

Complete Japanese

Beginner A1

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Chapter 1: Introductions

Konnichiwa!

Learn how to greet people for the first time

Konnichiwa / こんにちは

Hello

Konnichiwa.

Hello.

Notice the long "n" after "ko"!

Hajimemashite. / はじめまして。

Nice to meet you.

"**Hajimemashite**" means "nice to meet you".

We say "hajimemashite" when we meet someone for **the first time**.

Hajimemashite.

Nice to meet you.

The "i" in **mashite** is only a whispered sound.

Konnichiwa. Hajimemashite.

Hello. Nice to meet you.

"**Hajimemashite**" literally means "we are meeting for the first time".

Saying your name

Learn how to say your name to introduce yourself

Watashi wa Mariko desu. / わたしはまりこです。

I am Mariko.

Watashi wa Mariko desu.

わたしはまりこです

I am Mariko.

To introduce ourselves by saying our name, we say: "Watashi wa (name) desu."

Watashi wa Anna desu.

I am Anna.

To say "I", we start a sentence with "watashi".

Watashi wa Ken desu.

わたしはけんです。

I am Ken.

To say "I", we start a sentence with "watashi".

“**Watashi**” means “I”, and “**wa**” is a particle. We will learn more about it later.

Watashi wa Takeshi desu.

I am Takeshi.

The "u" in "desu" is not really voiced and is only a whispered sound.

Akira

After a greeting, the man said: "**Watashi wa Akira desu.**" (I am Akira.)

Watashi wa Akira desu.

I am Akira.

We say **Watashi wa + (name) + desu** to introduce ourselves.

Introducing yourself

Learn how to greet and introduce yourself in Japanese

Douzo yoroshiku. / どうぞよろしく。

Pleased to meet you.

Douzo yoroshiku.

Pleased to meet you.

"Douzo yoroshiku" is a phrase used to finish off our self-introduction.

Self-introductions

"**Hajimemashite**" literally means "(we are meeting) for the first time".

We say this phrase first when we meet somebody.

"**Douzo yoroshiku**" literally means "please be nice to me", so we say it at the end of our self-introduction.

at the beginning

at the end

Hajimemashite.

Douzo yoroshiku.

Douzo yoroshiku.

Pleased to meet you.

"Douzo yoroshiku" literally means "please be nice to me".

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Takeshi desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. My name is Kazutake. Nice to meet you.

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Mana desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Mana. Pleased to meet you.

After we say "**hajimemashite**" we bow slightly. We bow again after "**douzo yoroshiku**".

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Ken desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Ken. Pleased to meet you.

We say "Hajimemashite" when we start introducing ourselves and "Douzo yoroshiku" when we finish.

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Ken desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Ken. Pleased to meet you.

For the first encounter, say "hajimemashite", your name and "douzo yoroshiku". People often bow too.

VOCABULARY

Douzo yoroshiku. / どうぞよろしく。

Pleased to meet you.

Developing fluency

Introduce yourself using the phrases you have learned

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Anna desu.

Nice to meet you. I am Anna.

We say "Hajimemashite" when we start introducing ourselves.

We say "**Hajimemashite**" when we start introducing ourselves.

We say "**Hajimemashite**" when we start introducing ourselves and "**Douzo yoroshiku**" when we finish.

Watashi wa Akira desu.

I am Akira.

We say **Watashi wa + (name) + desu** to introduce ourselves

Tanaka

Tanaka

The man said "**Hajimemashite**", and then he said his name: "**Watashi wa Tanaka desu.**" (I am Tanaka.)

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Ken desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Ken. Pleased to meet you.

We say "**Hajimemashite**" when we start introducing ourselves and "**Douzo yoroshiku**" when we finish.

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Akira desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Akira. Pleased to meet you.

We say "Hajimemashite" when we start introducing ourselves and "Douzo yoroshiku" when we finish.

Checkpoint

Test your skills to access the next chapter

What is the name of the speaker?

Akira

After a greeting, the man said: "**Watashi wa Akira desu.**" (I am Akira.)

Watashi wa Akira desu.

I am Akira.

We say **Watashi wa + (name) + desu** to introduce ourselves.

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Ken desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Ken. Pleased to meet you.

For the first encounter, say "hajimemashite", your name and "douzo yoroshiku".

People often bow too.

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Mana desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Mana. Pleased to meet you.

After we say "**hajimemashite**" we bow slightly. We bow again after "**douzo yoroshiku**".

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Ken desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Ken. Pleased to meet you.

We say "Hajimemashite" when we start introducing ourselves and "Douzo yoroshiku" when we finish.

Konnichiwa. Hajimemashite.

Hello. Nice to meet you.

"Hajimemashite" literally means "we are meeting for the first time".

Hajimemashite.

Nice to meet you.

The "i" in **mashite** is only a whispered sound.

"Hajimemashite" means "nice to meet you".

We say "hajimemashite" when we meet someone for **the first time**.

Tanaka

The man said "Hajimemashite", and then he said his name: "Watashi wa Tanaka desu." (I am Tanaka.)

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Akira desu. Douzo yoroshiku.

Nice to meet you. I am Akira. Pleased to meet you.

We say "Hajimemashite" when we start introducing ourselves and "Douzo yoroshiku" when we finish.

Your vocabulary

Douzo yoroshiku. / どうぞよろしく。 Pleased to meet you.

Hajimemashite. / はじめまして。 Nice to meet you.

Konnichiwa / こんにちは Hello

Douzo yoroshiku.
Pleased to meet you.
どうぞよろしく

Hajimemashite.
Nice to meet you.
はじめま

Konnichiwa
Hello
こんにちは

VOCABULARY

Douzo yoroshiku. Pleased to meet you.

Konnichiwa Hello

Hajimemashite. Nice to meet you.

Chapter 2: Essentials

Greetings

Learn greetings in Japanese

Ohayou. / おはよう。
Good morning. (informal)

Ohayou
Good morning (informal)
We use "ohayou" with friends and family.

Konbanwa. / こんばんは。
Good evening.

Konbanwa
Good evening
"Konbanwa" means good evening, and "konnichiwa" means hello.

Match the greetings to when they are used.

Ohayou おはよう	morning
Konbanwa こんばんは	evening
Konnichiwa こんにちは	daytime

Jaa mata! / じゃあまた!

See you later!

Hiroko-san, jaa mata.

See you later, Hiroko.

"**Jaa mata**" = seeing each other soon, casual.

Sayounara / さようなら

Goodbye

Sayounara

Goodbye

"Sayounara" sounds formal and tends to be used when you are unlikely to see someone for a long time.

Sayounara. Goodbye.

Jaa, mata. See you later.

Sayounara

"Sayounara" means "goodbye".

We can say "**sayounara**" when we are moving to a different country and won't see our friends for a long time.

Understanding essential phrases

Learn how to greet people, thank them and apologise

Arigatou! / ありがとう!

Thank you. (informal)

Arigatou! / ありがとう!

Thank you. (informal)

We use "arigatou" with friends and family.

Kyoko-san, arigatou!

Kyoko, thank you!

We use "arigatou" with friends and family. Pronounce the "to" with a long "o" instead of saying the "u".

What is "san"?

In Japanese, we add "**san**" after a name to be polite. "San" itself has no translation. We never add it after our own names though!

Kyoko-san, arigatou! / きょうこさん、ありがとう！ -Kyoko,
thank you!

iie. / いいえ

no

"**iie**" means no.

We use "**iie**" (no) to respond to someone saying thanks.

How do we reply to "thank you"?

iie.

Not at all.

When somebody thanks us, we can respond by saying "iie" (not at all). It also means "no".

Douzo / どうぞ

here you go; please

The woman received a present.

We use "**arigatou**" with friends and family.

Sumimasen. / すみません。

Sorry; excuse me.

Sumimasen. / すみません。

We say "**sumimasen**" when we want to **apologise** or to attract someone's attention.

iie **Not at all; no.**

sumimasen **Sorry; excuse me.**

douzo **here you go; please**

VOCABULARY

Arigatou! / ありがとう！ Thank you. (informal)

iie. / いいえ no

Douzo / どうぞ here you go; please

Sumimasen. / すみません。 Sorry; excuse me.

Understanding essential phrases

Learn how to greet people, thank them and apologise

Arigatou! / ありがとう！

Thank you. (informal)

We use "arigatou" with friends and family.

Arigatou gozaimasu. / ありがとうございます。

Thank you. (formal)

arigatou Thank you. (informal)

arigatou gozaimasu Thank you. (formal)

We say "**arigatou**" to family and friends.

To people we don't know well, we say "**arigatou gozaimasu**".

Kyoko-san, arigatou!

Kyoko, thank you!

We use "arigatou" with friends and family. Pronounce the "to" with a long "o" instead of saying the "u".

Ohayou gozaimasu. / おはようございます。

Good morning. (formal)

What's the difference? 問

As you probably noticed, we use "**gozaimasu**" to express **politeness** - but the word doesn't mean anything by itself. We say "gozaimasu" but write "gozaimasu".

arigatou / ありがとう - Thank you. (informal)

arigatou gozaimasu / ありがとうございます - Thank you.
(formal)

ohayou / おはよう - Good morning. (informal)

ohayou gozaimasu / おはようございます - Good morning.
(formal)

Suzuki-sensei, ohayou gozaimasu.

Good morning, Ms Suzuki.

"Ohayou" is informal and used with friends and family.

Sensei?

"**Sensei**" means teacher and is added to a name to address teachers.

This is a useful word and can be used with anyone who teaches (whether they are in nurseries or at universities) as well as occupations with a professional qualification (such as medical doctors and lawyers).

Suzuki-sensei, ohayou gozaimasu. /

すずきせんせい、おはようございます。 - Good morning, Ms
Suzuki.

Tanaka-sensei, arigatou gozaimasu. /

たなかせんせい、ありがとうございます。 - Thank you,
Professor Tanaka.

ohayou おはよう Good morning. (informal)

ohayou gozaimasu おはようございます Good morning. (formal)

VOCABULARY

Arigatou gozaimasu. / ありがとうございます。 Thank you. (formal)

Ohayou gozaimasu. / おはようございます。 Good morning. (formal)

Hiragana: a i u e o

Learn how to write the first 5 hiragana letters

Here's a tip!

Japanese has two alphabets, **hiragana** and **katakana**.
Each alphabet has 46 letters.

We use **hiragana** to write words of Japanese origin,
and **katakana** to write borrowed vocabulary and foreign names.

Hiragana is used for...

words of Japanese origin

We use **hiragana** to write words of Japanese origin, and **katakana** to write borrowed vocabulary and foreign names.

あ a

a (What does this hiragana look like? To me, it looks like a person who is skating.)

あ a

This is the first letter of hiragana.

あ looks like a person skating.

い i

i (This looks like two ears or two drops of water.)

あ a

い i

う u

u (Try thinking about a man who is pulling something very heavy.)

う u

a = あ, i = い

え e

e (Imagine a running man or a creature with a tail.)

e

Hiragana for "e" is え.

え looks like a person running.

お o

O (This hiragana looks like a sleeping cat.)

o

Hiragana for "o" is お

This hiragana looks like a sleeping cat.

い i

う = u, あ = a

あ a

お = o, う = u

え e

お = o, う = u

あ a

い i

え e

お o

あ = a, え = e

う u

お = o, え = e

あ い う え お

a i u e o

a i

あい (love)

ia = じゃあ, oi = おい

Arrange these hiragana in the correct order:

a i u e o.

あ、い、う、え、お

a, i, u, e, o

a = あ, i = い, u = う, e = え, o = お

あ お い aoi (blue)

a o i

いえ i e house

いえ (house)

おはよう!

o ha yo

Good morning (informal)

あ = a

おはよう!

Good morning (informal)

あ = a

い i

Developing fluency

Practise greetings for different times of the day

Arrange the greetings from morning to evening.

ohayou

good morning (informal),

We say "**ohayou**" in the morning,

and later we use "**konnichiwa**",

then change to "**konbanwa**" in the evening.

konnichiwa

hello,

konbanwa

good evening

Konnichiwa

Hello

We say "**konnichiwa**" during the day and "**konbanwa**" in the evening.

Ohayou おはよう

Goo **こんばんは**d morning (informal)

We use "**ohayou**" as an informal greeting.

Yamada -sensei, ohayou gozaimasu.

Good morning, Ms Yamada.

We add "**sensei**" to teachers' names. Adding "**gozaimasu**" makes the greeting polite.

Konnichiwa. こんにちは

Hello.

We use "**konnichiwa**" in both formal and informal situations.

Konbanwa| こんばんは | 今晚は

Good evening

こんばんは

こんばんは

We can use "**konbanwa**" in both formal and informal situations.

Checkpoint

Test your skills to access the next chapter

Hiragana is used for...

words of Japanese origin

We use **hiragana** to write words of Japanese origin, and **katakana** to write borrowed vocabulary and foreign names.

Sayounara

"**Sayounara**" means "**goodbye**".

We can say "**sayounara**" when we are moving to a different country and won't see our friends for a long time.

"**ie**" means **no**.

We use "**ie**" (no) to respond to someone saying thanks.

ie.

Not at all.

When somebody thanks us, we can respond by saying "**ie**" (**not at all**). It also means "no".

Dozo arigatou ie.

The woman received a present.

We use "**arigatou**" with friends and family.

Sumimasen. / すみません。

We say "**sumimasen**" when we want to **apologise** or to attract someone's attention.

Suzuki-sensei, ohayou gozaimasu.

Good morning, Ms Suzuki.

"**Ohayou**" is informal and used with friends and family.

あ、い、う、え、お

a, i, u, e, o

a = あ, i = い, u = う, e = え, o = お

おはよう！ Ohayo

Good morning (informal)

あ い う え お

a i u e o

う

u

あおい

a o i (blue)

え e

いえ

いえ (house)

Chapter 3: Occupations

Saying your occupation

Learn how to say various occupations

Gakusei / がくせい / 学生

student

EXAMPLE

Watashi wa **gakusei** **desu**. / わたしは **がくせい** **です**。

私は **学生** です。 I am a **student**.

Watashi wa gakusei desu.

I am a student.

The stress is on the first sound of the word, "**ga**". The last sound of the word is a long "**se**".

sensei / せんせい / 先生

teacher; professor

EXAMPLE

Suzuki-san wa sensei desu.

すずき さんは せんせい です。

Mr Suzuki is a teacher.

Suzuki-san wa sensei desu.

Mr Suzuki is a teacher.

The last sound of the word is a long "se".

kaishain / かいしゃいん / 会社員

company employee

EXAMPLE

Yuriko-san wa kaishain desu. / ゆりこ さんは かいしゃいん です。

ゆりこ さんは 会社員 です。

Yuriko is a company employee.

Yamashita-san wa **kaishain** desu.

Yamashita-san is a company employee.

"Gakusei" means student.

isha / いしゃ / 医者

doctor

EXAMPLE

Yoshiko-san wa isha desu. / よしこ さんは いしゃ です。

よしこさんは 医者 です。

Yoshiko is a doctor.

Yoshiko-san wa isha desu.

Yoshiko is a doctor.

"Kaishain" means company employee.

sensei teacher; professor

kaishain company employee

isha doctor

Yamada-san works at a company.

"**Kaishain**" is a company employee, so Yamada-san must also be working at a company.

Here's a tip!

When the subject of a sentence is clear we often omit it.
For example, once you have introduced yourself, you do not have to use “watashi wa” if you continue to talk about yourself.

Watashi wa Anna desu.

(Watashi wa) **Gakusei desu.** (I am Anna. (I am) a student.)

This person is saying that her name is Mimi and she is a student.

This is what we heard on the audio:

Watashi wa Mimi desu. Gakusei desu. (I am Mimi. (I am) a student.)

Talking about students

Learn words to describe different types of students

Watashi wa gakusei desu.

I am a student.

"Gakusei" means student.

daigakusei / だいがくせい / 大学生

university student

EXAMPLE

Ken-san wa daigakusei desu. / けんさんはだいがくせいです。

けんさんは大学生です。

Ken is a university student.

gakusei / がくせい / 学生

"Gakusei" means "a student" **generally**, while **"daigakusei"** refers **specifically** to *university* students.

koukousei / こうこうせい / 高校生

a high school student

EXAMPLE

Keiko-san wa koukousei desu. / けいこさんは、こうこうせいです。

けいこさんは、高校生です。

Keiko is a high school student.

Let's be careful!

When we write “**ou**” in Japanese, we pronounce this as a stretched out “**o**” sound.

It sounds similar to the “o” in “cocoa”. We also write “ei” but when we say it, we stretch the “e” sound in a similar way to the “a” in “Amy”.

koukousei / こうこうせい - high school student

sensei / せんせい - teacher / professor

koukousei / こうこうせい

a high school student

Adding **u/う** after a final "o" lengthens the "o" sound, and **i/い** does the same for "e".

gakusei student

daigakusei university student

koukousei a high school student

What should you collectively call "koukousei" and "daigakusei"?

gakusei / がくせい

student

The stress is on the first sound of the word, "ga". The last sound of the word is a long "se".

Question sentences

Learn how to form statements and ask questions

Okada-san wa kaishain desu.

Mr Okada is a company employee.

"Wa" follows the subject of the sentence, and "desu" at the end of the sentence makes it polite.

Let's look at the details!

"**Wa**" follows the subject of the sentence.

"**Desu**" at the end of the sentence makes it polite.

Watashi **wa** gakusei **desu**.

(I am a student.)

Yamada-san **wa** kaishain **desu**.

(Yamada-san is a company employee.)

Ken-san wa daigakusei desu.

Ken is a university student.

"Wa" follows the subject of the sentence, and "desu" at the end of the sentence makes it polite.

Tanaka-san wa koukousei desu.

Tanaka-san is a high school student.

Start with the subject "Tanaka-san" and finish with "desu" to make the sentence polite.

Yamanaka-san wa sensei desu ka. / やまなかさんはせんせいですか。

やまなかさんはせんせいです[k]か[k]。

Is Yamanaka-san a teacher?

Maria-san wa isha desu ka.

Is Maria a doctor?

There is "ka" at the end of the sentence.

Let's make question sentences!

To make a statement into a question, we add "**ka**" (a question marker) at the end of the sentence.

We do not need to put "?" at the end of a question when we use "ka", because it serves as a question mark.

Watanabe-san wa gakusei desu **ka**.

(Is Watanabe-san a student?)

Naruto wa ninja desu **ka**.

(Is Naruto a ninja?)

Eriko-san wa kaishain desu ka.

This person is asking if Eriko is a company employee.

The sentence has "ka" at the end, so it's a question.

Tomoko-san wa daigakusei desu ka.

Is Tomoko a university student?

"wa" follows the subject of the sentence. "ka" comes at the end of a question sentence.

Erina-san wa sensei desu ka.

Is Erina a teacher?

We add **ka** at the end of the sentence to make a question.

Cultural tip!

In Japanese, rather than saying a polite "you" (**anata**), we prefer to address people by using by their name followed by "**san**".

So, it's important to know how to ask for someone's name politely!

Onamae wa?

(What's your name?)

(Literal: Name is...?)

Anata / あなた

We usually use the person's name rather than "anata" (polite "you") when addressing someone in Japanese.

When addressing someone in Japanese, we try to use their name with "**san**", instead of the polite "you" (**anata**).

Onamae wa? / おなまえは? / お名前は?

What is your name?

Onamaewa?

What's your name?

Adding **o** makes **namae** (name) more polite. Note that **wa** has a higher pitch.

Onamae wa? おなまえは? What is your name?

Mariko-san wa gakusei desu ka. まりこさんはがくせいですか。

Mariko-san, are you a student?

Mariko san wa gakusei desu. まりこさんはがくせいです。 Mariko-san is a student.

Answering questions

Learn how to answer questions

Tomoko-san wa daigakusei desu ka.

Is Tomoko a university student?

"**wa**" follows the subject of the sentence. "**ka**" comes at the end of a question sentence.

Let's answer questions!

You might remember that "**no**" in Japanese is "**iie**". "**Yes**" is "**hai**".

When responding to a question, we often omit the subject if it is clear who or what we are talking about.

Nina: **Yuriko-san wa gakusei desu ka.** (Yuriko, are you a student?)

Yuriko: **Hai, (watashi wa) gakusei desu.** (Yes, I am a student.)

hai / はい

yes

EXAMPLE

Hai, gakusei desu. / はい、がくせいです。

はい、学生です。

Yes, I am student.

iie. / いいえ

no

hai / はい yes

iie / いいえ no

To say "**iie**", pronounce the "i" as a **long "i"** instead of saying "i" twice.

How to answer questions

To respond positively, we say "hai" and repeat the information that we are confirming.

To respond negatively, we say "iie" and provide the correct information.

Maria-san wa sensei desu ka. (Is Maria a teacher?)

Hai, sensei desu. (Yes, she is a teacher.)

Iie, gakusei desu. (No, she is a student.)

Hai, gakusei desu.

Yes, I am student.

Question: Are you a student, Takumi?

Answer the question: Tanaka-san wa isha desu ka. (Are you a doctor, Ms Tanaka?)

Hai, isha desu. / はい、いしゃです。

Yes, I am a **doctor**.

In Japanese we can omit the subject when it's obvious.

Hai, gakusei desu.

Yes, I am a **student**.

Question: Mariko-san wa **gakusei** desu ka. (Are you a student, Mariko?)

VOCABULARY

hai / はい yes

iie. / いいえ no

Developing fluency

Practise talking about your occupation

Watashi wa koukousei desu.

I'm a high school student.

Adding **u/う** after a final "o" lengthens the "o" sound, and **i/い** does the same for "e".

Watashi wa gakusei desu.

I am a student.

The stress is on the first sound of the word, "**ga**". The last sound of the word is a long "se".

Satoshi was asked if he's a student, and he said no, he's a company employee.

Watashi wa **gaku**がく|学sei desu.

I am a student.

がく

The pronunciation is a long "se". Note that we write "i" at the end of "gakusei".

Watashi wa Naoto desu. Kaishain desu.

I'm Naoto. (I'm) a company employee.

In Japanese we can omit the subject when it's obvious.

What's Kyoko's occupation?

Doctor

Kyoko said, "Isha desu" – (I'm) a doctor.

Hiragana: ka ki ku ke ko

Learn how to write the next 5 hiragana letters

あ、い、う、え、お

a, i, u, e, o

あ=a, い=i, う=u, え=e, お=o

か

ka (It looks like a great karate kick!)

か

ka (It looks like a great karate kick!)

あ = a, う = u

き

ki (It looks like a big key.)

e careful!

On the previous screen, did you notice that the "tail" of き wasn't connected to the "main body"?

In handwriting, we usually don't connect it, but in some fonts it is connected.

Depending on the font, the "tail" of き can be connected to the main part.

く

ku (Think of a bird's beak. A bird says "coo-coo".)

く

ku (Think of a bird's beak. A bird says "coo-coo".)

か = ka, き = ki

け

ke (It looks like two clothes pegs.)

ke

The hiragana for "ke" is け.

こ

ko (It reminds me of the round edges of a coin.)

く ku

け ke

こ ko

き ki (It looks like a big key.)

か = ka, こ = ko

く ku (Think of a bird's beak. A bird says "coo-coo".)

き = ki, こ = ko

こ ko (It reminds me of the round edges of a coin.)

き = ki, く = ku

き ki

く ku

こ ko

か ka (It looks like a great karate kick!)

け = ke, く = ku

け ke (It looks like two clothes pegs.)

か き く け こ

ka ki ku ke ko

う = u, お = o

Select the correct romaji for かき (persimmon).

kaki persimmon

kaku = かく, kako = かも

Select the correct romaji for きく (to listen).

kiku to listen

kuki = くき, kike = きけ

こい koi (carp)

ko i (carp)

こ=ko, い=i

Select the correct hiragana for "koke" (moss).

こけ koke moss

いけ = ike, けこ = keko

かく kaki

to write

Arrange the hiragana in the correct order:

ka ki ku ke ko

か き く け こ

ka ki ku ke ko

かく kaku

to write

きこ = kiko

Select the correct hiragana for "akai" (red).

あ か い a ka i

a ka i

red

VOCABULARY

か ka (It looks like a great karate kick!)

き ki (It looks like a big key.)

く ku (Think of a bird's beak. A bird says "coo-coo".)

け ke (It looks like two clothes pegs.)

こ ko (It reminds me of the round edges of a coin.)

Checkpoint

Test your skills to access the next chapter

What's Kyoko's occupation?

doctor

Kyoko said, "Isha desu" – (I'm) a doctor.

Watashi wa **gaku**がく|学sei desu.

I am a student.

がく

The pronunciation is a long "se". Note that we write "i" at the end of "gakusei".

Satoshi was asked if he's a student, and he said no, he's a company employee.

Answer the question: Tanaka-san wa isha desu ka. (Are you a doctor, Ms Tanaka?)

Hai, isha desu. / はい、いしゃです。

Yes, I am a doctor.

In Japanese we can omit the subject when it's obvious.

Hai, **gakusei** desu.

Yes, I am student.

Question: Are you a student, Takumi?

Hai, **gakusei** desu. Yes, I am a student.

Question: Mariko-san wa **gakusei** desu ka. (Are you a student, Mariko?)

What should you collectively call "koukousei" and "daigakusei"?

gakusei / がくせい

student

The stress is on the first sound of the word, "ga". The last sound of the word is a long "se".

Maria-san wa isha desu ka.

Is Maria a doctor?

There is "ka" at the end of the sentence.

Erina-san wa sensei desu ka.

Is Erina a teacher?

We add **ka** at the end of the sentence to make a question.

Onamaewa?

What's your name?

Adding **o** makes **namae** (name) more polite. Note that **wa** has a higher pitch.

Anata / あなた

We usually use the person's name rather than "anata" (polite "you") when addressing someone in Japanese.

When addressing someone in Japanese, we try to use their name with "**san**", instead of the polite "you" (anata).

This person is saying that her name is Mimi and she is a student.

This is what we heard on the audio: **Watashi wa Mimi desu. Gakusei desu.** (I am Mimi. (I am) a student.)

Yamada-san works at a company.

"**Kaishain**" is a company employee, so Yamada-san must also be working at a company.

Arrange these hiragana in the correct order:

a i u e o.

あ、い、う、え、お

a, i, u, e, o

あ=a, い=i, う=u, え=e, お=o

こい

koi (carp)

こ=ko, い=i

kiku to listen

kuki = くき, kike = きけ

あかい red

お = o, け = ke

Select the correct hiragana for "koke" (moss).

こけ moss

いけ = ike, けこ = keko

Arrange the hiragana in the correct order:

ka ki ku ke ko

か き く け こ

ka ki ku ke ko

う = u, お = o

Select the correct hiragana for "kaku" (to write).

かく

to write

きこ = kiko

Chapter 4: Countries and nationalities

Negative sentences

Learn how to form negative sentences

Sou desu. / **そうです。**

That's right.

Another way to answer questions!

We can also say "sou desu" (that's right) to confirm something.

Naruto wa ninja desu ka. (Is Naruto a ninja?)

Hai, sou desu. (Yes, that's right.)

Hai, sou desu.

Yes, that's right.

hai = yes, iie = no

Hai, kaishain desu. / Hai, sou desu.

Instead of "**Hai, kaishain desu**", you can also say "**Hai, sou desu**" to answer the question positively.

Hai, sou desu means "Yes, that's right".

Hai, sou desu. Kaishain desu.

Yes, that's right. (I) am a company employee.

Confirm with "Yes, that's right" first, then state your occupation.

Hai, sou desu.

Yes, that's right.

We can also say "sou desu" (that's right) to confirm something.

iie, kaishain desu.

No, (she) is a company employee.

Question: Erina-san wa sensei desu ka. (Is Erina a teacher?)

Negative sentences

To form a negative sentence, we replace "**desu**" with "**janai desu**".

Watashi wa gakusei **desu**. (I am a student.)

Watashi wa gakusei **janai desu**. (I am not a student.)

Watashi wa gakusei janai desu. /
わたしはがくせいじゃないです。
わたしは学生じゃないです。
I am not a student.

Watashi wa gakusei janai desu.

I am not a student.

Watashi wa gakusei desu = I am a student.

Mariko-san wa gakusei janai desu.

Mariko is not a student.

janai desu = negative, **desu** = positive, **desu ka** = question

Yoshida-san wa isha janai desu.

Mr Yoshida is not a doctor.

Negative sentences end with "janai desu".

lie, isha janai desu. Kaishain desu.

No, she is not a doctor. (She) is a company employee.

janai desu = negative, desu = positive, desu ka = question

lie, daigakusei janai desu. Koukousei desu.

No, (I) am not a university student. (I) am a high school student.

Negative sentences end with "janai desu".

VOCABULARY

Sou desu. / そうです。 That's right.

Watashi wa gakusei janai desu. / わたしはがくせいじゃないです。

I am not a student.

Saying country names

Learn how to say country names and ask where things are

Nihon / にほん / 日本

Japan

Nihon / にほん

Japan

The stress is on "ho".

Chuugoku / ちゅうごく / 中国

China

"Chuugoku / ちゅうごく" means China.

More country names!

We use **hiragana** to write words of Japanese origin, and **katakana** to write borrowed vocabulary and foreign names.

For that reason, many country names are written in **katakana**.

You'll see the katakana next to the romaji in case it's helpful, but don't worry - we'll learn it gradually together soon!

Amerika / アメリカ - USA

Igirisu / イギリス - UK; England

Amerika / アメリカ

USA

Amerika / アメリカ **USA**

"Chuugoku" means China and "Nihon" means Japan.

Igirisu / イギリス

UK; England

Igirisu / イギリス

This word means "UK" or "England".

Mekishiko / メキシコ

Mexico

Mekishiko / メキシコ

Mexico

"Igirisu" means the UK and "Amerika" means the USA.

Amerika / アメリカ USA

Mekishiko / メキシコ Mexico

Igirisu / イギリス UK; England

Tokyo wa Nihon desu.

Tokyo is in Japan.

"Chuugoku" means China.

Bosuton wa Amerika desu.

Boston is in America.

doko / どこ

where

EXAMPLE

Nihon wa doko desu ka. / 日本はどこですか。 Where is Japan?

Asking questions!

To ask where something is, we use the question word "**doko**" (where).

The structure for the question is:

Subject + wa doko desu ka.

Kyouto wa **doko** desu **ka.** / きょうとはどこですか。

(Where is Kyoto?)

Kyouto wa doko desu ka.

Where is Kyoto?

The subject marker is "wa" and the question word for where is "doko".

Akira-san wa doko desu ka. / あきさんはどこですか。

This sentence is asking where Akira is.

Hokkaidou wa doko desu ka.

Where is Hokkaido?

Start with the subject, "Hokkaidou".

Answering a question!

Kyouto wa **doko** desu **ka.**

To answer this question, we can omit the subject with "wa" and simply state the location ending with "desu".

Kyouto wa **doko** desu **ka.** / きょうとはどこですか。

(Where is Kyoto?)

Nihon desu. / にほんです。 (It's in Japan.)

Nihon desu.

It's in Japan.

In Japanese we can omit the subject when it's obvious.

Nyuu Yooku? Amerika desu!

New York? It's in America!

"Amerika" = USA; "Igirisu" = England

VOCABULARY

Nihon / にほん / 日本 Japan

Chuugoku / ちゅうごく / 中国 China

Amerika / アメリカ USA

Igirisu / イギリス UK; England

Mekishiko / メキシコ Mexico

doko / どこ where

Hiragana: sa shi su se so

Learn how to write the next 5 hiragana letters

Let's recap!

Have you been practicing あいうえお and かきくけこ ?

Try to practise as much as possible!

Let's review the hiragana we already know and then learn the next five! (^o^)/

a i u e o	あいうえお
ka ki ku ke ko	かきくけこ

Arrange these hiragana in the correct order:

a i u e o.

あいうえお

あ=a, い=i, う=u, え=e, お=o

Match the hiragana with the romaji.

か ka

き ki

こ ko

Here's a tip!

You are doing amazing! Now let's learn the next five hiragana letters:

sa さ, shi し, su す, se せ, so そ.

Try to practise writing as we go along! It will help you memorise the letters.

sa	さ
shi	し
su	す
se	せ

Memorise the shape and sound of this hiragana, paying attention to the stroke order.

さ

sa (It looks like a person sitting on his knees.)

Here's a tip!

Did you notice that さ (sa) looks similar to き (ki)?

Whilst き (ki) has *two* horizontal strokes, さ (sa) has just *one*.

In handwriting, we don't connect the "tail" of さ (sa) to its "main body", although it looks like it is connected when we type it.

Take a look one more time on the next screen!

さ (sa)

き (ki)

さ

sa (It looks like a person sitting on his knees.)

か=ka, き=ki

し

shi (It looks like the back of a chair.)

shi

The hiragana for "shi" is し.

す

su (It looks a hanging Christmas stocking.)

す

su (It looks a hanging Christmas stocking.)

さ=sa, し=shi

さ sa

し shi

す su

Memorise the shape and sound of this hiragana, paying attention to the stroke order.

せ

se (It looks like person holding a baby on their lap.)

se

The hiragana for "se" is せ.

そ

so (This looks so zigzaggy.)

そ

so (This looks so zigzaggy.)

す=su, せ=se

す su

せ se

そ so

す=su, せ=se, そ=so

Select the correct romaji for かさ (umbrella).

kasa

umbrella

kise=きせ, kashi=かし

Select the correct romaji for しか (deer).

shika deer

shiko=しこ, shike=しけ

Select the correct hiragana for "okashi" (sweets).

おかし

sweets

おかず=okasu, おくし=okushi

Type the hiragana in romaji: すし

sushi

sushi

す=su, し=shi

おさけ

alcohol / Japanese rice wine

あさか=asaka, おしけ=oshike

Select the correct hiragana for "osake".

おさけ

alcohol / Japanese rice wine

あさか=asaka, おしけ=oshike

Select the correct hiragana for "suki" (to like).

すき

to like

すか=suka, そき=soki

Select the correct hiragana for "koukousei" (high school student).

こうこうせい

high school student

う lengthens the "o" sound of any hiragana ending in "o". い lengthens the "e" sound of any hiragana ending in "e".

Select the correct hiragana for "kusai" (smelly).

くさい

smelly

こさい=kosai, くせこ=kuseko

さかい sakai (border)

すこし sukoshi (a little)

あそこ asoko (there)

あそこ=asoko, さかい=sakai, すこし=sukoshi

おおさか

Osaka

When there are two お/o sounds in a row, just say one long お/o instead of saying them separately.

Here's a tip!

Subarashii! (Amazing!) (^_-) Now you know 15 hiragana letters. In the next lesson we will learn 5 more. Let's continue learning and reviewing!

a i u e o

ka ki ku ke ko

sa shi su se so

あいうえお

かきくけこ

さしすせそ

おさけ

alcohol / Japanese rice wine

あさか=asaka, おしけ=oshike

VOCABULARY

さ sa (It looks like a person sitting on his knees.)

し shi (It looks like the back of a chair.)

す su (It looks a hanging Christmas stocking.)

せ se (It looks like person holding a baby on their lap.)

そ so (This looks so zigzaggy.)

Saying your nationality

Learn how to say nationalities

Toukyou wa Chuugoku janai desu. Nihon desu.

Tokyo is not (in) China. (It) is (in) Japan.

Mekishiko = Mexico, **Igirisu** = UK

Arrange the country names in the order: UK, US, Mexico

Igirisu, Amerika, Mekishiko

UK, US, Mexico

Doitsu / ドイツ

Germany

Doitsu / ドイツ

Germany

Burajiru / ブラジル

Brazil

Burajiru / ブラジル

Burajiru means Brazil. Furansu is France.

Furansu / フランス

France

Pari wa Furansu desu.

Paris is (in) France.

When we pronounce the "fu" in "**Furansu**", our upper teeth do not touch our lower lip.

Doitsu / ドイツ Germany

Furansu / フランス France

Burajiru / ブラジル Brazil

Let's talk about nationalities!

We can add "jin" to a country name and it becomes a nationality!

country name + **jin** = nationality

Country	Nationality	nationality translation
Nihon / にほん Chuugoku / ちゅうごく	Nihonjin / にほんじん Chuugokujin / ちゅうごくじん	Japanese person

Which of these do you add to a country name to make the nationality?

jin / じん

Country name + **jin** = nationality. For example, Nihon + **jin** = Nihonjin.

nihonjin / にほんじん / 日本人

Japanese person

EXAMPLE

Yoshi-san wa nihonjin desu. / よしさんはにほんじんです。

Yoshi is Japanese.

chuugokujin / ちゅうごくじん / 中国人

Chinese person

EXAMPLE

Shuai-san wa chuugokujin desu. / シュアイさんは、ちゅうごくじんです。

シュアイさんは、中国人です。

Shuai is Chinese.

Yoshi said: "Watashi wa Yoshi desu. Nihonjin desu." "Nihonjin" means "Japanese". "Chinese" is "chuugokujin".

amerikajin / アメリカじん / アメリカ人

American person

EXAMPLE

Bob-san wa amerikajin desu. / ボブさんはアメリカじんです。
ボブさんはアメリカ人です。

Bob is American.

igirisujin / イギリスじん / イギリス人

English person

EXAMPLE

Pooru-san wa igirisujin desu ka. / ポールさんはイギリスじんですか。
ポールさんはイギリス人ですか。

Is Paul British?

furansujin / フランスじん / フランス人

French person

EXAMPLE

Emma-san wa furansujin desu. / エマさんはフランスじんです。
エマさんはフランス人です。

Emma is French.

amerikajin, igirisujin, furansujin

American person, British person, French person

For nationalities, add "jin" to the country names.

Doitsujin ドイツじん German person

Mekishikojin メキシコじん Mexican person

Burajirujin ブラジルじん Brazilian person

Is Mr Smith Mexican?

Question: Sumisu-san wa Mekishikojin desu ka. (Is Mr Smith Mexican?)

Mr Smith's reply: **lie, Mekishikojin janai desu. Igrisujin desu.** - No, (I) am not Mexican. (I) am British.

VOCABULARY

Doitsu / ドイツ Germany

Burajiru / ブラジル Brazil

Furansu / フランス France

nihonjin / にほんじん / 日本人 Japanese person

chuugokujin / ちゅうごくじん / 中国人 Chinese person

amerikajin / アメリカじん / アメリカ人 American person

igirisujin / イギリスじん / イギリス人 English person

furansujin / フランスじん / フランス人 French person

Developing fluency

Practise talking about your nationality