

## LESSON NOTES

# Newbie S1 #4

# Expand Your Japanese Vocabulary with Inference

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 3 Romanization
- 3 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar

# 4

# KANJI

1. 山口:                   先生、
2. こちらは学校の友達のエニーです。
3. エニー:               初めまして。
4. エニーです。
5. どうぞよろしくお願ひします。
6. 渡辺:               初めまして。
7. 渡辺です。
8. よろしくお願ひします。
9. 学生ですか。
10. エニー:            すみません。わかりません。
11. もう一度お願ひします。
12. ゆっくりお願ひします。
13. 渡辺:               学生ですか。
14. エニー:            はい、そうです。

# KANA

CONT'D OVER

1. やまぐち:                    せんせい、こちらはがっこうのともだちのジェニーです。
2. ジェニー:                    はじめまして。ジェニーです。どうぞよろしくおねがいします。
3. わたなべ:                    はじめまして。わたなべです。よろしくおねがいします。がくせい  
      ですか。
4. ジェニー:                    すみません。わかりません。もういちどおねがいします。ゆっくり  
      おねがいします。
5. わたなべ:                    がくせいですか。
6. ジェニー:                    はい、そうです。

## ROMANIZATION

1. YAMAGUCHI:                Sensei, kochira wa gakkō no tomodachi no Jenī desu.
2. JENĪ:                        Hajimemashite. Jenī desu. Dōzo yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
3. WATANABE:                Hajimemashite. Watanabe desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.  
      Gakusei desu ka?
4. JENĪ:                        Sumimasen. Wakarimasen. Mō ichido onegai shimasu. Yukkuri  
      onegai shimasu.
5. WATANABE:                Gakusei desu ka?
6. JENĪ:                        Hai, sō desu.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. YAMAGUCHI: Professor, this is Jenny, a friend from school.
2. JENNY: How do you do? I'm Jenny. Please be kind to me.
3. WATANABE: How do you do? I'm Watanabe. Please be kind to me. Are you a student?
4. JENNY: I'm sorry. I don't understand. Once again please. Slowly please.
5. WATANABE: Are you a student?
6. JENNY: Yes, that's right.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
こちら	こちら	kochira	this direction
学校	がっこう	gakkō	school
の	の	no	possessive
友達	ともだち	tomodachi	friend
ジェニー	ジェニー	Jenī	Jenny
学生	がくせい	gakusei	student
わかりません	わかりません	Wakarimasen	Don't understand
もう一度お願いしま す	もういちどおねがい します	Mō ichido onegai shimasu	Once again please
ゆっくりお願いしま す	ゆっくりおねがいし ます	Yukkuri onegai shimasu	Slowly please

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

---

学校は家から、ちょっと遠いです。

*Gakkō wa ie kara, chotto tōi desu.*

The school is a bit far from my home.

---

## GRAMMAR

Today's grammar point reviews the basic sentence pattern using *desu*. In the introductions covered previously, the structure "[name] *desu*" was used to identify one's own name. In this instance, the subject ("I") is inferred. This pattern can be used to identify not only names, but also objects, attributes and more. In today's lesson, this same pattern, with the subject still inferred, was used in conjunction with the interrogative *ka* particle in order to ask the question:

学生ですか。

*Gakusei desu ka?*

"Are you a student? (Literally, "student?")"

The pattern is very simple:

*X desu. / X desu ka?*

Today, we will focus on using a noun in the place of X. By taking advantage of the tendency in Japanese to infer things, one can use this structure to express many ideas, even with the limited vocabulary introduced thus far in the Newbie lessons. For example, using today's vocabulary, if someone were to ask you what a building was, you could answer:

学校です。

*Gakkō desu.*

"It is a school."

Or in the case of a question, you could point at a building and ask:

学校ですか。

*Gakkō desu ka?*

"Is that a school?"

If you were to run into a friend at the local shopping mall, and your friend was with a person you did not know, you could ask:

友達ですか。

*Tomodachi desu ka?*

"Is he/she a friend?"

To which your friend could reply:

はい、友達です

*Hai, tomodachi desu.*

"Yes, he/she is a friend."

As you can see, this pattern, although extremely simple, can be very flexible. However, do keep in mind that you are taking advantage of inference, and if the subject of the sentence is not clear from context, the meaning of the sentence will also be unclear.