

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #2

Self Introductions II

CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Grammar

2

KANJI

1. 渡辺: 初めまして。
2. 渡辺といます。
3. よろしくお願ひします。
4. 山口: 初めまして。
5. 山口と申します。
6. どうぞよろしくお願ひいたします。
7. どうぞこちらへ。

KANA

1. わたなべ: はじめまして。わたなべといます。よろしくおねがひします。
2. やまぐち: はじめまして。やまぐちともうします。どうぞよろしくおねがひいたします。どうぞこちらへ。

ROMANIZATION

1. WATANABE: Hajimemashite. Watanabe to iimasu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
2. YAMAGUCHI: Hajimemashite. Yamaguchi to mōshimasu. Dōzo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu. Dōzo kochira e.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. WATANABE: How do you do? I am Watanabe. Please be kind to me.
2. YAMAGUCHI: How do you do? I am Yamaguchi. Please be kind to me. This way, please.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
申す	もうす	mōsu	to say
致す	いたす	itasu	to do
謙讓語	けんじょうご	kenjōgo	humble language

GRAMMAR

Today's lesson expands on ways of introducing oneself. After reviewing the previously taught self introduction pattern (see chart below), we introduce a pattern of self introduction using the Japanese verb *iu* - to say. This pattern provides the basis for an extremely polite self introduction used in business and formal situations. This introduction includes humble language (*kensongo* or *kenjōgo*), which is used when describing one's actions or the actions of a person in one's in-group to others such as customers in business. Humble language tends to imply that one's actions are taking place in order to assist the other person.

Here let us quickly recap the ways to introduce oneself. Please notice that while the translation doesn't change for the final construction, the politeness level is much higher than the previous two patterns.

初めまして。私は山口ちぐさです。よろしくお願ひします。
Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Yamaguchi Chigusa desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
 "How do you do? I am Chigusa Yamaguchi. Please be kind to me."

初めまして。私は山口ちぐさと言ひます。よろしくお願ひします。
Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Yamaguchi Chigusa to iimasu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
 "How do you do? I am Chigusa Yamaguchi. Please be kind to me."

初めまして。私は山口ちぐさと申します。よろしくお願ひいたします。
Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Yamaguchi Chigusa to mōshimasu. Yoroshiku onegai

itashimasu.

"How do you do? I am Chigusa Yamaguchi. Please be kind to me."

Dictionary Form	Humble language (<i>kenjōgo</i> or <i>kensongo</i>)
言う <i>iu</i>	申す <i>mōsu</i>
する <i>suru</i>	いたす <i>itasu</i>

In the above examples, we included the first name. When introducing oneself in Japanese, the last name precedes the first name, e.g. Suzuki Ichiro. That's right, the famed baseball player Ichiro Suzuki actually has his first name on the back of his jersey. Perhaps he figured Suzuki would be too plain. The first name is not always included, and depends on the situation. When a foreigner speaks in Japanese, it is alright to say your first name first, followed by your last name. The listening party will usually reverse the order and be aware of which name is first and which is last. However, they may ask to confirm. Be aware though, that which ever name you say first will get a *-san* affixed, and that is what you'll be referred to. So consider yourself warned.

Humble language (*kenjōgo* or *kensongo*) is similar to respectful language, in substituting verbs with other forms. While the concept might seem a bit foreign at first, in reality chances are high that you've been using both humble language and respectful language without realizing it. For example, *suru* (to do) becomes *itasu*, and this verb is used in set phrases such as *dō itashimashite* (you're welcome). A good example of respectful language being used without knowledge of respectful language itself is *itadakimasu* - a phrase, derived from the polite keigo form of "to receive," said before eating or drinking.