

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #3 A Japanese Introduction

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KANJI

1. (At a Japanese class)
2. テイラー: はじめまして。わたしは Taylor(テイラー)です。
かいしゃいんです。
よろしく おねがいします。
3. ニコール: わたしは Nicole(ニコール)です。しゅふです。
よろしく おねがいします。
4. ルイス: こんにちは。ぼくは Luis(ルイス)です。がくせいです。
ぼくは メキシコじんです。

ROMANIZATION

1. (At a Japanese class)
2. TEIRĀ: Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Taylor desu. Kaishain desu.
Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.
3. NIKORU: Watashi wa Nicole desu.
Shufu desu. Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.
4. RUISU: Konnichiwa. Boku wa Luis desu. Gakusei desu.
Boku wa Mekishiko-jin desu.

ENGLISH

1. (At a Japanese class)

CONT'D OVER

2. TAYLOR: Nice to meet you. I'm Taylor.
I'm a company employee.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
3. NICOLE: I'm Nicole. I'm a homemaker.
It's a pleasure to meet you.
4. LUIS: Hello. I'm Luis. I'm a student.
I'm Mexican.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
わたし	わたし	watashi	I, me
がくせい	がくせい	gakusei	student
はじめまして。	はじめまして。	Hajimemashite.	Nice to meet you.
メキシコ	メキシコ	mekishiko	Mexico
ぼく	ぼく	boku	I, me (mainly used by male speakers)
しゅふ	しゅふ	shufu	homemaker
かいしゃいん	かいしゃいん	kaishain	company employee
こんにちは。	こんにちは。	Kon'nichi wa.	Hello.
メキシコじん	メキシコじん	Mekishiko-jin	Mexican (person)
じん	じん	---jin	attached to name of country to denote nationality; Suffix

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>わたしはカウンセラーです。 <i>Watashi wa kaunserā desu.</i></p> <p>I'm a counselor.</p>	<p>わたしもがくせいです。 <i>Watashi mo gakusei desu.</i></p> <p>I'm also a student.</p>
<p>こんにちは。はじめまして。 <i>Kon'nichiwa. Hajimemashite.</i></p> <p>Hello. Nice to meet you.</p>	<p>わたしはメキシコがすきです。 <i>Watashi wa Mekishiko ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like Mexico.</p>
<p>ぼくは、プロボクサーです。 <i>Boku wa, puro bokusā desu.</i></p> <p>I'm a professional boxer.</p>	<p>ちえみさんのおかあさんはしゅふです。 <i>Chiemi-san no o-kā-san wa shufu desu.</i></p> <p>Chiemi's mother is a homemaker.</p>
<p>ちえみさんのおとうさんはかいしゃいんです。 <i>Chiemi-san no o-tō-san wa kaishain desu.</i></p> <p>Chiemi's father is a company employee.</p>	<p>こんにちは。はじめまして。 <i>Kon'nichiwa. Hajimemashite.</i></p> <p>Hello. Nice to meet you.</p>
<p>ケントのおとうさんはメキシコじんです。 <i>Kento no o-tō-san wa Mekishiko-jin desu.</i></p> <p>Kent's father is Mexican.</p>	<p>わたしはスペインじんです。 <i>Watashi wa Spein-jin desu.</i></p> <p>I'm Spanish.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***Mekishiko-jin* (メキシコじん) "Mexican (person)"**

To express one's nationality, you simply add the word for person, *jin*, to the name of a country.

See the examples below...

Name of a Country in English	Name of a Country in Japanese	Nationality [Country name] + <i>Jin</i>
"America (the United States)"	<i>Amerika</i>	<i>Amerika-jin</i>
"France"	<i>Furansu</i>	<i>Furansu-jin</i>
"Spain"	<i>Supein</i>	<i>Supein-jin</i>

"Australia"	<i>Ōsutoraria</i>	<i>Ōsutoraria-jin</i>
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Be careful, though! Some country names sound different from their English pronunciation.

Name of a Country in English	Name of a Country in Japanese	Nationality [Country name] + <i>Jin</i>
"the United Kingdom"	<i>Igirisu</i>	<i>Igirisu-jin</i>
"Germany"	<i>Doitsu</i>	<i>Doitsu-jin</i>
"China"	<i>Chūgoku</i>	<i>Chūgoku-jin</i>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Telling One's Occupation and Nationality.

Boku wa Mekishiko-jin desu.

ぼくはメキシコじんです。

"I'm Mexican."

When introducing yourself or having a conversation with a new person at a party, you'll probably want to mention your occupation and nationality! In this lesson, you'll learn how to say your occupation and nationality using the *A wa B desu* ("A is B") sentence structure.

Vocabulary List: Occupations

In this lesson, we saw three words for common occupations. Let's memorize them!

"English"	<i>Japanese</i>
"company employee"	<i>kaishain</i>
"homemaker"	<i>shufu</i>
"student"	<i>gakusei</i>

How to Say Your Occupation

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for describing yourself!

Sentence Pattern

- ***Watashi/Boku wa* [occupation] *desu.*** → "I'm a/an [occupation]."

* When it's obvious that you're talking about yourself, you omit the *watashi wa* or *boku wa* part.

Sample Sentences

1. ***Watashi wa* *gakusei desu.***
わたしは がくせい **です。**
"I'm a student."
2. ***Boku wa* *kaishain desu.***
ぼくは かいしゃいん **です。**
"I'm a company employee."

How to Say Your Nationality

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for telling your nationality.

Sentence Pattern

- ***Watashi/Boku wa* [Country name + *jin*] *desu.*** → "I'm [nationality]."

* When it's obvious that you're talking about yourself, you can omit the *watashi wa* or *boku wa*.

Sample Sentences

1. ***Watashi wa* *Furansu-jin desu.***
わたしは フランスじん **です。**
"I'm French."
2. ***Boku wa* *Doitsu-jin desu.***
ぼくは ドイツじん **です。**
"I'm German."

Practice

Using this lesson's grammar, try introducing yourself in Japanese!

1. *Kon'nichi wa.*
Watashi (or Boku) wa [Name] desu.
[Occupation] desu.
[Nationality] desu.
Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Translation: "Hello. I'm [Name]. I'm a/an [occupation]. I'm [nationality]. It's a pleasure to meet you."

Reference

Please also review the following grammar points.

- *Watshi* and *Boku* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7
- *A wa B desu* ("A is B") sentence pattern → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7