

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #24

What's the Japanese Word for This?

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KANJI

1. (The sound of eating)
2. かおり: うーん。おいしい。(Cough cough cough!) くらい!
3. テイラー: (laughing)それはハラペーニョです。
4. まさと: ハラペーニョ?ハラペーニョはにほんごでなんですか?
5. テイラー: ちょっとまってください。
(beeping)ああ、ハラペーニョはにほんごでとうがらしです。
6. かおり: (Cough cough cough.)あー。とうがらし・・・。

KANA

1. (The sound of eating)
2. かおり: うーん。おいしい。(Cough cough cough!) くらい!
3. テイラー: (laughing)それはハラペーニョです。
4. まさと: ハラペーニョ?ハラペーニョはにほんごでなんですか?
5. テイラー: ちょっとまってください。
(beeping)ああ、ハラペーニョはにほんごでとうがらしです。
6. かおり: (Cough cough cough.)あー。とうがらし・・・。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. (The sound of eating)
2. KAORI: Ūn. Oishii. (Cough cough cough!) Karai!
3. TEIRĀ: (laughing) Sore wa harapēnyo desu.
4. MASATO: Harapēnyo? Harapēnyo wa nihongo de nan desu ka?
5. TEIRĀ: Chotto matte kudasai.
(beeping) Ā, harapēnyo wa nihongo de tōgarashi desu.
6. KAORI: (Cough cough cough!) Aā. tōgarashi...

ENGLISH

1. (The sound of eating)
2. KAORI: Mm. This is good. (Cough cough cough!) It's spicy!
3. TAYLOR: (laughing) That's a jalapeno.
4. MASATO: Jalapeno? What's "jalapeno" in Japanese?
5. TAYLOR: Please wait a moment.
(beeping) Oh, "jalapeno" in Japanese is "tōgarashi."
6. KAORI: (Cough cough cough.) Ohh, "tōgarashi..."

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
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おいしい	おいしい	oishii	delicious, tasty
日本語	にほんご	Nihon-go	Japanese
待ってください。	まってください。	Matte kudasai.	Please wait.
からい	からい	karai	spicy
とうがらし	とうがらし	tōgarashi	hot pepper
英語	えいご	Eigo	English

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>これはとてもおいしいです。 <i>Kore wa totemo oishii desu.</i></p> <p>This is very tasty.</p>	<p>日本語、わかりません。 <i>Nihon-go, wakarimasen.</i></p> <p>I don't understand Japanese.</p>
<p>ちょっと待ってください。 <i>Chotto matte kudasai.</i></p> <p>Just a moment, please.</p>	<p>これは、からいですか。 <i>Kore wa karai desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is this spicy?</p>
<p>とうがらしはありません。 <i>Tōgarashi wa arimasen.</i></p> <p>There is no hot pepper.</p>	<p>英語がわかりますか。 <i>Eigo ga wakarimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you understand English?</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Nihongo (にほんご)

This is the word for "Japanese language" in Japanese. It combines the word for "Japan," *nihon* (にほん), with the suffix that means "language," *-go* (ご).

Eigo (えいご)

This is the word for "English language" in Japanese. This also ends with the suffix that means language, *-go* (ご).

Matte kudasai (まってください)

This phrase is a polite way to tell someone to wait; it is the equivalent of "Wait, please."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How to Say Something in Japanese or English.

Harapēnyo wa nihongo de nan desu ka?

ハラペーニヨはにほんごでなんですか?

"What's 'jalapeno' in Japanese? "

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask what something is in Japanese or English- and in any other language you like!

"What's [blank] in Japanese?"

You already learned how to ask "What is this?" in Lesson 11: *kore wa nan desu ka?* You'll probably remember that *nan desu ka?* simply means "What is...?" Here, we'll learn how to ask what something is in another language.

Sentence Pattern:

[unknown word] wa [language] de nan desu ka? "What is [unknown word] in [language]?"

Here is how we can ask about unknown words in Japanese. All you need to do is add the little phrase *nihongo de* after introducing the word you want to ask about with [word] *wa*.

[word in English] wa nihongo de nan desu ka? "What is [word in English] in Japanese?"

Of course, you can reverse this pattern and ask:

[word in Japanese] wa eigo de nan desu ka? "What is [word in Japanese] in English?"

Eigo, as you probably remember, is the "English language."

Talking about Other Languages

You've probably noticed that the words for "the Japanese language," *nihongo* (にほんご), and "the English language," *eigo* (えいご), both end in *-go* in Japanese, which means "language." So in order to ask what a word is in a language other than English or Japanese, all you have to do is add *-go* to the name of a country in Japanese.

Note: Most countries are called in Japanese by a katakana version of how we pronounce that country's name in the native language: for example, "Italy" is *itaria*

(イタリア), because in Italian the country of "Italy" is called *Italia*; similarly, "Germany" is called *doitsu* (ドイツ), after the German name *Deutschland*. However, many of the countries in Asia, such as North and South Korea, China, Taiwan, etc., have names written in kanji (Chinese characters).

For Example:

<i>Romanization</i>	Japanese	+ <i>go</i>	"English"
<i>supein</i>	スペイン	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"Spanish" (language)
<i>furansu</i>	フランス	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"French" (language)
<i>itaria</i>	イタリア	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"Italian" (language)
<i>doitsu</i>	ドイツ	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"German" (language)
<i>kankoku</i>	かんこく	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"Korean" (language)
<i>chūgoku</i>	ちゅうごく	<i>go</i> (<i>こ</i>)	"Chinese" (language)

For Example:

1. 「washing machine」はにほんごでなんですか。
Washing machine wa nihongo de nan desu ka?
 "What's 'washing machine' in Japanese?"
2. 「ちゅうもん」はえいごでなんですか。
Chūmon wa eigo de nan desu ka?
 "What's 'chūmon' in English?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Harapēnyo wa nihongo de nan desu ka?*
ハラペーニヨはにほんごでなんですか？
"What's 'jalapeno' in Japanese?"