

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner #1

## A Formal Japanese Introduction

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# 1

## KANJI

1. EMILY:                   みなさん、こんにちは。  
わたし は エミリー・マーティン です。  
しゅっしんはオーストラリアのブリスベンです。  
25さい です。  
らいげつ、かれしと日ほんにいきます。  
よろしく おねがいします。

## KANA

1. EMILY:                   みなさん、こんにちは。  
わたしは エミリー・マーティン です。  
しゅっしんは オーストラリアの ブリスベンです。  
にじゅうごさいです。  
らいげつ、かれしと にほんに いきます。  
よろしく おねがいします。

## ROMANIZATION

1. EMIRĪ:                   Mina-san, kon'nichi wa.  
Watashi wa Emirī Mātin desu.  
Shusshin wa Ōsutoraria no Burisuben desu.  
Ni-jū go-sai desu.  
Raigetsu, kareshi to Nihon ni ikimasu.  
Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. EMILY: Hello, everyone.  
 My name is Emily Martin.  
 I'm from Brisbane in Australia.  
 I'm twenty-five years old.  
 Next month, I'm going to Japan with my boyfriend.  
 It's a pleasure to meet you.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
みなさん	みなさん	mina-san	everyone
こんにちは	こんにちは	Kon'nichiwa	hello, good day (daytime greeting)
です	です	desu	roughly means 'to be'
行きます	いきます	ikimasu	to go (polite)
らいげつ	らいげつ	raigetsu	next month
かれし	かれし	kareshi	boyfriend
しゅっしん	しゅっしん	shusshin	place you are from, the place of origin
よろしくおねがいし ます	よろしくおねがいし ます	yoroshiku onegai shimasu	Nice to meet you. It's a pleasure to meet you.

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

みなさん、こんにちは。 <i>Mina-san, Kon'nichiwa.</i>  Hello, everyone.	皆さん、こんにちは。 <i>Mina-san, kon'nichiwa.</i>  Hello, everybody.
私はジョン・スミスです。 <i>Watashi wa Jon Sumisu desu.</i>  I am John Smith.	すぐ行きます。 <i>Sugu, ikimasu.</i>  I'm going soon.

らいげつ、日ほんに いきます。 <i>Raigetsu, Nihon ni ikimasu.</i>  I go to Japan next month.	かれしと 日ほんに いきます。 <i>Kareshi to Nihon ni ikimasu.</i>  I go to Japan with my boyfriend.
しゅっしんは アメリカの ハワイです。 <i>Shusshin wa Amerika no Hawaii desu.</i>  I'm from Hawaii, the US.	田中太郎です。よろしくおねがいします。 <i>Tanaka Tarō desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.</i>  I'm Taro Tanaka. It's a pleasure to meet you.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### らいげつ (*raigetsu*)

This means "next month." *Rai* means "next" or "coming," and *getsu* means "month." Let's check out the related vocabulary.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
せんげつ	<i>sengetsu</i>	"last month"
こんげつ	<i>kongetsu</i>	"this month"
らいげつ	<i>raigetsu</i>	"next month"

### かれし (*kareshi*)

*Kareshi* means "boyfriend." In casual conversation, this is often abbreviated as *かれ* (*kare*). On the other hand, "girlfriend" is *かのじょ* (*kanojo*), and this is not abbreviated.

### ~さい (~*sai*, suffix for one's age)

~*sai*, a suffix for one's age, means "- years old" or "-year-old." Just as in English, it comes after the number. But some ages have slightly tricky or irregular readings. Let's take a look at them.

Age	Japanese
1	いち + さい = いっさい ( <i>issai</i> )
8	はち + さい = はっさい ( <i>hassai</i> )
10	じゅう + さい = じゅっさい ( <i>jussai</i> )

11	じゅういち + さい = じゅういっさい (jūissai)
20	にじゅう + さい = はたち (hatachi)**
21	にじゅういち + さい = にじゅういっさい (nijūissai)

\*\*Note: The word for "twenty years old" is *hatachi* (instead of *nijussai*, which you might expect it to be).

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Introducing Yourself.

わたしは エミリー・マーティン です。

*Watashi wa Emīrī Mātin desu.*

"My name is Emily Martin."

In this lesson, you'll learn how to introduce yourself using the *watashi wa --- desu* sentence structure. You'll also learn how to say where you are from.

### Introducing Yourself in Japanese

To give your name, simply state your name after *watashi wa* and follow it with *desu*. Please see the tip below on how to properly pronounce *desu*.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
わたしは [name] です。	<i>Watashi wa [name] desu.</i>	"I'm [name]."

To give where you are from, you say *shusshin wa* (which literally means "origin is"), then give the name of your country. You then add *no* and say the name of the city you're from.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
しゅっしんは [name of a country] の [name of a city] です。	<i>Shusshin wa [name of a country] no [name of a city] desu.</i>	"I'm from [name of a city], [name of a country]."

When introducing yourself, simply combine the two phrases above!

### For Example:

1. わたし は キム・スミス です。しゅっしんはアメリカ の ハワイです。  
*Watashi wa Kim Sumisu desu. Shusshin wa Amerika no Hawaii desu.*  
"I'm Kim Smith. I'm from Hawaii in the United States."

### Language Tip: Pronouncing *Desu*

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Note that when we are pronouncing *desu*, the *-u* at the end is silent. So the word *desu* sounds just like [dess].

This rule also applies for verbs in formal speech (which end in *masu*), which we will go over later on in this series.

### Examples from This Dialogue

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1. わたし は エミリー・マーティン です。しゅっしんはオーストラリアのブリスベンです。  
*Watashi wa Emiri Mātin desu. Shusshin wa Ōsutoraria no Burisuben desu.*  
"My name is Emily Martin. I'm from Brisbane in Australia."

### Reference

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Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *Kon'nichiwa* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 1
- *A wa B desu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 7
- *[age]-sai desu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 17
- *[person] wa [place] ni ikimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 23
- *Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 2

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## Japanese Name Order

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Name order in Japanese is different from the Western order. Family names or last names come first, followed by the first name. So if you hear a Japanese name, for example, "Suzuki Makiko," the first part, "Suzuki," is her family name; the latter part, "Makiko," is her first name. Regarding non-Japanese people's names, most Japanese people understand that the name order for Western names is the opposite, so you can introduce yourself as you do in English: for example, "Eliza McCagg." Of course, you can also apply the Japanese order to your name if you wish!