

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #14

Restaurant 3

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KANJI

1. すみません。
2. これ下さい。
3. 何がお勧めですか？
4. ご注文は？
5. お飲み物から。

KANA

1. すみません。
2. これください。
3. なにがおすすめですか？
4. ごちゅうもんは？
5. おのみものから。

ROMANIZATION

1. Sumimasen.
2. Kore kudasai.
3. Nani ga o-susume desu ka.

CONT'D OVER

4. Go-chūmon wa?
5. O-nomimono kara.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me.
2. Please give me this.
3. What do you recommend?
4. What are you ordering?
5. Start with your drink order, please.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	this
下さい	ください	kudasai	please
何	なに	nani	what
お勧め	おすすめ	o-susume	recommendation

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>あれ？これは私のですか。 <i>Are? Kore wa watashi no desu ka.</i></p> <p>Huh? Is this mine?</p>	<p>水を下さい。 <i>Mizu o kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I have some water, please?</p>
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何を飲みますか。
Nani o nomimasu ka.

What would you like to drink?

おすすめは何ですか。
O-susume wa nan desu ka.

What do you recommend?

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

When you enter a restaurant, you might need to get the attention of the wait staff. You can accomplish this by waving your hand and saying, *Sumimasen*, which means "Excuse me."

Once the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can simply point to the menu and say, "This please," which is *Kore kudasai* in Japanese, or you can point to the numbers or pictures on the menu. You can also replace the word *kore* with the name of whatever it is you want to eat. For example, to order tempura (deep-fried vegetables, meat, fish, etc), you say *Tempura kudasai*.

Now if you're feeling adventurous, you could ask, "What do you recommend?" *Nani ga osusume desu ka?* If you want more than one order of a dish, just say the number of orders you want using the words we covered in previous lessons. You could also raise your fingers to indicate how many orders. (As a reminder, the numbers 1 to 10 are *ichi, ni, san, yon (shi), go, roku, shichi (nana), hachi, kyū, jū*.)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ordering Food and Drinks in Japan

Tip #1

And now for Sachiko's Secret. Japanese restaurants make life easy for their customers; the menus often have pictures of the dishes. You can really get a feel for what's available even if you can't read the menu. Sometimes, they even have life-sized, plastic replicas of the meals displayed in a glass case outside the restaurant. Have you seen those in guidebooks? They're very useful, not to mention cute. But you should know the portions are much smaller than they appear in the pictures or displays. You might want to order more dishes than you would in the US.

Tip #2

Let's discuss the questions that waiters may ask you. If they want to get your drink order first, they'll say, *O-nomimono kara*, which means, "Starting with your drink orders." The first sound, *o* is an honorific prefix attached to the word *nomimono*, which means "drinks." The honorific form is added because the drink is for the customer who should be respected. The next word, *kara*, simply means "from." Together, *Onomimono kara* means "Starting from your drinks, Sir."

The next question might be *Go-chūmon wa?* This means, "What is your order?" Here, the honorific prefix *Go* is added to the following word *chūmon*, which means "order." Honorific prefixes are typically either *o* or *go* depending on the word that follows. The last sound, *wa*, simply means "is." Altogether, the phrase means, "Your order is?"

Now, if you're feeling ambitious, and you want to pronounce the names of the things you're ordering, the easiest thing to order may be drinks. That's because most of the Japanese words we use to describe drinks are simply the English words pronounced in a Japanese way.

For example, "beer" is *bīru*. "Milk" is *miruku*. "Coffee" is *kōhī*. We don't have the "f" sound in Japanese, so we replace it with the "h" sound. There are exceptions though, such as the word for "Coke." In Japanese, we say "Coca cola." People in Japan would not understand the word "Coke," because we don't use it at all. And for "English tea" we say *kōcha*. It's important to know the word *mizu*, which means, "water," because you don't want to become dehydrated during your vacation.