

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #4

Basic Greetings

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KANJI

1. お早うございます。
2. 今日は。
3. 今晚は。
4. おかげ様で。
5. お元気ですか？

KANA

1. おはようございます。
2. こんにちは。
- 3.こんばんは。
4. おかげさまで。
5. おげんきですか？

ROMANIZATION

1. O-hayō gozaimasu.
2. Konnichi wa.
3. Konban wa.

CONT'D OVER

4. O-kage sama de.
5. O-genki desu ka?

ENGLISH

1. Good morning.
2. Good afternoon.
3. Good evening.
4. Thanks to you.
5. How are you? (Are you doing well?)

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
おはようございます	おはようございます。	ohayō gozaimasu	Good morning.
今日は	こんにちは	konnichiwa	Hello. Good afternoon.
今晚は	こんばんは	konbanwa	good evening
今日	きょう	kyō	today
おかげ様で。	おかげさまで。	O-kage-sama de.	Thanks to you. Thanks for asking.
はい	はい	hai	Yes.
お元気ですか。	おげんきですか。	Ogenki desu ka	How are you?

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>先生、おはようございます。 <i>Sensei, ohayō gozaimasu.</i></p> <p>Good morning, Teacher.</p>	<p>酒井さん、今日は。 <i>Sakai-san, konnichiwa.</i></p> <p>Hello, Mr./Ms. Sakai.</p>
<p>スミスさん、今晚は。 <i>Sumisu-san, konbanwa.</i></p> <p>Good evening, Mr/Ms. Smith.</p>	<p>今日は暑いです。 <i>Kyō wa atsui desu.</i></p> <p>It's hot today.</p>
<p>A「お元気ですか。」 B「おかげ様で。」 <i>A: O-genki desu ka. B: O-kage sama de.</i></p> <p>A: How are you? B: Fine, thanks for asking.</p>	<p>A「田中さんですか。」 B「はい。」 <i>A: Tanaka-san desu ka. B: Hai.</i></p> <p>A: Are you Mr. Tanaka? B: Yes.</p>
<p>A.「お元気ですか。」 B.「はい、すごく元気です。」 <i>A. Ogenki desu ka. B. Hai, sugoku genki desu.</i></p> <p>A: How are you? B: I'm great!</p>	<p>山田さんは元気な人です。 <i>Yamada-san wa genki na hito desu.</i></p> <p>Mr./Ms. Yamada is an energetic person.</p>

GRAMMAR

Language Tip

In Japanese, "Good morning" is *Ohayō gozaimasu*. The first sound, *o*, is an honorific form for the next word. *Hayō* is a conjugated form of the word that means, "early." And the last word is *gozaimasu*, which is the polite way of saying "is." So it sounds like we're saying, "It's early," but to Japanese, it means, "Good morning."

In Japanese, "Good afternoon" is *Konnichi wa*. The first word, *konnichi*, is one way of saying "today." The last word is the topic-marking particle *wa*. The greeting literally means, "Today is." It sounds like an incomplete sentence, doesn't it? That's because it is. Long ago, Japanese people used to greet each other by talking about the weather, (e.g., "Today is sunny, isn't it?"). And since all the greetings started with *Konnichi wa*, this part became the greeting itself. Now, all Japanese understand *Konnichi wa*, literally "Today is," to mean "Good afternoon."

And finally, Japanese also uses an evening greeting, *Konban wa*. The first word, *Konban*, means, "tonight." The second word is the topic-marking particle *wa*. Notice the greeting is very similar to *Konnichi wa*, both in form and history. People used to greet each other in the evening by talking about the weather, and so on. For example, *Konban wa samui desu ne*, which means, "Tonight is chilly." Over time, the greeting shortened to just *Konban wa*, meaning, "Good evening."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Morning, Noon, and Night in Osaka

Tip #1

Time for Sachiko's Secret. I don't know about the media industry in other countries, but when I worked in the Japanese media industry, people greeted each other with *Ohayō gozaimasu* - *Ohayo* for short - even in the afternoon or at night. It seemed like an industry term used to greet someone for the first time that day. So even at 3 PM or 9 PM, we would say "Good Morning" to each other. Strange. So don't be surprised if someone in Japan says "Good Morning" to you at 11 PM. It's probably just a media person.

Tip #2

As you may guess, we often use *konnichi wa* to mean "Hello" at any time of day. So if remembering all three phrases is too much, just remember *konnichi wa*.

Now in the PDF, notice that the Japanese letters for *konnichi wa* and *konban wa* are actually written as *konnichi ha* and *konban ha*. That's because the character (は) changes in pronunciation depending on how we use it. When we use (は) as a particle, it's pronounced *wa*. And as we mentioned in Sachiko's Secret, the *wa* in *konnichi wa* was originally the topic-marking particle in a longer sentence.

Tip #3

Here is another sentence that often follows "Hello." In Japanese, "How are you?" is *O-genki desu ka?* The first sound *o* is an honorific prefix. *Genki* means "energetic" or "healthy". *Desu* is a copula, the rough equivalent to the English verb "to be." And the *ka* is a particle that turns any sentence into an interrogative. So altogether, we have *O-genki desu ka?* The typical response is *Hai, okage sama de*. *Hai* means, "yes." The next phrase, *okage sama de* means, "thanks to you." So this sentence says I am fine and it thanks the person asking the question. Japanese people don't like to take credit for anything so they tend to thank others for their accomplishments or anything positive in their lives, including their health.