

Lesson Four - orders and requests

A: *customer* B: *waiter*

A: **Chiizubaagaa o onegai shimasu.**

B: Hai, kashikomarimashita.

Grammar point: onegai shimasu - please

- Chiizubaagaa o onegai shimasu. - A cheeseburger, please.
- Sashimi o onegai shimasu. - Sashimi, please.

Vocabulary

- Katakana words: what are these?
 - supagetti, omuretsu, suupu, sarada, suteeki, piza
 - juusu, kooru, koohee, aisutii, wain, biiru
- sashimi - raw fish, sliced tenpura - battered and fried food (i.e. shrimp)
- nabe - stew or casserole yakitori - pieces of chicken on a skewer
- kamaboko - fish cakes onigiri - rice ball with filling
- koocha - tea ocha - green tea
- nihonshu - rice wine mizu - water
- kashikomarimashita - of course, right away (server/store clerk -> customer)

A: *Sumimasen, yakitori wa arimasu ka.*

B: *Sumimasen ga, chotto...*

A: *Wakarimashita. Ja, tenpura wa arimasu ka.*

B: *Hai, arimasu.*

A: *Ja, tenpura o onegai shimasu.*

B: *Hai, kashikomarimashita.*

Grammar point: arimasu - to be (available) / to exist

- **Sumimasen**, yakitori wa arimasu ka. - **Excuse me**, is there yakitori?
- (+) *Hai*, arimasu. - Yes, there is.
- (-) *Sumimasen ga, chotto...* - Pardon me, but...

Language and cultural notes

- The verb "arimasu" relates to existence / availability. In previous lessons, the verb "desu" is used to establish identity. There is another verb, "imasu," similar to "arimasu" but refers to living things (i.e. people).
- "ie" means "no" in English, but be very careful to say "no" directly, which may come across as impolite. Similar to turning down an invitation, the phrase "Sumimasen ga, chotto..." or something similar ought to be enough to get the point across.
- When eating out in Japan (especially in Tokyo and surrounding areas), be prepared to hear a lot of katakana English from your servers. They may be inaccurate (i.e. "For here?" as in "To stay or to go?"), so try to be imaginative when listening. As a last resort, don't hesitate to ask "**Eigo** no menyu ga arimasu ka." ("Do you have an **English menu**?") A good server will recognize your needs and offer a menu upon your sitting down without asking.