

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

Can You Tell Me What This is in Japanese?

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KANJI

1. かおり: はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。
2. テイラー: かおりさん?はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。
3. かおり: よろしくおねがいします。
4. テイラー: よろしくおねがいします。

KANA

1. かおり: はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。
2. テイラー: かおりさん?はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。
3. かおり: よろしくおねがいします。
4. テイラー: よろしくおねがいします。

ROMANIZATION

1. KAORI: Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Kaori desu.
2. TEIRĀ: Kaori-san? Hajimemashite. Boku wa Teirā desu.
3. KAORI: Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.
4. TEIRĀ: Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. KAORI: Nice to meet you! I'm Kaori.
2. TAYLOR: Kaori? Nice to meet you, I'm Taylor.
3. KAORI: It's a pleasure to meet you. (Literally, Please look favorably upon me.)
4. TAYLOR: It's a pleasure to meet you too. (Literally, Please look favorably upon me too.)

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
私	わたし	watashi	I, me
よろしくお願ひしま す	よろしくおねがいし ます	yoroshiku onegai shimasu	It's a pleasure to meet you.
さん	さん	san	polite name suffix, similar to Mr. or Mrs.
です	です	desu	roughly means 'to be'
ぼく	ぼく	boku	I, me (used by males)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>私はすずきです。 <i>Watashi wa Suzuki desu.</i></p> <p>I'm Suzuki.</p>	<p>たなかたろうです。よろしくおねがいしま す。 <i>Tanaka Tarō desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm Taro Tanaka. It's a pleasure to meet you.</p>
<p>田中さんは、パイロットです。 <i>Tanaka-san wa pairotto desu.</i></p> <p>Mr./Ms. Tanaka is a pilot.</p>	<p>わたしはジョン・スミスです。 <i>Watashi wa Jon Sumisu desu.</i></p> <p>I am John Smith.</p>

ぼくは学生です。
Boku wa gakusei desu.

I'm a student.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

You may have noticed that when Taylor and Kaori introduced themselves, they used different words for "I." Taylor used *boku*, and Kaori used *watashi*. So what's the difference?

Watashi (わたし)

Basically, the general word for "I" is *watashi*. Women usually use this when referring to themselves. Men use it too but usually only in very formal situations (think job interviews or similar situations). If a male person overuses *watashi* when there is no real need to be very polite, it may not sound very natural.

Boku (ぼく)

Boku is another word that means "I," but mostly males use it. In situations where regular polite language will suffice (as opposed to super polite language), men can use *boku* instead of *watashi* to refer to themselves.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying What Something Is (A is B).

Kaori-san? Hajimemashite. Boku wa Teirā desu.

かおりさん? はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。

"Kaori? Nice to meet you, I'm Taylor."

In this lesson, you will learn how to say what something is in Japanese. In English, we use the verb "to be" to say what something is, and there are many different forms of it: "I **am** Jennifer," "you **are** tired," "he **is** rich," etc. In Japanese, we can use the same pattern to say all of these things.

Saying What Something Is ("A is B")

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for saying what something is:

Sentence Pattern:

[A] wa [B] *desu* / "[A] is [B]"

In this pattern,

A = the item being talked about ("me," "you," "he," "the dog," "an apple," etc.)

B = what you are identifying it as ("Jennifer," "Raul," "a souvenir," "water," etc.)

Now, let's make some sentences using this pattern:

A / *wa* / **B** / *desu* / "English"

1. *Watashi* ("I") *wa Jenifā desu*.
"I'm Jennifer."
2. *Boku* ("I") *wa Rauru desu*.
"I'm Raul."
3. *Watashi wa pairotto* ("pilot") *desu*.
"I'm a pilot."
4. *Boku wa shefu* ("chef") *desu*.
"I'm a chef."
5. *Kore* ("this") *wa omiyage* ("souvenir") *desu*.
"This is a souvenir."
6. *Kore wa mizu* ("water") *desu*.
"This is water."

See how the *wa* and *desu* never change? To use this pattern, simply change parts A and B!

For Example:

1. *Kore wa sushi desu*.
これはすしです。
"This is sushi."
2. *Watashi wa Tōmasu Ejison desu*.
わたしは、トーマスエジソンです。
"I'm Thomas Edison."

Examples from This Dialogue

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1. *Watashi wa Kaori desu*.
わたしはかおりです。
"I'm Kaori."

2. *Boku wa Teirā desu.*
ぼくはテイラーです。
"I'm Taylor."