

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner #11

What's Your Biggest Fear in Japan?

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KANJI

1. EMILY: 犬のアレルギーですか。
2. BOY: うん。かぶんしょう。
3. EMILY: わたしも、かぶんしょうです。
だから、はるがすきじゃありません。
4. BOY: ふーん。ぼくは、高いところがこわくてきらい。
5. EMILY: きょうふ・しょう？
6. BOY: うん。こうしょきょうふしょう。
7. EMILY: こうしょ・きょう・ふしょう...。
ながくて、むずかしいことばですね。(laugh)

KANA

1. EMILY: いぬのアレルギーですか。
2. BOY: うん。かぶんしょう。
3. EMILY: わたしも、かぶんしょうです。
だから、はるがすきじゃありません。
4. BOY: ふーん。ぼくは、たかいところがこわくてきらい。
5. EMILY: きょうふ・しょう？
6. BOY: うん。こうしょきょうふしょう。

CONT'D OVER

7. EMILY: こうしょ・きょう・ふしょう...。
ながくて、むずかしいことばですね。(laugh)

ROMANIZATION

1. EMILY: Inu no arerugī desu ka.
2. BOY: Un. Kafunshō.
3. EMILY: Watashi mo, kafunshō desu.
Dakara, haru ga suki ja arimasen.
4. BOY: Fūn. Boku wa, takai tokoro ga kowakute kirai.
5. EMILY: Kyōfu,shō?
6. BOY: un. Kōshokyōfushō.
7. EMILY: Kōsho, kyō, fushō....
Nagakute, muzukashii kotoba desu ne.(laugh)

ENGLISH

1. EMILY: A dog with an allergy?
2. BOY: Yeah. He has hay fever.
3. EMILY: I have hay fever too.
So I don't like spring.
4. BOY: Huh. For me, I'm scared of high-up places. I hate them.

CONT'D OVER

5. EMILY: A phobia?
6. BOY: Yeah. Acrophobia.
7. EMILY: Acro-pho-bi-a?
That's a long, difficult word, isn't it (laugh)?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
はる	はる	haru	spring
むずかしい	むずかしい	muzukashii	difficult, hard, troublesome, complicated; Adj(i)
ことば	ことば	kotoba	language, dialect, word
も	も	mo	also, too; particle
ながい	ながい	nagai	long (length, distance); Adj(i)
だから	だから	dakara	so, therefore, because
ふーん	ふーん	fūn	hmm, humph
高い	たかい	takai	high, tall, expensive; Adj(i)
すき (な)	すき (な)	suki(na)	likable, to like; Adj (na)
ところ	ところ	tokoro	place

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>にほんのはるがすきです。 <i>Nihon no haru ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like spring in Japan.</p>	<p>にほんごはむずかしくないです。 <i>Nihongo wa muzukashiku nai desu.</i></p> <p>Japanese is not difficult.</p>
<p>すきなにほんごのことはなですか。 <i>Suki na Nihongo no kotoba wa nan desu ka.</i></p> <p>What is your favorite Japanese word?</p>	<p>これもにくです。 <i>Kore mo niku desu.</i></p> <p>This is also meat.</p>
<p>ケンにはながい。 <i>Ken wa kami ga nagai.</i></p> <p>Ken has long hair.</p>	<p>ぎゅうにゅうアレルギーがあります。だから、とうにゅうをのみます。 <i>Gyūnyū arerugī ga arimasu. Dakara, tōnyū o nomimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm allergic to milk. So I drink soy milk.</p>
<p>ああ、あれが新しい従業員か。。。ふーん。 <i>Ā, are ga atarashii jūgyōin ka... fūn.</i></p> <p>Oh, so that's the new employee? Hmmm.</p>	<p>ダイヤモンドは高いです。 <i>Daiyamondo wa takai desu.</i></p> <p>Diamonds are expensive.</p>
<p>わたしはにほんがすきです。 <i>Watashi wa Nihon ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like Japan.</p>	<p>ディズニーランドは楽しいところです。 <i>Dizunīrando wa tanoshii tokoro desu.</i></p> <p>Disneyland is a fun place.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

だから (*dakara*)

This means "so...," or "therefore..." in English. It indicates that an action happened as the result of the previous action, stated before *dakara*.

For Example:

- たまごアレルギーがあります。だから、めだまやきはたべません。
Tamago arerugī ga arimasu. Dakara, medamayaki wa tabemasen.
"I'm allergic to eggs. So I don't eat fried eggs."

はる (*haru*)

Haru means "spring." Look below to see the names of the four seasons in Japan.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
はる	Haru	"Spring"
なつ	Natsu	"Summer"
あき	Aki	"Autumn"
ふゆ	Fuyu	"Winter"

Casual response ふーん (*fūn*) and うん (*un*)

Fūn is a sound equivalent to "hmm" or "humph," and you can use it to show the speaker your understanding. It can also imply dissatisfaction or disinterest, depending on the context and intonation. *Un* means "yeah." You can use it to express affirmation in casual conversation.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Combine Adjectives.

ぼくは、高いところがこわくてきらい。

Boku wa, takai tokoro ga kowakute kirai.

"For me, I'm scared of high-up places. I hate them."

Today's grammar point is how to combine adjectives. When we use two (or more) adjectives to describe something or a person, we can combine them into one sentence by changing the adjective into its *-te* form. We can only use the *-te* form when adjectives are in a non-final position in a sentence.

First, please note that we cannot use the connective particle と (*to*), meaning "and," for connecting adjectives.

For Example:

- これはながくて、むずかしいです。
Kore wa nagakute, muzukashii desu.
× これはながいと、むずかしいです。
Kore wa nagai to, muzukashii desu.

Te Form of I Adjective

In order to form the *te* form of *i* adjectives,

- 1) remove the final *i* and
- 2) attach *-kute*

For Example:

"English"	Japanese			+ <i>kute</i>
	Romanization	- <i>i</i>		
"high," "expensive"	たかい <i>takai</i>	たかーい <i>taka-i</i>	→	たかくて <i>takakute</i>
"scared," "scary"	こわい <i>kowai</i>	こわーい <i>kowa-i</i>	→	こわくて <i>kowakute</i>
"long"	ながい <i>nagai</i>	ながーい <i>naga-i</i>	→	ながくて <i>nagakute</i>
"difficult"	むずかしい <i>muzukashii</i>	むずかしーい <i>muzukashi-i</i>	→	むずかしくて <i>muzukashikute</i>

For Example:

1. いぬはこわくてすきじゃないです。
Inu wa kowakute suki ja nai desu.
"Dogs are scary. I don't like them."
2. うどんはながくておいしいです。
Udon wa nagakute oishii desu.
"Udon noodles are long and yummy."

Te Form of Na Adjective

In order to form the *te* form of *na* adjectives,

- 1) remove the final *na* and
- 2) attach *-de*

For Example:

"English"	Japanese		
	Romanization	-na	+ de
"likeable"	すき (な) <i>suki(na)</i>	すきー (な) <i>suki-(na)</i>	→ すき で <i>suki de</i>
"unlikeable"	きらい (な) <i>kirai(na)</i>	きらいー (な) <i>kirai-(na)</i>	→ きらいで <i>kirai de</i>
"clean," "beautiful"	きれい (な) <i>kirei(na)</i>	きれいー (な) <i>kirei-(na)</i>	→ きれいで <i>kirei de</i>
"weird"	へん (な) <i>hen-(na)</i>	へんー (な) <i>hen-(na)</i>	→ へんで <i>hen de</i>

For Example:

1. ゴハンは へんでおもしろいぬです。
Gohan wa hen de omoshiroi inu desu.
"Gohan is a weird and funny dog."
2. すしはきれいですきです。
Sushi wa kirei de suki desu.
"Sushi is beautiful to look at, and I like it."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. ぼくは、高いところがこわくてきらい。
Boku wa, takai tokoro ga kowakute kirai.
"For me, I'm scared of high-up places. I hate them."
2. ながくて、むずかしいことばですね。
Nagakute, muzukashii kotoba desu ne.
"That's a long, difficult word, isn't it."

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *suki /kirai* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 18
- negative sentence of adjectives → Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 9 and 10
- prenominal usage of adjectives → Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 8

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Saying You're Scared of or Have a Phobia of Something in Japanese

In the previous lesson, we talked about allergies, but in this lesson we're talking about things you simply don't like or cannot stand at all. Some typical examples would be heights, certain insects or animals, confined spaces, and so on. Here are the names of some common phobias in Japanese.

<i>Romanization</i>	"English"
<i>kōshokyōfushō</i>	"fear of heights"
<i>heishokyōfushō</i>	"fear of small/narrow spaces"
<i>inukyōfushō</i>	"fear of dogs"
<i>nekokyōfushō</i>	"fear of cats"
<i>kaminariyōfushō</i>	"fear of thunder/lightning"

Also some people use ...*kyōfushō*, or "phobia," as a joke. For example, a man could say *joseikyōfushō desu* if he is not good at talking to or spending time with women.