

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Top 25 Japanese Questions You Need to Know #2

Where are you from? in Japanese

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INTRODUCTION

Gabriella: In each lesson of this 25 part series, you'll master a common question for Japanese learners, and then learn how to answer it like a native speaker. You'll learn how these key phrases work by breaking them down into each component. Then through repetition and new vocabulary, you'll expand your understanding of the question, its answers, and any variations.

LESSON FOCUS

Gabriella: In this lesson, you'll learn how to respond to the common question "Where are you from?" In Japanese this is

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shussin wa doko desu ka.)

The first word in the question is

Kaori: 出身

(しゅっしん shussin)

Gabriella: meaning something like "hometown" in English.

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) 出身

(しゅっしん shussin)

Gabriella: Listen again and repeat.

Kaori: 出身

(しゅっしん shussin)

{Pause}

Gabriella: This pattern of first introducing a word at natural speed, providing the translation, breaking it down, and then giving it again at natural speed will be repeated throughout the series. Try to speak aloud as often as possible. The next word in the question is

Kaori: は

(wa)

Gabriella: subject marking particle, meaning something like "is".

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) は

(wa)

Gabriella: Now repeat.

Kaori: は

(wa)

{Pause}

Listen to the the first 2 words of the question and repeat.

Kaori:

出身は

(しゅっしんは shussin wa)

{pause}

And next

Kaori: どこ

(doko)

Gabriella: meaning “where.”

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) どこ

(doko)

Gabriella: Now repeat.

Kaori: どこ

(doko)

{Pause}

Listen to the the first 3 words of the question and repeat.

Kaori: 出身は どこ

(しゅっしんは どこ shussin wa doko)

{pause}

And after that

Kaori: です

(desu)

Gabriella: sentence ending particle meaning something like “is.”

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) です

(desu)

Gabriella: Now repeat.

Kaori: です

(desu)

{Pause}

Listen to the the first 4 words of the question and repeat.

Kaori: 出身は どこです

(しゅっしんは どこです shussin wa doko desu)

{pause}

Next is

Kaori: か

(ka)

Gabriella: the Question marking particle.

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) か

(ka)

Gabriella: Now repeat.

Kaori:

か

(ka)

{Pause}

Listen to the entire question and repeat.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 shussin wa doko desu ka.)

{pause}

Gabriella: You will hear this common question again and again throughout your studies. Master the following pattern and responses to the question “Where are you from?”

Kaori: アメリカです。

(Amerika desu.)

Gabriella: "I'm from the U.S." Again, slowly. Repeat the phrase.

Kaori: (Slow) アメリカです。

(Amerika desu.)

{pause}

Gabriella: Let's break it down from the beginning. The first word:

Kaori: アメリカ

(Amerika)

Gabriella: which is “America” or “the U.S.A.”

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) アメリカ

(Amerika)

Gabriella: Now repeat

Kaori: アメリカ

(Amerika)

{Pause}

Gabriella: And next

Kaori: です

(desu)

sentence-ending particle, meaning something like "is".

Kaori: (Slow, by syllable) です

(desu)

Gabriella: Now repeat.

Kaori: です

(desu)

{Pause}

Gabriella: Listen to the speaker say, “I'm from the U.S.,” and then repeat.

Kaori: アメリカです。

(Amerika desu.)

{pause}

Gabriella: To expand on the pattern, replace “the U.S.” with “Mexico.”

Kaori:

メキシコ

(Mekishiko)

Gabriella: Mexico

Kaori: (slow) メキシコ (regular) メキシコ

(Mekishiko) (Mekishiko)

Gabriella: Listen to the phrase again, this time with “Mexico.”

Kaori: メキシコです。

(Mekishiko desu.)

Gabriella: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace “the U.S.” with “Mexico.” Say “I’m from Mexico.”

{pause}

Kaori: メキシコです。

(Mekishiko desu.)

Gabriella: To use a different phrase, replace “Mexico” with “France.”

Kaori: フランス

(Furansu)

Gabriella: France

Kaori: (slow) フランス (regular) フランス

(Furansu) (Furansu)

Gabriella: Listen to the phrase again, this time with “France.”

Kaori: フランスです。

(Furansu desu.)

Gabriella: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace “Mexico” with “France.” Say “I’m from France.”

{pause}

Kaori: フランスです。

(Furansu desu.)

Gabriella: To use a different phrase, replace “France” with “Vietnam.”

Kaori: ベトナム

(Betonamu)

Gabriella: Vietnam

Kaori: (slow) ベトナム (regular) ベトナム

(Betonamu) (Betonamu)

Gabriella: Listen to the phrase again, this time with “Vietnam.”

Kaori: ベトナムです。

(Betonamu desu.)

Gabriella: It mostly stays the same. Simply replace “France” with “Vietnam.” Say “I’m from Vietnam.”

{pause}

Kaori: ベトナムです。

(Betonamu desu.)

QUIZ

Now it's time for a quiz. Imagine you are visiting Japan and someone asks you where you're from. You're from the U.S. Respond to the question.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shussin wa doko desu ka.)

(five seconds) アメリカです。

(Amerika desu.)

Gabriella: Now, imagine you're from Mexico. Respond to the question.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shussin wa doko desu ka.)

(five seconds) メキシコです。

(Mekishiko desu.)

Gabriella: Now, imagine you're from France. Answer the speaker's question.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shussin wa doko desu ka.)

(five seconds) フランスです。

(Furansu desu.)

Gabriella: Imagine you're from Vietnam. Respond to the question.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shussin wa doko desu ka.)

(five seconds) ベトナムです。

(Betonamu desu.)

Gabriella: Now you want to ask that person where they're from. Ask the question.

(5 seconds)

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shusshin wa doko desu ka.)

Gabriella: Now it's time to answer the question with actual information about yourself.

Kaori: 出身はどこですか。

(しゅっしんはどこですか。 Shusshin wa doko desu ka.)

(5 seconds)

OUTRO

Gabriella: This is the end of Lesson 2