

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #5

Can You Take My Japanese Order?

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INTRO

Jessi: Jessi here! Absolute Beginner Season 1 , Lesson 5 - Can You Take My Japanese Order?

Jessi: Hi everyone! Welcome to Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 5 - Can You Take My Japanese Order? Jessiです。Jessi here.

Naomi: こんにちは！なおみです。Naomi here and thanks again for being here with us for this Absolute Beginner Lesson.

Jessi: In the last lesson, we learned how to say "Excuse me" and "I'm sorry." One phrase covered them both!

Naomi: Yes, and that phrase was すみません。Jessi, what are we going to learn in this lesson?

Jessi: In this lesson, which is the last of the five Introduction lessons, you'll learn how to ask for something in Japanese.

Naomi: Like, if you're at a restaurant, and want to say "Can I get a menu?"

Jessi: Or "Can I get some water?" It's actually really easy to say.

Naomi: You will hear a short conversation at a restaurant.

Jessi: It takes place between a customer and a waiter. Okay, let's listen in.

LESSON CONVERSATION

客：すみません！メニュー、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

客：すみません、みず、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

客：すみません、ちゅうもん、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

客：すみません！メニュー、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

客：すみません、みず、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

客：すみません、ちゅうもん、おねがいします。

店員：はい。

English Host: Now let's listen to it with the translation.

客：すみません！メニュー、おねがいします。

Jessi: Excuse me, can I get a menu?

店員：はい。

Jessi:

Sure.

客：すみません、みず、おねがいします。

Jessi: Excuse me, can I get some water?

店員：はい。

Jessi: Sure.

客：すみません、ちゅうもん、おねがいします。

Jessi: Excuse me, can you take my order?

店員：はい。

Jessi: Sure!

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Jessi: It sounds like the waiter is having a bit of a tough time with that table...

Naomi: She has to keep going back. The customer kept saying すみません～ すみません～.

Jessi: Listeners, you remember this, right? From the last lesson? One of the meanings of すみません is "excuse me." So, "Excuse me, excuse me, can I get some help here?" Kind of like that.

Naomi: Right. Okay. So let's look at what he asked for.

Jessi: The first new word is...

Naomi: メニュー

Jessi: Menu. If it sounds exactly the same, that's because it is! You'll find that a lot of words in Japanese come straight from English. Just like this one.

Naomi: Just, the pronunciation might be different.

Jessi: Right. In most cases it will be very different. But in this case...

Naomi: メニュー

Jessi: メニュー sounds just like "menu". And the next word?

Naomi: 水.

Jessi: 水 is "water," and after that...?

Naomi: 注文.

Jessi: 注文 is "order." Don't worry about trying to memorize all these now. Just keep them in the back of your brain. We'll be using them in the next section.

Naomi: There's one more word I want to cover.

Jessi: The one the waiter kept saying, right?

Naomi: Yes! That word is はい!

Jessi: はい! We talked about this in the last lesson where it was almost like a question - はい? Yes? This time it's just a straightforward "yes" or "sure."

LESSON FOCUS

Jessi: In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask for something in Japanese.

Naomi: There's one phrase you will learn for that in this lesson.

Jessi: And you actually already know it! Do you remember the phrase you learned when introducing yourself. The one you say at the end after your name?

Naomi: よろしくお願ひします。

Jessi: That's it! よろしく お願ひします. That second part, お願ひします, is what we'll be using today.

Naomi: On its own, you can think of it as meaning "please."

Jessi: Yes, as in "menu please", "water please", and so on. Okay so Naomi, what is the formation?

Naomi: Very simple. Just say the item you want and add お願ひします.

Jessi: So that's item plus お願ひします

Naomi: Exactly.

Jessi: So like we had in the dialogue...

Naomi: メニューお願ひします

Jessi: Literally, "menu please". In more natural English we'd say "Can I get a menu?" And the next one?

Naomi: 水お願ひします

Jessi: "Can I get some water?" Let's practice those, shall we?

Naomi: Okay!

Jessi: Repeat after Naomi. Can I get a menu?

Naomi: メニューお願ひします

[Pause]

Jessi: And now, can I get some water?

Naomi: 水お願ひします

[Pause]

Jessi: Now, a menu and water are both physical objects. So you can use this お願ひします for actual tangible things. BUT you can also use it for not-so-tangible things.

Naomi: Ahh, like... a service.

Jessi: Right. Can you give us the example of that we had in the dialogue?

Naomi: Sure. 注文お願ひします.

Jessi: 注文 is order, and お願ひします is like please. So literally, it's like saying "Order please." You may think it means something like, "Can I have my order please?" But what it really means is, "Can you take my order please?"

Naomi: So you're asking them to do something.

Jessi: Yes. Quite handy, this お願ひします (笑).

Naomi: Okay, let's try a small role play!

Jessi: Okay! How about you and I first and then you with the listeners?

Naomi: Sounds good! I'll be the waitress.

Jessi: And I'll be the customer. Okay, I've just settled down in this nice looking restaurant, what do I want to eat... hmm? I don't see a menu. I better get the

waitresses attention... あの...すみません～

Naomi: はい！

Jessi: メニューお願いします。

Naomi: はい。

Jessi: Yay, I got my menu! Okay, listeners, your turn! You've just sat down at your table. First, get the attention of the waitress.

[Pause] (あの...) すみません

Naomi: はい！

Jessi: Ask the waitress for a menu.

[Pause] メニューお願いします

Naomi: はい。

Jessi: Very nice! How about a small bonus one? Here comes Naomi with your menu. She hands it to you and you thank her by saying...?

[Pause]

Jessi: If you said...

Naomi: ありがとうございます!

Jessi: Give yourself an extra point.

Naomi: If not, please review Lesson 3!

OUTRO

Jessi: Okay. Well, that's going to be all for this lesson. Congratulations! You've made it through the first five introduction lessons.

Naomi: Now you know now around 10 useful phrases.

Jessi: And some vocabulary words! I think that's a really great start. Join us next time when we move on into the main part of the series. The story that revolves around Taylor Allen and his visiting Japanese relatives.

Naomi: As always, thanks for listening!ありがとうございます！

Jessi: See you all next time!