

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner #13

## Have you Been to a Japanese Festival Before?

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# 13

## KANJI

1. KEN: 人がたくさんいますね。
2. COLLEAGUE: きょうは、まつりですよ。
3. KEN: まつり？
4. COLLEAGUE: まつりは、えいごで、festivalです。  
まつりは、はじめてですか。
5. KEN: はい。
6. COLLEAGUE: じゃ、ちょっといきませんか。
7. ...
8. KEN: あれは、何ですか。
9. COLLEAGUE: みこしです。
10. KEN: みこし？はじめてみました。  
みこしは、えいごで 何ですか。
11. COLLEAGUE: えーっと....

## KANA

1. KEN: ひとがたくさんいますね。
2. COLLEAGUE: きょうは、まつりですよ。

CONT'D OVER

3. KEN: まつり？
4. COLLEAGUE: まつりは、えいごで、festivalです。  
まつりは、はじめてですか。
5. KEN: はい。
6. COLLEAGUE: じゃ、ちょっといきませんか。
7. ...
8. KEN: あれは、なんですか。
9. COLLEAGUE: みこしです。
10. KEN: みこし？はじめてみました。  
みこしは、えいごで なんですか。
11. COLLEAGUE: えーっと....

## ROMANIZATION

1. KEN: Hito ga takusan imasu ne.
2. COLLEAGUE: Kyō wa, matsuri desu yo.
3. KEN: Matsuri?
4. COLLEAGUE: Matsuri wa, eigo de, festival desu.  
Matsuri wa, hajimete desu ka.

CONT'D OVER

5. KEN: Hai.
6. COLLEAGUE: Ja, chotto ikimasen ka.
7. ...
8. KEN: Are wa, nan desu ka.
9. COLLEAGUE: Mikoshi desu.
10. KEN: Mikoshi? Hajimete mimashita.  
Mikoshi wa, eigo de nan desu ka.
11. COLLEAGUE: Ētto...

## ENGLISH

1. KEN: There are lots of people, aren't there?
2. COLLEAGUE: Today's a matsuri.
3. KEN: A matsuri?
4. COLLEAGUE: "Matsuri" is "festival" in English.  
Is it your first time at a festival?
5. KEN: Yes.
6. COLLEAGUE: OK, so why don't we go and have a look?
7. KEN: What's that?

CONT'D OVER

8. COLLEAGUE: It's a "mikoshi."
9. KEN: A "mikoshi?" I've never seen one before.  
What's "mikoshi" in English?
10. COLLEAGUE: Er...

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
で	で	de	particle indicating a means or implement
ちょっと	ちょっと	chotto	a bit, a little
きょう	きょう	kyō	today
人	ひと	hito	a person, people
はじめて	はじめて	hajimete	for the first time
たくさん	たくさん	takusan	many, a lot
まつり	まつり	matsuri	festival, feast

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>「carnival」は 日本ごで 何ですか。 <i>"carnival" wa Nihongo de nan desu ka.</i></p> <p>How do you say "carnival" in Japanese?</p>	<p>ちょっと、すみません。 <i>Chotto, sumimasen.</i></p> <p>Excuse me for a minute.</p>
<p>きょうはあついです。 <i>Kyō wa atsui desu.</i></p> <p>It's hot today.</p>	<p>あの人のなまえは何ですか。 <i>Ano hito no namae wa nan desu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you know the name of that person over there?</p>

日本ははじめてですか。  
*Nihon wa hajimete desu ka.*

Is this your first time in Japan?

人がたくさんまつりにきました。  
*Hito ga takusan matsuri ni kimashita.*

Many people came to the festival.

ブラジルのゆうめいなまつりは何ですか。  
*Burajiru no yūmei na matsuri wa nan desu ka.*

What's the famous festival in Brazil?

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**[something] は えいご で 何 ですか。 ([something] wa Eigo de nan desu ka.)**

This literally means "What is [something] in English?" and it turns to "What does [something] mean in English?" You can use this simply add ... *wa nan desu ka* just after a word or a phrase that you like to know. Please note that the kanji 何 is read as *nan* not *nani* in this phrase. See more details on Absolute Beginner series Season 1 Lesson 24.

### Japanese

[something] は えいご で 何 ですか。

### Romanization

[something] wa Eigo de nan desu ka

### "English"

"What's '[something]' in English?"

### For Example:

When you don't know what *matsuri* is in English:

1. まつりは、えいごで 何ですか。  
*Matsuri wa, eigo de nan desu ka.*  
"What's 'matsuri' in English?"

When you answer this question, simply replace *nan* with the English equivalent and omit *-ka* at the end.

\*You can also omit the mutual part, *matsuri wa Eigo de*, as well because it is obvious in the context.

### For Example:

1. (まつりは、えいごで) festivalです。  
(*Matsuri wa, eigo de*) festival desu.  
"Matsuri is 'festival' in English." or "It's festival in English."

### たくさん (*takusan*)

This means "many" or "a lot" in English. You can use this word to describe an amount of things. As you see in the dialogue, we usually place it between the thing and the action. Please note that you don't have to put any particles after *takusan*.

#### For Example:

1. ひとがたくさんいますね。  
*Hito ga takusan imasu ne.*  
"There are lots of people, aren't there?"
2. ワインをたくさんのみます。  
*Wain o takusan nomimasu.*  
"I drink lots of wine."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is to Express That an Action Is Happening for the First Time for You

みこし?はじめてみました。  
*Mikoshi? Hajimete mimashita.*  
"A 'mikoshi?' I've never seen one before."

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In this lesson, you'll learn how to express that it's a person's first time to experience something using *hajimete*. Let's take a closer look.

#### Formation: How to Describe First Things

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In the dialogue, Ken's colleague asked him *hajimete desu ka*. This is similar to the *A wa B desu* structure. You can use it both in question and non-question sentences.

Question:

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<b>Japanese</b>	[something]は	はじめて	ですか。
<b>Romanization</b>	[something] wa	hajimete	desu ka.

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**"English"**"Is it your first time at [something]?"

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Answer/statement:

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**Japanese**

[something]は はじめて です。

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**Romanization**[something] wa hajimete desu.

---

**"English"**"It's my first time at [something]."

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**For Example:**

1. A: すしは はじめて ですか。  
*Sushi wa hajimete desu ka.*  
"Is it your first time having sushi?"
2. B: いいえ。でも、たこのすしは はじめて です。  
*ie. Demo, tako no sushi wa hajimete desu.*  
"No. But it's my first time having octopus in sushi."

**Formation: How to Describe First Actions**

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On the other hand, you use this pattern when it is your first time to do something. In the dialogue, Ken said *Hajimete mimashita* when he saw *mikoshi* for the first time. This is our second target pattern.

Answer/statement:

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**Japanese**

はじめて [past tense of a verb]

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**Romanization***Hajimete* [past tense of a verb]

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**"English"**"I've never [done something] before."  
"It's my first time for me to [do something]."

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\*Even though you use the present tense to express in English, you need to use the past tense in this pattern. See the examples below and their English equivalents.

**For Example:**

1. はじめて 日本に きました。  
*Hajimete Nihon ni kimashita.*  
"I've never been to Japan before." or "It's my first time to come to Japan."
2. はじめて メキシコのおさを のみました。  
*Hajimete Mekishiko no o-sake o nomimashita.*  
"I've never drunk/had the Mexican alcohol." or "It was my first time to drink the Mexican alcohol."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. まつりは、はじめてですか。  
*Matsuri wa, hajimete desu ka.*  
"Is it your first time at a festival?"
2. みこし? はじめてみました。  
*Mikoshi? Hajimete mimashita.*  
"A 'mikoshi?' I've never seen one before."

### Reference

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Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- [animate object] *ga imasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 20
- [verb] + *masen ka* → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 21

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### A Japanese Festival and Its Events

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*Matsuri* were originally ritual ceremonies to revere their ancestors and the god depending on what people enshrined. Nowadays, the religious aspects are fading away, and *matsuri* tend to be chances for local people to strengthen their unity as neighbors. One of the major events on *matsuri* is *mikoshi*. *Mikoshi* is translated as a portable Shinto shrine, and its shape is a miniature of shrine building. Many people, mainly men, shoulder it and go around the local

area, calling *Wasshoi! Wasshoi!* The calling differs in various areas. Also, many food and game stalls are held so that most of the kids look forward to the *matsuri* seasons, which are usually held in summer or early autumn.