

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #14

Finding Your Friends in Japan

CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar

14

KANJI

1. テイラー: はい、マクドナルドです。
2. まさと: マクドナルドはどこにありますか。
3. テイラー: マクドナルドは2かいにあります。
4. まさと: 2かい…。わかりました。
5. (to a passerby)
6. まさと: すみません。エスカレーターはどこにありますか？
7. A PASSERBY: エスカレーター？あそこにあります。

KANA

1. テイラー: はい、マクドナルドです。
2. まさと: マクドナルドはどこにありますか。
3. テイラー: マクドナルドはにかいにあります。
4. まさと: にかい……。わかりました。
5. (to a passerby)
6. まさと: すみません。エスカレーターはどこにありますか？
7. A PASSERBY: エスカレーター？あそこにあります。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. TEIRĀ: Hai, Makudonarudo desu.
2. MASATO: Makudonarudo wa doko ni arimasu ka.
3. TEIRĀ: Makudonarudo wa ni-kai ni arimasu.
4. MASATO: Ni-kai.... Wakarimashita.
5. (to a passerby)
6. MASATO: Sumimasen. Esukarētā wa doko ni arimasu ka?
7. A PASSERBY: Esukarētā? Asoko ni arimasu.

ENGLISH

1. TAYLOR: Yes, McDonald's.
2. MASATO: Where is McDonald's?
3. TAYLOR: McDonald's is on the second floor.
4. MASATO: Second floor...got it.
5. (to a passerby)
6. MASATO: Excuse me. Where is the escalator?
7. A PASSERBY: The escalator? It's over there.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
2かい	にかい	ni-kai	the second floor
かい	かい	kai	a counter for floor levels
マクドナルド	マクドナルド	makudonarudo	McDonald's (restaurant)
わかりました	わかりました	wakarimashita	Alright, I get it, OK.
どこ	どこ	doko	where
あそこ	あそこ	asoko	over there
エスカレーター	エスカレーター	esukarētā	escalator

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>いま、2かいにいます。 <i>Ima, ni-kai ni imasu.</i></p> <p>I'm on the second floor now.</p>	<p>いま、2かいにいます。 <i>Ima, ni-kai ni imasu.</i></p> <p>I'm on the second floor 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>	<p>はい、わかりました。 <i>Hai, wakarimashita.</i></p> <p>Yes, I understand.</p>
<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>エスカレーターはあそこにあります。 <i>Esukarētā wa asoko ni arimasu.</i></p> <p>There is an escalator over there.</p>
<p>エスカレーターはどこにありますか。 <i>Esukarētā wa doko ni arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the escalator?</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

にかい (*nikai*)

In Japanese, when you count nouns (as in "one table," "two tables..."), you have to add a word known as a counter to the number. In the dialogue, we had the word for "second floor" (二かい (*nikai*)). This is made up of the number two, *ni*, and the counter for "floor," *kai*. Here's how to say the other floors of a building... We cover the numbers from zero to ten in Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 1.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
いっかい	<i>ikkai</i>	"first floor"
二かい	<i>ni-kai</i>	"second floor"
さんがい・さんかい*	<i>san-gai/san-kai</i>	* "third floor"
よんかい	<i>yon-kai</i>	"fourth floor"
ごかい	<i>go-kai</i>	"fifth floor"
ろっかい*	<i>rokkai</i>	* "sixth floor"
ななかい	<i>nana-kai</i>	"seventh floor"
はっかい・はちかい*	<i>hakkai/hachi-kai</i>	* "eighth floor"
きゅうかい	<i>kyū-kai</i>	"ninth floor"
じゅっかい*	<i>jukkai</i>	* "tenth floor"

* Be careful with the numbers three, six, and eight in Japanese: they often have different pronunciations when counting things. Here, please note that the starred floors (third floor, sixth floor, and eighth floor) have alternative pronunciations. We can pronounce "third floor" as either *san-kai* or *san-gai*. Similarly, we can say "eighth floor" as *hachi-kai* or *hak-kai* (with the final *-i* of *hachi* omitted), but with "sixth floor," there is only one way to say it: not *roku-kai*, which is rather hard to say anyway, but *rok-kai*, with the *-u* of *roku* omitted. As for "tenth floor," the historical sound formation rule was applied and *jū-kai* has changed to *ju-kkai*. Some people might say *jikkai* instead but *jukkai* is more common now. If you are interested in the history of Japanese sound formation, leave us a comment in the comment section!

わかりました (*wakarimashita*)

This is the polite version of わかった (*wakatta*). It's in the past tense, so it literally means "I have understood," but we use it in the same way as the English "I understand" or "Got it." You

use this in Japanese to show you have heard something (information, a command from a superior, some advice, etc.) and have taken it on board.

GRAMMAR

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

マクドナルドは2かいにあります。

Makudonarudo wa ni-kai ni arimasu.

"McDonald's is on the second floor."

In the previous lesson, you learned how to ask and say where someone is using *doko ni imasu ka* and *[place] ni imasu*.

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask and say where something is using *arimasu*.

"Where Is [Thing]?" "It Is at [Place]."

Saying where a thing is uses exactly the same structure as saying where someone is. The only difference is that you must replace the verb *imasu* ("exist" for people/animals) with *arimasu* ("exist" for inanimate objects).

* You can use this to give the location of not only things but also buildings and places around town (park, hospital, etc.)

Formation

[Thing] wa [place] ni arimasu → "[thing] is at [place]"

To make this into a question and ask "Where is [thing/building]?" it's exactly the same structure as in the previous lesson: again, all we have to do is replace *imasu* with *arimasu*.

Formation

[Thing/building] wa doko ni arimasu ka → "Where is [thing/building]?"

Sample Sentences

-
1. A: メニューはどこにありますか。
Menyū wa doko ni arimasu ka.
B: ここにあります。
Koko ni arimasu.
A: "Where is the menu?"
B: "It's right here."

2. A: えんぴつはどこにありますか。
Enpitsu wa doko ni arimasu ka.
B: あそこにあります。
Asoko ni arimasu.
A: "Where is the pencil?"
B: "It's over there."

Asking the Location of Things/People: *Doko Desu Ka/Doko Ni Arimasu Ka/Doko Ni Imasu Ka*

Remember how in the previous lesson we said that we can use *A wa doko desu ka* for both people and animals AND objects? In short, **doko = neutral**.

If you just keep in mind that **arimasu = inanimate objects** and **imasu = people/animals**, then you'll be fine.

For Example:

- ねこはどこですか。
O: **Neko wa doko desu ka.**
"Where is the cat?"
OK, as doko = neutral
- ねこはどこにいますか。
O: **Neko wa doko ni imasu ka.**
"Where is the cat?"
OK, as imasu = people/animals
- ジョンさんはどこですか。
O: **Jon-san wa doko desu ka.**
"Where is Jon?"
OK, as doko = neutral
- ジョンさんはどこにいますか。
O: **Jon-san wa doko ni imasu ka.**
"Where is Jon?"
OK, as imasu = people/animals
- ペンはどこですか。
O: **Pen wa doko desu ka.**
"Where is the pen?"
OK, as doko = neutral

6. X ペンはどこにいますか。

X: *Pen wa doko ni imasu ka.*

NO, as a pen is NOT a person or animal! The correct version would be ...ペンはどこにありますか。

O: *Pen wa doko ni arimasu ka.*

"Where is the pen?"

OK, as *arimasu* = inanimate objects

Reference

- numbers from zero to ten → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 1
- *doko* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 13
- *imasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20
- *arimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 19
- *asoko* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 19