

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #1

Thank You!

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KANJI

1. どうもありがとうございます。
2. どうも。
3. ありがとう。

KANA

1. どうもありがとうございます。
2. どうも。
3. ありがとう。

ROMANIZATION

1. Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.
2. Dōmo.
3. Arigatō.

ENGLISH

1. Thank you very much. (very formal)
2. (A phrase used to elevate the politeness level of words following it.)

CONT'D OVER

3. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どうも	どうも	dōmo	Thanks
ありがとう。	ありがとう。	arigatō	Thank you.
どうもありがとうございます。 ざいます。	どうもありがとうございます。 ざいます。	Dōmo arigato gozaimasu.	Thank you very much. (very formal)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

どうもありがとうございます。 <i>Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.</i> Thank you very much.	教えてくれてありがとう。 <i>Oshiete kurete arigatō.</i> Thank you for telling me.
来ていただいて、どうもありがとうございます。 <i>Kiteitadaiite, dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.</i> Thank you for coming.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

As in other languages, there are casual and formal ways of saying "Thank you." Let's start with the casual form. "Thanks" is *Dōmo* or *Arigatō*. This is the shortest, simplest way of saying "Thank you", so there is no excuse for you not to know this! We use these words

among friends or in other casual situations. However, until you get the hang of it, it might be better to keep things formal.

In Japanese, politeness level is very important. *Arigatō* is okay, but a more polite phrase we recommend is *Arigatō gozaimasu*. The addition of *gozaimasu* increases the politeness level of the phrase. You will encounter this phrase when you are visiting places of business. When you purchase something, you will surely hear this phrase or a derivative of it.

For very special occasions, when someone goes beyond the call of being kind, when someone is extremely generous, or any time we're extremely grateful, we use the following phrase to express exceptional gratitude: *Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu*, "Thank you very much". The first word, *Dōmo*, raises the politeness level. This is followed by *arigato*, which is "thank you." And finally, *gozaimasu*, which raises the politeness level another notch. When you use these three components together in the same sentence, they form an extremely polite phrase for expressing one's gratitude.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sachico's Secret: When "Sorry" means "Thank you."

Tip #1

Sachiko's Secret for this lesson is about culture. In Japan, sometimes we say "sorry" when we actually want to thank someone for doing something. We say "sorry" to mean, "I appreciate your efforts, and I'm sorry for any inconvenience I may have caused." For example, if someone gets out of the way so you can move, or someone offers a seat to you on a train, the one receiving the favor may say *Sumimasen* instead of saying "Thank you." *Sumimasen* means "Excuse me" or "I'm sorry". Among friends, we may use a more casual way to say "I'm sorry", which is *Gomen* or *Gomen ne*. In Japan, we are taught that the biggest sin is to inconvenience other people or disrupt harmony in society. So whenever we feel that we have inconvenienced someone, we apologize. And many times, the listener understands that the apology also expresses gratitude. It may sound strange and difficult to understand now, but when you come to Japan and hear it often enough with your own ears, you will start to understand how the culture works.

Tip #2

In Japanese, we like to use English words in our day-to-day lives, but we inevitably pronounce them the Japanese way. The phrase "Thank you" is no different. Because we don't have the sound for "th" in Japanese, we substitute the "s" sound. We also don't have the thick "a" sound as in "apple" and "thank," so we substitute the light sound heard in "sun." So when a Japanese person tries to say "Thank you," it sounds more like [Sun kyu.] You may hear this

a lot because people assume all foreigners speak English. So keep your ears open! When we say [Sun kyu], we mean, "Thank you." Another tidbit: Phonetically, [Sun kyu] sounds like the Japanese words for the numbers "three" and "nine," and it sounds like "maternity leave" as well, depending on the intonation!