

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #16

These Japanese Interjections Aren't Impolite!

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KANJI

1. テイラー: これは、ぼくのかぞくアルバムです。
2. かおり: へー (turning pages)。
 これは、だれですか？
3. テイラー: ぼくのもうとです。
4. かおり: へー。かわいいー。
 これは？
5. テイラー: あ、えっと...ぼくです。
6. かおり: え！わかい！！

KANA

1. テイラー: これは、ぼくのかぞくアルバムです。
2. かおり: へー。(turns pages)
 これは、だれですか？
3. テイラー: ぼくのもうとです。
4. かおり: へー。かわいいー。
 これは？
5. テイラー: あ、えっと...ぼくです。
6. かおり: え！わかい！！

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. TEIRĀ: Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.
2. KAORI: He~. (turns pages)
Kore wa, dare desu ka?
3. TEIRĀ: Boku no imōto desu.
4. KAORI: He~. kawaii~.
Kore wa?
5. TEIRĀ: A, etto... boku desu.
6. KAORI: E! Wakai!!

ENGLISH

1. TAYLOR: This is my family's photo album.
2. KAORI: Neat~ (turns pages)
Who's this?
3. TAYLOR: This is my younger sister.
4. KAORI: Hmm, she's cute!
Who's this?
5. TAYLOR: Oh, uhh...that's me.
6. KAORI: What! You're so young!

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
家族	かぞく	kazoku	family
アルバム	アルバム	arubamu	album
誰	だれ	dare	who
妹	いもうと	imōto	younger sister
かわいい	かわいい	kawaii	pretty, cute
若い	わかい	wakai	young;Adj(i)
僕の	ぼくの	boku no	my (mainly used by male speakers)
えっと	えっと	etto	let's see..., umm (casual)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>私たちは5人家族です。 <i>Watashi-tachi wa go-nin kazoku desu.</i></p> <p>There are five people in my family.</p>	<p>家族のアルバムです。 <i>Kazoku no arubamu desu.</i></p> <p>This is my family's picture album.</p>
<p>あの人は誰ですか。 <i>Ano hito wa dare desu ka.</i></p> <p>Who is that person?</p>	<p>二月二十日は妹の誕生日です。 <i>Ni-gatsu hatsuka wa imōto no tanjōbi desu.</i></p> <p>February 20th is my sister's birthday.</p>
<p>孫はとてもかわいい。 <i>Mago wa totemo kawaii.</i></p> <p>The grandchild is very cute.</p>	<p>私はもう若くない。 <i>Watashi wa mō wakaku nai.</i></p> <p>I'm not young any more.</p>
<p>僕のペンがない。 <i>Boku no pen ga nai.</i></p> <p>I don't have my pen.</p>	<p>えっと。。。私は日本人です。 <i>Etto... Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.</i></p> <p>Umm...I'm Japanese.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

kazoku (かぞく)

Kazoku is a noun that means "family."

imōto (いもうと)

Imōto is the word for "little sister." In Japanese, there are no words that simply mean "brother" and "sister": you must specify "younger" or "older," as in "younger brother" and "younger sister" or "older brother" and "older sister."

arubamu (アルバム)

Arubamu comes from the English word "album" and in this lesson refers to a photo album. We also use this word to refer to a "music album."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Responding to Someone in a Conversation.

A, etto...boku desu.

あ、えっと...ぼくです。

"Oh, uhh...that's me."

In Japanese conversation, it's common to respond to or acknowledge what the other person is saying using certain words and phrases. To an English speaker, these kinds of constant interjections might take some getting used to, since we do not do this nearly as often when speaking in English. You'll find, though, that conversations in Japan go a lot smoother when using these words and phrases!

Responding to Someone in a Conversation

Let's look at some words and phrases we commonly use in response to what someone says in a conversation:

Purpose	Romanization	Japanese	"English"
Used when thinking	<i>etto...</i>	えっと...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when thinking	<i>ano...</i>	あの...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when you find something interesting	<i>hē</i>	へー	"Neat!" or "Wow!"

Used to agree with someone	<i>sō desu ne</i>	そうですね	"yes," "that's right" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>hai</i>	はい	"yes," "I see" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>un</i>	うん	"yeah," "right" (informal)

For Example:

- A: *Atsui desu ne.*
あついですね。
"It's hot, isn't it?"

B: *Sō desu ne.*
そうですね。
"Yes, it is."
- A: *Sore wa nan desu ka?*
それはなんですか。
"What's that?"

B: *Etto, sore wa niku desu.*
えっと、それは にくです。
"Umm...it's meat."

Examples from This Dialogue

- Teirā: Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.*
Kaori: He~.
テイラー：これは、ぼくのかぞくのアルバムです。
かおり：へー。
Taylor: "This is my family's photo album."
Kaori: "Neat!"

Language Tip: Words for Family Members

We only learned the word for younger sister (*imōto*) in this lesson, but it will help to learn the words for other family members as well!

When you are...

- talking about your own family members to someone outside the family → use regular terms
- talking about someone else's family member → use polite terms

* We can use words marked with an asterisk to refer to members of your own family in informal situations.

"English"	Regular Terms		Polite Terms	
	Japanese	Romanization	Japanese	Romanization
"father"	父	<i>chichi</i>	お父さん	<i>o-tō-san*</i>
"mother"	母	<i>haha</i>	お母さん	<i>o-kā-san*</i>
"older brother"	兄	<i>ani</i>	お兄さん	<i>o-nī-san*</i>
"older sister"	姉	<i>ane</i>	お姉さん	<i>o-nē-san*</i>
"younger brother"	弟	<i>otōto</i>	弟さん	<i>otōto-san</i>
"younger sister"	妹	<i>imōto</i>	妹さん	<i>imōto-san</i>
"grandfather"	祖父	<i>sofu</i>	おじいさん	<i>o-jī-san*</i>
"grandmother"	祖母	<i>sobo</i>	おばあさん	<i>o-bā-san*</i>
"parents"	両親	<i>ryōshin</i>	ご両親	<i>go-ryōshin</i>
"siblings"	兄弟	<i>kyōdai</i>	ご兄弟	<i>go-kyōdai</i>
"husband"	主人 旦那	<i>shujin</i> <i>danna</i>	ご主人	<i>go-shujin</i>

"wife"	家内 妻	<i>kanai tsuma</i>	奥さん	<i>oku-san</i>
"son"	息子	<i>musuko</i>	息子さん	<i>musuko-san</i>
"daughter"	娘	<i>musume</i>	娘さん	<i>musume-san</i>
"child"	子供	<i>kodomo</i>	お子さん	<i>o-ko-san</i>
"grandchild"	孫	<i>mago</i>	お孫さん	<i>o-mago-san</i>