

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #17

Visiting a Japanese Home

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17

KANJI

1. (At an entrance)
2. かおり: いらっしゃい。
3. テイラー: おじゃまします。
4. ちえみ: おひさしぶりです。
5. サラ: (goo gaa)
6. テイラー: あ、くつをぬぎますか。
7. まさと: はい。スリッパ、どうぞ。
8. テイラー: サラ、くつをぬぎますよ。
9. サラ: (goo gaa)

ROMANIZATION

1. (At an entrance)
2. KAORI: Irasshai.
3. TEIRĀ: Ojamashimasu.
4. CHIEMI: O-hisashiburi desu.
5. SARA: (goo gaa)

CONT'D OVER

6. TEIRĀ: A, kutsu o nugimasu ka.
7. MASATO: Hai. Surippa, dōzo.
8. TEIRĀ: Sara, kutsu o nugimasu yo.
9. SARA: (goo gaa)

ENGLISH

1. (At an entrance)
2. KAORI: Welcome.
3. TAYLOR: Sorry to disturb you.
4. CHIEMI: It's been a while.
5. SARA: (goo gaa)
6. TAYLOR: Oh, do we take off our shoes?
7. MASATO: Yes. Here you are...some slippers.
8. TAYLOR: Sara, we're taking our shoes off.
9. SARA: (goo ga)

VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji | English |
|-------|------|--------|---------|
|-------|------|--------|---------|

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------------|---|
| どうぞ | どうぞ | dōzo | go ahead, here you are |
| ぬぎます | ぬぎます | nugimasu | to take off;V1 |
| おじゃまします | おじゃまします | Ojamashimasu. | excuse me for disturbing (interrupting) you |
| スリッパ | すりっぱ | surippa | slippers |
| いらっしやい | いらっしやい | irasshai | Welcome (to..) |
| くつ | くつ | kutsu | shoes, footwear |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| はい、どうぞ。 <i>Hai, dōzo.</i> Here you go. | くつをぬぎます。 <i>Kutsu o nugimasu.</i> I take off my shoes. |
| おじゃまします。 <i>Ojama shimasu.</i> Excuse me for disturbing you. | スリッパ、どうぞ。 <i>Surippa, dōzo.</i> Here you go, some slippers. |
| ちえみさん、いらっしやい。 <i>Chiemi-san, irasshai.</i> Chiemi, welcome. | あそこにわたしのくつがあります。 <i>Asoko ni watashi no kutsu ga arimasu.</i> There are my shoes over there. |

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

いらっしやい (*irasshai*)

This means "welcome." You remember that in Lesson 15 we introduced the word ようこそ (*yōkoso*), which we also translate as "welcome." Generally, the difference between the two is that *yōkoso* has a more "expansive" feel (as in "Welcome to Japan!" or "Welcome to the pirate island!" or "Welcome to Disneyland!"), while *irasshai* is a gentler, more specific welcome ("Welcome to my home"). The formal form, *irasshaimase*, is a set greeting that we use when a customer enters a store, restaurant, bar, etc.

-よ (-yo)

When you add *yo* to the end of a sentence, it can do two things:

- 1) Add emphasis to a piece of information or indicate that you're telling the speaker a new piece of information
- 2) Give emphasis or strength to a command (e.g., *oshiete yo*, "(come on), tell me!")

As an example of the first usage, in the dialogue, Taylor said *Sara, kutsu o nugimasu yo*, meaning "Sara, we're taking our shoes off." He used *yo* to emphasize the piece of information (that they were to take off their shoes), as Sara, being a baby, might not know that you have to take your shoes off before going into a house in Japan.

*Note: We often use this *-masu yo* when giving indirect commands to children.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Doing Actions to Objects.

くつをぬぎますよ。

Kutsu o nugimasu yo.

"We're taking our shoes off."

In this lesson, you'll learn how to make more complex sentences that describe actions performed on objects, such as "take your shoes off" or "eat some rice."

"I eat rice."

In English, the object, "rice," or ごはん (*gohan*) comes after the verb "eat." But in Japanese, the verb comes last. So instead of saying "I eat rice," you're literally saying "I rice eat."

This is so easy: all you have to do is remember the basic structure, [person] *wa* [verb-*masu*].

Then, just insert the object, like ごはん (*gohan*), meaning "rice," plus を (*o*) between the *wa* and the verb.

Formation

[Person] *wa* [thing] *o* [verb-*masu*] → "[Person] [verb] [thing]"

Japanese

Romanizati
on

"English"

Japanese

Romanizati
on

"English"

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| たべます | <i>tabemasu</i> | "eat" | にくをたべ ます | <i>niku o tabemasu</i> | "eat meat" |
| のみます | <i>nomimasu</i> | "drink" | おさけをの みます | <i>o-sake o nomimasu</i> | "drink alcohol" |
| かいます | <i>kaimasu</i> | "buy" | くつをかい ます | <i>kutsu o kaimasu</i> | "buy shoes" |
| みます | <i>mimasu</i> | "see" | テレビをみ ます | <i>terebi o mimasu</i> | "watch TV" |
| ききます | <i>kikimasu</i> | "hear" | おんがくを ききます | <i>ongaku o kikimasu</i> | "listen to music" |

"Do you play tennis?"

To make the above kind of sentence into a question and ask "Does [person] [verb] [thing]?" there is no change in the sentence structure whatsoever: just add the "question mark" *ka* on the end!

Formation

[Person] wa [thing] o [verb-masu] ka → "Does [person] [verb] [thing]?"

* As ever, the answer to this question in Japanese is nearly always very short: often just the verb itself, with everything else understood by context.

Sample Sentences

- ともゆきさんはおさけをのみますか。
はい、のみます。
A: *Tomoyuki-san wa o-sake o nomimasu ka.*
B: *Hai, nomimasu.*
A: "Do you drink [alcohol], Tomoyuki?"
B: "Yes, I do."

1. まいにち、ぼくはテニスをします。たなかさんはスポーツをしますか。
はい。わたしはバドミントンをします。
A: *Mainichi boku wa tenisu wo shimasu. Tanaka-san wa supōtsu o shimasu ka.*
B: Ee. Watashi wa badominton o shimasu.
A: "I play tennis every day. Do you play any sports, Ms. Tanaka?"
B: "Yes. I play badminton."

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *ojamashimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 10
- *dōzo* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 21

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What to Do with Your Shoes in Japan

As many of you probably know, it is a strict rule of Japanese etiquette to take off one's outdoor shoes before entering a private residence. Not to do so when entering someone's home would be considered incredibly rude and offensive, not to mention extremely dirty and unhygienic. In short, if you only remember one rule when you go to Japan, it's this one! ;)

The origins of this custom were both to avoid tracking dirt in from the outdoors and to preserve the delicate (and expensive) *tatami* mats that were used for flooring in traditional Japanese houses and that would have been quickly ruined by the "wooden-soled sandals" (*geta*) that Japanese people used to wear.

In any given private residence in Japan, no matter how tiny, there will be an "entranceway" (called the げんかん (*genkan*)), where you remove your shoes. You then place them in a small "cupboard" (called a げたばこ (*geta-bako*), literally "geta box," after the traditional wooden sandal that used to be worn outdoors). It is desirable to most Japanese that the *genkan* be one step lower than the rest of the house/apartment, so you actually have to step up on to the floor of the house proper, but sometimes (in cheaper/smaller apartments, for example) there is only a dividing line where the *genkan* ends and the flooring begins. It is also considered good manners to provide guests with slippers to wear in the house and to keep a stock of these separate from the family's slippers.