

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #22

Riding the Bus 2

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KANJI

1. 次のバス停はどこですか？
2. 成田空港は次ですか？
3. 教えてください。

KANA

1. つぎのバスていはどこですか？
2. なりたくこうはつぎですか？
3. おしえてください。

ROMANIZATION

1. Tsugi no basutei wa doko desu ka?
2. Naritakūkō wa tsugi desu ka?
3. Oshiete kudasai.

ENGLISH

1. Where is the next bus stop?
2. Is Narita Airport the next stop?

CONT'D OVER

3. Please tell me.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
次	つぎ	tsugi	next
バス停	バスてい	basu tei	bus stop
どこ	どこ	doko	where
成田	なりた	Narita	Narita
空港	くうこう	kūkō	airport
教える	おしえる	oshieru	to teach, to tell
下さい	ください	kudasai	please

SAMPLE SENTENCES

次の駅は大阪です。 <i>Tsugi no eki wa Ōsaka desu.</i> The next station is Osaka.	わたしは、次のバス停で降ります。 <i>Watashi wa, tsugi no basutei de orimasu.</i> I'll get off at the next bus stop.
改札はどこですか。 <i>Kaisatsu wa doko desu ka.</i> Where is the ticket gate?	成田空港までいくらですか。 <i>Narita Kūkō made ikura desu ka.</i> How much does it cost to go to Narita airport?
明日空港に行きます。 <i>Ashita kūkō ni ikimasu.</i> I'm going to the airport tomorrow.	成田空港の行き方を教えてください。 <i>Narita kūkō no ikikata wo oshiete kudasai.</i> Please tell me how to get to Narita airport.
水を下さい。 <i>Mizu o kudasai.</i> Can I have some water, please?	

GRAMMAR

Once you're on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers of where the bus will stop next. If there's no English announcement, you may not catch what the driver is saying. So the phrase, "What is the next stop?" may be indispensable. In Japanese, "What is the next stop?" is *Tsugi no basutei wa doko desu ka?* The first word, *tsugi*, means "next." *No* is a particle we use to express possession. *Basutei* means, "bus stop." So far, we have *Tsugi no basutei*, which means, "the next bus stop." Then we have the topic-marking particle *wa*, followed by *doko*, which means, "where." *Desu* is the rough equivalent of the verb "to be," and *ka* is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative sentence.

Another way of checking if your bus is headed toward your destination could be asking if your destination is the next stop. For this phrase, we'll use Narita Airport as the destination. So the phrase, "Is Narita Airport the next stop?" is *Narita kūkō wa tsugi desu ka?* The first words *Narita kūkō* mean "Narita Airport." This is followed by the topic-marking particle *wa*, then followed by *tsugi*, which means "next." *Desu* is the copula, and *ka* is the particle that turns a sentence into an interrogative. So altogether, we have *Narita kūkō wa tsugi desu ka?* to mean, "Is Narita Airport the next stop?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sachiko's Secret: More About Riding the Bus in Japan

Tip #1

Now it's time for Sachiko's Secret! In this lesson, I'll show you how to make sure you're on the right bus and have the bus driver remind you where to get off at the same time. Kill two birds with one stone! Because there are so many buses in Tokyo, it's really difficult to figure out where each bus is going. So this is what I do. When you step onto a bus, check with the driver before you pay the bus fare. To confirm whether this bus stops at your desired destination, you can simply say the name of the desired destination and wait for the driver to nod or shake his head. Then ask him to tell you when the bus reaches that destination. You can do that by simply saying the destination name followed by *Oshiete kudasai*, which means, "Please tell me." That way, he can call out to you when he stops there!

Tip#2

If you get a chance, I would suggest riding a small, local bus. They're really small and short so they can get through the narrow streets of Japan. They're adorable to look at. And you'll be amazed by the driver's skills for dodging pedestrians, cyclists, and baby strollers.

And because they're so small, we have to cooperate in keeping the flow of passengers nice and smooth. You can do that by exiting from the doors in the middle of the bus. The front doors are reserved for passengers getting onto the bus. By keeping the flow of passengers one-way, we can prevent the small buses from cramping!