

LESSON NOTES

Newbie S5 #6

Japan Isn't Far Away

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KANJI

1. まどか: ここは、体育館。
2. ケント: ふーん。あまり、おおきくないね。
3. まどか: そうね。
4. ケント: あたらしい？
5. まどか: あたらしくない。ふるい。
6. ケント: へー。
7. まどか: で、そこはプール。

KANA

1. まどか: ここは、たいいくかん。
2. ケント: ふーん。あまり、おおきくないね。
3. まどか: そうね。
4. ケント: あたらしい？
5. まどか: あたらしくない。ふるい。
6. ケント: へー。
7. まどか: で、そこはプール。

ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. MADOKA: Koko wa, taiikukan.
2. KENTO: Fūn. Amari, ōkiku nai ne.
3. MADOKA: Sō ne.
4. JENTO: Atarashii?
5. MADOKA: Atarashiku nai. Furui.
6. KENTO: Hē.
7. MADOKA: De, soko wa pūru.

ENGLISH

1. MADOKA: This is the gymnasium.
2. KENT: Huh. It's not that big, is it?
3. MADOKA: I guess not.
4. KENT: Is it new?
5. MADOKA: It's not new. It's old.
6. KENT: Oh.
7. MADOKA: And over there's the swimming pool.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
ここ	ここ	koko	here
体育館	たいいくかん	taikukan	gymnasium
大きい	おおきい	ōkii	big, large, huge; i-Adj
新しい	あたらしい	atarashii	new ;i adjective
古い	ふるい	furui	old (for inanimate objects);i adjective
プール	プール	pūru	swimming pool
そこ	そこ	soko	there, that place

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ここは竹下通りです。 <i>Koko wa Takeshita dōri desu.</i></p> <p>This is Takeshita Street.</p>	<p>体育館でバスケットをする。 <i>Taikukan de basuketto o suru.</i></p> <p>I play basketball at the gym.</p>
<p>アメリカは大きいです。 <i>Amerika wa ōkii desu.</i></p> <p>The U.S. is huge.</p>	<p>日曜日、新しい車を買います。 <i>Nichi-yōbi, atarashii kuruma o kaimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going to buy a new car on Sunday.</p>
<p>あれは古い時計ですね。 <i>Are wa furui tokei desu ne.</i></p> <p>That is an old clock, isn't it.</p>	<p>毎週金曜日、プールで一時間泳ぎます。 <i>Maishū kin-yōbi, pūru de ichi-jikan oyogimasu.</i></p> <p>I swim at the swimming pool for an hour every Friday.</p>
<p>そこは私の部屋です。 <i>Soko wa watashi no heya desu.</i></p> <p>That is my room.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Negative Form of Adjectives: "Isn't..."

ケント：ふーん。あまり、おおきくないね。

Fūn. Amari, ōkiku nai ne.

"Huh. It's not that big, is it?"

In this lesson, we'll take a look at how to create the negative form of *i*-adjectives. The conjugation is the same for every *i*-adjective, which makes it very easy to learn and use.

Negative Form of Adjectives

In the dialogue, we saw some examples of *i*-adjectives in their negative form. To make an *i*-adjective negative, remove the last *-i* (い) and replace it with *-kunai* (くない). In informal Japanese, you don't need the copula.

For Example:

Adjective	"English"	Negative Form	"English"
<i>atsui</i> (あつい)	"hot"	<i>atsuku nai</i> (あつくない)	"not hot"
<i>samui</i> (さむい)	"cold"	<i>samuku nai</i> (さむくない)	"not cold"
<i>chikai</i> (ちかい)	"close"	<i>chikaku nai</i> (ちかくない)	"not close"
<i>tōi</i> (とおい)	"far"	<i>tōku nai</i> (とおくない)	"not far"

For Example:

1. あまり、おおきくないね。
Amari, ōkiku nai ne.
"It's not that big, is it."
2. あたらしくない。ふるい。
Atarashiku nai. Furui.
"It's not new. It's old."

You can use the word *amari* (あまり) along with an adjective in the negative form to soften your statement a little. It's similar to adding the word "really" or "very" to a negative phrase in English, as in "It's not really/very far," which sounds less assertive than "It's not far."

For Example:

1. とおくない。
Tōku nai. "It's not far." (sounds more assertive)
2. あまりとおくない。
Amari tōku nai.
"It's not really far." (sounds a bit softer, less assertive)

Polite Form: To make the negative form polite, simply add *desu* after *-kunai* or replace *nai* with *arimasen*.

Particle ね as a Tag Question

In previous Newbie lessons, you learned about using the particle *ne* (ね) to create a tag question. You can add the particle *ne* (ね) at the end of a sentence to elicit agreement from the listener. Let's look at how we use this particle in informal Japanese.

Adjectives

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
あつい	<i>atsui</i>	"hot"
さむい	<i>samui</i>	"cold"
あつくない	<i>atsuku nai</i>	"not hot"
さむくない	<i>samuku nai</i>	"not cold"

Adding ね

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
あついですね	<i>atsui ne</i>	"It's hot, isn't it?"

さむいね	<i>samui ne</i>	"It's cold, isn't it?"
あつくないね	<i>atsukunai ne</i>	"It isn't hot, is it?"
さむくないね	<i>samukunai ne</i>	"It isn't cold, is it?"

For Example:

1. 今日はあまりさむくないね。
Kyo wa amari samuku nai ne.
"It's not that cold today, is it."

Language Tip: *Koko/Soko/Asoko*

In the fourth Newbie lesson in this season, we went over *Ko-so-a-do* words, which we use to specify what someone is talking about. Let's look at another set of *ko-so-a-do* words.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
ここ	<i>koko</i>	"here"
そこ	<i>soko</i>	"there"
あそこ	<i>asoko</i>	"over there"
どこ	<i>doko</i>	"Where?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. ここは、体育館。
Koko wa, taiikukan.
"This is the gymnasium."
2. そこはプール。
Soko wa pūru.
"Over there's the swimming pool."