

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner #2

Which Famous Tokyo Tower is That?

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KANJI

1. (Bus)
2. EMILY: どうぞ。
3. OLD WOMAN: ありがとうございます。...アメリカから?
4. KEN: いいえ。オーストラリアのブリスベンからきました。
5. OLD WOMAN: そうですか。
6. KEN: すみません、あれは、とうきょうタワーですか。
7. OLD WOMAN: あれ?あれは、とうきょうスカイツリーです。
634メートルです。
8. KEN: ろっぴゃく、さんじゅう、よん...

KANA

1. (Bus)
2. EMILY: どうぞ。
3. OLD WOMAN: ありがとうございます。...アメリカから?
4. KEN: いいえ。オーストラリアのブリスベンからきました。
5. OLD WOMAN: そうですか。
6. KEN: すみません、あれは、とうきょうタワーですか。

CONT'D OVER

7. OLD WOMAN: あれ？あれは、とうきょうスカイツリーです。
634メートルです。
8. KEN: ろっぴゃく、さんじゅう、よん…。

ROMANIZATION

1. (Bus)
2. EMIRĪ: Dōzo.
3. OLD WOMAN: Arigatō gozaimasu.... Amerika kara?
4. KEN: lie. Ōsutoraria no Burizuben kara kimashita.
5. OLD WOMAN: Sō desu ka.
6. KEN: Sumimasen, are wa, Tōkyo Tawā desu ka.
7. OLD WOMAN: Are? Are wa, Tōkyō Sukai Tsurī desu.
Roppyaku san-jū yon-mētoru desu.
8. KEN: Roppyaku, san-jū, yon…

ENGLISH

1. (Bus)
2. EMILY: Please have a seat.

CONT'D OVER

3. OLD WOMAN: Thank you so much. ...Are you American?
4. KEN: No. We're from Brisbane, Australia.
5. OLD WOMAN: Is that so?
6. KEN: Excuse me, is that Tokyo Tower?
7. OLD WOMAN: That? That's the Tokyo Sky Tree. It's 634 meters tall.
8. KEN: Six hundred, thirty, four...

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どうぞ	どうぞ	dōzo	go ahead, here you are
です	です	desu	roughly means 'to be'
は	は	wa	topic marking particle
そうですか。	そうですか。	Sō desu ka.	Really? Is that so?
メートル	めーとる	mētoru	meter, m
きます	きます	kimasu	to come;V3 -masu form
あれ	あれ	are	that(one over there)
すみません	すみません	sumimasen	Excuse me, I'm sorry, Thank you

SAMPLE SENTENCES

はい、どうぞ。 <i>Hai, dōzo.</i> Here you go.	私はジョン・スミスです。 <i>Watashi wa Jon Sumisu desu.</i> I am John Smith.
今日はクリスマスです。 <i>Kyō wa Kurisumasu desu.</i> Today is Christmas.	え？そうですか？ <i>E? Sō desu ka?</i> Huh? Is that so?
とうきょうタワーは332メートルです。 <i>Tōkyō tawā wa san-byaku san-jū ni-mētoru desu.</i> Tokyo tower is 332m high.	たなかさんはパーティーにきますか。 <i>Tanaka-san wa pātī ni kimasu ka.</i> Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka coming to the party?
あれは何ですか。 <i>Are wa nan desu ka?</i> What's that?	すみません。もう一度お願いします。 <i>Sumimasen. Mō ichi-do onegai shimasu.</i> I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

あれ (*are*)

Kore is the word that means "this," but let's also review the related words "that" and "that (over there)." Please also check out Absolute Beginner series Season 1 Lesson 11 for a detailed usage explanation.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
これ	<i>kore</i>	"this"
それ	<i>sore</i>	"this"
あれ	<i>are</i>	"that (over there)"

そうですか。 (*Sō desu ka.*)

Sō desu ka. means "Really?" or "Is that so?" and we use it in Japanese to respond to what someone has said. In Absolute Beginner series Season 1 Lesson 9, you first learned the phrase *sō desu*, which means "yes" or "that's right." Please check that out too.

から (*kara*)

Kara means "from." Unlike in English, where "from" is followed by a place, in Japanese *kara* follows a place and describes where someone is from.

For Example:

1. アメリカからきました。
Amerika kara kimashita.
"I came from the United States."/"I'm from the United States."
2. オーストラリアからきました。
Ōsutoraria kara kimashita.
"I came from Australia."/"I'm from Australia."

メートル (*mētoru*)

This means "meters" and indicates the length or height of something. You can use this word as in English simply by putting it after the number. When the height or length in question has numbers after the decimal point, say *てん* (*ten*) for "point." The numbers after the decimal point are always read just as simple individual numbers, as in English.

Number	Japanese	Romaji
634	メートル	<i>Roppyaku san-jū yon-mētoru</i>
165.2	メートル	<i>Hyaku roku-jū go ten ni-mētoru</i>
177.65	メートル	<i>Hyaku nana-jū nana ten roku go-mētoru</i>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking Questions.

あれは、とうきょうタワーですか。

Are wa Toukyou tawaa desu ka.

"Is that Tokyo Tower?"

In the previous lesson, you reviewed how to say what something is with the sentence pattern [A] *wa* [B] *desu* ("A is B"; for example "This is water"). In this lesson, you'll review how to turn that very sentence into a question: "Is A B?" ("Is this water?") You'll also learn

how to say where you are from.

Making Questions

Let's take a sentence that uses our "A is B" sentence pattern, which we learned in the previous lesson.

For Example:

1. これはおかし です。
Kore wa okashi desu.
"These are sweets."

Let's say you have a plate of snacks in front of you that look sweet...but you can't really tell whether they are! To turn the sentence above into a question ("These are sweets" → "Are these sweets?"), we simply add **ka** to the end of the sentence.

So now you can ask:

1. これはおかし ですか。
Kore wa okashi desu ka.
"Are these sweets?"

Let's try it with some other sentences:

Sentence	"English"	→	Question	"English"
これはみずです。 (<i>Kore wa mizu desu</i>)	"This is water."	→	これはみずですか。 (<i>Kore wa mizu desu ka?</i>)	"Is this water?"
これはにくです。 (<i>Kore wa niku desu.</i>)	"This is meat."	→	これはにくですか。 (<i>Kore wa niku desu ka?</i>)	"Is this meat?"
それはさかなです。 (<i>Sore wa sakana desu.</i>)	"That is fish."	→	それはさかなですか。 (<i>Sore wa sakana desu ka?</i>)	"Is that fish?"

それはやさい
です。

(*Sore wa
yasai desu.*)

"That is a
vegetable."

→

それはやさい
ですか。

(*Sore wa
yasai desu ka?*
)

"Is that a
vegetable?"

あれはフルー
ツです。

(*Are wa
furūtsu desu.*)

"That is a fruit
(over there)."

→

あれはフルー
ツですか。

(*Are wa
furūtsu desu
ka?*)

"Is that a fruit
(over there)?"

Language Tips: Saying "Yes" or "No"

We have touched on the phrase *sō desu*, which we also use to affirm something. Let's review how to say "yes" and "no":

1. "Yes" → はい。 / はい、そうです。
Hai./Hai, so desu.
2. "No" → いいえ。 / いいえ、ちがいます。
lie./lie, chigaimasu.

Saying Where You Are from

There are some variations in pattern to say where you are from. One of them is the pattern you learned in the previous lesson: *shusshin wa* [name of a country] *no* [name of a city] *desu*, which means "I'm from [name of a city], [name of a country]." Here you'll learn the second pattern, which literally means "I came from [name of a city], [name of a country]," or "I'm from ~". All you need to do is simply state the name of your country and city then continue with *kara kimashita*.

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

[name of a country] の
[name of a city] から きました。

[name of a country] *no*
[name of a city] *kara*
kimashita.

"I'm from [name of a city],
[name of a country]."
*Literally: "I came from
[name of a city], [name of
a country]"

For Example:

1. アメリカのハワイからきました。
Amerika no Hawaii kara kimashita.
"I'm from Hawaii, in the United States."
3. イタリアのフィレンツェからきました。
Itaria no Firentse kara kimashita.
"I'm from Florence, Italy."
4. イギリスのロンドンからきました。
Igirisu no Rondon kara kimashita.
"I'm from London, in the United Kingdom."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. あれは、とうきょうタワーですか。
Are wa Toukyou tawaa desu ka.
"Is that Tokyo Tower?"
2. オーストラリアのブリズベンからきました。
Ōsutoraria no Burisuben kara kimashita.
"We're from Brisbane, Australia."

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *--jin* → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 3
- big numbers(100 200 300...) → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 11

- *Sō desu ka.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 21
- *are* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 11
- *kimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 23
- past form of verb → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 19

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Tokyo Sky Tree

The city of Tokyo welcomed the Tokyo Sky Tree on May 2012. It took about three and a half years to build, and it is 634 meters high: almost twice the height of Tokyo Tower. This area is now known as *とうきょうスカイツリータウン (tōkyō sukai tsurī taun)* "Tokyo Sky Tree Town," and it has a shopping mall, observation deck, and of course the Tokyo Sky Tree itself. As of November 2012, this is the tallest tower not only in Japan but also in the world, as recorded in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. You can walk to the Tokyo Sky Tree from Asakusa or Ueno. You can also take the Toei Asakusa line or the Tokyo Metro Hanzōmon line to Tokyo Sky Tree Station (or Oshiage Station).