

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #7

Can You Tell Me What This is in Japanese?

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INTRO

Jessi: Jessi here! Absolute Beginner Season 1 , Lesson 7 - Can You Tell Me What This is in Japanese?

Jessi: Hello, and welcome to Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 7 - Can You Tell Me What This is in Japanese? Jessiです。Jessi here.

Naomi: こんにちは！なおりです。Naomi here!

Jessi: Thank you for being here with us again! Well Naomi, in the last lesson, we kicked off the story of Taylor Allen and his relatives.

Naomi: Yes, his relatives came to visit him from Japan!

Jessi: Right. It was the first time he had seen his brother-in-law Masato in a long time, and so they used the phrase...

Naomi: お久しぶりです

Jessi: Which means "Long time no see!" In this lesson, the conversation continues, and Taylor meets Masato's wife for the first time.

Naomi: So they'll be introducing each other.

Jessi: Yup, you'll hear a lot of familiar phrases in this one!

Naomi: See how much you can pick out!

Jessi: All right, are you all ready? Then let's listen in.

LESSON CONVERSATION

かおり：はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。

テイラー：かおりさん？はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。

かおり：よろしくおねがいします。

テイラー：よろしくおねがいします。

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

かおり：はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。

Jessi: Nice to meet you! I'm Kaori.

テイラー：かおりさん？はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。

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

かおり：よろしくおねがいします。

Jessi: It's a pleasure to meet you.

テイラー：よろしくおねがいします。

Jessi: It's a pleasure to meet you too.

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Jessi: So we've just met a new character.

Naomi: Kaori, who is Masato's wife.

Jessi: She apparently hasn't met Taylor before.

Naomi: Yes, it's their first time meeting.

Jessi: And we heard the phrases we learned in Lesson 2, didn't we?

Naomi: Yes we did! はじめまして.

Jessi: "Nice to meet you."

Naomi: And よろしくお願ひします.

Jessi: "I ask for your good favour" or "Please be nice to me." After Kaori first said はじめまして, what did she say next?

Naomi: わたしはかおりです

Jessi: Which means "I'm Kaori." We're going to go over this in the main lesson focus, but there's something I want to focus on here first.

Naomi: Oh, what's that?

Jessi: Kaori and Taylor both introduced themselves and they both use the word "I", as in "I am." But they use different words!

Naomi: Ah, you're right. Kaori says わたし, and Taylor says ぼく.

Jessi: And they both mean "I"?

Naomi: They both mean "I".

Jessi: Why the difference, then?

Naomi: Well, it's just one of the unique things about Japanese. There are a lot of gender specific words.

Jessi: It's important to know that わたし can be used by both men AND women, right?

Naomi: Yes. Women can use this word any time. Men can use it in extra formal situations.

Jessi: And ぼく is almost exclusive to men.

Naomi: Right. ぼく is acceptable for men to use in everyday situations, like this one.

Jessi: So is it safe to say to the listeners, if you're female, use わたし, and if you're male, use ぼく?

Naomi: Yes, I think so! And in an everyday situation, those are fine.

Jessi: Okay, so now that we've got that bit out of the way, let's move onto the lesson focus.

LESSON FOCUS

Jessi: In this lesson, you'll learn a very important sentence pattern. Your first sentence pattern in Japanese!

Naomi: Yes, up until now, we've been learning phrases and words.

Jessi: That's right, and now it's time to learn a sentence pattern that you can use just be substituting in words. We recommend you look at the lessons notes while listening

so that you can visualize the pattern.

Naomi: Okay, so the pattern is...

Jessi: A is B. That is the meaning in English. For example, "I AM Jessi. You ARE Naomi. She IS Jennifer." We have A, which is the item being talked about, and then we have B, which is what we identify it as. So, in Japanese, how would we say A is B?

Naomi: AはBです

Jessi: One more time?

Naomi: (Slowly) AはBです

Jessi: Let's break it down. So we have A, followed by?

Naomi: は

Jessi: And then B, followed by...?

Naomi: です

Jessi: Okay, so the pattern one more time?

Naomi: AはBです

Jessi: So where we have A and B, we can start inserting different words to make sentences.

Naomi: Yes! In the dialogue, Kaori said (slowly) わたし は かおり です.

Jessi: わたし, as just learned, means "I", and かおり is her name, Kaori. So we just put both of those into the A is B structure, AはBです...

Naomi: And we get, わたしはかおりです

Jessi: "I'm Kaori" or "My name is Kaori." Okay. Listeners, listen and repeat.

Naomi: わたしはかおりです。

[Pause]

Jessi: Okay. Let's try it one more time.

Naomi: わたしはかおりです。

[Pause]

Jessi: Okay. Great! Ah, but, Naomi, one thing...

Naomi: What's that?

Jessi: Remember how we learned to introduce ourselves in Lesson 2? In that lesson, we just said our name plus です. For example, ジェシーです, to mean "I'm Jessi." But in this lesson we also learned we could say わたしはジェシーです. So are they the same?

Naomi: Good point! Yes, they mean the same thing. You can leave off わたしは and simply say your name plus です, like we learned.

Jessi: Oh good. So we can use either one.

Naomi: Yes!

Jessi: So if your name is ケン Ken you can say either...

Naomi: わたしはケンです

Jessi: Or simply...

Naomi:

ケンです。

Jess: To say "I'm Ken." Okay. So up until now we've been using names to complete this AはBです pattern, but we can insert other nouns, right?

Naomi: Yes! For example, in place of B, you can also say your job 私はパイロットです。

Jessi: Which means "I'm a pilot." Can we hear the same phrase a little more slowly?

Naomi: わたしはパイロットです。

Jessi: And once again at natural speed?

Naomi: わたしはパイロットです。

Jessi: Okay, great! Let's have the listeners try it themselves, shall we? But not with "pilot," but just with their name.

Naomi: Sounds good!

Jessi: The pattern we'll use is...?

Naomi: わたしは [name] です

Jessi: わたしは and then insert your name です. Naomi will go first! After Naomi, please use the pattern to introduce yourself.

Naomi: Okay, here I go. わたしはなおりです

[Pause] - わたしは[name]です。

Jessi: Great! Now let's add はじめまして, nice to meet you, and try the whole thing! Repeat after Naomi, but give your own name!

Naomi: はじめまして！わたしはなおりです

[Pause] - はじめまして！わたしは[name]です。

Jessi: Okay. Sounding good! How was it everyone?

Naomi: This is your first real sentence pattern in Japanese.

Jessi: This will be the key to understanding a lot of other sentence patterns in Japanese, so please keep it in mind! Okay Naomi, can you tell us the sentence pattern we covered today once more?

Naomi: AはBです。

Jessi: A is B. Now, once you know this sentence pattern, you can also use it to say what something is, for example, "This is water." We'll touch on that more in the next lesson!

OUTRO

Naomi: All right, well that's all for this lesson. And don't forget to check out the Lesson Notes PDF.

Jessi: Go to JapanesePod101.com to download the Lesson Notes for this lesson now. Be sure to join us next time, and thanks for listening!

Naomi:

ありがとうございます！

Jessi: See you all next time. Oh, by the way Naomi, how do you say "see you again" in Japanese?

Naomi: じゃ、また。

Jessi: じゃ、また。(すこしゆっくり) See you again!