

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S5 #12

Are You Cross-Examining Me in Japanese?

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KANJI

1. まどか: ケント、明日の夜、ひま？
2. ケント: うん。でも、なんで。
3. まどか: 明日、ママの誕生日。
4. ケント: 何日？
5. まどか: 3月20日。
6. ケント: はつか？
7. まどか: うん。にじゅうにち。
ケントのたんじょうびはいつ？
8. ケント: 7月1日。
9. まどか: ああ、ついたちね。

KANA

1. まどか: ケント、あしたのよる、ひま？
2. ケント: うん。でも、なんで。
3. まどか: あした、ママのたんじょうび。
4. ケント: なんにち？
5. まどか: さんがつはつか。

CONT'D OVER

6. ケント: はつか?
7. まどか: うん。にじゅうにち。
ケントのたんじょうびはいつ?
8. ケント: しちがいちにち。
9. まどか: ああ、ついたちね。

ROMANIZATION

1. MADOKA: Kento, ashita no yoru, hima?
2. KENTO: Un. Demo, nande.
3. MADOKA: Ashita, mama no tanjōbi.
4. KENTO: Nan-nichi?
5. MADOKA: San-gatsu hatsuka.
6. KENTO: Hatsuka?
7. MADOKA: Un. Nijū-nichi.
Kento no tanjōbi wa itsu?
8. KENTO: Shichi-gatsu ichi-nichi.
9. MADOKA: Ā, tsuitachi ne.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. MADOKA: Kent, are you free tomorrow night?
2. KENT: Yeah, but why?
3. MADOKA: Tomorrow's my mom's birthday.
4. KENT: What day is it?
5. MADOKA: The twentieth [hatsuka] of March.
6. KENT: The twentieth [hatsuka]?
7. MADOKA: Yeah. The twentieth [nijū-nichi].
When's your birthday, Kent?
8. KENT: The first [ichi-nichi] of July.
9. MADOKA: Ah, the first [tsuitachi], right.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
明日	あした	ashita	tomorrow
夜	よる	yoru	evening, night
暇	ひま	hima	free (not busy), free time (-na adjective)
ママ	ママ	mama	mama, mum, mom, mummy, mommy
誕生日	たんじょうび	tanjōbi	birthday
二十日	はつか	hatsuka	twentieth day of the month

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>明日は12月20日です。 <i>Ashita wa jūni-gatsu hatsuka desu.</i></p> <p>Tomorrow is December 20th.</p>	<p>今日の夜、暇ですか。 <i>Kyō no yoru hima desu ka.</i></p> <p>Are you free tonight?</p>
<p>日曜日は暇ですか。 <i>Nichi-yōbi wa hima desu ka.</i></p> <p>Are you free on Sunday?</p>	<p>ママはパパと映画をみます。 <i>Mama wa papa to eiga o mimasu.</i></p> <p>Mommy watches movies with Daddy.</p>
<p>誕生日はいつですか。 <i>Tanjō-bi wa itsu desu ka.</i></p> <p>When is your birthday?</p>	<p>二月二十日は妹の誕生日です。 <i>Ni-gatsu hatsuka wa imōto no tanjōbi desu.</i></p> <p>February 20th is my sister's birthday.</p>
<p>十一月一日は、私の誕生日です。 November 1st is my birthday.</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

誕生日 (*tanjōbi*) – "birthday"

This word means "birthday." It is made up of two parts just like the English word: *tanjō* (誕生), meaning "birth," and *bi* (from *hi*, 日) meaning "day."

明日 (*ashita*) – "tomorrow"

This word combines the kanji for "bright" and "day" and means "tomorrow." Please check the Language Tip at the end of the lesson notes for similar time expressions.

ひま (*hima*) – "free," "free time"

Hima (ひま) means "free," as in "not busy," or "free time". This word is both an *na*-adjective and a noun. If someone asks you *hima?* (ひま?), they are asking if you are free/have any free time. This is a good question to ask someone before you invite him or her to do something!

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Question Words.

ケントの誕生日はいつ？

Kento no tanjōbi wa itsu?

"When's your birthday, Kent?"

In this lesson, you'll learn some important question words in Japanese. One thing that is very important to know how to do in a foreign language is ask questions! You'll learn how you can ask your friends simple questions in Japanese.

Question Words

Let's take a look at some common question words in Japanese.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
何	<i>nan/nani</i>	"What?"
いつ	<i>itsu</i>	"When?"
どこ	<i>doko</i>	"Where?"
どう	<i>dō</i>	"How?"
なんで / どうして	<i>nande/dōshite</i>	"Why?"
だれ	<i>dare</i>	"Who?"

Formal Form: You can add *desu ka* (ですか) after any question word to make that question polite.

When using one of these words in informal conversation, you only need to use rising intonation to make it a question.

For Example:

- なに？↑
Nani? ↑
"What?"

2. いつ?↑
Itsu? ↑
"When?"
3. どこ?↑
Doko? ↑
"Where?"
4. どう?↑
Dō? ↑
"How?"

and so on.

When using a question word in a sentence, note that the question word comes at the END of the sentence. Please be careful because this is opposite from English, where the question words come in the beginning. Examine the following examples.

Examples from This Dialogue

1. ケント：でも、なんで。
Kento: Demo, nande.
"Kent: But **why?**"
2. まどか：ケントのたんじょうびはいつ？
Madoka: Kento no tanjōbi wa itsu?
"Madoka: **When's** your birthday, Kent?"

Sample Sentences

1. パーティーはいつ?↑
Pātī wa itsu?
"**When's** the party?"
2. あの人の、だれ?↑
Ano hito, dare?
"**Who's** that person?"

Time Expressions

In the dialogue, we saw the word for "tomorrow," *ashita* (明日). Let's look at some other related vocabulary, known as relative time expressions.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
昨日	<i>kinō</i>	"yesterday"
今日	<i>kyō</i>	"today"
明日	<i>ashita</i>	"tomorrow"

Note that all three of these words have irregular kanji readings.

For Example:

1. まどか：ケント、明日の夜、暇？
Madoka: Kento, ashita no yoru, hima?
"Madoka: Kent, are you free tomorrow night?"
2. まどか：明日、ママの誕生日。
Madoka: Ashita, mama no tanjōbi.
"Madoka: Tomorrow's my mom's birthday."

Sample Sentences

1. 今日、さむいね！
Kyō, samui ne!
"It's cold today, huh!"