

## LESSON NOTES

# Survival Phrases S2 #10

## I'm Sorry

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# 10

## KANJI

1. すみません。
2. ごめんなさい。
3. いいえ、いいえ。
4. 失礼いたしました。

## KANA

1. すみません。
2. ごめんなさい。
3. いいえ、いいえ。
4. しつれいいいたしました。

## ROMANIZATION

1. Sumimasen.
2. Gomennasai.
3. Iie iie.
4. Shitsurei itashimashita.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Excuse me.
2. Sorry.
3. No, no don't worry.
4. Excuse me. (polite form)

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
すみません	すみません	sumimasen	Sorry, excuse me
ごめんなさい	ごめんなさい	gomen nasai	I'm sorry.

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

すみません。質問があります。 <i>Sumimasen. Shitsumon ga arimasu.</i> Excuse me. I have a question.	遅くなってごめんなさい。 <i>Osoku natte gomen nasai.</i> I'm sorry I'm late.
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## GRAMMAR

### Language Tip

We'll start with *Sumimasen*. Literally, this means "Excuse me." You can also say *gomen nasai*, which is a bit more casual way of saying "I'm sorry." We can use both phrases in situations such as accidentally stepping on someone's shoes. You probably don't step on someone's shoes often, but it happens every day in the crowded trains in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, and other major cities.

Considering how crowded the trains are at certain times of the day, someone will probably step on your shoes and apologize to you. Don't take offense; it's really difficult

to avoid stepping on people or pushing people when you're on a train during rush hour.

What do you say when someone apologizes to you? Well, when someone says *Sumimasen* to you, you have two choices: You can simply nod to acknowledge the person's apology or you can say *lie iie*, which means, "No, no, that's fine," or "Don't worry about it." Speaking the words rather than nodding will leave a better impression and restore harmony.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### A Hundred Ways to Say I'm Sorry

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#### Tip #1

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret. You can also use *Sumimasen* to simply catch someone's attention. For example, you can use it to call the waiter at a restaurant or a sales clerk at a store. Typically, we would say this in a soft tone so as not to sound like we're demanding attention. We use it as a polite way of conveying the message, "Um, I was wondering if I can get someone here." And raising your hand slightly will help the waiter or sales clerk find you in the crowd of people. People in America do something similar. When the waiter walks by, you often say, "Excuse me." to get his attention.

#### Tip #2

A most polite way of saying, "Excuse me" is *Shitsurei itashimashita*. This is appropriate for business settings or speaking to a person significantly older than you. You can also use it for more serious mistakes such as arriving late to an appointment, accidentally bumping into a person, or spilling coffee on someone.