

## LESSON NOTES

# Newbie S5 #1

# If You're Going to Say It in Japanese, You Better Say It Right!

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# 1

## KANJI

1. 黒川先生: おはよう、赤木さん、赤木くん。
2. まどか: おはようございます。
3. ケント: おはよう、黒川先生。
4. まどか: ケント、「ございます」。
5. ケント: ああ、ごめん、先生。おはようございます。
6. まどか: ケント、ケント、「すみません」。

## KANA

1. くろかわせんせい: おはよう、あかぎさん、あかぎくん。
2. まどか: おはようございます。
3. ケント: おはよう、くろかわせんせい。
4. まどか: ケント、「ございます」。
5. ケント: ああ、ごめん、せんせい。おはようございます。
6. まどか: ケント、ケント、「すみません」。

## ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. KUROKAWA SENSEI: Ohayō, Akagi-san, Akagi-kun.
2. MADOKA: Ohayō gozaimasu.
3. KENTO: Ohayō, Kurokawa-sensei.
4. MADOKA: Kento, "gozaimasu".
5. KENTO: Ā, gomen, sensei. Ohayou gozaimasu.
6. MADOKA: Kento, Kento, "sumimasen"

## ENGLISH

1. MS. KUROKAWA: Good morning, Miss Akagi, Mr. Akagi.
2. MADOKA: Good morning.
3. KENTO: 'Morning, Ms. Kurokawa.
4. MADOKA: Kent, it's "Good morning."
5. KENTO: Ohh, sorry, Ms. Kurokawa. Good morning.
6. MADOKA: Kent, Kent, "I'm sorry."

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
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おはよう	おはよう	Ohayō	Good morning! (informal)
おはようございます	おはようございます	Ohayō gozaimasu	Good morning (formal)
先生	せんせい	sensei	teacher
ごめん	ごめん	gomen	Sorry.
ごめんなさい	ごめんなさい	gomen nasai	I'm sorry.
すみません	すみません	sumimasen	Excuse me, I'm sorry, Thank you

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>まさる君、おはよう！ <i>Masaru-kun, ohayō!</i></p> <p>Good morning, Masaru!</p>	<p>菊川社長おはようございます。 <i>Kikukawa-shachō ohayō gozaimasu.</i></p> <p>Good morning, President Kikukawa.</p>
<p>先生に謝った。 <i>Sensei ni ayamatta.</i></p> <p>I apologized to the teacher.</p>	<p>遅れて、ごめん！ <i>Okurete, gomen!</i></p> <p>I'm sorry I'm late.</p>
<p>遅くなってごめんなさい。 <i>Osoku natte gomen nasai.</i></p> <p>I'm sorry I'm late.</p>	<p>すみません、黒川先生。 <i>Sumimasen, Kurokawa-sensei.</i></p> <p>I'm sorry, Ms. Kurokawa.</p>

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Comparing Formal and Informal Japanese.**

**おはよう、赤木さん、赤木くん。**

**"Good morning, Miss Akagi, Mr. Akagi."**

In this lesson, we will take a look at some common set expressions and you will learn how they differ in formal and informal Japanese.

## Formal vs. Informal Japanese

Japanese is known for its varying levels of politeness. It's important to keep in mind who you are talking to and what their status level is compared to your own so that you know what level of Japanese is appropriate to use. Here, we will look at the informal versions of common expressions that you can use with friends and peers.

Phrase in Formal Japanese	Phrase in Informal Japanese	"English"
おはようございます <i>Ohayō gozaimasu.</i>	おはよう <i>Ohayō.</i>	"Good morning."
ありがとうございます <i>Arigatō gozaimasu.</i>	ありがとう <i>Arigatō.</i>	"Thank you."
ごめんなさい <i>Gomen nasai.</i> すみません <i>Sumimasen.</i>	ごめん <i>Gomen.</i>	"I'm sorry."/"Excuse me."

Let's take a look at some examples of how we use both forms in the dialogue.

### For Example:

- 黒川先生：おはよう、赤木さん、赤木くん。  
*Kurokawa-sensei: Ohayo, Akagi-san, Akagi-kun.*
- まどか：おはようございます。  
*Madoka: Ohayō gozaimasu.*
- ケント：おはよう、黒川先生。  
*Kento: Ohayō, Kurokawa-sensei.*
- まどか：ケント、「ございます」。  
*Madoka: Kento, "gozaimasu."*

Madoka used the correct, polite expression, *ohayō gozaimasu* (おはようございます). Kent slipped up, however, and used the informal version, *ohayō* (おはよう), with his teacher, which he shouldn't have. Madoka corrects him by telling him to add *gozaimasu*

(ございます) when addressing the teacher.

### For Example:

1. ケント : ああ、ごめん、先生。おはようございます。  
*Kento: Aa, gomen, sensei. Ohayō gozaimasu.*
2. まどか : ケント、ケント、「すみません」。  
*Madoka: Kento, Kento, "sumimasen."*

Here, Kent realizes his mistake and apologizes to the teacher. He uses the word *gomen* (ごめん), which is the informal version of *gomen nasai* (ごめんなさい) or *sumimasen* (すみません), and is not appropriate for using with a teacher. Madoka corrects him again by telling him to use the more polite *sumimasen* (すみません).

### Language Tip: Name Suffixes

In this first line of this dialogue, we saw Kurokawa-sensei address both Madoka and Kento using different name suffixes; she addressed Madoka using *san* (さん) and Kent using *kun* (くん). Let's review the different suffixes that we attach to first and last names in Japanese.

Suffix	Romaji	Explanation	Examples
-さん	-san	Similar to "Mr." or "Mrs." or "Ms." in English. (formal)	<i>Kento-san</i> <i>Madoka-san</i>
-くん	-kun	We usually use it after the names of boys or young men we are close with. We never use it toward our superiors.	<i>Kento-kun</i>
-ちゃん	-chan	We usually use it after the names of girls and young children. (informal)	<i>Madoka-chan</i>

-せんせい	-sensei	We use it after the names of teachers, doctors, and other authority figures. We can also use it on its own. (formal)	<i>Kurokawa-sensei</i>
-さま	-sama	Similar to <i>san</i> , but much more polite. We often use it toward customers. (very formal)	<i>Madoka-sama</i> (as a customer)