the train for the first time, it can be a nightmare! There is one indicator of a train line splitting. If the train on the opposite side of the platform is painted a different color than the train you're on, the train on the opposite track belongs to another train line. Another reason to constantly check is because local trains and express trains make different stops. So if you get on an express train, it may not stop at the local station you want to get off at. And some express trains make different stops depending on the time of day. So it really pays to constantly double check!

Another tip is about manners. On Japanese trains, we have many rules to abide by so as not to disturb other passengers. They may sound trivial, but when the trains are packed with people the slightest disturbance can really raise the irritation level. And you don't want to cause a riot on a packed train! So let's go over some of those rules. First of all, if you're on a packed train, obviously don't take up seats with your bag or other luggage. There are overhead racks to store your bags. Also, if you're standing on the train and wearing a back-pack, don't keep the bag on your back. It takes up so much space! Put the bag on the overhead rack or on the ground where there is more space. Secondly, cell-phone use is discouraged, so keep your cell phones on vibrator mode and when it rings, don't pick it up. Let the answering machine get the message and call back later. Some people who need to pick up urgent calls will answer their phones and whisper quickly, "On the train... call you back..." But generally, we're advised to not use the phone. And lastly, keep the so-called "Silver Seat" or "courtesy seats," reserved for the elderly, physically challenged or pregnant people. You can sit in these seats if there is no one around, but once a person who fits the above description comes on the train, you should give up your seat. Simply, look the person in the eye, point to the seat and say, "Dōzo," which means "Please take it."

QUICK TIP 2

While we're on the topic of packed trains, let me describe rush hour hell in Japan! On a packed train during rush hour (between 6 am and 9am, depending on how far you are from central Tokyo), I would feel at least four people pressing up against me from all sides! The other passengers would be so close to me, I'd feel every muscle in their body, see every wrinkle on their face, and smell every drop of sweat! And because I'm not very tall (158cm), I often get men's chests pressing against my face. Sometimes, I seriously worry that I might suffocate!

And the lack of leg space! With people sitting in front of me and everyone else putting their bags on the ground -- instead of on the overhead racks, because that too is full during rush hour! -- I was once stuck standing in an awkward position where my legs were crossed and bent. And I had nothing to hold onto (because there weren't enough straps for everyone to hang onto) that I had to put strength into my legs to balance myself whenever the train shook sideways. After 30 minutes in that position, I pulled my calve muscles as I got off the train!

Interestingly, railway company employees on the platform will push passengers further into the train. Without this effort, the train doors will not close! I suppose they do this also to prevent people's arms and legs from getting caught in the doors. But I would prefer that they simply stop passengers from boarding when the trains are moderately full!



Lesson 26: Taking a Taxi

東京駅へお願いします。

LESSON NOTES

When you want to tell a taxi driver where to go, the most basic thing to say is the word “e” followed by a destination. In today’s lesson, we’ll use Tokyo Station as our destination. In Japanese, “station” is “eki.” So our destination is “Tōkyō eki.” And the phrase, “To Tokyo Station” would be “Tōkyō eki e.”

You can also say, “I would like to go to Tokyo Station” in a polite way, which in would be “Tōkyō eki e onegai shimasu.” “Onegai shimasu” is simply a polite way of saying “Please take care of this.” It consists of two parts. “Onegai” means a favor, and “shimasu” is the polite way of saying “to do.” It can be used in many situations. For example, if you simply want something, you can say the noun and add “onegai shimasu.” To ask for a map, you can say, “Chizu o onegai shimasu.”

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京駅へお願いします。	とうきょうえきへおねがいします。	Tōkyō eki e onegai shimasu.	I would like to go to Tokyo Station.
地図をお願いします。	ちずをおねがいします。	Chizu onegai shimasu.	I would like a map.
タクシーをお願いします。	たくしーをおねがいします。	Takushī o onegai shimasu.	Please get me a taxi.
タクシー乗り場はどこですか？	たくしーのりばはどこですか？	Takushī noriba wa doko desu ka?	Where is the taxi stand?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京	とうきょう	Tōkyō	Tokyo
駅	えき	eki	station
地図	ちず	chizu	map
お願い	おねがい	onegai	favor
タクシー	たくしー	takushī	taxi
タクシー乗り場	たくしーのりば	takushī noriba	taxi stand
どこ	どこ	doko	where

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
住所	じゅうしょ	jūsho	address
時間	じかん	jikan	time

QUICK TIP

And now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. You may have read about this, but taxis in Japan treat customers like royalty! The doors open automatically, the seats are covered with clear plastic sheets, and the trunks are usually clean and spacious. Most drivers wear crisp uniforms with white gloves, making you feel like you have your own butler! And the drivers -- like many customer service people in Japan -- are very kind, polite and knowledgeable. They'll tell you anything you need to know if you're not familiar with the area -- including the best noodle shops in the neighborhood and the shortest route to a destination. Years ago, when I often worked late and took the cab home at around 3 a.m., I would often ask taxi drivers to wake me up when we got near my house, because I was so exhausted I needed those precious 30 minutes to sleep! Most drivers would gladly wake me up and drive carefully so as not to wake me up! One driver offered me candy when I woke up. And another offered me tissue when I had a runny nose! Sweet!

But remember one thing! When getting on or off a taxi, don't try to open the door by yourself. They're fully automated. You don't want to hurt yourself or break the door!

QUICK TIP 2

The easiest way to get a cab is to go to a train station. Most major train stations have a taxi stand where people line up for cabs. This is the safest bet, but be careful, these lines can get really long at night after the last trains run out! Taxi stands are called the "takushī noriba." "Takushī" is simply the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "taxi." "Noriba" simply means "the place to board." To ask "Where is the taxi stand?" you can say, "Takushī noriba wa doko desu ka?" "Wa" is a topic-marking particle, and "doko" means "where." "Desu" is the rough equivalent to the verb "to be" and "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative.

You could also try and flag down a taxi driving around the streets. It would be fairly easy to find cabs driving around within a busy commercial district. But in a quiet residential area, especially in rural Japan, it can be really difficult to find one just driving around. In that case, you need to get a phone book and call a local taxi company. To ask for a taxi, simply say, "Takushī o onegai shimasu" and give them your address ("jūsho") and the time ("jikan") you want to be picked up. "Takushī" again is simply the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "taxi." And "o" is an object-marking particle. "Onegai shimasu" is the polite way of saying "please give me" or "please take care of it."



Lesson 27: Where Can I Buy Manga?

漫画はどこで買えますか？

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Where can I buy manga?" is "Manga wa doko de kaemasu ka?" The first word "manga" means "comic book." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." "Doko" means "where." So to recap here, we have "manga wa doko," Literally this means "comic book, where." The next particle "de" is used to indicate location, among other things. The next word "kaemasu?" is the polite way of saying "can buy." The dictionary form of the verb "to buy" is "kau." And the last sound "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. So all together we have "Manga wa doko de kaemasu ka?" Literally this means, "comic book, where can buy?" or "Where can I buy a comic book?"

Most likely the answer would be "any book store," but the mecca for manga and animation goods is a place called Akihabara, where you can also find a bunch of electronic gadgets. Akihabara Station is just two stops north of Tokyo Station on the JR Yamanote Line. Get off at the station and walk around. There are plenty of manga stores there. If you don't bump into one by accident, just ask a passerby today's phrase.

Now to ask for a different item, we can just replace the word "manga" with any other word. Let's try "kimono", which is the traditional Japanese attire. In Japanese, "Where can I buy a kimono?" is "Kimono wa doko de kaemasu ka?"

This phrase will come in handy when asking taxi drivers, hotel staff or passers by to find that specific gift that your friend asked you to get. Now that you're able to ask, you're going to get an answer. That will be a whole another lesson in and of itself! Be sure to check out our lesson on directions!

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
漫画はどこで買えますか？	まんがはどこでかえますか？	Manga wa doko de kaemasu ka?	Where can I buy manga?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
漫画	まんが	manga	comic books

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どこ	どこ	doko	where
買う	かう	kau	to buy (dictionary form)
着物	きもの	kimono	kimono (traditional Japanese attire)
足袋	たび	tabi	white ankle-high socks
草履	ぞうり	zōri	flat sandals
浴衣	ゆかた	yukata	summer kimono

QUICK TIP

In today's Sachiko's Secret, we'll go over the basics of traditional Japanese attire, since we mentioned the word "kimono" in our lesson. As I mentioned before, "kimono" is the name of the traditional Japanese attire that you've seen geisha and other women wearing in the movies or in posters. They're several layers of cloth – most likely silk -- wrapped around the body and tied up with an "obi" or a sash, around the stomach. The "obi" can be tied in lots of different ways, from simple shapes to really elaborate ones. And on your feet, you wear "tabi," ankle-high white socks that are separated between the big toe and other toes, and a pair of "zōri"(flat sandals) . Now, you may have heard the term "yukata" as well. "Yukata" are casual version of kimonos, typically made of cotton rather than silk or synthetic fabric, and often worn in the summer or after a bath. (In fact, the two characters used to write "yukata" stand for "bathing" and "clothes.") That's why "yukata" are lightweight and not worn in layers.

In modern day Japan, the typical Japanese would only wear "kimono" and "yukata" on special occasions. We would wear a "yukata" to a summer festival to dance the traditional "bon-odori," or watch fireworks. We typically wear "kimono" on New Year's visits to shrines or temples, as well as to graduation ceremonies, weddings and other celebratory events. "Kimono" could also be worn as a uniform, depending on the profession. For example, women waitressing at Japanese restaurants or working at traditional Japanese inns might wear them all day at work. That's pretty grueling, considering how tight-fitting they are!



Lesson 28: Is There a Store Nearby?

コンビニは近くにありますか？

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson, we'll go over how to ask for a particular store. First, we need a store to ask for, so let's use the word "convenience store." In Japanese, "convenience store" is pronounced the Japanese way ("konbiniensu sutoa") and shortened to "kon-bini." In Japanese, "Is there a convenience store around here?" is "Kon-bini wa chikaku ni arimasu ka?" The first word "kon-bini" means "convenience store." This is followed by the topic-marking particle "wa." "Chikaku" means "nearby." "Ni" is a particle used to describe where people or things are. "Arimasu" is the polite way of saying "there is." The dictionary form of the verb describing existence is "aru." And the last "ka" is a particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. So all together, we have "Kon-bini wa chikaku ni arimasu ka?" Literally this means "Convenience store, nearby, is there?" or "Is there a convenience store nearby?"

This phrase will come in handy when talking with taxi drivers or other people trying help you locate a desired item. Now that you're able to ask, you're going to get an answer...be sure to check out our lesson on directions for that!

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
コンビニは近くに ありますか？	こんびにはちかくに ありますか？	Kon-bini wa chikaku ni arimasu ka?	Is there a convenience store around here?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
コンビニ	こんびに	kon-bini	convenience store
近く	ちかく	chikaku	nearby
ある	ある	aru	to exist

QUICK TIP

For Sachiko's Secret, let me illustrate the wonders of convenience stores in Japan. First of all, they're everywhere! In metropolitan Japan, there's one on every block at least and they're usually open 24 hours so they're super convenient, hence their name! How do they all stay in business

with all that competition? My suspicion is that because so many Japanese people work until late at night, by the time they get off work (at 11pm or later) the only places open are convenience stores. I remember when I worked like a mad woman years ago, I often had no choice but to go to the convenience store because I got off work so late!

Secondly, convenience stores sell everything you could imagine -- prepackaged or fresh foods, snacks, drinks, stationary, toilet paper, toothbrushes, band-aid, batteries, and even underwear! And they sell a variety of prepared foods like rice balls, sandwiches, salads, heatable noodles and rice dishes. And of course, they'll heat the dish for you in their microwave as you wait. In the winter, I love to get hot prepared foods like steamed buns, hot dogs and "oden" (various fish cakes soaked in lightly flavored soup). Some convenience stores now have counters and stools where you can eat whatever you bought there. A lot of students take advantage of this and spend hours after school at convenience stores.



Lesson 29: Directions

まっすぐ進む。

LESSON NOTES

In Japanese, "Go straight" is "Massugu susumu." The first word "massugu" means straight. This is followed by "susumu", which means "proceed straight." So all together we have "Massugu susumu." Literally this means "straight proceed."

Now we're going to work on turning. To turn, in Japanese is "magaru." So to turn right, we put the direction before it. "Right" is "migi." To turn to the right, we say, "Migi ni magaru." "Ni" is a particle used to indicate location. "Turn right at the convenience store" is "Konbini de migi ni magaru." "Konbini," as we've covered in other lessons, is the abbreviation and Japanese pronunciation of the English word "convenience store." "De" is a particle used to mean "at" or "in." So together, it's "Konbini de migi ni magaru" to mean "Turn right at the convenience store."

Now let's try "turn left." "Left" in Japanese is "hidari." So "turn left" is "Hidari ni magaru." The first word "hidari" is "left." "Ni" is a particle used to indicate location. "Magaru" means to turn, so "Turn left" is "Hidari ni magaru." So "Turn left at the convenience store" is "Konbini de hidari ni magaru." "De" is a particle used to mean "at" or "in." So together, it's "Konbini de hidari ni magaru" to mean "Turn left at the convenience store."

The store used as an indicator can be changed easily. For example, you can use "Ginkō" to mean "bank." Or "Yūbin kyoku" to mean "post office." So "Turn left at the bank" is "Ginkō de hidari ni magaru." "Turn right at the post office" is "Yūbin kyoku de migi ni magaru."

Now another common phrase is, "tsuki-atari" which means the "dead end," or "where a street just ends." "Turn right at the dead end" would be "Tsuki atari de migi ni magaru."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
まっすぐ進む。	まっすぐすすむ。	Massugu susumu.	Go straight.
右に曲がる。	みぎにまがる。	Migi ni magaru.	Turn right.
左に曲がる。	ひだりにまがる。	Hidari ni magaru.	Turn left.
突き当たりで右に曲がる。	つきあたりでみぎにまがる。	Tsuki atari de migi ni magaru.	Turn right at the dead end.
二つ目の信号までまっすぐ進む。	ふたつめのしんごうまでまっすぐすすむ。	Futatsu-me no shingō made massugu susumu.	Go straight until the second traffic signal.

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
コンビニで右に曲がる。	コンビニにでみぎにまがる。	Konbini de migi ni magaru.	Turn right at the convenience store.
銀行で左に曲がる。	ぎんこうでひだりにまがる。	Ginkō de hidari ni magaru.	Turn left at the bank.
郵便局で右に曲がる。	ゆうびんきょくでみぎにまがる。	Yūbin kyoku de migi ni magaru.	Turn right at the post office.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
信号	しんごう	shingō	traffic signal
まっすぐ	まっすぐ	massugu	straight
曲がる	まがる	magaru	turn
右	みぎ	migi	right
左	ひだり	hidari	left
進む	すすむ	susumu	proceed, go
突き当たり	つきあたり	tsuki atari	dead end
二つ目	ふたつめ	yutatsu-me	second
郵便局	ゆうびんきょく	yūbin kyoku	post office
銀行	ぎんこう	ginkō	bank
一つ目	ひとつめ	hitotsu-me	first
三つ目	みつつめ	mittsu-me	third
四つ目	よつつめ	yottsu-me	fourth
五つ目	いつつめ	itsutsu-me	fifth

QUICK TIP

Today's Sachiko's Secret is about – what else? – directions! The Japanese way of giving directions is a bit different from western ways. First of all, we don't use term "blocks. " Instead, we use traffic signals to count the number of blocks. So you might hear someone say "Go straight until the second traffic signal." Traffic signal in Japanese is "shingō." "The second traffic signal" is "Futatsume no shingō." So to say "Go straight until the second traffic signal" would be "Futatsu-me no shingō made massugu susumu." Now the numbers used in this sentence differs from the typical number of "one two three four five" which is "ichi ni san shi (or yon) go." We use a type of ordinal numbers. The "first, second, third, fourth and fifth" are "hitotsu-me, futatsu-me, mittsu-me, yottsu-me, itsutsu-me."



Lesson 30: Taking Pictures

写真を撮って下さい

LESSON NOTES

We'll go over both "Can I take your picture" and "Can you take our picture?" We'll also try, "Can I take a picture with you." Because if you want to take a picture of someone, or with someone, it's always best to ask for their permission first.

Let's start with the first question: In Japanese, "Please take our picture" is "Shashin o totte kudasai." The first word "shashin" means "photo." This is followed by the object-marking particle "o." The next word "totte" is a form of the verb "toru" which means "to take." So to recap here, we have "Sha-shin o totte," which literally means "photo, take." This is followed by "kudasai," which means "please." So together, "Sha-shin o totte kudasai" is literally "Photo, take, please." Now when you ask this question, be sure to show them how to use your camera. Don't expect all Japanese to be gadget whizzes! I certainly am not!

Now let's try the second sentence, "Can we take your picture?" If you ever walk down the ancient streets of Kyoto, you may be lucky enough to see some geisha walking around in their beautiful kimonos (the traditional Japanese attire), and distinct make-up. You'll be tempted to take a picture of these shy, soft-spoken ladies in front of ancient-looking temples and shrines.

That's when you would say, "Shashin o torasete kudasai." Again, the first word "shashin" means "photo." This is followed by the object-marker "o." Up to here, it's the same as the first sentence. The next word "torasete" means "let me take." So to recap here, we have "Shashin o torasete." Literally this means "photo, let me take." Let's take a look at the next word "kudasai," which means "please." So all together we have "Shashin o torasete kudasai." Literally this means "Photo, let me take, please." or "Please let me take your picture."

Now, there may also be times when you want to take a picture with someone. In this case, you could say, "Please let me take a picture with you." In Japanese, that's "Shashin o issho ni torasete kudasai." The first word "shashin" means "photo." This is followed by the object-marker "o." Up to here it's the same as the first sentence. The next word "issho ni" means "together." This is followed by "torasete" which means "let me take." The next word "kudasai" means "please." So all together we have "Shashin o issho ni torasete kudasai." Literally, this means "photo, together, let me take, please."

PHRASES

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
写真を撮って下さい。	しゃしんをとってください。	Shashin o totte kudasai.	Please take our picture.
写真を撮らせて下さい。	しゃしんをとらせてください。	Shashin o torasete kudasai.	Please let me take your picture.
写真を一緒に撮らせて下さい。	しゃしんをいっしょにとらせてください。	Shashin o issho ni torasete kudasai.	Please let me take a picture with you.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
写真	しゃしん	shashin	photo
撮る	とる	toru	(dictionary form of) shoot
下さい	ください	kudasai	please
一緒に	いっしょに	issho ni	together

QUICK TIP

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! You know the cliché about Japanese people being picture freaks. You see it in the movies and on TV all the time. Well, I have to admit, there is a reason for this stereotype.... We love taking pictures! Everywhere we go, every occasion there is, we take pictures to preserve that moment for all of eternity! Get-togethers, parties, events, and pictures of landscapes, too! Now a days, we use mainly camera-equipped cell phones to take pictures, because we always carry around our cell phones anyway. There's also another advantage to taking pictures with cell phones. You can store huge files of pictures in cell phones and show them to people.

QUICK TIP 2

I would really recommend asking for permission before taking someone's picture, not only because it's polite, but because you'll get a better expression or pose from the person you're taking a picture of. I've noticed that many Japanese act shy initially when asked for a photo, but once a camera is focused on them, they'll give us their brightest smile or their funniest poses, especially to foreign tourists. So don't be shy! You may even make a friend or two out of this opportunity!

Survival Phrases - Japanese (Part 1 end) Lessons 1-30



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- ★ Making the most of a hotel stay, and exploring alternatives to the beaten path
- ★ Visiting the Post office and mailing thing home

- ★ Phone rentals and phone cards, don't travel without one!
- ★ Critical phrases for vegetarians and allergy sufferers!
- ★ Talking to the doctor and explaining symptoms correctly
- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will "wow" hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Finally, thank you again!

If you have a story to share about how Survival Phrases - Japanese helped you with your travels, business, or personal relationships, we would love to hear about it!

Please e-mail us contactus@survivalphrases.com