

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #17

How much?

CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

17

KANJI

1. いくらですか？
2. これはいくらですか？
3. それはいくらですか？
4. 安いですね。
5. 高いですね。

KANA

1. いくらですか？
2. これはいくらですか？
3. それはいくらですか？
4. やすいですね。
5. たかいですね。

ROMANIZATION

1. Ikura desu ka?
2. Kore wa ikura desu ka?
3. Sore wa ikura desu ka?

CONT'D OVER

4. Yasui desu ne.
5. Takai desu ne.

ENGLISH

1. How much?
2. How much is this?
3. How much is that?
4. It's cheap, isn't it?
5. It's expensive, isn't it?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	this
いくら	いくら	ikura	how much
それ	それ	sore	that
安い	やすい	yasui	cheap;Adj (i)
高い	たかい	takai	high, tall, expensive;Adj(i)

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>おつりはいくらですか。 <i>Otsuri wa ikura desu ka.</i></p> <p>How much is the change?</p>
<p>A「どれにしますか」 B「それください」 <i>A:Dore ni shimasu ka. B:Sore kudasai.</i></p> <p>A: What would you like? B: I'll take that.</p>	<p>豚肉は安いです。 <i>Butaniku wa yasui desu.</i></p> <p>Pork is cheap.</p>
<p>ダイヤモンドは高いです。 <i>Daiyamondo wa takai desu.</i></p> <p>Diamonds are expensive.</p>	

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

In Japanese, "How much?" is *Ikura desu ka?* The most rudimentary way of using *Ikura desu ka?* is pointing at something while saying it. But let's try and build this up a bit, shall we?

Let's start with the expression, "How much is this?" In Japanese, this is *Kore wa ikura desu ka?* The first word, *kore*, means "this." This is followed by the topic-marking particle *wa*. And the last segment, *ikura desu ka?* means, "how much?" When pointing at something a bit farther away from you, you can say *Sore wa ikura desu ka?* This means, "How much is that?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sachiko's Secret for Getting the Right Price in Japanese Stores!

Tip #1

And now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! There's a quick and dirty way of asking "How much," and it's simply *Ikura?* But beware!! If you get the intonation wrong, you could be asking for salmon eggs instead!!! The word *ikura*, without an intonation, means salmon eggs! To ask "how much," you should raise the intonation at the end of the sentence. Be careful! You don't

want to end up with salmon eggs when you're trying to buy Chanel!

Tip #2

To understand the response to "How much is this?" be sure to check out Lesson 16 to learn numbers one to ten, and Lesson 19 on the currency as well as numbers 100 to 10,000. In our next lesson, we'll go over how to bargain with sales clerks!

If you want to comment on the price, you can say *Yasui desu ne* to mean, "It's cheap, isn't it?" and *Takai desu ne* to mean, "It's expensive, isn't it?" *Yasui* means "cheap," and *takai* means "expensive." *Desu* is a polite way of saying "to be," and the last word *ne* is added in spoken Japanese to simply mean, "isn't it?"