Greetings

Ossan: Ochiaso gozaimasu. Good morning, (polite)
Tachimashita.

Odorinashi. Welcome home.

I'm home.

I'll go and come back.

Excuse me. I'm sorry.

Arigato gozaimashita. Thank you.

Oyasuminasai. Good night.

Sumimasen. Please go and come.

Ike ga mada nai. Thank you for the meal.

Hitori de kimasu. I'm alone.

Muzukashii ka. It's troublesome.

Hajimeru ni. Nice to meet you.

Dozo yoroshiku. How do you do?
表現ノート

Ohayoo is used between friends and family members, while ohayoo gozaimasu is used between less intimate acquaintances, similarly with ariigato and ariigato gozaimasu. The rule of thumb is: if you are on a first-name basis with someone, go for the shorter versions. If you would address someone as Mr. or Ms., use the longer versions. To give a concrete example, the social expectation is such that students are to use the longer variants when they speak with a professor.

There are several good-bye expressions in Japanese, the choice among which depends on the degree of separation. Sayonara indicates that the speaker does not expect to see the person spoken to before she "turns a page in her life": not until a new day arrives, or until she brings the two together again, or until they meet again in the other world.

じゃあ、また。 jaa mata
(between friends, expecting to see each other again fairly soon)

しつれいします。 Shitsureishimasu.
(taking leave from a professor's office, for example)

いってきます。 Itteimasu.
(leaving home)

Sumimasen means (1) "Excuse me," to get another person's attention, (2) "I'm sorry," to apologize for the trouble you have caused, or (3) "Thank you," to show appreciation for what someone has done for you.

Iie is primarily "No," a negative reply to a question. In the dialogue, it is used to express the English phrase "Don't mention it," or "You're welcome," with which you point out that one is not required to feel obliged for what you have done for them.

Iitteらっしゃい/いってきます/ただいま/おかげになります Iitteimasu and itterasshai is a common exchange used at home when a family member leaves. The person who leaves says itteimasu, which literally means "I will go and come back." And the family members respond with itterasshai, which means "Please go and come back."

Tadaima and okaeri are used when a person comes home. The person who arrives home says tadaima (I am home right now) to the family members, and they respond with okaerinasai (Welcome home).

れんしゅう Practice

1. You meet your host family for the first time. Greet them.
2. It is one o'clock in the afternoon. You see your neighbor Mr. Yamada.
4. On a crowded train, you stepped on someone's foot.
5. You dropped your book. Someone picked it up for you.
6. It is eight o'clock at night. You happen to meet your teacher at the convenience store.
7. You are watching TV with your host family. It is time to go to sleep.
8. You are leaving home.
9. You have come back home.
10. You are going to start eating.
11. You have finished eating.
LESSON 1

New Friends

Dialogue

May: Excuse me. What time is it now?
Takeh: It's half past twelve.
May: Excuse me. I am a sophomore now.
Takeh: Oh... are you an international student?
May: Yes, I am a student at the University of Arizona.

May: 検索: すみません、いまなん時ですか。
Takeh: すみません。じゅうにじゅうにちじがございます。
May: すみません。いまなん時ですか。
Takeh: すみません。じゅうにじゅうにじがございます。

May: Excuse me. What time is it now?
Takeh: It's half past twelve.
May: Excuse me. I am a sophomore now.
Takeh: Oh... are you an international student?
May: Yes, I am a student at the University of Arizona.
1 X は Y です

"It is 12:30." "I am a student." "My major is the Japanese language." These sentences will all be translated into Japanese using an appropriate noun and the word desu.

じゅうじじのはんです。 (It is half past twelve)
Gakusei desu.

がくせいですか。 (I am a student)
Nihongo desu.

にほんごです。 (My major) is the Japanese language.

Note that none of these sentences has a "subject," like the "it," "I," and "my major" found in their English counterparts. Sentences without subjects are very common in Japanese; Japanese speakers actually tend to omit subjects whenever they think it is clear to the listener what or who they are referring to.

What are we to do, then, when it is not clear what is being talked about? To make explicit what we are talking about, we can say:

は にほんごです。 is the Japanese language.
wa nihongo desu.

Where すuf stands for the thing that is talked about, or the "topic," which is later in the sentence identified as nihongo. For example:

せんもんは にほんごです。 (My) major is the Japanese language.
Senmon wa nihongo desu.

Similarly, one can use the pattern X で Y desu to identify a person or a thing X as item Y.

X は Y です。 X is Y. As for X, it is Y.

わたしごはえ・キムです。 I am Sue Kim
Watashi wa Sue Kimu desu.

Mr. Yamashita is a teacher.

Yamashita san wa sensee desu.

Mary is an American

Mary is an American

Meiri san wa amerikajin desu.

We is a member of the class of words called "particles." So is the word no, which we will turn to later in this lesson. Particles attach themselves to phrases and indicate how the phrases relate to the rest of the sentence.

Note also that nouns like gakusei and sensee in the above examples stand alone, unlike their English translations "student" and "teacher," which are preceded by "a." In Japanese, there is no item that corresponds to "a," nor is there any item that corresponds to the plural "-s" at the end of a noun. Without background situations, a sentence like gakusei desu is therefore ambiguous between the singular and the plural interpretations: it may mean "We are/you are/they are students." as well as "I am/you are/she is a student."

2 Question Sentences

It is very easy to form questions in Japanese. Basically, all you need to do is add ka at the end of a statement.

りゅうがくせいですか。 Ryuugakusei desu.
(Are you) an international student?

りゅうがくせいですか。
Ryuugakusei desu ka.

The above sentence, Ryuugakusei desu ka, is a "yes/no" question. Question sentences may also contain a "question word" like nan (what). In this lesson, we learn how to ask, and answer, questions using the following question words: nanji (what time), nansai (how old), namensee (what year in school). Note carefully that the order of words in a sentence may be quite different from what you find in your language.

せんもんは なんですか。
Senmon wa nan desu ka.

What is your major?

(せんもんは) えいごです。
(Senmon wa) eigo desu.

(My major) is English.

1It is not customary to write a question mark at the end of a question sentence in Japanese.

"The Japanese question word for "what" has two pronunciations: nan and nani. Nani is used immediately before desu or before a "counter" like ji (o'clock). The other form, nan, is used before a particle. Nani is also used in the combination nanjina (person of what nationality).
いま なんですか。
ima nani desu ka.
What time is it now?

メアリーさんは なんさいですか。
Mea-ri-san wa nansai desu ka.
How old are you, Mary?

なんせいですか。
Nansei desu ka.
What year are you in college?

てんわばんこうは なんですか。
Tenwa bango no nanka desu ka.
What is your telephone number?

3 noun, noun

No is a particle that connects two nouns. The phrase Toozai daigaku no gakusee means “(a) student at Toozai University.” The second noun gakusee provides the main idea (being a student) and the first one Toozai daigaku makes it more specific (not a high school, but a college student). No is very versatile. In the first example below, it acts like the possessive (“’s”) in English, but that is not the only role no can play. See how it connects two nouns in the following examples.

たけしさんの でんわばんこう
Takeshi san no denwa bango

たいがく の せんせい
daigaku no senseii

にほんご の がくせい
nihongo no gakusee

にほんの たいがく
nihon no daigaku

Takeshi’s phone number

da college professor

a student of the Japanese language

a college in Japan

Observe that in the first two examples, the English and Japanese words are arranged in the same order, while in the last two, they are in the opposite order. Japanese seems to be more consistent in arranging ideas here; the main idea always comes at the end, with any further description placed before it.

表現ノート Expression Notes

あの ▶ Ano indicates that you have some reservations about saying what you are going to say next. You may be worried about interrupting something someone is currently doing, or sounding rude and impolite for asking personal questions, for example.

はい/ええ ▶ Both hai and ee mean “yes” in response to yes-no questions. Compared to hai, ee is more conversational and relaxed. In more informal situations, ee is used.

Hai is also used to respond to a knock at the door or to the calling of one’s name, meaning “Here,” as follows. (Ee cannot be replaced in this case.)

Teacher: すみっさん？ Mr. Smith?
Sumisu san?

Student: はい。 Here.
Hai.

そうですか ▶ Soo desu ka acknowledges that you have understood what was just said. “Is that so?” or “I see.”

Pronunciation of は ▶ The particle は is pronounced “wa,” not “ka.” It should be written with は. All other instances of “wa” are written with は.
There are a few exceptions, such as konnichiwa (good afternoon) and konbanwa (good evening). They are usually written with こんにちは and こんばんは.

**Numbers**

Many number words have more than one pronunciation. Refer to the table at the end of this book for a general picture.

1. ぜろ and れい are both commonly used.
2. いち, but pronounced as い in いっぱい (one minute) and いっか (one-year old).
3. さん all the time. The part that follows it may change shape, as in さんぽん, instead of さんふん.
4. よん is the most basic, but fourth-year student is よんにせの and four o'clock is よじ. In some combinations that we will later learn, it is read as しがつ (as in しがつ, April). The part that follows this number may change shape too, as in よんぽん.
5. ご all the time. When read out separately, it may be pronounced with a long vowel, as ごう.
6. ろく, but pronounced as ろっ in ろっぷん.
7. なな is the most basic, but seven o'clock is しちじ.
8. はち, but usually pronounced as はっぴ in はっぴん and はっさき.
9. きゅう is the most basic, but nine o'clock is くじ.
10. じゅう, but pronounced as じゅう in じゅうふん and じゅうさき.

**Giving one's telephone number**

The particle は is usually placed in between the local exchange code and the last four digits. Therefore, the number 0123-456789 is ゼロ いちに, サン よん ろ に, はち ろく むね ハチ, きゅう じゅう.

せんせい The word *sensei* is usually reserved for describing somebody else's occupation. *Watashi wa sensei desu* makes sense, but may sound slightly arrogant, because the word *sensei* actually means an "honorable master." If you (or a member of your family) are a teacher, and if you want to be really modest, you can use the word キョーシ: instead.

**San**

San is placed after a name as a generic title. It goes both with a given name and a family name. Children are referred to as *chwan* (and boys in particular as *kun*), rather than as *san*. Professors and doctors are usually referred to with the title *sensei*. *San* and other title words are never used in reference to oneself.

Referring to the person you are talking to The word for "you," *anata*, is not very commonly used in Japanese. Instead, we use the name and a title like *san* and *sensei* to refer to the person you are talking to. Therefore, a sentence like "Ms. Hart, are you Swedish?" should be:

Haato san wa sueedenjin desu ka.

instead of Haarto さん, あなたは スウェーデン人ですか。

**Japanese names**

When Japanese give their name, they say their family name first and given name last. Usually, they don't have middle names. When they introduce themselves, they often say only their family name. Here are some typical Japanese names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family name</th>
<th>Given name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>きたう</td>
<td>ひろし</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sato</td>
<td>Hiroshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>すずき</td>
<td>いちろう</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzuki</td>
<td>Ichiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>たかはし</td>
<td>けんじ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takahashi</td>
<td>Kenji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>たなか</td>
<td>ゆうき</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanaka</td>
<td>Yuuki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いとう</td>
<td>まさひろ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ito</td>
<td>Masahiro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 1: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
Q: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
A: Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu.  

| 1. | Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 2. | Meiri-san wa Japan daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 4. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa bijinesu desu. |
| 5. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 6. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa karaitei desu. |
| 7. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 8. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 9. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 10. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |

Example 2: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
Q: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
A: Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu.  

| 1. | Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 2. | Meiri-san wa Japan daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 4. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa bijinesu desu. |
| 5. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 6. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 7. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 8. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 9. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 10. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |

B. Pair Work - Ask and answer questions using the given cues.

Example: "Otocon-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka."  
Q: Otocon-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
A: Otocon-san wa America daigaku no gakusei desu.  

| 1. | Otocon-san wa America daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 2. | Otocon-san wa Japan daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 3. | Otocon-san wa Shibuya-ku no yoyogi-gakuen desu. |
| 4. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa bijinesu desu. |
| 5. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 6. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 7. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 8. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 9. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 10. | Otocon-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |

Example: "Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka."  
Q: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
A: Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu.  

| 1. | Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 2. | Meiri-san wa Japan daigaku no gakusei desu. |
| 4. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa bijinesu desu. |
| 5. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 6. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 7. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 8. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 9. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |
| 10. | Meiri-san no shigoto wa sukebudasen desu. |

Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>U. of Arizona</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim, Sue</td>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Seoul Univ.</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>U. of London</td>
<td>Computer science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Tozai Univ.</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>U. of London</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Japanese) teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example:

Q: Meiri-san wa nan no nihongo desu ka.  
A: Meiri-san wa Arizona daigaku no gakusei desu.
(b) ago

Example おとうさん
Meari san no otoosan wa yonjuuassai desu.

Mary's host family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation/School</th>
<th>otoosan (father)</th>
<th>okaasan (mother)</th>
<th>onisian (elder brother)</th>
<th>imooto (younger sister)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Answer the questions using the chart above

1. おとうさんはかいしゃいんですか。
   Otoosan wa kaisain desu ka.
2. おとうさんはなんさですか。
   Otoosan wa nan sai desu ka.
3. おかあさんはせんせいですか。
   Okaasan wa sensei desu ka.
4. おかあさんはなんさいですか。
   Okaasan wa nan sai desu ka.
5. おにいさんはかいしゃいんですか。
   Onisian wa kaisain desu ka.
6. おにいさんはなんさいですか。
   Onisian wa nan sai desu ka.
7. いもうとはだいがくせいですか。
   Imooto wa daigakusei desu ka.
8. いもうとはなんさいですか。
   Imooto wa nan sai desu ka.

B. Self-introduction—Introduce yourself to the class

Example

はじめまして。メアリー・ハートです。
Hajimemashite. Meari Haru desu.

メアリーサーがくの がくせいです。
Meari sa gakko no gakusei desu.

アメリカ大がく no gakusei desu. Lima
にせんせいです。せんもんは にほんごです。
Ninensei desu. Senmon wa nihongo desu.

じゅうきゅうさいです。どうぞ よろしく。
Juukyoussai desu. Doozo yoroshiku.
1. Translate the following phrases into Japanese using the framework “AのB.”
   Note carefully that the order in which the two nouns appear may be different in
   English and in Japanese. Read Grammar 3 (pp. 16-17).

   1. Japanese student
   2. Takeshi's telephone number
   3. My friend
   4. English-language teacher
   5. Michiko's major

2. Using the framework "XはYです," translate the following sentences into
   Japanese.

   1. Ms. Ogawa is Japanese.
   は
   です。

   2. Mr. Takeda is a teacher.

   3. I am an international student.

   4. Michiko is a first-year student.

   5. Ms. Yamamoto is 25 years old.

   6. My major is Japanese.
1. Practice writing the following ten hiragana (あ through こ).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hiragana</th>
<th>Katakana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>あ</td>
<td>あ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>い</td>
<td>い</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>う</td>
<td>う</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>え</td>
<td>え</td>
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<tr>
<td>お</td>
<td>お</td>
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<td>か</td>
<td>か</td>
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<td>く</td>
<td>く</td>
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<tr>
<td>け</td>
<td>け</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>こ</td>
<td>こ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Copy and romanize the words below.

1. あおい
   (blue)
2. うえ
   (above)
3. おか
   (hill)
4. あき
   (autumn)
5. いけ
   (pond)
6. こく
   (densely)

3. Write the words below in hiragana.

1. ou
   (indebted)
2. ie
   (house)
3. ai
   (love)
4. kako
   (past)
5. kui
   (regret)
6. eki
   (station)
1. Write the words below in hiragana.
2. Write the words below in hiragana.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. あした  (tomorrow)</th>
<th>2. 乔丹 (invitation)</th>
<th>3. 本 (book)</th>
<th>4. おぎ (oven)</th>
<th>5. 今日は (today)</th>
<th>6. 昨日 (yesterday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 1. ひふみ (Hifumi) | 2. なにか (something) | 3. ハナ (flower) | 4. しゅ (shu) | 5. こうつ (kimono) | 6. も (mo) |

1. Practice writing the following ten hiragana (at through が).
2. Practice writing the following ten hiragana (か through が).
Write the words below in Hiragana:

1. 1. (not water)
2. 2. (after)
3. 3. (cream)
4. 4. (cream)
5. 5. (cream)
6. 6. (cream)
7. 7. (cream)
8. 8. (cream)
9. 9. (cream)
10. 10. (cream)

Copy and romanize the words below:

Practice writing the following eight Hiragana (5 through 8):