

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S4 #43

Which One Do You Prefer?

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KANJI

1. 店員: ご注文は。
2. リュウ: チキンカレーセットをお願いします。
3. 店員: ナンとライス、どちらがいいですか。
4. リュウ: ナンをお願いします。
5. 店員: お飲み物は？
6. リュウ: 何がありますか。
7. 店員: コーヒー、紅茶、ラッシー があります。
8. リュウ: ラッシーをください。
9. 店員: お客様は？
10. 静: 私は...エビカレー、ナン、ラッシー お願いします。

KANA

1. てんいん: ごちゅうもんは。
2. リュウ: チキンカレーセットおねがいします。
3. てんいん: ナンとライス、どちらがいいですか。
4. リュウ: ナンをおねがいします。

CONT'D OVER

5. てんいん: おのみものは？
6. リュウ: なにがありますか。
7. てんいん: コーヒー、こうちゃ、ラッシー があります。
8. リュウ: ラッシーをください。
9. てんいん: おきゃくさまは？
10. しずか: わたしは...エビカレー、ナン、ラッシー おねがいします。

ROMANIZATION

1. TEN'IN: Go-chūmon wa.
2. RYŪ: Chikin karē setto o-negai shimasu.
3. TEN'IN: Nan to raisu, dochira ga ii desu ka.
4. RYŪ: Nan o o-negai shimasu.
5. TEN'IN: O-nomimono wa?
6. RYŪ: Nani ga arimasu ka.
7. TEN'IN: Kōhī, kōcha, rasshī ga arimasu.
8. RYŪ: Rasshī o kudasai.
9. TEN'IN: O-kyaku-sama wa?

CONT'D OVER

10. SHIZUKA: Watashi wa... ebi karē, nan, rasshī o-negai shimasu.

ENGLISH

1. STAFF : Can I take your order?
2. RYU : I'll have the chicken curry set please.
3. STAFF : Would you like nan or rice with that?
4. RYU : Nan please.
5. STAFF : Anything to drink?
6. RYU : What do you have?
7. STAFF : We have coffee, tea and lassi.
8. RYU : I'll have a lassi.
9. STAFF : And for you?
10. SHIZUKA : I'll have... The shrimp curry, nan and a lassi please.

VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji | English |
|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| 注文 | ちゅうもん | chūmon | order |
| コーヒー | コーヒー | kōhī | coffee |
| ライス | ライス | raisu | rice |

| | | | |
|------|--------|--------------|---------------------------|
| ナン | ナン | nan | nan (type of bread) |
| セット | セット | setto | set (meal) |
| チキン | チキン | chikin | chicken |
| カレー | カレー | karē | curry |
| エビ | エビ | ebi | shrimp, prawn, lobster |
| お客様 | おきゃくさま | o-kyaku-sama | customer |
| 紅茶 | こうちゃ | kōcha | black/Western tea |
| 飲み物 | のみもの | nomimono | drink, beverage |
| ラッシー | ラッシー | rassī | lassi (yogurt drink) |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|--|--|
| ご注文は。 <i>Go-chūmon wa.</i> What would you like to order? | コーヒーを飲みませんか。 <i>Kōhī o nomimasen ka.</i> Would you like to drink some coffee? |
| ライスとパン、どちらがいいですか。 <i>Raisu to pan, dochira ga ii desu ka.</i> Would you like rice or bread? | ナンはおいしいですね。 <i>Nan wa oishii desu ne.</i> Nan is good, isn't it? |
| チキンカレーセットをお願いします。 <i>Chikin karē setto o-negai shimasu.</i> I'll have the chicken curry set, please. | チキンとビーフ、どちらがいいですか。 <i>Chikin to bīfu, dochira ga ii desu ka.</i> Would you like chicken or beef? |
| カレーが大好きです。 <i>Karē ga daisuki desu.</i> I love curry. | えびカレーをお願いします。 <i>Ebi karē o-negai shimasu.</i> "Shrimp curry, please." |
| お客様、ご注文は？ <i>O-kyaku-sama, go-chūmon wa?</i> Are you ready to order, sir/ma'am? | 紅茶を飲みますか。 <i>Kōcha o nomimasu ka.</i> Do you drink tea?/Would you like some tea? |

どんな飲み物が好きですか。
Donna nomimono ga suki desu ka.

What kind of drink do you like?

ラッシーは何ですか。
Rassī wa nan desu ka.

What's lassi?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is asking about preferences

ナンとライス、どちらがいいですか。

Nan to raisu, dochira ga ii desu ka.

Would you like nan or rice with that?

In this lesson, we will learn how to ask about one's preference between two choices using the question *dochira ga ii desu ka* (どちらがいいですか), which literally means "which is better?", but in many cases translates to "which one do/would you like?" The addition of *desu ka* (ですか) makes this a formal question.

Formation

To make this construction, we first present the two choices with *to* (と) in between them and attach *dochira ga ii desu ka* (どちらがいいですか).

Let's break down this phrase:

[*dochira* (which) + *ga* (subject-marking particle) + *ii* (good) + *desu ka* (used to make the sentence polite)]

| [First Choice] to [Second Choice] | <i>dochira ga ii desu ka</i> | Translation |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bīru to wain | <i>dochira ga ii desu ka</i> | Would you like beer or wine? |
| Kohī to kōcha | <i>dochira ga ii desu ka</i> | Would you like coffee or tea? |
| Piza to pasuta | <i>dochira ga ii desu ka</i> | Would you like pizza or pasta? |

● To make this sentence informal, we simply drop *desu ka* (ですか) and say *ii* with rising intonation. In casual situations, *dochira* (どちら) is often shortened to *docchi* (どっち).

なんとライス、どっちがいい? (rising intonation)

Nan to raisu, docchi ga ii?

Do you want nan or rice?

Using ~wa?

In today's conversation, we have the phrases *Go-chūmon wa?* and *O-nomimono wa?*. These are cases where the rest of the sentence has been omitted. In formal situations, it is very common for native speakers to leave off the rest of the sentence and ask a question using only *wa*.

ご注文は何ですか。 → ご注文は?

[*Go-chūmon wa nan desu ka.* → *Go-chūmon wa?*]

お名前は何ですか。 → お名前は?

[*O-namae wa nan desu ka.* → *O-namae wa?*]

電話番号は何ですか。 → 電話番号は?

[*Denwa bangō wa nan desu ka.* → *Denwa bangō wa?*]

Examples from this lesson

Examples from this dialog:

1. ナンとライス、どちらがいいですか。
Nan to raisu, dochira ga ii desu ka.
Would you like nan or rice with that?

Sample Sentences:

1. 赤ワインと白ワイン、どちらがいいですか。
Aka-wain to shiro-wain, dochira ga ii desu ka.
Would you prefer red wine or white wine?
2. スープとサラダ、どちらがいいですか。
Sūpu to sarada, dochira ga ii desu ka.
Would you like soup or salad?