

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #4 Magical Wa!

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KANJI

1. 駅弁
2. 新幹線
3. お手洗い
4. お名前
5. 彼
6. 誰
7. トイレ

ENGLISH

1. station box lunch
2. bullet train
3. bathroom
4. name
5. he, him
6. who
7. toilet

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
お手洗い	おてあらい	otearai	bathroom
お名前	おなまえ	onamae	name
彼	かれ	kare	he, him
誰	だれ	dare	who
トイレ	トイレ	toire	bathroom
駅弁	えきべん	ekiben	station box lunch
新幹線	しんかんせん	shinkansen	bullet train

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>広いお手洗いですね。 <i>Hiroi otearai desu ne.</i></p> <p>The bathroom is large, isn't it.</p>	<p>トイレを貸してください。 <i>Toire o kashite kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I use the bathroom?</p>
<p>新幹線が、ゆっくりと速度を落としていく。 <i>Shinkansen ga yukkuri to sokudo o otoshite iku.</i></p> <p>The bullet train is slowly losing speed.</p>	

GRAMMAR

Magical *wa* (は) can mean what is, where is or who is depending on the context of the sentence!

Example:

<p>トイレはどこです か? <i>Toire wa doko desu ka?</i></p> <p>→</p> <p>Where is the restroom?</p>	<p>トイレは? <i>Toire wa?</i></p> <p>Where is the restroom?</p>	<p>Notice "where is" (<i>doko desu ka</i> ・ どこですか) is inferred and not actually said!</p>
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<p>お手洗いはどこですか? おてあらいはどこですか? <i>Otearai wa doko desu ka?</i> Where is the restroom?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>お手洗いは? おてあらいは? <i>Otearai wa?</i> Where is the restroom?</p>	<p>Notice "where is" (<i>doko desu ka</i>・どこですか) is inferred and not actually said!</p>
<p>お名前はなんですか? おなまえなんですか? <i>O-namae wa nan desu ka?</i> What is your name? (or) And your name is?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>お名前は? おなまえは? <i>O-namae wa?</i> What is your name? (or) And your name is?</p>	<p>Again, the "what is" (<i>nan desu ka</i>・なんですか) is inferred and not said!</p>
<p>かれはだれですか? かれは? <i>Kare wa dare desu ka?</i> Who is he?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>彼は? かれは? <i>Kare wa?</i> Who is he?</p>	<p>"Who is" (<i>dare desu ka</i>・だれですか) is inferred.</p>
<p>これは何ですか? これはなんですか? かれは? <i>Kore wa nan desu ka?</i> What is this?</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>これは? <i>Kore wa?</i> What's this?</p>	<p>"What is" <i>nan desu ka</i>・なんですか is inferred.</p>

- Literally *toire* means toilet, which might sound like a crude question to ask in English. But in Japanese, *toire* is also used to refer to the place where the toilet is found (i.e. the restroom)

- See how the *wa* (は) actually changes meaning according the context of the sentence! Intonation should go up slightly when this は is pronounced.