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, koora, koohii, aisutii, wain, biiru
- sashimi - raw fish, sliced
  nabe - stew or casserole
  kamaboko - fish cakes
  tenpura - battered and fried food (i.e. shrimp)
  yakitori - pieces of chicken on a skewer
  onigiri - rice ball with filling
- koocha - tea
  nihonshu - rice wine
  ocha - green tea
  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).
- "Iie" 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 menyuu 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.