

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S2 #6

How is Everyone Feeling in Japan?

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KANJI

1. (Skype)
2. テイラー: げんきですか。
3. かおり: はい。テイラーさんは？
4. テイラー: はい、げんきです。
5. かおり: ちえみさんとサラちゃんもおげんきですか。
6. テイラー: はい。マトリー もげんきです。

ROMANIZATION

1. (Skype)
2. TEIRĀ: Genki desu ka.
3. KAORI: Hai. Teirā-san wa?
4. TEIRĀ: Hai, genki desu.
5. KAORI: Chiemi-san to Sara-chan mo o-genki desu ka.
6. TEIRĀ: Hai. Matorī mo genki desu.

ENGLISH

1. (Skype)

CONT'D OVER

2. TAYLOR: How are you?
3. KAORI: I'm fine. How are you, Taylor?
4. TAYLOR: I'm fine, thank you.
5. KAORI: Are Chiemi and Sara well too?
6. TAYLOR: Yes. Muttley is well too.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
と	と	to	and (as in 'Noun' and 'Noun')
も	も	mo	also, too; particle
げんき	げんき	genki	energetic, fine, healthy; Adj(na)
おげんきですか。	おげんきですか。	O-genki desu ka.	How are you? (very formal)
げんきですか。	げんきですか。	Genki desu ka.	How are you? (formal)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>みずとメニュー、おねがいします。 <i>Mizu to menyū, onegai shimasu.</i></p> <p>Some water and a menu, please.</p>	<p>これもにくです。 <i>Kore mo niku desu.</i></p> <p>This is also meat.</p>
<p>げんきですか。 <i>Genki desu ka.</i></p> <p>How are you?</p>	<p>いもうとさんはおげんきですか。 <i>Imōto-san wa o-genki desu ka.</i></p> <p>How is your younger sister? (Very formal)</p>

いもうとさんはげんきですか。

Imōto-san wa genki desu ka.

How is your younger sister? (formal)

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

と (*to*)

When the particle *to* appears between nouns, it combines the two nouns, and we often translate it as "and." See the examples below!

For Example:

1. *Chiemi to Sara*
"Chiemi and Sara"
2. *Mizu to jūsu*
"water and juice"

げんき (*genki*)

Genki means "healthy," "well," or "fine," and we often use it to describe how someone is.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How Someone Is.

げんきですか。

Genki desu ka.

"How are you?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask "How are you?" using the "A *wa* B *desu ka* (Is A B?)" sentence structure.

How to Ask How Someone Is

In Japanese, we say *Genki desu ka?* meaning "Are you well?" to ask how someone you are talking to is. If you want to ask "How is [someone else]?" the third person is marked by the particle *wa*.

Formation

- *Genki desu ka?* → "How are you?"
- [Someone] *wa genki desu ka?* → "How is [someone]?"

* Please note that we could translate *[name] wa genki desu ka?* as "How are you, [name]?" or "How is [name]?" depending on the context.

Sample Sentences

1. ペットはげんきですか。
Petto wa genki desu ka.
"How's your pet?" (Literally, "Is the pet well?")
2. ちえみとサラはげんきですか。
Chiemi to Sara wa genki desu ka.
"How are Chiemi and Sara?" (Literally, "Are Chiemi and Sara well?")
3. たなかさんはげんきですか。
Tanaka-san wa genki desu ka?
"How is Mr./Ms. Tanaka?" or "How are you, Mr./Ms. Tanaka?"
(Literally, "Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka well?" or "Are you well, Mr./Ms. Tanaka?")

How to Answer

The most common way to answer *genki desu ka* is *hai, genki desu*.

For Example:

1. A: *Genki desu ka?*
B: *Hai. Genki desu.*
A: "How are you?" (Literally, "Are you well?")
B: "I'm well." (Literally, "Yes. I'm well.")

Variations

おげんき (O-genki)

Genki desu ka is a formal expression, but you can be even more polite by adding *-o* in

front of *genki desu ka*? Please note that we can only use *o-genki* when asking the question, not when replying!

- ***O-genki desu ka?* → "How are you?" (very formal)**
- **[name of a person] *wa o-genki desu ka.* → "How are you, [name]?" or "How is [name]?"**

---(は ? (---*wa*?) "How about you, ---?" "And you, ---?"

When asking the same question back, it's common to stop the sentence at the particle *wa* instead of completing the sentence. See the examples below.

For Example:

1. A: *Genki desu ka.*
B: *Hai. Genki desu. A-san wa (genki desu ka)?*
A: "How are you?"
B: "I'm fine. And you?"
2. A: *Banana ga suki desu ka.*
B: *Hai. A-san wa (banana ga suki desu ka)?*
A: "Do you like bananas?"
B: "Yes. How about you?"
3. A: *Arerugī ga arimasu ka.*
B: *lie. A-san wa (Arerugī ga arimasu ka)?*
A: "Are you allergic to anything?" (Literally, "Do you have any allergies?")
B: "No. How about you?"

---*mo genki desu.* "---is also fine/well."

The particle *mo*, meaning "also" or "too," appeared in the dialogue.

For Example:

1. **ちえみさんとサラちゃんもおげんきですか。**
Chiemi-san to Sara-chan mo o-genki desu ka.
"Are Chiemi and Sara well **too**?"
2. **マトリー もげんきです。**
Matoī mo genki desu.
"Muttley is well **too**."

mo (particle) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 15

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Should You Expect a Response to This Polite Question?

In English, we tend to use "How are you?" as a greeting no matter when we last saw the other person, and sometimes we use it as a substitute for "Hello" without actually caring too much about the answer(!).

In Japanese, however, as a general rule, we only use *げんきですか?* (which we usually translate as "How are you?") when we really want to know about the other person's well-being. So we don't tend to use *げんきですか?* as an everyday greeting, but rather we say it to someone we haven't seen for a while.