

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #13

Where in Japan Are You Now?

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KANJI

1. テイラー: もしもし？
2. まさと: テイラーさん！すみません。
3. テイラー: だいじょうぶです。
4. まさと: いま、どこにいますか。
5. テイラー: いま、ぼくとちえみとサラはマクドナルドにいます。
6. まさと: マクドナルド？

ROMANIZATION

1. TEIRĀ: Moshimoshi?
2. MASATO: Teirā-san! Sumimasen.
3. TEIRĀ: Daijōbu desu.
4. MASATO: Ima, doko ni imasu ka.
5. TEIRĀ: Ima, boku to Chiemi to Sara wa Makudonarudo ni imasu.
6. MASATO: Makudonarudo?

ENGLISH

1. TAYLOR: Hello?

CONT'D OVER

2. MASATO: Taylor! Sorry.
3. TAYLOR: It's fine.
4. MASATO: Where are you now?
5. TAYLOR: Chiemi, Sara, and I are at McDonald's right now.
6. MASATO: McDonald's?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どこ	どこ	doko	where
に	に	ni	at, in,
だいじょうぶ	だいじょうぶ	daijōbu	No problem, all right, don't worry, it's fine
もしもし	もしもし	Moshimoshi	Hello (on the telephone)
だいじょうぶです	だいじょうぶです	daijōbu desu	I'm OK., I'll be fine.
います	います	imasu	to exist, to have (animate);V2, -masu form
いま	いま	ima	now
マクドナルド	マクドナルド	makudonarudo	McDonald's (restaurant)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ここはどこですか。 <i>Koko wa doko desu ka.</i></p> <p>Where are we? (Literally: Where is here?)</p>	<p>まささんはとうきょうにいます。 <i>Masato-san wa Tōkyō ni imasu.</i></p> <p>Masato is in Tokyo.</p>
<p>だいじょうぶ？ <i>Daijōbu?</i></p> <p>Are you all right? (informal)</p>	<p>もしもし、かおりさん？ <i>Moshimoshi, Kaori-san?</i></p> <p>Hello, Kaori?</p>
<p>だいじょうぶです。 <i>Daijōbu desu.</i></p> <p>I'm fine.</p>	<p>いもうとがいます。 <i>Imōto ga imasu.</i></p> <p>I have a younger sister.</p>
<p>いま、なんじですか。 <i>Ima, nan-ji desu ka.</i></p> <p>What time is it now?</p>	<p>マクドナルドにいきます。 <i>Makudonarudo ni ikimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going to McDonald's.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

もしもし (*moshi-moshi*)

Moshi-moshi is the greeting you use when you pick up the telephone, like "Hello?" in English. We can only use this greeting on the telephone, so be careful! Sometimes when people are speaking very casually, they drop the second *-i* sound, so it becomes *moshi-mosh (i)*.

だいじょうぶです (*daijōbu desu*)

If you recall, we studied this in Season 1 Lesson 12. We use it in a huge variety of ways in Japanese. It can mean "I'm fine," "it's okay," "that's all right," "I don't need any," "don't worry about it," etc... It's a very useful phrase!

いま (*ima*)

This means "now," and we can use it just like in English to ask "Where are you now?" except, in Japanese, the "now" goes at the beginning of the question, so it literally becomes "Now, where are you?": *Ima, doko ni imasu ka*. Please see Season 1 Lesson 13 for more explanation.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking and Saying Where Someone Is.

いま、どこにいますか。

Ima, doko ni imasu ka.

"Where are you now?"

In the previous lessons, you learned how to use *arimasu* for talking about things.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to use the corresponding verb *imasu* for talking about people and animals as well as to use the question word *doko* to ask where someone is.

"Where Are You?" "I Am at [Place]."

To say where you are, all you have to do is say *watashi wa* ("as for me"). If you're talking about someone else, then replace *watashi* with that person's name.

Then add the name of the place, plus the place marker *ni*.

Finally you add *imasu*, which is the equivalent of *arimasu* ("exist") for animate objects (people and animals).

* Keep in mind that when you're answering the question, "Where is [name]?/Where are you, [name]?" you can leave out the *watashi wa/[name] wa* part, as it's understood from the context.

Formation

***Watashi wa [place] ni imasu* → "I am at [place]."**

To make this into a question and ask "Where are you?" simply replace *watashi* ("I") with the name of the person you're asking about. Remember, in Japanese we hardly ever use the word for "you," *anata*. This means that the question can mean both "Where are you, [name]?" and "Where is [name]?" You have to rely on the context to understand which it is.

Then replace [place] with the word for "where," *doko*.

And finally, as you know, when asking a question, you need the Japanese equivalent of the question mark at the end of the sentence, *ka*.

Formation

[Person's name] *wa doko ni imasu ka* → "Where are you, [person's name]?" / "Where is [person's name]?"

Sample Sentences

1. A: すずきさんはどこにいますか。
A: *Suzuki-san wa doko ni imasu ka.*
A: "Where is Mr. Suzuki?" OR "Where are you, Mr. Suzuki?"
B: えきにいます。
B: *Eki ni imasu.*
B: "He's at the station." OR "I'm at the station."
2. A: ねこはどこにいますか。
A: *Neko wa doko ni imasu ka.*
A: "Where is the cat?"
B: ベッドのうえにいます。
B: *Beddo no ue ni imasu.*
B: "It's on the bed."

A Wa Doko Desu Ka and A Wa Doko Ni Imasu Ka: What's the Difference?

Simply put, *A wa doko desu ka* and *A wa doko ni imasu ka* have the same meaning: "Where is A?" When you're talking about a person or animal, either of these ways is fine.

However, **if you are asking where a thing is, you cannot use *A wa doko ni imasu ka***, because **we only use *imasu* for people or animals.**

For Example:

1. ねこはどこですか。
Neko wa doko desu ka.
"Where is the cat?"
2. ねこはどこにいますか。
O Neko wa doko ni imasu ka.
"Where is the cat?"
3. ジョンさんはどこですか。
O Jon-san wa doko desu ka.
"Where is Jon?"
4. ジョンさんはどこにいますか。
O Jon-san wa doko ni imasu ka.
"Where is Jon?"

1. ペンはどこですか。

O Pen wa doko desu ka.

"Where is the pen?"

Not:

X ペンはどこにいますか。

X *Pen wa doko ni imasu ka.*

X "Where is the pen?"

Reference

- *doko* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 13
- *imasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20
- *arimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 19