

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #31

The Wheels on the Bus

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KANJI

1. The following phrases are used in today's lesson:
2. バス停はどこですか。
3. Basu tei wa doko desu ka?
4. Where is the bus stop?
5. 新宿行きですか。
6. Shinjuku yuki desu ka.
7. Is this (bus/train, etc.) bound for Shinjuku?
8. 新宿(に orへ) 行きますか。
9. Shinjuku (ni or e) ikimasu ka?
10. Does (bus, train, etc.) go to Shinjuku?
11. どっちですか。
12. Dotchi desu ka?
13. Which one?
14. 二人分お願いします。
15. Futari-bun o-negai shimasu.
16. The amount for 2 people please.

CONT'D OVER

17. 三人分
18. San-nin-bun
19. The amount for 3 people
20. 四人分
21. Yo-ni-bun
22. The amount for 4 people
23. お客さん、乗車券を取ってください。
24. O-kyaku-san, jōshaken o totte kudasai.
25. Sir/ma'am, please take a ticket.
26. 両替お願いします。
27. Ryōgae o-negai shimasu.
28. Change please.
29. 次のバス停はどこですか。
30. Tsugi no basu tei wa doko desu ka?
31. Where is the next bus station?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
バス	バス	basu	bus
両替	りょうがえ	ryōgae	change, exchange
いくら	いくら	ikura	how much
取ってください	とってください	totte kudasai	please take
乗車券	じょうしゃけん	jōshaken	ticket to ride, passenger ticket
お客さん	おきゃくさん	o-kyaku-san	customer, guest
四人分	よにんぶん	yonin bun	amount for four people
三人分	さんにんぶん	san'nin bun	amount for three people
二人分	ふたりぶん	futari bun	amount for two people
どっち	どっち	docchi	which one
行きます	いきます	ikimasu	to go (polite)
行き	ゆき	yuki	bound for
バス停	バスてい	basu tei	bus stop
次の	つぎの	tsugi no	next

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>一日乗車券はいくらですか。 <i>Ichī-nichi jōshaken wa ikura desu ka.</i></p> <p>How much is the one-day ticket?</p>	<p>お客さん、すみません。 <i>O-kyaku-san, sumimasen.</i></p> <p>Excuse me sir./Excuse me, ma'am.</p>
<p>すぐ行きます。 <i>Sugu, ikimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going soon.</p>	<p>わたしは、次のバス停で降ります。 <i>Watashi wa, tsugi no basutei de orimasu.</i></p> <p>I'll get off at the next bus stop.</p>

GRAMMAR

Today's survival phrases covers how to find a バス停(*basutei*/bus stop) and how to use the バス(*basu*/bus). First, to find a bus stop, one could ask someone:

1) バス停はどこですか。
Basutei wa doko desu ka?
Where is the bus stop?

But finding a bus stop doesn't automatically mean you found the stop for the bus where you want to go. At the bus stop there are signs with information about which buses stop there, but they are often hard to read. Asking other waiting passengers, or the bus driver is advisable.

2) 新宿行きですか。新宿(に or へ) 行きますか。
Shinjuku yuki desu ka. Shinjuku (ni or e) ikimasu ka?
Is this (bus/train, etc.) bound for Shinjuku? Does (bus, train, etc.) go to Shinjuku?

Construction

English	Japanese
Is this bound for (placename)	(placename)行きですか。 (placename) <i>iki desu ka.</i>
Does this go to (placename)?	(placename)行きますか。 (placename) <i>ikimasu ka?</i>

If you are headed for Shinjuku:
(このバスは)新宿(へ/に)行きますか。
(kono basu wa) Shinjuku (e/ni) ikimasu ka?
Does (this bus) go to Shinjuku?

*"Kono basu wa" can be dropped as it is inferred from the context, and either the "e" or "ni" particle can be used.

Flat rate buses are usually found inside city limits. The typical price is 200 yen per ride and one pays upon boarding the bus, usually in a machine next to the bus driver. If one doesn't have correct change, there usually also are facilities for breaking coins and bills. As the machine where one pays and where one changes money is located in the same place, confusion can occur, and one should consult with the driver.

3) どっちですか。
Dotchi desu ka?
Which one?

Using this phrase, the driver should point you to the correct place to insert your money.

If you want to pay for more than one person, the following phrase should come in handy.

4) (二人分/三人分/四人分) お願いします。

(Futari-bun/san-nin-bun/yo-nin-bun) o-negai shimasu.

The amount for (2/3/4) people please

This will let the driver know that you intend to not only pay for yourself, but also others in your party.

The above expressions can be used not only for the flat rate buses, but also the ones that charge according to distance traveled.

When getting on such a bus, remember to take a ticket. If one forgets, the driver will probably inform you to:

5) お客さん、乗車券を取ってください。

O-kyaku-san, jōshaken o totte kudasai.

Sir/ma'am, please take a ticket.

The ticket contains the number for the station you got on. When one gets off, look up this number on the billboard to find out how much you should pay.

If you can't find your number, or the price you have to pay is unclear, one can show the ticket to the driver and ask:

6) いくらですか。

Ikura desu ka?

How much?

And he will inform you of the amount of pay.

If you don't have exact change, and the bus doesn't have facilities for changing money, the next phrase can be used:

7) 両替お願いします。

Ryōgae o-negai shimasu.

Change please.

Lastly, when you want to get off, you press a red and white button with the text 「**停まります**・*tomarimasu*」 to let the driver know you want off.

A tip is to let the driver know where you want to go when getting on, then the driver will usually inform you when you arrive at your station. The driver also announces the next station over the announcement speaker system. If one doesn't catch what was said, one can ask a passenger nearby the following question:

8) 次のバス停はどこですか。

Tsugi no basutei wa doko desu ka?

Where is the next bus station?