

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #13

Restaurant 2

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KANJI

1. 禁煙、喫煙、どちらにしますか？
2. いいですか？

KANA

1. きんえん、きつえん、どちらにしますか？
2. いいですか？

ROMANIZATION

1. Kin'en, kitsuen, dochira ni shimasu ka?
2. Ii desu ka?

ENGLISH

1. Which do you prefer, smoking or non-smoking?
2. May I? Is this alright?

VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji | English |
|-------|------|--------|-------------|
| 禁煙 | きんえん | kin'en | non-smoking |

| | | | |
|-----|------|----------|---------|
| 喫煙 | きつえん | kitsu'en | smoking |
| どちら | どちら | dochira | which |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>ここは禁煙です。 <i>Koko wa kin'en desu.</i></p> <p>This place is no-smoking.</p> | <p>喫煙席に座りたくないです。 <i>Kitsuenseki ni suwaritakunai desu.</i></p> <p>I don't want to sit in the smoking section.</p> |
| <p>ライスとパン、どちらがいいですか。 <i>Raisu to pan, dochira ga ii desu ka.</i></p> <p>Would you like rice or bread?</p> | |

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

As you remember from Lesson 12, when you enter a restaurant in Japan, you'll hear *Irasshaimase*, which is the polite greeting we use to welcome customers into a place of business. Then they'll ask you how many people are in your party. We covered that much in our previous lesson. Today, we'll discuss the next question that comes up; do you want to sit in the smoking or non-smoking section?

"Non-smoking" in Japanese is *kin'en*. The first character, *kin*, stands for "prohibited." This is followed by *en*, which is the character for "smoke." The Japanese word for "smoking" is *kitsu'en*.

When the wait staff asks you if you want smoking or non-smoking seats, they will most likely ask, *Kin'en, kitsuen, dochira ni shimasu ka?* This means, "Non-smoking, smoking, which would you do?" *Dochira* means, "which." *Ni shimasu ka* means "will you do?" *Shimasu* is the polite form of the verb *suru* meaning, "to do." *Ka* is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative.

So the wait staff will ask you, *Kin'en, kitsuen, dochira ni shimasu ka?* To answer this, simply say, either *ki'en* ("non-smoking") or *kitsu'en* ("smoking"). Pretty easy, yes?

You can also anticipate the question by saying how many people are in your party and ask

for non-smoking seats at the same time. As we covered in our previous lesson, you can tell them the number of people in your party by saying, *ni-mei* for "two people" or *yon-mei* for "four people." Then add *kin'en* and you're all set. You are ready for an exquisite dining experience in the heart of Tokyo.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sachiko's Secret: Smoking in Japan

Tip #1

Now here's a little Sachiko's Secret. Many restaurants in Japan have separate seating for smoking and non-smoking, but the two areas are so close together that smoke often drifts into the non-smoking area. The table right next to you may be part of the smoking section so you could end up smelling smoke all through dinner. When you enter a restaurant, pay attention to the layout of the place. Ask for seats farther away from the smoking section. If the smoke starts to bother you during a meal, insist on moving to a different seat. Simply point to an empty seat further away from the smoking section and say, *ii desu ka?* This means, "Is it alright?" If the wait staff looks confused as to why you're asking to move, simply pantomime smoking and frown. That's what I do.

Tip #2

During your trip to Japan, you may see small glass houses standing in the middle of public places. They will have no furniture, just people inside standing around, smoking. What are these houses? They are public facilities specifically built for smokers. It's the strangest thing! During weekday afternoons, they're often filled with men and women in dark business suits, all looking tired and grim. They'll just stand there, gathered around the ashtray in the middle of the house, not really speaking to one another. Each one spends about five to ten minutes inside. They're really strange. I'm sure there are more glass houses, but the one I found was on the main street of Roppongi. Check them out if you get the chance.