

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S2 #3

## Introducing Someone

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## KANJI

1. よし: 夏子、今日元気？
2. 夏子: まあまあ。ヨシは？
3. よし: ふつう。こちらはたけです。中学校の友達。
4. 夏子: あ、初めまして。夏子です。よろしくお願いします。
5. たけ: 初めまして。高見沢です。よろしくお願いします。

## KANA

1. よし: なつこ、きょうげんき？
2. なつこ: まあまあ。ヨシは？
3. よし: ふつう。こちらはたけです。ちゅうがっこうのともだち。
4. なつこ: あ、はじめまして。なつこです。よろしくおねがいします。
5. たけ: はじめまして。たかみざわです。よろしくおねがいします。

## ROMANIZATION

1. YOSHI: Natsuko, kyō genki?
2. NATSUKO: Māmā. Yoshi wa?
3. YOSHI: Futsū. Kochira wa Take desu. Chūgakkō no tomodachi.

CONT'D OVER

4. NATSUKO: A, hajimemashite. Natsuko desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
5. TAKE: Hajimemashite. Takamizawa desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

## ENGLISH

1. YOSHI: Natsuko, how are you today?
2. NATSUKO: Not bad. And you, Yoshi?
3. YOSHI: Same old, same old. This is Take, a friend from middle school.
4. NATSUKO: Oh, how do you do? I'm Natsuko. Please be kind to me.
5. TAKE: Nice to meet you. I'm Takamizawa. Please be kind to me.

## VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana    | Romaji    | English                           |
|-------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 今日    | きょう     | kyō       | today                             |
| 元気    | げんき     | genki     | lively, vigor                     |
| まあまあ  | まあまあ    | māmā      | so-so                             |
| 普通    | ふつう     | futsū     | ordinary, usual                   |
| こちら   | こちら     | kochira   | this direction                    |
| 中学校   | ちゅうがっこう | chūgakkō  | middle school, junior high school |
| 友達    | ともだち    | tomodachi | friend                            |
| 夏子    | なつこ     | Natsuko   | Natsuko (Japanese given name)     |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

今日、私は忙しいです。  
*Kyō, watashi wa isogashii desu.*

Today, I'm busy.

この寿司の味はまあまあです。  
*koko no sushi no aji wa mā mā desu.*

The sushi at this place tastes so-so.

彼は私の友達だ。  
*Kare wa watashi no tomodachi da.*

He is my friend.

## GRAMMAR

Today's lesson introduces a set phrase used when introducing someone else. With the exception of the name of the person being introduced, the following phrase remains the same: *Kochira wa (name) desu*. When introducing another person, *kochira*, this direction, is used by the introducer to refer to the party being introduced. For native English speakers it may be instinctive to directly translate the English equivalent (This is (name).) and use the Japanese word for this, *kore*. However, one should pay close attention not to do this, as using *kore* when introducing someone can be interpreted as very rude. This is derived from the fact that the word *kore* explicitly refers to something, and in Japanese there are cases in which direct reference can be construed as rude. This is one of them. This is also compounded by the fact that this is the first meeting of some members. *Kochira* refers to the general direction, and is considered polite as it is not directly referring to the person being introduced.

It should be noted that depending on the intimacy level of the parties speaking that there are cases where *kore* may be used. In the case of close friends speaking about family members, informal introductions may be used. Upon being introduced, the party that was introduced should properly introduce themselves.

こちらは「名前」です。  
*Kochira wa [namae] desu.*  
"This is [name]."

こちらは山口ちぐさです。

*Kochira wa Yamaguchi Chigusa desu.*

"This is Chigusa Yamaguchi."

First name: *Chigusa*

Last name: *Yamaguchi*

Notice the order of the first and last name.

Politer Variation:

こちらは「名前」でございます。

*Kochira wa [namae] de gozaimasu.*

"This is [name]."