

Japanese Language Basics @ Anime Boston 2006

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- Introduction

- Part One - Overview
 - kanji, hiragana, katakana
 - grammar
 - vocabulary

- Part Two - Model Lesson: Introductions
 - making introductions
 - names and titles
 - cultural notes

- Part Three - Further Study
 - time frame and expectations
 - recommended books and media

- Questions and Answers

Supplementary lessons (subject to change; convention newsletter holds official schedule):

Saturday, 9:00PM - likes/dislikes

Sunday, 10:00AM - numbers, times and common verbs

Sunday, 2:30PM - colors and sizes, orders and requests

Japanese syllabaries

あ/ア a	い/イ i	う/ウ u	え/エ e	お/オ o			
か/カ ka	き/キ ki	く/ク ku	け/ケ ke	こ/コ ko	きゃ/キャ kya	きゅ/キュ kyu	きょ/キョ kyo
さ/サ sa	し/シ shi	す/ス su	せ/セ se	そ/ソ so	しゃ/シャ sha	しゅ/シュ shu	しょ/ショ sho
た/タ ta	ち/チ chi	つ/ツ tsu	て/テ te	と/ト to	ちゃ/チャ cha	ちゅ/チュ chu	ちょ/チョ cho
な/ナ na	に/ニ ni	ぬ/ヌ nu	ね/ネ ne	の/ノ no	にゃ/ニャ nya	にゅ/ニュ nyu	にょ/ニョ nyo
は/ハ ha	ひ/ヒ hi	ふ/フ fu	へ/ヘ he	ほ/ホ ho	ひゃ/ヒャ hya	ひゅ/ヒュ hyu	ひょ/ヒョ hyo
ま/マ ma	み/ミ mi	む/ム mu	め/メ me	も/モ mo	みゃ/ミャ mya	みゅ/ミュ myu	みょ/ミョ myo
や/ヤ ya		ゆ/ユ yu		よ/ヨ yo			
ら/ラ ra	り/リ ri	る/ル ru	れ/レ re	ろ/ロ ro	りゃ/リャ rya	りゅ/リュ ryu	りょ/リョ ryo
わ/ワ wa				を/ヲ o			
ん/ン n							
が/ガ ga	ぎ/ギ gi	ぐ/グ gu	げ/ゲ ge	ご/ゴ go	ぎゃ/ギャ gya	ぎゅ/ギュ gyu	ぎょ/ギョ gyo
ざ/ザ za	じ/ジ ji	ず/ズ zu	ぜ/ゼ ze	ぞ/ゾ zo	じゃ/ジャ ja	じゅ/ジュ ju	じょ/ジョ jo
だ/ダ da	ぢ/ヂ ji	づ/ヅ zu	で/デ de	ど/ド do			
ば/バ ba	び/ビ bi	ぶ/ブ bu	べ/ベ be	ぼ/ボ bo	びゃ/ビャ bya	びゅ/ビュ byu	びょ/ビョ byo
ぱ/パ pa	ぴ/ピ pi	ぷ/プ pu	ぺ/ペ pe	ぽ/ポ po	ぴゃ/ピャ pya	ぴゅ/ピュ pyu	ぴょ/ピョ pyo

hiragana (ひらがな) / katakana (カタカナ)
romaji

Lesson One - Introductions

A: **Watashi wa Buraun desu.** Doozo yoroshiku.

B: *Tookyoo Daigaku no Nakamura desu.* Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

A: Nihongo o benkyoo shite imasu. Nakamura-san wa?

B: Koogaku desu.

Grammar point: "desu" - to be

- Watashi wa **Buraun desu.** - I am Mr. **Brown.**
- Kore wa **enpitsu desu.** - This is a **pencil.**
- Kore wa **nan desu ka.** - **What** is that?
- Sore wa yukata desu. - That is a yukata.

Grammar point: "no" - possessive marker

- **Tookyoo Daigaku** no Nakamura desu. - I am Nakamura of **Tokyo University.**
- **Watashi** no *hon* desu. - (This is) my book.
- **Sumisu-sensei** no *kurasu* desu. - (This is) **Professor Smith's** class.

Language point: omitted words

- *Nihongo o benkyoo shite imasu.* Nakamura-san wa ~~nan desu~~ ka.
- *I am studying Japanese.* (**How about**) Mr. Nakamura?
- **Koogaku** desu. - It's **engineering.** (I am studying **engineering.**)
- ~~Sore wa~~ yukata desu. - (That is) a yukata.

Language and cultural notes

- It is inappropriate to use titles when talking about oneself. Only when referring to others does a speaker use "san" or "sensei."
- It is acceptable to leave out words that are understood and not necessary, especially in a casual conversation between equals. It may not be appropriate when speaking to superiors such as teachers or bosses, however.
- There is a word for "you" (*anata*), but it is used casually and rarely. It may seem odd, but get used to using a person's name even when you are speaking to them. When addressing Mr. Nakamura, you may and should ask "What does Mr. Nakamura think?"
- English has multiple linking verbs (*is, am, are, be*), though Japanese has one coupler, or copula (*desu*). Verbs do not change because of number or person. "I am a student," "He is a student" and "They are students" all translate to "Gakusei desu."

Vocabulary / expressions

- Doozo yoroshiku. - It's nice to meet you.
- Yoroshiku onegai shimasu. - It's nice to meet you.
- yukata - kimono, worn in summer

After that...

- **Donna** anime ga *suki* desu ka. - **What kind of** anime do you *like*?
- Naruto ga suki desu. - I like Naruto.
- **Wan-piisu** ga suki desu ka. - Do you like **One Piece**?
- Hai, suki desu. - Yes, I like it.
- **Amari** suki de wa *arimasen*. - I **don't** like it **very much.**