

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20 A Trip to the Japanese Zoo

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KANJI

1. (At the zoo)

2. まさと: どうぶつ...いますか？

3. テイラー: ...あ、あそこ！ライオンがいます。

4. まさと: あー！ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。

5. かおり: かわいい！

6. テイラー: あ、ゴリラがいます。

7. かおり: え？どこ？

8. テイラー: ここです。

9. まさと: え？ぼく？ [laughs]

KANA

1. (At the zoo)

2. まさと: どうぶつ...いますか？

3. テイラー: ...あ、あそこ！ライオンがいます。

4. まさと: あー！ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。

5. かおり: かわいい！

CONT'D OVER

6. テイラー: あ、ゴリラがいます。
7. かおり: え?どこ?
8. テイラー: ここです。
9. まさと: え?ぼく? [laughs]

ROMANIZATION

1. (At the zoo)
2. MASATO: Dōbutsu... imasu ka?
3. TEIRĀ: ...A, asoko! Raion ga imasu.
4. MASATO: Ā! Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.
5. KAORI: Kawaii!
6. TEIRĀ: A, gorira ga imasu.
7. KAORI: E? Doko?
8. TEIRĀ: Koko desu.
9. MASATO: E? Boku? [laughs]

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (At the zoo)
2. MASATO: Are there any animals...?
3. TAYLOR: ...Oh, over there! There's a lion!
4. MASATO: Ah! There's also a baby lion, isn't there?
5. KAORI: It's so cute!
6. TAYLOR: Oh, there's a gorilla.
7. KAORI: Huh? Where?
8. TAYLOR: Here.
9. MASATO: Huh? Me? [laughs]

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
います	います	imasu	to be (animate), to exist; -masu form
ゴリラ	ゴリラ	gorira	gorilla
動物	どうぶつ	dōbutsu	animal
ライオン	ライオン	raion	lion
ぼく	ぼく	boku	I, me (used by males)
ここ	ここ	koko	here
あそこ	あそこ	asoko	over there
かわいい	かわいい	kawaii	pretty, cute, lovely, charming :Adj(i)

どこ	どこ	doko	where
赤ちゃん	あかちゃん	aka-chan	baby

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>テーブルの下にねこがいます。 <i>Tēburu no shita ni neko ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There is a cat under the table.</p>	<p>ゴリラがジャングルの中を歩いている。 <i>Gorira ga janguru no naka o aruite iru.</i></p> <p>The gorilla is walking down a path in the jungle.</p>
<p>ゴリラがいます。 <i>Gorira ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There's a gorilla.</p>	<p>動物が好きですか。 <i>Dōbutsu ga suki desu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you like animals?</p>
<p>ライオンがちょっと止まって、また歩き続ける。 <i>Raion ga chotto tomatte, mata aruki tsuzukeru.</i></p> <p>The lion pauses and then continues walking.</p>	<p>ライオンがいます。 <i>Raion ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There's a lion.</p>
<p>ぼくは学生です。 <i>Boku wa gakusei desu.</i></p> <p>I'm a student.</p>	<p>ここは禁煙です。 <i>Koko wa kin'en desu.</i></p> <p>This place is no-smoking.</p>
<p>あそこにガソリンスタンドがあります。 <i>Asoko ni gasorinsutando ga arimasu.</i></p> <p>There is a gas station over there.</p>	<p>赤ちゃんはかわいい。 <i>Aka-chan wa kawaii.</i></p> <p>Babies are cute.</p>
<p>タクシー乗り場はどこにありますか。 <i>Takushīnoriba wa doko ni arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the taxi stand?</p>	<p>赤ちゃんはかわいい。 <i>Aka-chan wa kawaii.</i></p> <p>Babies are cute.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Dōbutsu (どうぶつ)

Dōbutsu is a noun that means "animal." In this conversation, they are at a *dōbutsuen*, which

is a "zoo."

Akachan (あかちゃん)

Aka-chan means "baby," which we use to refer to both human and animal babies.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Animate Objects with *Imasu*.

Raion ga imasu.

ライオンがいます。

"There's a lion."

In the last lesson, we learned how to use the verb *arimasu* to talk about the existence of inanimate objects as well as to say that someone has something. In this lesson, we'll learn how to use the verb *imasu* to talk about the same concepts but for animate objects, such as people and animals.

***Imasu*: Talking about People and Animals**

Just like we use *arimasu* (Lesson 19), we also use *imasu* to express the meanings "to be," "to exist," "to be located," or "to have." The difference is that we use *imasu* to talk about animate objects, such as people and animals. When talking about people, it often means that that person is currently around or on the premises. We often use it when talking about family members, as in "I have a brother" or "I have a sister."

Sentence Pattern

[animate object] *ga imasu*

"There is ~" / "~ is here"

"I have ~" (for family members)

In this pattern, A = the animate object (person/animal) the person is talking about.

For Example:

Item	<i>ga imasu</i>	"English"
<i>Teirā</i> (テイラー)	<i>ga imasu</i> (がいます)	"Taylor is here."
<i>hito</i> (ひと)	<i>ga imasu</i> (がいます)	"There's a person."

imōto
(いもうと)

ga imasu
(がいます)

"I have a younger sister."

Note: To make *imasu* negative and say that an animate object doesn't exist, use *imasen* instead.

For Example:

1. *Kyōdai ga imasen.*
きょうだいがいません。
"I **don't have** any siblings."

Using *Ne* at the End of a Sentence

We use the particle *ne* in Japanese to seek agreement from the listener, like saying "right?" or "isn't it?" or "isn't there?" at the end of a sentence in English. We call these tag questions, and we use them very often in Japanese.

We can add the particle *ne* directly after a verb or *desu*.

For Example:

1. *Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.*
ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
"There's also a baby lion, isn't there?"
2. *Kawaii desu ne.*
かわいいですね。
"It's cute, right?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Dōbutsu... (ga) imasu ka.*
どうぶつ・・・(が) いますか。
"Are there any animals...?"
2. *Raion ga imasu.*
ライオンがいます。
"There's a lion."

3. *Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.*
ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
"There's also a baby lion, isn't there?"

4. *A, gorira ga imasu.*
あ、ゴリラがいます。
"Oh, there's a gorilla."

Sample Sentences

1. *Otōto ga imasu.*
おとうとがいます。
"I have a younger brother."

2. *Petto ga imasu.*
ペットがいます。
"I have a pet."