

LESSON NOTES

# Survival Phrases S2 #19

## Currency, Counting 100-10,000

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# 19

# VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
円	えん	en	yen
百	ひゃく	hyaku	hundred
千	せん	sen	thousand
万	まん	man	ten thousand
ご縁	ごえん	goen	destiny
五円	ごえん	go en	5 yen

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<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>	<p>百円を道で拾いました。 <i>Hyaku-en wo michi de hiroimashita.</i></p> <p>I picked up a 100 yen coin off the street.</p>
<p>千円のスイカを下さい。 <i>Sen-en no suika wo kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I have a one thousand yen Suica card, please.</p>	<p>東京から新潟まで、新幹線でだいたい一万円です。 <i>Tōkyō kara Niigata made, shinkansen de daitai ichi-man-en desu.</i></p> <p>It costs about 10,000 yen for a bullet train from Tokyo to Niigata.</p>
<p>私とあなたには特別なご縁があると思います。 <i>Watashi to anata niwa tokubetsu na go-en ga aru to omoimasu.</i></p> <p>I think there is a special connection between you and me.</p>	<p>五円玉を集める。 <i>Goendama wo atsumeru.</i></p> <p>I collect five yen coins.</p>

## GRAMMAR

### Language Tip

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In English, we refer to the Japanese currency as the "Yen." But in Japanese, we say *en*. It's a much lighter sound. Now, the foreign exchange rate is always fluctuating, but I like to calculate the rate as roughly 100 Yen per one US dollar. Using this rough equation, a 1,000 Yen bill is like a 10-dollar bill. As for phrases necessary for foreign exchange, we'll cover that in another lesson.

Let's first go over how to say large numbers in Japanese. We covered 1 to 10 in a previous lesson. To recap: "one" is *ichi*, "two" is *ni*, "three" is *san*, "four" is *shi* or *yon*, "five" is *go*, "six" is *roku*, "seven" is *nana* or *shichi*, "eight" is *hachi*, "nine" is *kyū*, and "ten" is *jū*.

To say any number between 10 and 99, you simply combine words for 1 to 10. For 68, you would literally say "six, ten, eight" *roku-jū-hachi*. So if you needed to pay 68 yen, the store clerk would say *roku-jū-hachi-en desu*. What coins would you use to pay 68 yen? Well you can combine one 50-Yen coin, a 10-Yen coin, a 5-Yen coin, and three 1-Yen coins.

Aside from these coins, we also have 100-Yen coins and 500-Yen coins. In Japanese, one hundred is *hyaku*. To say 500, simply say the words "five" and "hundred." That would be *go-hyaku*. The same goes for most numbers. Now, there are exceptions to this rule: 300 becomes *san-byaku*, 600 becomes *ro-ppyaku*, and 800 becomes *ha-ppyaku*. That's because they're easier to pronounce that way.

Next, let's go over the bills. We have a 1,000-Yen bill, 5,000-Yen bill, and the 10,000-Yen bill. We also have a 2,000-Yen bill, which was printed back in the year 2000 to celebrate the new millennium, but I rarely see them used. Perhaps people are keeping them at home as souvenirs. I know I did that for a while!

Let's go over how to say these large numbers. "One thousand" is *sen*. "One thousand Yen" is simply, *sen-en*. "Two thousand Yen" is a combination of "two," "thousand," and "Yen," *ni-sen-en*. "Five thousand Yen" is *go-sen-en*.

Now comes the complicated part. In Japanese, 10,000 yen is not simply "ten, thousand." We have another word, *man*, which stands for "ten thousand." "Ten thousand Yen" is *ichi-man-en*. "Twenty thousand yen" is *ni-man-en*, which is literally "two ten-thousand." Thirty thousand is *san-man*, and so forth.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Sachiko's Secret: The Dharma of Money and Numbers

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#### Tip #1

In today's Sachiko's Secret, we'll talk money! Yes, my favorite topic...not! I actually have a very sweet story. The five-Yen coin is considered a good luck charm to help people find that special someone. Why would such a cheap coin that buys almost nothing be considered lucky? Because it covers the 5% consumption tax when you buy a 100-Yen product. Just kidding. No seriously, "five Yen" is called, *go en* in Japanese. This is a homophone with 縁 (*go-en*), a word that means, "karma" or "destiny to meet someone." That's why five-Yen coins are commonly given as donations at Shinto shrines, and you'll see a nicely wrapped five-Yen coin in a box at a souvenir shop. That's a gift that says, "I hope you meet that someone special in your life." Try it. Get one for yourself or for a friend and see what happens. If it works, tell us all about it!