

## LESSON NOTES

# Survival Phrases S2 #6

## Where's the Bathroom?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

# 6

## KANJI

1. トイレはどこですか？

## KANA

1. トイレはどこですか？

## ROMANIZATION

1. Toire wa doko desu ka?

## ENGLISH

1. Where is the bathroom?

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
トイレはどこですか？	トイレはどこですか？	Toire wa doko desu ka?	Where is the bathroom?
トイレ	トイレ	toire	bathroom
どこ	どこ	doko	where
お手洗い	おてあらい	otearai	bathroom
女	おんな	onna	woman
男	おとこ	otoko	man

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>トイレを貸してください。 <i>Toire o kashite kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I use the bathroom?</p>	<p>タクシー乗り場はどこにありますか。 <i>Takushīnoriba wa doko ni arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the taxi stand?</p>
<p>広いお手洗いですね。 <i>Hiroi otearai desu ne.</i></p> <p>The bathroom is large, isn't it.</p>	<p>あの人は男ですか、女ですか。 <i>Ano hito wa otoko desu ka, onna desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is that person a man or a woman?</p>
<p>マサミさんは男の人です。 <i>Masami-san wa otoko no hito desu.</i></p> <p>Masami is a man.</p>	

## GRAMMAR

### Language Tip

In Japanese, "Where is the bathroom?" is *Toire wa doko desu ka?* Let's take a look at the components. The first word *to-i-re* means, "toilet." Next, the topic-marking particle *wa*. The third word, *doko*, which means, "where," is followed by *desu* meaning "is." And finally, *ka*, which turns a sentence into an interrogative.

In Japanese, we have another word to mean "toilet," *o-tearai*. This is a bit more polite. The first sound *o* is an honorific prefix. The next two syllables stand for "hand" and "wash." All together, the syllables mean, "toilet."

Now when you get to the bathroom, there may be one last obstacle. In some public places, the doors to the men's and women's toilets show only the Chinese characters for men and women. What to do, what to do? Well, you can stop by the website and find the characters for man and woman in the PDF. But if you're already in Tokyo, ask for help or click the center button of your iPod.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Sachiko's Secret Guide to the Restroom in Japan

## Tip #1

Now for Sachiko's Secret! In Japan, we use a variety of marks or signs to indicate bathrooms. The most common is simply the profile of a woman wearing a skirt or a man wearing a tuxedo. You know which is which, right? Another sign is the two English characters, WC. Historically, this meant, "Water Closet," but in Japan, some people call it "Washington Club!" Why? I have no idea. Another sign is the *kanji*, or Chinese character, for *otearai*. But be careful, some people have last names that are written with the same *kanji* as *otearai*, but pronounced *mitarai*. So if you get a business card from a "Mr. Mitarai" don't call him Mr. *Otearai*.

## Tip #2

In Japan, it's not difficult to find a bathroom. Even if you're not in a restaurant or hotel, you can find decent bathrooms within department stores, shopping malls, and train stations. And the signs are often the international symbols, so you won't have much problem finding them. The problem is flushing them. You can flush many of them just by putting your hand near a sensor, but they don't always work. Persevere. A toilet in *Shinjuku Gyoen* park once took more than five minutes to sense my hand and flush itself.