

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S5 #11

We Know You're Busy, But There's Always Time for Japanese!

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KANJI

1. ケント: 今？九時。
- ・・・うん、午後九時半。イギリスは今、何時？
 - ・・・十二時半？午前？へー。
 - ・・・学校？うん、難しい。
- 英語は簡単だけど、他は難しいよ。
- ・・・うん、楽しいよ。
- まどかちゃんも、まどかちゃんの両親も、やさしいよ。
- ・・・じゃあね。はい。おやすみ。

KANA

1. ケント: いま？くじ。
- ・・・うん、ごご くじ はん。イギリスは いま、なんじ？
 - ・・・じゅうにじ はん？ごぜん？へー。
 - ・・・がっこう？うん、むずかしい。
- えいごは かんたんだ けど、ほかは むずかしい よ。
- ・・・うん、たのしいよ。
- まどかちゃんも、まどかちゃんの りょうしんも、やさしい よ。
- ・・・じゃあ ね。はい。おやすみ。

ROMANIZATION

1. KENTO: Ima? Ku-ji.
- ... un, gogo ku-ji-han. Igirisu wa ima, nan-ji?
 - ... Jūni-ji-han? Gozen? Hē.
 - ... gakkō? Un, muzukashii.
- Eigo wa kantan dakedo, hoka wa muzukashii yo.... Un, tanoshii yo.
- Madoka-chan mo, Madoka-chan no ryōshin mo, yasashii yo.
- ... jā ne. Hai. Oyasumi.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. KENT: Right now? It's nine o'clock...
 Yeah, nine-thirty P.M. What time is it now in England?
 Twelve-thirty?... In the morning? Wow...
 School? Yeah, it's tough.
 English is easy, but the rest are hard...
 Yeah, it's fun.
 Madoka and her parents are really kind...
 See ya. Okay. Good night.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
今	いま	ima	now, the present time
午前	ごぜん	gozen	a.m.
楽しい	たのしい	tanoshii	enjoyable, fun; i-Adj
学校	がっこう	gakkō	school
けど	けど	kedo	but, however
両親	りょうしん	ryōshin	parents
やさしい	やさしい	yasashii	kind, gentle; i-Adj
おやすみ	おやすみ	oyasumi	'Night!; Good night (informal)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>今、何時ですか。 <i>Ima, nan-ji desu ka.</i></p> <p>What time is it now?</p>	<p>午前九時に、新宿駅で会いましょう。 <i>Gozen ku-ji ni, Shinjuku eki de aimashō.</i></p> <p>Let's meet at Shinjuku station at 9AM.</p>
<p>ディズニーランドは楽しいです。 <i>Dizunirando wa tanoshii desu.</i></p> <p>Disneyland is fun.</p>	<p>学校は家から、ちょっと遠いです。 <i>Gakkō wa ie kara, chotto tōi desu.</i></p> <p>The school is a bit far from my home.</p>

<p>今日は暖かいけど、明日は寒いです。 <i>Kyō wa atatakai kedo, ashita wa samui desu.</i></p> <p>Today is warm but tomorrow will be cold.</p>	<p>両親の出身は成田です。 <i>Ryōshin no shusshin wa Narita desu.</i></p> <p>My parents are from Narita.</p>
<p>リュウさんはやさしいです。 <i>Ryū-san wa yasashii desu.</i></p> <p>Ryu is kind.</p>	<p>おやすみ、ママ！ <i>Oyasumi, mama!</i></p> <p>'Night, Mum!</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Telling Time and Asking the Time in Japanese.

マンチェスターは今、何時？

Manchesutā wa ima, nan-ji?

"What time is it now in Manchester?"

In this lesson, we'll look at how ask the time and tell time in Japanese and the conjunction *kedo*, meaning "but."

Asking and Telling Time

Asking the Time

In informal Japanese, you can ask the time by using the phrase we heard in the dialogue: *Ima nanji?* (今何時?) *Ima* (今) means "now," and *nanji* (何時) combines the characters for "what" (何, *nan*) and "time" (時, *ji*).

For Example:

1. 今何時？
Ima nanji?
"What time is it (now)?"

Formal Form: To make this phrase formal, simply add *desu ka* (ですか) after the phrase.

Telling Time

Now let's take a look at how to tell time in Japanese.

Hours

For hours, we add *ji* (時) to the number. Please be careful of the special pronunciations of "four o'clock" (*yo-ji*) and "nine o'clock" (*ku-ji*).

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
一時	<i>ichi-ji</i>	1:00
二時	<i>ni-ji</i>	2:00
三時	<i>san-ji</i>	3:00
四時	<i>yo-ji</i>	4:00
五時	<i>go-ji</i>	5:00
六時	<i>roku-ji</i>	6:00
七時	<i>shichi-ji</i>	7:00
八時	<i>hachi-ji</i>	8:00
九時	<i>ku-ji</i>	9:00
十時	<i>jū-ji</i>	10:00
十一時	<i>jūichi-ji</i>	11:00
十二時	<i>jūni-ji</i>	12:00

Minutes

For minutes, we add *fun* (分) to the number. Please watch out for the sound changes that take place after certain numbers.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
一分	<i>i-ppun</i>	"one minute"
二分	<i>ni-fun</i>	"two minutes"

三分	<i>san-pun</i>	"three minutes"
四分	<i>yon-pun</i> <i>yon-fun</i>	"four minutes"
五分	<i>go-fun</i>	"five minutes"
六分	<i>ro-ppun</i>	"six minutes"
七分	<i>nana-fun</i>	"seven minutes"
八分	<i>ha-ppun</i> <i>hachi-fun</i>	"eight minutes"
九分	<i>kyū-fun</i>	"nine minutes"
十分	<i>ju-ppun</i> <i>ji-ppun</i>	"ten minutes"
十五分	<i>jūgo-fun</i>	"fifteen minutes"
三十分 or 半	<i>sanju-ppun or han</i>	"thirty minutes"
四十五分	<i>yonjūgo-fun</i>	"forty-five minutes"

To indicate A.M. or P.M., we use the words *gozen* (午前) and *gogo* (午後). Please note that, unlike in English, these words come before the time.

For Example:

1. ケント： 今？八時。・・・うん、午後八時半。
Kento: Ima? Hachi-ji.... un, gogo hachi-ji-han.
 "Kent: Right now? It's eight o'clock... Yeah, eight-thirty P.M."

The Conjunction *Kedo* (けど)

Let's take a look at the conjunction *kedo* (けど), which we use after a phrase. We translate it as "but" in English. As is the case with "but," when you use *kedo*, there should be some kind of contrast between the first and second phrase.

[Phrase 1] + *kedo* + [Phrase 2]

Let's look at the grammar rules for using *kedo*. *Kedo* can directly follow a verb in the plain or plain past form or an *i* adjective. When you use it with a *na* adjective or noun, however, you need the copula *da* (or its past tense form *datta*) in between.

- Verb in plain/plain past form + *kedo*
- *i* adjective + *kedo*
- *na* adjective + *da/datta* + *kedo*
- noun + *da/datta* + *kedo*

Phrase 1	けど	Phrase 2	"English"
Hiragana wa kantan da ひらがなはかんた んだ	<i>kedo</i> けど	kanji wa muzukashii. かんじはむずかし い。	"Hiragana is easy, but kanji is hard."
Karē wa karai カレ ーはからい	<i>kedo</i> けど	<i>oishii</i> . おいしい。	"Curry is spicy but delicious."
O-tōsan wa nihonjin da お父さんは日本人 だ	<i>kedo</i> けど	o-kāsan wa igirisujin. お母さんはイギリ ス人。	"My dad is Japanese, but my mum is British."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. 英語はかんたんだけど、他はむずかしいよ。
Eigo wa kantan dakedo, hoka wa muzukashii yo.
"English is easy, but the rest are difficult."

Language Tip: The Particle *Yo*

In the dialogue, we saw the sentence-ending particle *yo* Kent used:

ケント: うん、楽しいよ。
Kento: Un, tanoshii yo.
"Kent: Yeah, it's fun."

The speaker uses this sentence-ending particle to express a strong conviction about something or to declare something emphatically. When you use *yo* at the end of a sentence, the nuance is that you are telling the listeners something they do not know.

Sample Sentence

1. このカレーはとてもおいしいよ。
Koko no karē wa totemo oishii yo.
"This place's curry is really delicious, you know."