

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #18

Please Lower the Price

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KANJI

1. かけて下さい。
2. あっちのお店では5000円。

KANA

1. かけてください。
2. あっちのおみせでは5000円。

ROMANIZATION

1. Makete kudasai.
2. Acchi no o-mise de wa 5000-en.

ENGLISH

1. Please lower the price.
2. At the other store, (they offered) 5000 yen.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
まける	まける	makeru	to give a discount

下さい	ください	kudasai	please
もっと	もっと	motto	more
お店	おみせ	o-mise	shop, store
あっちの	あっちの	atchi no	the one over there
円	えん	en	yen

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>このアイポッド、もっとまけてください。 <i>Kono aipoddo, motto makete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please give more discount on an ipod!</p>	<p>水を下さい。 <i>Mizu o kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I have some water, please?</p>
<p>もっと食べてください。 <i>Motto tabete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please have some more.</p>	<p>あの店は安い。 <i>Ano o-mise wa yasui.</i></p> <p>That store is cheap.</p>
<p>あっちのお店は高い。 <i>Atchi no o-mise wa takai.</i></p> <p>That store over there is expensive.</p>	<p>1ドルは、何円ですか。 <i>1-doru wa nan-en desu ka.</i></p> <p>How much yen is it to one dollar?</p>

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

Today's phrase is related to the phrase, "How much?" We learned in the last lesson that in Japanese, this is *Ikura desu ka?* We also introduced "How much is this?" (*Kore wa ikura desu ka?*), and "How much is that?" (*Sore wa ikura desu ka?*).

If you're not happy with the price they offer and you want to ask for a discount, you can ask the phrase "Please lower the price." In Japanese, that's *Makete kudasai*. The first word, *makete*, is a conjugation of the word *makeru*, which means, "to give a discount." *Kudasai* means "please." Together, *Makete kudasai* means, "Please give me a discount." To say "more," as in "give me a bigger discount," you can say *motto*. If you're okay with the suggested price, simply say "Okay" or "Good." Most Japanese people will understand

these simple English phrases.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sachiko's Secret for Buying and Bargaining in Osaka

Tip #1

Now for Sachiko's Secret. In my hometown of Osaka, there is a lot of bargaining. Because the city is historically a town of merchants, people love to bargain. And there is a distinct, rhythmical way of saying "Please lower the price" in the Osaka dialect or *Osaka-ben*, as it is called in Japanese. The *Osaka-ben* for "Please lower the price" is *Makete kuren ka?* As you may have noticed, *Osaka-ben* usually sounds very rhythmical and kind of warm!

Tip #2

Some other appropriate places for negotiating prices would be electronics stores. Most store employees expect people to ask for a discount anyway, so don't ever settle for the first price they give you. Suggest figures that you think are a bit too big of a discount, and they will choose a middle ground. Sometimes I even lie, saying "Well, the other store just offered me this price, so if you can't beat it...." This works every time! In Japanese, you would say *Atchi no o-mise dewa...en*. Insert the price on the dotted line. *Atchi no o-mise* means "the other store." *Dewa* is like saying, "at." The last *en* means the Japanese currency, "Yen."

This is simplified, slightly broken down Japanese for beginners. There is a more sophisticated way of saying this, but we won't get into it at SurvivalPhrases.com.