

LESSON NOTES

Introduction #1

Where Did You Learn to Speak Japanese Like That!

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KANJI

1. 乾杯！
2. 頂きます！
3. 美味しい
4. まあまあ
5. 御馳走様。

KANA

1. かんぱい！
2. いただきます！
3. おいしい
4. まあまあ
5. ごちそうさま。

ROMANIZATION

1. Kanpai!
2. Itadakimasu!
3. oishii

CONT'D OVER

4. māmā
5. Gochisōsama.

ENGLISH

1. Cheers! (exp.)
2. Let's eat! (exp.)
3. delicious
4. so-so
5. Thank you for the fine meal. (exp.)

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
乾杯	かんぱい	Kanpai	Cheers! (exp.)
頂く	いただく	itadaku	to receive, to take food and drink
いただきます。	いただきます。	Itadakimasu.	I will start eating. (lit: I will receive.)
ごちそうさま。	ごちそうさま。	Gochisōsama.	I really enjoyed the meal. Thank you for the meal.
乾杯	かんぱい	kanpai	toast
美味しい	おいしい	oishii	delicious

納豆	なっとう	nattō	natto (fermented soy beans)
まあまあ	まあまあ	māmā	so-so

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>かんぱーい！ <i>Kanpāi!</i></p> <p>Cheers!</p>	<p>いただきます！ <i>Itadakimasu!</i></p> <p>(Phrase said before eating a meal)</p>
<p>ごちそうさまでした。おいしかったです。 <i>Gochisō sama deshita. Oishikatta desu.</i></p> <p>Thank you for the meal. It was delicious.</p>	<p>日本では、毎朝納豆を食べる人がたくさんいます。 <i>Nihon de wa, maiasa nattō o taberu hito ga takusan imasu.</i></p> <p>In Japan, there are many people who eat nattō every morning.</p>
<p>このすしは、まあまあです。 <i>Koko no sushi wa māmā desu.</i></p> <p>The sushi here is so-so.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Japanese expression “*Kanpai!*” is said at the time of a toast by all members of the party. This expression is commonly used, but not limited to, occasions involving consumption of alcohol. In English, this word is often interpreted as “Cheers!” The two *kanji*, Chinese characters, that make up this word reveal much about what is expected to happen after this expression is said. The first character means dry, and the second one means glass. Dry glass - you now know what is expected of you after you hear this.

The expression “*Itadakimasu!*” is the polite form of the verb *itadaku* - the humble form of the Japanese verb *morau* (to receive). “*Itadakimasu!*” is said before eating or drinking something received and before meals by all members participating in the meal. As this expression is used before every meal, one should do their best to remember to use it before eating or drinking, especially when dining with others.

The expression “*Gochisōsama.*”, or its more polite version “*Gochisōsama deshita.*” can be interpreted as “Thank you for the fine meal.” These are said at the conclusion of a meal to

anyone that was involved in “feeding” the speaking party. For example, it can be said to the preparer of the food, the paying party, the shop or restaurant staff, and using either of these phrases is considered extremely good manners.

Nattō, fermented soybeans, is a traditional Japanese food, and is widely known for its rich protein, pungent smell, and sticky, cob-web like consistency. Once a main staple of the Japanese diet, *nattō* is currently garnering attention for its health benefits and rich nutritional value. The city of *Mito*, *Ibaraki* is renowned for its *nattō*.

Desu is the most well known of the Japanese copula - roughly equivalent to the English verb to be. It may be used after nouns, adjectives and verbs in their plain negative form. In many cases, *desu* serves no grammatical purpose, but is used only to make the statement more polite.