

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #9

Asking a Japanese Question

CONTENTS

- 2 INTRODUCTION
- 2 LESSON CONVERSATION
- 2 LESSON FOCUS

9

INTRODUCTION

Jessi: Hi everyone! Welcome to Absolute Beginner Season 1, Lesson 9 - Asking a Japanese Question. Jessiです。Jessi here.

Naomi: こんにちは！なおみです。Naomi here!

Jessi: Thanks for joining us again! Naomi, could you tell us what we learned in the last lesson?

Naomi: Sure! In the last lesson, we reviewed our first sentence pattern, AはBです。

Jessi: Which means "A is B".

Naomi: And in this lesson...?

Jessi: You'll learn how to ask questions. You'll be surprised at how easy it is! We'll be using the first sentence pattern we learned as well. Okay, so what's happening in the conversation in this lesson?

Naomi: Well, Taylor, Masato, and Kaori are still at the airport.

Jessi: If you remember last time, Kaori gave Taylor a gift they brought with them from Japan. おみやげ。

Naomi: Right.

Jessi: Now, he's asking her about it in this conversation. Let's listen in!

LESSON CONVERSATION

テイラー：これは...おかしですか。

まさと：はい、そうです。日本のおかしです。

かおり：そうです。ようかんです。

テイラー：よ・う・か・ん？

English Host: Let's listen to the conversation again slowly.

テイラー：これは...おかしですか。

まさと：はい、そうです。日本のおかしです。

かおり：そうです。ようかんです。

テイラー：よ・う・か・ん？

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

テイラー：これは...おかしですか。

Jessi: Are these sweets?

まさと：はい、そうです。日本のおかしです。

Jessi: Yes, that's right. They're Japanese sweets.

かおり：そうです。ようかんです。

Jessi: Right. They're "yokan."

テイラー：よ・う・か・ん？

Jessi: Yo-ka-n?

LESSON FOCUS

Jessi: So Taylor's gift from Masato and Kaori was some Japanese sweets!

Naomi: Yes, sweets known as ようかん.

Jessi: ようかん. How would you describe it?

Naomi: Well, ようかん is sweet-jellied red bean paste.

Jessi: It might be hard for the listeners to picture.

Naomi: I think so! It's usually sold in block form.

Jessi: Right. So it's often served and eaten in slices. It's very good! I like it personally.

By the way, what's the word for sweets or snacks?

Naomi: Good question. That's our first vocabulary word. おかし。

Jessi: おかし。 One more time slowly, and again at regular speed?

Naomi: (Slowly) おかし (regular) おかし

Jessi: And this is general word for sweets or snacks. And the next phrase is?

Naomi: 日本の

Jessi: 日本の.. and this means "Japanese."

Naomi: You can actually learn two words in one.

Jessi: Yes! Can you tell us the word for Japan?

Naomi: 日本

Jessi: 日本. and the word for Japanese is?

Naomi: 日本の

Jessi: This is just 日本 with の at the end. 日本の。 So if we combine this with the other word we just learned, we get...

Naomi: 日本の おかし

Jessi: Japanese sweets!

Naomi: That's the phrase we saw in the dialogue.

Jessi: So please remember that "Japan" is...

Naomi: 日本

Jessi: And "Japanese" as in "Japanese sweets" is...

Naomi: 日本の

Jessi: Great. And the last phrase we saw?

Naomi: そうです

Jessi: そうです ! And this means...

Naomi: "Yes" or "That's right" or "You're right."

Jessi: So when Taylor asked, "Are these sweets?" Kaori said...

Naomi: そうです。

Jessi: Yes, that's right.

Naomi: 日本のおかしです。

Jessi: They're Japanese sweets.

Jessi: In this lesson, you'll learn how to make a question.

Naomi: Which is very easy.

Jessi: Yes. You'll be surprised! But before we move on, we need to go back to Lesson

7.

Naomi: In Lesson 7, you learned how to make a [A is B] sentence. AはBです

Jessi: That's right. For example?

Naomi: これは水です。

Jessi: これ is this, and 水 is water, so altogether this means "This is water."

Naomi: これは水です。

Jessi: So this is just a regular statement. You're just stating a fact, right?

Naomi: Right.

Jessi: Now, what if we want to ask a question? Say you have a glass of clear liquid in front of you, and you want to know, "Is this water?" For all you now, it could be Seven-Up, or something else.

Naomi: Well, to turn a statement into a question, add か to the end.

Jessi: Just one sound - か. Let's try it. So the sentence...

Naomi: これは水です。

Jessi: Becomes...?

Naomi: これは水ですか。

Jessi: これは水ですか。"Is this water?" Repeat after Naomi.

Naomi: これは水ですか。

[pause]

Jessi: Great! Now, just awhile ago we learned the word おかし.

Naomi: Meaning "sweets."

Jessi: Yes. So sitting in front of you is a plate of something that looks like cookies. If you know they are sweets, you can say...

Naomi: これはおかしです。

Jessi: But say for example, if you don't know what they are, and want to ask if they are sweets, you can say...?

Naomi: これはおかしですか。

Jessi: "Are these sweets?" Repeat after Naomi.

Naomi: これはおかしですか。

[pause]

Naomi: That's exactly what Taylor asked in the dialogue.

Jessi: Oh, right ~ これはおかしですか？

Naomi: Right. Okay, let's have the listeners try it now.

Jessi: Okay! Sounds good. Here's the situation. Let's say your Japanese host puts a dish down in front of you. It looks like fish, but you're not quite sure, how could you ask?

Naomi: Here are some hints for you, "fish" is 魚.

Jessi: So?

Naomi: "This is fish" would be れはさかなです。

Jessi: Okay. So please ask, "Is this

fish?"

[pause]

Jessi: Okay. Naomi, in this situation, what should we say?

Naomi: これはさかなですか？

Jessi: Remember, all you need to do is add か to a statement to make it a question.

Naomi: That's it!

Jessi: Not so bad, was it?

Naomi: Well, that's going to wrap it up for this lesson.

Jessi: Make sure to join us next time. You'll learn how to say that something belongs to someone. Here's a question for you, listeners. Do you know the number one reason people don't study a second language?

Naomi: Not enough time.

Jessi: You're very busy. We know. And that's why we have one click lesson downloads on iTunes.

Naomi: Subscribe on iTunes

Jessi: All free materials will be downloaded automatically for each new lesson as they become available. So go to iTunes, search with the phrase JapanesePod101.com and click subscribe.

Naomi: Thanks for listening, everyone!

Jessi: See you all next time.

Naomi: じゃまた。