

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner #6

## Which Floor of this Japanese Building Do You Live On?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 3 Romanization
- 4 English
- 4 Vocabulary
- 5 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 6

# KANJI

1. (elevator)
2. OLD MAN:           なんかいですか？
3. EMILY:             四かい、おねがいします。
4. OLD MAN:           はい？
5. EMILY:             四、おねがいします。
6. OLD MAN:           四かい？ 401（よんまるいち）ごうしつ？
7. EMILY:             はい。
8. OLD MAN:           わたしは402ごうしつのはやしです。  
となりですね。どうぞよろしく。
9. EMILY:             エミリー・マーティンです。せんしゅう、日ほんにきました。  
よろしくおねがいします。

# KANA

1. (elevator)
2. OLD MAN:           なんかいですか？
3. EMILY:             よんかい、おねがいします。
4. OLD MAN:           はい？

CONT'D OVER

5. EMILY: よん、おねがいします。
6. OLD MAN: よんかい？ 401（よんまるいち）ごうしつ？
7. EMILY: はい。
8. OLD MAN: わたしは402ごうしつのはやしです。  
となりですね。どうぞよろしく。
9. EMILY: エミリー・マーティンです。せんしゅう、にほんにきました。  
よろしくおねがいします。

## ROMANIZATION

1. (elevator)
2. OLD MAN: Nan-kai desu ka?
3. EMILY: Yon-kai, onegai shimasu.
4. OLD MAN: Hai?
5. EMILY: Yon, onegai shimasu.
6. OLD MAN: Yon-kai? Yon maru ichi-gōshitsu?
7. EMILY: Hai.
8. OLD MAN: Watashi wa yon maru ni-gōshitsu no Hayashi desu.  
Tonari desu ne. Dōzo yoroshiku.

CONT'D OVER

9. EMILY: Emirī Mātin desu. Senshū, Nihon ni kimashita.  
Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

## ENGLISH

1. (elevator)
2. OLD MAN: What floor?
3. EMILY: Fourth floor, please.
4. OLD MAN: Sorry?
5. EMILY: Four, please.
6. OLD MAN: Fourth floor? Apartment four-oh-one?
7. EMILY: Yes.
8. OLD MAN: I'm Hayashi from apartment four-oh-two. We're neighbors.  
Pleased to meet you.
9. EMILY: I'm Emily Martin. I came to Japan last week.  
It's very nice to meet you.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
かい	かい	kai	counter for floors of a building
ごうしつ	ごうしつ	gōshitsu	suffix for room numbers

せんしゅう	せんしゅう	senshū	last week
どうぞよろしく	どうぞよろしく	Dōzo yoroshiku	Please be kind to me
となり	となり	tonari	next to, neighbour, neighbouring

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

なんかいですか。 <i>Nan-kai desu ka.</i> Which floor?	わたしのへやは501ごうしつです。 <i>Watashi no heya wa gō maru ichi-gōshitsu desu.</i> My room is Room 501.
せんしゅう、日ほんにきました。 <i>Senshū, Nihon ni kimashita.</i> I came to Japan last week.	わたしのとなりははやしさんです。 <i>Watashi no tonari wa Hayashi-san desu.</i> My neighbour is Mr. Hayashi.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### [number of floor] かい (~*kai*, suffix for a floor number)

In Japanese, when you count nouns (as in "one table," "two tables," for example), you have to add a word known as a "counter" to the number. In the dialogue, we had よんかい (*yon-kai*), meaning "fourth floor." This is made up of *yon* ("four") and *kai*, the counter for "floor." Here's how to say the other floors of a building. We covered the numbers from zero to ten in Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 1.

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
いっかい	<i>ikkai</i>	"first floor"
にかい	<i>ni-kai</i>	"second floor"
さんがい・さんかい	<i>san-gai/san-kai</i>	"third floor"
よんかい	<i>yon-kai</i>	"fourth floor"
ごかい	<i>go-kai</i>	"fifth floor"

なんかい	<i>nan-kai</i>	"which floor"
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Check out more details on *-kai* in Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 14.

**[number of room] ごうしつ (~*gōshitsu*, suffix for a room number)**

~*gōshitsu*, a suffix for one's room number, means "room [number]." Unlike English, it comes after the number rather than before. When you ask which number someone lives at, use *nan-gōshitsu*. Let's take a look at some examples.

**For Example:**

Room Number	Japanese	Romanization
"Room 1"	いち + ごうしつ	<i>ichi-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 2"	に + ごうしつ	<i>ni-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 3"	さん + ごうしつ	<i>san-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 4"	よん + ごうしつ	<i>yon-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 5"	ご + ごうしつ	<i>go-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 6"	ろく + ごうしつ	<i>roku-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 7"	なな + ごうしつ	<i>nana-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 8"	はち + ごうしつ	<i>hachi-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 9"	きゅう + ごうしつ	<i>kyū-gōshitsu</i>
"Room 10"	じゅう + ごうしつ	<i>jū-gōshitsu</i>
"which room"	なん + ごうしつ	<i>nan-gōshitsu</i>

**まる (*maru*, as in number 0)**

*Maru* means "zero," as in the number: for example, in a room number; when referring to "Levi 501 jeans" (ごまるいち); and when referring to "JapanesePod101.com" (いちまるいち). If your apartment number has a zero in it, you use *maru*, instead of *rei* or *zero*.

## For Example:

Number	Japanese	Romanization
Room 101	いち + まる + いち + ごう しつ	<i>ichi maru ichi-gōshitsu</i>
Room 2043	に + まる + よん + さん + ごうしつ	<i>ni maru yon san-gōshitsu</i>
Room 505	ご + まる + ご + ごうしつ	<i>go maru go-gōshitsu</i>

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking About Numbers With the Counter for Floor/Room.**

なんかいですか？

*Nan kai desu ka?*

"What floor?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask numbers with counters, using the [number] *kai desu ka?* sentence structure.

### Asking a Floor

To ask what floor someone is going to, simply use the following phrase.

Japanese	Romaji	"English"
なんかいですか。	<i>Nan-kai desu ka?</i>	"What floor?"
さんかいです。	<i>San-kai desu.</i>	"Third floor?"

To answer this question, give the number with the counter *-kai*. You can change the counter *-kai* into other counters to ask about, for example, room number or age. Please have a look at the Key Vocabulary and Phrases section for how to say room numbers and Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 17 for how to say ages.

## For Example:

1. A: なんかいですか。  
*Nan kai desu ka?*  
"What floor?"  
B: ごかい、おねがいします。  
*Go-kai, onegai shimasu.*  
"Fifth floor, please."
  
2. A: なんごうしつですか。  
*Nan-gōshitsu desu ka?*  
"What room?"  
B: 501ごうしつです。  
*Go maru ichi-gōshitsu desu.*  
"Room 501."
  
3. A: かれのへやはなんかいですか。  
*Kare no heya wa nan-kai desu ka?*  
"What floor is your boyfriend's apartment?"  
B: 25かいです。  
*Ni-jū go-kai desu.*  
"Twenty-fifth floor."

## Reference

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Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- suffix, *-kai* → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 14
- *onegai shimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 5
- particle *no* → Lower Beginner Season 1 Lesson 4
- past tense of verb → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 19
- [place] *ni kimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 23
- *Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 2

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## How Do You Say Floor Numbers in Japanese?

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As you saw in the dialogue, people use the suffix *-kai* when they say floor numbers in Japanese. But what do you call the floor you find yourself on when you first enter a building through the front door? Americans would call it "the first floor," while Europeans call it "the ground floor." What do you think Japanese people call that floor? The answer is *ikkai*, which is "one" plus the floor number counter *-kai*. So, in short, the Japanese way is the same as the American way. In addition, in Japan, the basement floors are called ちか [number] かい (*chika [number] kai*). If a department store has two levels underground and two levels above ground, people refer to them from the deepest floor up as *chika ni-kai*, *chika ikkai*, *ikkai*, and *ni-kai*.