

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Lower Beginner #18

Dining Out in Japan

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INTRODUCTION

Alisha: Hi everyone! アリッシャです！ Alisha here!

Natsuko: こんにちは！ ナツコです！ Hi everyone, I'm Natsuko.

Alisha: Welcome to Lower Beginner Season 1, Lesson 18 – “Dining Out in Japan”

Natsuko: In this lesson, you'll learn useful expressions you can use at a restaurant. You'll also learn how to count people.

Alisha: Where does this lesson's dialog take place?

Natsuko: Ken goes to a restaurant and a waitress welcomes him at the entrance. では、聞きましょう。

Alisha: Let's listen to the conversation!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Natsuko: Alisha, have you ever tried shabushabu?

Alisha: I've heard of it, but I haven't had a chance yet. What's shabushabu like?

Natsuko: It's a dish of thinly sliced meat and vegetables. You have to take a slice of meat, stir it in a cooking pot, let it swim in the boiling water, and eat it with dipping sauces.

Alisha: So we cook it ourselves?

Natsuko: Yes, we do. We usually let the meat swim in the boiling water with soup stock, turning it just twice or three times until it's perfectly cooked. It takes 5 seconds or less.

Alisha: That's fast! Do we have choices of meat?

Natsuko: Pork and beef are the most common choices, but we often enjoy other varieties like chicken and fish.

Alisha: Sounds healthy and original.

Natsuko: Yes, it is. If you ever have the chance, please do try!

Alisha: I definitely will. Okay, let's see this lesson's vocabulary and phrases.

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Alisha: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Natsuko: In this lesson, you'll learn how to count people. We use special forms for saying 1 person and 2 persons, and after that, we use the counter suffix “-nin” after general number.

Alisha: Let's start from 1 person. To say one person in Japanese...

Natsuko:

ひとり

Alisha: Two people

Natsuko: ふたり

Alisha: Three people

Natsuko: さんにん

Alisha: Four people

Natsuko: よにん

Alisha: Five people

Natsuko: ごにん

Alisha: Six people

Natsuko: ろくにん

Alisha: Seven people

Natsuko: ななにん or しちにん

Alisha: Eight people

Natsuko: はちにん

Alisha: Nine people

Natsuko: きゅうにん

Alisha: Lastly, ten people

Natsuko: じゅうにん

Alisha: It's not very difficult is it? Listeners, the first two take the special forms, "hitori" and "futari", but aren't they familiar to you?

Natsuko: Good point! We've learnt general counters in Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 14. It goes, ひとつ、ふたつ、みつつ・・・

Alisha: That's why those two sounded familiar!

Natsuko: ひとり for one person, ふたり for two and maybe よにん for four people would require a little more attention, but none of them would sound new to you.

Alisha: No, they don't. Now, let's move on to the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

Alisha: In this lesson, you're going to learn some useful expressions at a restaurant. After you're welcomed, you'll be asked how many people you need a table for.

Natsuko: 何名様ですか。

Alisha: Your waitress or waiter has to use very polite Japanese to you, so they use politer counter for people, "mei", and then even add honorific suffix "sama". If you're a group of 4, you'd respond...

Natsuko: よにんです。

Alisha: That's when you can use the counters we've just learned today!

Natsuko: Yes! Then, you'll be asked if you smoke with the phrase

おたばこは？ because they often have both non-smoking and smoking tables.

Alisha: I don't like eating in a smoky environment. How can I request a non-smoking seat?

Natsuko: きんえんせき、おねがいします。 And if you smoke, you can say きつえんせき、おねがいします。

Alisha: きんえん and きつえん sound similar, so let's practice! First, "non-smoking" is...

Natsuko: きんえん

Alisha: [wait 5 sec.] Now "smoking" is...

Natsuko: きつえん

Alisha: [wait 5 sec.] Simply by adding "seki" after きんえん or きつえん, you can tell them which table you want. Natsuko will ask you if you smoke, so tell her if you want non-smoking or smoking seat.

Natsuko: おたばこは。 [wait 5 sec.] きんえんせきお願いします。 Or, きつえんせきお願いします。

Alisha: Did you say おねがいします too?

Natsuko: After you've got a table, you can order food and drink using the pattern of [item] を[number], おねがいします。 For example, ビールをふたつ、おねがいします。

Alisha: And that means "two draught beers, please". Let's practice this useful sentence. Listeners, repeat after Natsuko.

Natsuko: ビールをふたつ、おねがいします。

Alisha: [wait 5 sec.] Great! We have more detailed information in the lesson notes, so please check them out!

OUTRO

Alisha: That's about all we have time for this lesson. We hope you enjoyed it. See you next time!

Natsuko: じゃ、また。