

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #21

## Do You Eat Sushi in Japan?

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# 21

## KANJI

1. (Sarah cries)
2. かおり:                   あ、サラちゃん、おなかがすきましたか？  
                                  テイラーさん、サラちゃんはバナナを食べますか。
3. テイラー:               はい。食べます。サラはバナナがだいすきです。
4. かおり:                   そうですか。はい、サラちゃん。どうぞ。
5. (Sarah laughs)
6. (Dog whines)
7. まさと(FAR AWAY):     テイラーさん、マトリーはバナナを食べますか。

## KANA

1. (Sarah cries)
2. かおり:                   あ、サラちゃん、おなかがすきましたか？  
                                  テイラーさん、サラちゃんはバナナを食べますか。
3. テイラー:               はい。食べます。サラはバナナがだいすきです。
4. かおり:                   そうですか。はい、サラちゃん。どうぞ。
5. (Sarah laughs)
6. (Dog whines)

CONT'D OVER

7. まさと(FAR AWAY): テイラーさん、マトリーはバナナを食べますか。

## ROMANIZATION

1. (Sarah cries)
2. KAORI: A, Sara-chan, onaka ga sukimashita ka?  
Teirā-san, Sara chan wa banana o tabemasu ka.
3. TEIRĀ: Hai. Tabemasu. Sara wa banana ga daisuki desu.
4. KAORI: Sō desu ka. Hai, Sara-chan. Dōzo.
5. (Sarah laughs)
6. (Dog whines)
7. MASATO (FAR AWAY): Teirā san, Matorī wa banana o tabemasu ka.

## ENGLISH

1. (Sarah cries)
2. KAORI: Oh, Sarah, are you hungry~?  
Taylor, does Sarah eat bananas?
3. TAYLOR: Yes, she does. Sarah loves bananas!
4. KAORI: Oh, really? Okay, Sarah. Here you go.

CONT'D OVER

5. (Sarah laughs)
6. (Dog whines)
7. MASATO (FAR AWAY): Taylor, does Muttley eat bananas?

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
お腹	おなか	onaka	stomach
食べます	たべます	tabemasu	to eat; masu form
バナナ	バナナ	banana	banana
どうぞ	どうぞ	dōzo	go ahead, here you are
大好き	だいすき	daisuki	love, really like; Adj (na)
じゃあ or じゃ	じゃあ or じゃ	jā or ja	well, well then, okay
お腹がすきました	おなかがすきました	onaka ga sukimashita	I got hungry.
そうですか。	そうですか。	Sō desu ka.	Really? Is that so?

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>お腹を壊した。 <i>O-naka wo kowashita.</i></p> <p>I got an upset stomach.</p>	<p>毎朝、納豆を食べます。 <i>Maiasa, nattō o tabemasu.</i></p> <p>I eat nattō every morning.</p>
<p>サルはバナナが好きだ。 <i>Saru wa banana ga suki da.</i></p> <p>Monkeys like bananas.</p>	<p>はい、どうぞ。 <i>Hai, dōzo.</i></p> <p>Here you go.</p>

私はスポーツが大好きです。 <i>Watashi wa supōtsu ga dai-suki desu.</i> I love sports.	じゃ、また。 <i>Ja, mata.</i> See you later.
とてもお腹がすきました。 <i>Totemo onaka ga sukimashita.</i> I got very hungry.	え？そうですか？ <i>E? Sō desu ka?</i> Huh? Is that so?

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **tabemasu (たべます)**

This is the first verb describing an action we have learned in this series. *Tabemasu* means "to eat," and it is a polite verb. Note that the polite forms of verbs end in *-masu*.

### **sō desu ka (そうですか)**

In Lesson 9, you first learned the phrase *sō desu*, which means "yes/that's right." Here, we have just added the particle *ka* to make it a question. *Sō desu ka* means "Really?" or "Is that so?" and we use it to respond to what someone has said.

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Doing an Action.**

*Teirā-san, Sara chan wa banana o tabemasu ka.*

サラちゃんはバナナをたべますか。

"Taylor, does Sarah eat bananas?"

You've already covered the two verbs for existence of animate (people, animals) and inanimate things (objects, buildings): *imasu* and *arimasu*. In this lesson, we'll introduce some more Japanese verbs so that you can talk about more actions, such as "eat," "drink," "go," and so on! We'll also show you how to use these verbs to make more complex sentences, such as "I go to the bank" or "I eat an apple."

### **Making Present Tense Verbs in Japanese**

Just as with *imasu* and *arimasu*, the polite/formal form of present tense verbs in Japanese ends with *-masu*. Compared to European languages such as English, French, and German, Japanese verbs are very easy because they don't change form depending on who the verb is talking about. For example, in English, we say "he eats" but "they eat" (no "-s"). In Japanese, "he eats" is *tabemasu*

(食べます), while "they eat" is also *tabemasu* (食べます). The verb ending stays the same!

Plain form	Masu Form	"English"
<i>taberu</i> (食べる)	<i>tabemasu</i> (食べます)	"eat"
<i>nomu</i> (のむ)	<i>nomimasu</i> (のみます)	"drink"
<i>hanasu</i> (はなす)	<i>hanashimasu</i> (はなします)	"speak"
<i>miru</i> (みる)	<i>mimasu</i> (みます)	"see"/"watch"
<i>tsukau</i> (つかう)	<i>tsukaimasu</i> (つかいます)	"use"

## Sample Sentences

1. *Watashi wa **tabemasu.***
2. わたしは**たべ**ます。  
"I eat."
3. *Kare wa **tabemasu.***  
かれは**たべ**ます。  
"He eats."
4. *Watashitachi wa **tabemasu.***  
わたしたちは**たべ**ます。  
"We eat."

## Talking about Doing an Action Using Present Tense Verbs

Now we're going to look at how to make a sentence in Japanese describing an action involving an object or a thing.

### Sentence Pattern

[subject/person] wa [object/thing] o [verb]

おみず (o-mizu) + を (o) + のみます (nomimasu) = "[someone] drinks water"

Subject/ Person	wa	Object/ Thing	o	Verb	"English"
Teirā (テイラー)	wa (は)	sushi (すし)	o (を)	tabemasu. (たべます。)	"Taylor eats sushi."
Kaori (かおり)	wa (は)	mizu (みず)	o (を)	nomimasu. (のみます。)	"Kaori drinks water."
watashi (わたし)	wa (は)	nihon-go (日本語)	o (を)	hanashimasu. (はなします。)	"I speak Japanese."
Imōto (いもうと)	wa (は)	terebi (テレビ)	o (を)	mimasu. (みます。)	"My younger sister watches TV."
Otōto (おとうと)	wa (は)	konpyūta (コンピュータ)	o (を)	tsukaimasu. (つかいます。)	"My younger brother uses the computer."

You already learned in Lesson 7 that wa (は) marks the subject of a sentence in Japanese, but let's have a quick reminder of what wa does. は literally means "as for [subject/person]." When you see は right after a word, you know that the sentence is going to be about that word.

### For Example:

1. sara wa banana o tabemasu  
サラはバナナをたべます  
literally, "As for Sarah, she eats bananas." = "Sarah eats bananas."

You may not have seen *wo* (を) before. Sometimes we write *wo* (を) as *wo* but we pronounce it as ["o"]. It comes between the noun and the verb in a sentence and tells you what is done to the object.

### Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *Sara-chan wa banana o tabemasu ka?*  
サラちゃんはバナナをたべますか。  
"Does Sarah eat bananas?"
2. *Hai. (Sara wa banana o) tabemasu.*  
はい。(サラはバナナを) たべます。  
"Yes, she does (eat bananas)."
3. *Matorī wa banana o tabemasu ka.*  
マトリーはバナナをたべますか。  
"Does Muttley eat bananas?"

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Watashi wa niku o tabemasu.*  
わたしはにくをたべます。  
"I eat meat."
2. *(Anata wa) niku o tabemasu ka.*  
(あなたは)にくをたべますか。  
"Do you eat meat?" \**Anata* = "you"
3. *Otōto wa eigo o hanashimasu.*  
おとうとはえいごをはなします。  
"My younger brother speaks English." \* *Eigo* = "English language"