

## LESSON NOTES

# Newbie S5 #8

# Show Some Respect for Your Japanese Elders!

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# 8

## KANJI

1. 黒川先生: 赤木君、赤木ケントくん。
2. ケント: なに？
3. 黒川先生: 「なに」じゃない、「なんですか」です。
4. ケント: すみません。  
なんですか。先生。
5. 黒川先生: 大丈夫ですか。  
授業は難しいですか。
6. ケント: 英語は難しくありません。  
でも、他は・・・簡単じゃないです。

## KANA

1. くらかわせんせい: あかぎくん、あかぎケントくん。
2. ケント: なに？
3. くらかわせんせい: 「なに」じゃない、「なんですか」です。
4. ケント: すみません。  
なんですか。せんせい。
5. くらかわせんせい: だいじょうぶですか。  
じゅぎょうはむずかしいですか。

CONT'D OVER

6. ケント: えいごはむずかしくないです。  
でも、ほかは・・・かんたんじゃないです。

## ROMANIZATION

1. KUROKAWA Akagi-kun, Akagi Kento-kun.  
SENSEI:
2. KENTO: Nani?
3. KUROKAWA "Nani" ja nai, "nan desu ka" desu.  
SENSEI:
4. KENTO: Sumimasen.  
Nan desu ka. Sensei.
5. KUROKAWA Daijōbu desu ka.  
SENSEI: Jugyō wa muzukashii desu ka.
6. KENTO: Eigo wa muzukashiku nai desu.  
Demo, hoka wa... kantan ja nai desu.

## ENGLISH

1. MS. KUROKAWA: Akagi, Kent Akagi.
2. KENT: Yeah?
3. MS. KUROKAWA: It's not "Yeah," it's "Yes, what is it?"

CONT'D OVER

4. KENT: I'm sorry.  
Yes, Ms. Kurokawa, what is it?
5. MS. KUROKAWA: How are you getting on?  
Are your classes difficult?
6. KENT: English isn't difficult.  
But the rest...aren't easy.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
授業	じゅぎょう	jyūgyō	class, lesson
先生	せんせい	sensei	teacher
大丈夫	だいじょうぶ	daijōbu	OK, all right, no problem
英語	えいご	eigo	English language
難しい	むずかしい	muzukashii	difficult :-i adjective
他	ほか	hoka	other
簡単	かんたん	kantan	simple, easy :-na adjective
何	なに	nani	what

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>日本語の授業が好きです。 <i>Nihongo no jūgyō ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like Japanese class.</p>	<p>鈴木先生は良い先生だ。 <i>Suzuki-sensei wa ii sensei da.</i></p> <p>Mr. Suzuki is a good teacher.</p>
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<p>風邪ですか？大丈夫ですか？ <i>Kaze desu ka? Daijōbu desu ka?</i></p> <p>Do you have a cold? Are you all right?</p>	<p>英語がわかりますか。 <i>Eigo ga wakarimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you understand English?</p>
<p>漢字は難しいです。 <i>Kanji wa muzukashii desu.</i></p> <p>Chinese characters are difficult.</p>	<p>他の人はどこですか？ <i>Hoka no hito wa doko desu ka?</i></p> <p>Where are the other people?</p>
<p>日本語は簡単ですか。 <i>Nihongo wa kantan desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is Japanese easy?</p>	<p>何を飲みますか。 <i>Nani o nomimasu ka.</i></p> <p>What would you like to drink?</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### 大丈夫 (*daijōbu*): "All right," "no problem"

The word *daijōbu* (大丈夫) is one of the most common words you will encounter in Japanese. It literally means "all right," or "no problem," and its exact meaning depends on the situation. When said with rising intonation, it becomes a question to ask if someone/something is all right. Please check the Language Tip at the end of the Lesson Notes for more information on this phrase.

### 英語 (*eigo*) - "English language"

This word means "English," as in the English language. The *go* (語) is a suffix meaning "language." Note that the word for "Japanese language," *nihongo* (日本語) is the word for "Japan" (*nihon*) plus the suffix *go*. This rule of country name plus 語 works for almost every country, but there are a few exceptions, *eigo* being one of them.

### 授業 (*jugyō*) - "class," "lesson"

This word means "class" or "lesson," and we use it to refer to classes taken at school.

### むずかしい (*muzukashii*) - "hard," "difficult"

We use this word to express the idea that something is hard or difficult to do, but we also use it a lot to refuse a request. In Japanese, when people want to say that something can't be done or it is not possible, they may say that it is *muzukashii*.

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson Is Reviewing Formal and Informal Speech.

「なに」じゃない、「なんですか」です。

"Nani" ja nai, "nan desu ka" desu.

"It's not 'yeah,' it's 'yes, what is it?'"

In this lesson, we'll review the differences between formal and informal speech.

### Reviewing Formal and Informal Speech

Let's quickly review formal and informal speech patterns in Japanese.

**Formal Speech:** Formal speech uses verbs in their *-masu* form. Adjectives and nouns are always followed by *desu*. We use formal speech with teachers, superiors, and those of higher social status. (If you have studied the previous Newbie Lessons, you are familiar with this type of speech).

**Informal Speech:** Informal speech uses verbs and adjectives in their dictionary form. We use informal speech with family, friends, peers (those of equal status), and those of lower status.

Let's take a look at some common everyday expressions in both styles of speech.

#### For Example:

<i>Informal Japanese</i>	<i>Formal Japanese</i>	"English"
<i>Ohayo.</i> (おはよう。)	<i>Ohayo gozaimasu.</i> (おはようございます。)	"Good morning."
<i>Oyasumi.</i> (おやすみ。)	<i>Oyasumi nasai.</i> (おやすみなさい。)	"Good night."
<i>Gomen.</i> (ごめん。)	<i>Gomen nasai.</i> (ごめんなさい。 ) or <i>Sumimasen.</i> (すみません。)	"I'm sorry."

Now, let's take a look at how we use adjectives and nouns in both styles of speech:

<b>Construction</b>	<i>Informal Japanese</i>	<i>Formal Japanese</i>	"English"
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I Adjective	<i>muzukashii</i> (むずかしい)	<i>muzukashii desu</i> (むずかしいです)	"difficult"
I Adjective	<i>atsui</i> (あつい)	<i>atsui desu</i> (あついです)	"hot"
Na Adjective	<i>kantan (da)</i> (かんたん(だ))	<i>kantan desu</i> (かんたんです)	"simple"
Na Adjective	<i>shizuka (da)</i> (しずか(だ))	<i>shizuka desu</i> (しずかです)	"quiet"
Noun	<i>soba (da)</i> (そば(だ))	<i>soba (desu)</i> (そばです)	"soba noodles"

In formal Japanese, notice how adjectives and nouns are always followed by *desu*. In informal Japanese, we drop *desu*. Instead, after *na* adjectives and nouns, we can replace *desu* with *da*. Note that we cannot use *da* after *i* adjectives.

### Examples from This Dialogue

- 黒川先生：大丈夫ですか。授業は難しいですか。  
*Kurokawa sensei: Daijōbu desu ka. Jugyō wa muzukashii desu ka.*  
Ms. Kurokawa: "How are you getting on? Are your classes difficult?"
- ケント：英語は難しくありません。でも、他は・・・簡単じゃないです。  
*Kento: Eigo wa muzukashiku nai desu. Demo, hoka wa...kantan ja nai desu.*  
Kent: "English isn't difficult. But the rest...aren't easy."

### Language Tip: *Daijōbu* (大丈夫) "All right," "No problem"

The word *daijōbu* (大丈夫) is one of the most common words you will encounter in Japanese. It literally means "all right" or "no problem," and its exact meaning depends on the situation. When we say it with rising intonation, it becomes a question to ask whether someone/something is all right.

#### For Example:

	Statement ("I'm/it's okay")	Question ("Are you/Is it okay?")
Informal Japanese	<i>Daijōbu.</i> (大丈夫。)	<i>Daijōbu?</i> (大丈夫?)
Formal Japanese	<i>Daijōbu desu.</i> (大丈夫です。)	<i>Daijōbu desu ka?</i> (大丈夫ですか?)

### Example from This Dialogue

- 黒川先生：大丈夫ですか。授業は難しいですか。  
*Kurokawa sensei: Daijōbu desu ka. Jugyō wa muzukashii desu ka.*  
 Ms. Kurokawa: "How are you getting on? Are your classes difficult?"

Here, Ms. Kurokawa is asking Kent whether everything is all right in regards to his classes. If Kent wanted to say that everything was all right, he could simply reply with *Daijōbu desu* (大丈夫です.).