

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S1 #1

The Secret to Making a Great First Impression in Japanese

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KANJI

1. 渡辺好博: すみません。山口さんですか。
2. 山口ちぐさ: はい、そうです。
3. 渡辺好博: 初めまして。渡辺です。
4. 山口ちぐさ: 初めまして。山口です。
5. 渡辺好博: どうぞよろしく。
6. 山口ちぐさ: どうぞよろしく。

KANA

1. わたなべよしひろ: すみません。やまぐちさんですか。
2. やまぐちちぐさ: はい、そうです。
3. わたなべよしひろ: はじめまして。わたなべです。
4. やまぐちちぐさ: はじめまして。やまぐちです。
5. わたなべよしひろ: どうぞよろしく。
6. やまぐちちぐさ: どうぞよろしく。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. WATANABE YOSHIHIRO: Sumimasen. Yamaguchi-san desu ka?
2. YAMAGUCHI CHIGUSA: Hai, sō desu.
3. WATANABE YOSHIHIRO: Hajimemashite. Watanabe desu.
4. YAMAGUCHI CHIGUSA: Hajimemashite. Yamaguchi desu.
5. WATANABE YOSHIHIRO: Dōzo yoroshiku.
6. YAMAGUCHI CHIGUSA: Dōzo yoroshiku.

ENGLISH

1. YOSHIHIRO WATANABE: Excuse me, are you Miss Yamaguchi?
2. CHIGUSA YAMAGUCHI: Yes, I am.
3. YOSHIHIRO WATANABE: Nice to meet you. I am Watanabe.
4. CHIGUSA YAMAGUCHI: Nice to meet you, too. I am Yamaguchi.
5. YOSHIHIRO WATANABE: Please be kind to me.

CONT'D OVER

6. CHIGUSA Please be kind to me.
YAMAGUCHI:

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません	すみません	Sumimasen	Excuse me
そうです	そうです	Sō desu	That's right
初めまして	はじめまして	Hajimemashite	How do you do?
です	です	desu	Polite form of the copula
どうぞよろしく	どうぞよろしく	Dōzo yoroshiku	Please be kind to me

SAMPLE SENTENCES

お客様、すみません。
O-kyaku-sama, sumimasen.

Excuse me, sir/ma'am.

GRAMMAR

Sumimasen roughly corresponds to the English "I'm sorry" or "excuse me." You can use this in cases where you make a mistake or accidentally do something, like bump into someone on the street or step on someone's foot in a train. It is especially pertinent in the last case. If you've ever ridden a Tokyo train during rush hour, you can definitely relate! This phrase can also be used to get someone's attention, such as a waiter, waitress or the chef at the *kaiten* sushi place. *Kaiten* refers to revolving sushi. Finally, it can be used to express thanks or appreciation. For example, if a waiter/waitress brings you some food, you can say this to show your appreciation.

The expression *hajimemashite* is derived from the verb *hajimeru*, which means "to begin." Literally translated, the expression means "for the first time." However, as the phrase is used when you meet someone for the first time, a more accurate English translation is

"How do you do?" or "Nice to meet you./Good to meet you." This phrase is often the first thing said when introducing oneself and is appropriate for all politeness levels.

This is followed by the speaker's last name and the polite form of the copula (linking verb) *desu*. *Desu* is roughly equivalent to the English verb "to be." You will gain a better understanding of the copula and how it's used in time.

Dōzo means "please."

Yoroshii is the polite form of the adjective *yo*, which means "good, nice." In today's dialogue, *yoroshii* is its adverbial form - *yoroshiku*. The expression that follows, *onagai shimasu*, is based on the verb *negau* which means "to wish." The expression is interpreted to mean please, and it can be used as a stand alone expression when the speaker asks for something or for someone to do something. The expression *yoroshiku onagai shimasu* can take on many different meanings depending on its usage context. In today's conversation, it is used in the context of meeting someone for the first time, and therefore is interpreted as "Please be kind to me." This nuance is conveyed when using this expression in this context.