

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner #4

## Talking about Possession in Japanese

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# 4

## KANJI

1. (At a party)
2. MS.MORI:                    こちらはWood さんのおくさんですか。
3. KEN:                         おくさん？
4. MS. MORI:                 あ・・・ワイフ？
5. KEN:                         いいえ。かのじょです。かのじょのエミリー・マーティンです。
6. EMILY:                     エミリーとよんでください。よろしくおねがいします。
7. MS.MORI:                 森 はな子です。森とよんでください。よろしくおねがいします。

## KANA

1. (At a party)
2. MS.MORI:                    こちらはWoodさんのおくさんですか。
3. KEN:                         おくさん？
4. MS. MORI:                 あ・・・ワイフ？
5. KEN:                         いいえ。かのじょです。かのじょのエミリー・マーティンです。
6. EMILY:                     エミリーとよんでください。よろしくおねがいします。
7. MS.MORI:                 もり はなこです。もりとよんでください。よろしくおねがいします。

## ROMANIZATION

CONT'D OVER

1. (At a party)
2. MS.MORI: Kochira wa Wood-san no okusan desu ka.
3. KEN: Okusan?
4. MS. MORI: A... waifu?
5. KEN: Iie. Kanojo desu. Kanojo no Emirī Mātin desu.
6. EMILY: Emirī to yonde kudasai. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
7. MS.MORI: Mori Hanako desu. Mori to yonde kudasai. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

## ENGLISH

1. (At a party)
2. MS. MORI: Is this your okusan, Mr. Wood?
3. KEN: Okusan?
4. MS. MORI: Er...wife?
5. KEN: No. She's my girlfriend. This is my girlfriend, Emily Martin.
6. EMILY: Please call me Emily. It's very nice to meet you.
7. MS. MORI: I'm Hanako Mori. Please call me Mori. Pleased to meet you.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
の	の	no	particle indicating possession
おくさん	おくさん	okusan	someone else's wife
[name]~とよんでください	[name]~とよんでください	~to yonde kudasai	Please call me [name].
こちら	こちら	kochira	this, this person, this way (polite)
かのじょ	かのじょ	kanojo	girlfriend

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>こちらは森さんのおくさんです。 <i>Kochira wa Mori-san no okusan desu.</i></p> <p>This is Mr. Mori's wife.</p>	<p>こちらはおくさんですか。 <i>Kochira wa okusan desu ka?</i></p> <p>Is this your wife?</p>
<p>ジョナサンとよんでください。 <i>Jonasan to yonde kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please call me Jonathan.</p>	<p>こちらは田中太郎さんです。 <i>Kochira wa Tanaka Tarō-san desu.</i></p> <p>This is Taro Tanaka.</p>
<p>かのじょのエマです。 <i>Kanojo no Ema desu.</i></p> <p>This is my girlfriend, Ema.</p>	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### おくさん (*okusan*)

This is the polite term for "wife," which we usually use for other people's wives. The related word is *dan'na-san*, meaning "husband."

おくさん (*okusan*) "wife"

ごしゅじん (*go-shujin*) "husband"

## かのじよ (*kanojo*)

*kanojo* means "girlfriend." The opposite word, "boyfriend," is *kareshi*. See more details on this in Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 1.

かのじよ (*kanojo*) "girlfriend"

かれし (*kareshi*) "boyfriend"

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Particle *No*, Which Indicates Possession.**

こちらはWoodさんのおくさんですか。

*Kochira wa Wood-san no okusan desu ka.*

"Is this your okusan, Mr. Wood?"

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In this lesson, you'll learn how to use the particle *no*, which indicates possession. You'll also learn useful expressions for when you introduce someone to other people as well as how to ask people to call you by a certain name.

### Usage of the Possessive Particle *No*

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To indicate possession, simply put the person or thing that "possesses" the other person/thing before *no* and add the person or the thing that is "possessed" after it. Please note that the order is the opposite of "the thing of [name]" but the same as "[name]'s thing" in English.

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Japanese	Romaji	"English"
[A] の [B]	[A] <i>no</i> [B]	"A's B" "B of A"

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### For Example:

- わたしのめいし  
*watashi no meishi*  
"my business card"
- かいしゃのパソコン  
*kaisha no pasokon*  
"the company's computer"

3. これはエミリーさんのかばんです。  
*Kore wa Emirī-san no kaban desu.*  
 "This is Emily's bag."

## Introducing Someone to Other People

To give your friend's, family member's, or partner's name to other people, state your relationship followed by *no* and continue with [name] *desu*, just the same as when stating your own name.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
[relationship] の [name] です。	[relationship] <i>no</i> [name] <i>desu.</i>	"This is [my relationship to the person], [name]."

### For Example:

- かれしのケンです。  
*Kareshi no Ken desu.*  
 "This is my boyfriend, Ken."
- いもうと の ミランダ です。  
*Imouto no Miranda desu.*  
 "This is my younger sister, Miranda."
- かないのはな子です。  
*Kanai no Hanako desu.*  
 "This is my wife, Hanako."

## Telling Your Nickname

To tell people what you'd like them to call you, simply state your name followed by *to yonde kudasai*.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
[name] とよんでください	[name] <i>to yonde kudasai.</i>	"Please call me [name]."

## For Example:

1. ケンとよんでください。  
*Ken to yonde kudasai.*  
"Please call me Ken."
2. ウッドとよんでください。  
*Uddo to yonde kudasai.*  
"Please call me Wood."

## Examples from This Dialogue

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1. こちらは Wood さんのおくさんですか。  
*Kochira wa Wood-san no okusan desu ka.*  
"Is this your okusan, Mr. Wood?"
2. かのじょの エミリー・マーティンです。  
*Kanojo no Emiiri Mātin desu.*  
"This is my girlfriend, Emily Martin."
3. エミリーとよんでください。  
*Emiiri to yonde kudasai.*  
"Please call me Emily."

## Reference

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Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- Particle *no* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 10
- *kochira* → Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 3
- *Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 2

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Refer to Your

## Wife

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As you see in the dialogue, Ms. Mori used *okusan* to refer to Ken's partner. *Okusan* is the term we most commonly use to address someone else's wife. However, husbands don't use *okusan* to refer to their own wives. Instead, husbands use *つま* (*tsuma*) or *かない* (*kanai*). In Japanese, we use respectful terms to refer to other people's family members and non-respectful terms to refer to our own. *Okusan* is a respectful term, so we use it for someone else's wife, whereas *kanai* and *tsuma* are non-respectful, so we use them to refer to the speaker's wife.

In the same way, we use *ごしゅじん* (*go-shujin*) to refer to someone else's husband, while we use *しゅじん* (*shujin*) or *旦那* (*dan'na*) to refer to the speaker's own husband.