

## LESSON NOTES

# Newbie S5 #3

# Being Polite Is Not Just a Formality in Japanese

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# 3

## KANJI

1. 黒川先生:                   みなさん。こちらは、赤木ケント君。
2. 赤木君のお父さんは、日本人。お母さんはイギリス人です。
3. 赤木君は赤木さんのいところです。
4. (applause)
5. ケント:                    おれは . . .
6. 黒川先生:                (Ahem) ぼくは . . .
7. ケント:                    ぼくは赤木ケントです。よろしくおねがいします。

## KANA

1. くらかわせんせい:   みなさん。こちらは、あかぎケントくん。  
あかぎくんのおとうさんは、にほんじん。おかあさんはイギリスじ  
んです。  
あかぎくんはあかぎさんのいところです。
2. (applause)
3. ケント:                    おれは . . .
4. くらかわせんせい:   (Ahem) ぼくは . . .
5. ケント:                    ぼくはあかぎケントです。よろしくおねがいします。

## ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. KUROKAWA SENSEI: Minasan.Kochira wa, Akagi Kento-kun.  
Akagi-kun no o-tō-san wa, nihonjin. O-kā-san wa igirisu-jin desu.  
Akagi-kun wa Akagi-san no itoko desu.
2. (applause)
3. KENTO: Ore wa...
4. KUROKAWA SENSEI: (Ahem) Boku wa...
5. KENTO: Boku wa Akagi Kento desu. Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

## ENGLISH

1. PROFESSOR KUROKAWA: Everyone, this is Kento Akagi.  
Mr. Akagi's father is Japanese, and his mother is English.  
Mr. Akagi is Miss Akagi's cousin.
2. (applause)
3. KENT: Hey, I'm...
4. PROFESSOR KUROKAWA: (ahem) I am...
5. KENT: Hello, I am Kento Akagi. It's very nice to meet you all.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
お父さん	おとうさん	o-tō-san	father

日本人	にほんじん	nihonjin	Japanese (person)
お母さん	おかあさん	o-kā-san	mother
イギリス人	イギリスじん	Igirisu-jin	English, British (nationality)
俺	おれ	ore	I, me [Used by men only. More casual and vulgar than <i>watashi</i> or <i>boku</i> .]
僕	ぼく	boku	I (masculine)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

お父さんの仕事はパイロットです。 <i>O-tō-san no shigoto wa pairotto desu.</i> My father is a pilot.	彼は日本人じゃありません。 <i>Kare wa nihon-jin ja arimasen.</i> He is not Japanese.
お母さんの名前は奈々子です。 <i>O-kā-san no namae wa Nanako desu.</i> My mother's name is Nanako.	私はイギリス人です。 <i>Watashi wa Igirisujin desu.</i> I'm British.
俺は学生です。 <i>Ore wa gakusei desu.</i> I'm a student. (informal/rough)	僕は学生です。 <i>Boku wa gakusei desu.</i> I'm a student.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Let's take a look at some other ways to say "I" (besides *watashi*) in Japanese.

**Boku (ぼく)** ⇒ *Boku* is mostly used by boys and men. This word is a masculine way to say "I". It is a bit more casual than *watashi*, but still acceptable to use even in formal situations.

**Ore (おれ)** ⇒ This word is also used by boys and men, like *boku* above. *Ore* is very casual and rough sounding, though, so please exercise caution when using it. Unlike *boku*, this *cannot* be used in formal situations.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Introducing Someone/Yourself in a Formal Situation.

ぼくは赤木ケントです。

*Boku wa Akagi Kento desu.*

"Hello, I am Kento Akagi."

In the last lesson, we looked at how to introduce yourself in a casual situation. This time, we'll look at how to introduce yourself or someone else in a more formal situation, including areas to be careful of.

### Introducing Yourself or Someone Else in a Formal Situation

Let's look at how to introduce yourself or someone else in a formal situation.

#### When introducing someone else:

こちら は	(name)	です
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<i>Kochira wa</i>	(name)	<i>desu</i>
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#### When introducing yourself:

わたし / ぼく は	(name)	です
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<i>Watashi/boku wa</i>	(name)	<i>desu</i>
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Either gender can use *watashi* (わたし), while primarily boys and young men use *boku* (ぼく). In the dialogue, Kent made a mistake by using *ore* (おれ), which is a pronoun males use that sounds quite rough that you should only use in very casual situations. After saying the word for "I," you need to say the topic-marking particle *wa* (は), your name, and then the copula *desu* (です), which is the equivalent of "am" in English.

After giving your name with this phrase, don't forget to add *Dōzo yoroshiku onegai shimasu* (どうぞよろしくおねがいします).

#### Examples from the dialogue:

- 黒川先生 : みなさん。こちらは、赤木ケント君。  
*Kurokawa sensei: Mina-san. Kochira wa, Akagi Kento kun.*  
"Professor Kurokawa: Everyone, this is Kento Akagi. "

2. ケント：ぼくは赤木ケントです。よろしくおねがいします。  
*Kento: Boku wa Akagi Kento desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.*  
 "Kent: Hello, I am Kento Akagi. It's very nice to meet you all."

### More examples:

1. こちらは、田中まゆみさんです。  
*Kochira wa Tanaka Mayumi-san desu.*  
 "This is Ms. Mayumi Tanaka."
2. こんにちは。わたしはケイトです。よろしくおねがいします。  
*Konnichiwa. Watashi wa Keito desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.*  
 "Hello. I'm Kate. Nice to meet you."

## Talking about Nationality

When introducing yourself in Japanese, it will be really helpful to know how to state your nationality. You can express your nationality by saying the name of the country you are from plus the word for person, *jin* (人).

**[country name] + jin = nationality**

Country	<i>jin</i>	Whole Japanese Phrase	"English"
日本	人	日本人	"Japanese person"
イギリス	人	イギリス人	"English person"
アメリカ	人	アメリカ人	"American person"
イタリア	人	イタリア人	"Italian person"

### Example from the Dialogue

1. 赤木君のお父さんは、日本人。お母さんはイギリス人です。  
*Akagi-kun no o-tō-san wa, nihon-jin. O-kā-san wa igirisu-jin desu.*  
 "Mr. Akagi's father is **Japanese**, and his mother is **English**."

## Another example:

1. **ぼくはマット・ヘンダーソンです。オーストラリア人です。よろしくおねがいします。**

*Boku wa Matto Hendāson desu. **Ōsutoraria-jin desu.** Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.*  
"I'm Matt Henderson. **I'm Australian.** Nice to meet you."

## Language Tip: The Particle は

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We write the particle *wa*, which we use to mark the topic of a sentence, using the character for *ha* (は) in hiragana. We still pronounce it *wa*, but we write it は. The direction particle *e* is similar in that we write it using the character for *he* (へ) in hiragana, but we pronounce it *e*.