

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S6 #1

# You Can Never Be Too Polite in Japanese

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## CONTENTS

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

# 1

# KANJI

1. (家)
2. お母さん: 新年になったのね。ジョシュさん、今年もよろしく。
3. ジョシュ: こちらこそ、よろしくお願ひします。
4. 大地: (yawn)ねえ、テレビつけよう。
5. (テレビ)
6. 遠井歩: 新年 明けましておめでとうございます。  
本年もどうぞよろしくお願ひいたします。  
今、私は浅草におります。  
人がたくさんいて、全然 動くことができません。  
...え？あ、押さないでください。キャー！
7. あ、カメラさん、大丈夫ですか？
8. 失礼いたしました。浅草からレポートいたしました。

# KANA

1. (うち)
2. おかあさん: しんねんになったのね。ジョシュさん、ことしもよろしく。
3. ジョシュ: こちらこそ、よろしくおねがひします。
4. だいち: (yawn)ねえ、テレビつけよう。

CONT'D OVER

5. (テレビ)
6. とおいあゆむ:           しんねん あけまして おめでとうございませう。  
                                  ほんねんも どうぞ よろしく おねがいいたします。  
                                  いま、わたくしは あさくさにあります。  
                                  ひとがたたくさんいて、ぜんぜん うごくことができません  
                                  ...え？あ、おさないでください。キヤー！
7. あ、カメラさん、だいじょうぶですか？
8. しつれいいたしました。あさくさからレポートいたしました。

## ROMANIZATION

1. (Uchi)
2. O-KĀ-SAN:               Shinnen ni natta no ne. Joshu-san, kotoshi mo yoroshiku.
3. JOSHU:                 Kochira koso, yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
4. DAICHI:               (yawn) Nē, terebi tsukeyō.
5. (Terebi)
6. TŌI AYUMU:           Shinnen akemashite omedetō gozaimasu.  
                                  Honnen mo dōzo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.  
                                  Ima, watakushi wa Asakusa ni orimasu.  
                                  Hito ga takusan ite, zenzen ugokukoto ga dekimasen  
                                  ... E? A, osanaide kudasai. Kyā!
7. A, kamera-san, daijōbu desu ka?

CONT'D OVER

8. Shitsurei itashimashita. Asakusa kara repōto itashimashita.

## ENGLISH

1. (At home)

2. MOTHER: It's the new year. Josh, all the best for this year.

3. JOSH: I wish you all the best for this year, too.

4. DAICHI: (yawn) Hey, let's put the TV on.

5. (TV)

6. AYUMU TŌI: Happy new year!  
We wish you all the best for this year.  
Right now I am in Asakusa!  
There are so many people that it's completely impossible to move.  
... Huh? Oh, don't push me! Argh!

7. Oh, Mr. Cameraman, are you all right?

8. Excuse me. This was a report from Asakusa.

## VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji   | English                        |
|-------|------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 動く    | うごく  | ugoku    | to move;V1                     |
| 押す    | おす   | osu      | to push, to press, to stamp;V1 |
| 新年    | しんねん | shin'nen | the new year                   |

|                  |                  |                               |  |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 明けましておめでとうございます。 | あけましておめでとうございます。 | Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu. | Happy New Year!                          |
| こちらこそ            | こちらこそ            | kochira koso                  | same here                                |
| 本年               | ほんねん             | hon'nen                       | this year, current year                  |
| 浅草               | あさくさ             | Asakusa                       | Asakusa; an area in Tokyo                |
| つける              | つける              | tsukeru                       | to turn on, to switch on, to light up;V2 |
| 全然               | ぜんぜん             | zenzen                        | not at all, not...at all ;Adv.           |
| たくさん             | たくさん             | takusan                       | a lot, many, much                        |
| レポート             | レポート             | repōto                        | report, paper                            |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>動かないでください。<br/><i>Ugokanaide kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please don't move.</p>                      | <p>このボタンを押して、ムービーを再生してください。<br/><i>Kono botan o oshite, mūbī o saisei shite kudasai.</i></p> <p>Press this button to play the movie.</p> |
| <p>新年会はいつですか。<br/><i>Shinnen-kai wa itsu desu ka?</i></p> <p>When is the new years party?</p>   | <p>みなさん、明けましておめでとうございます。<br/><i>Mina-san, akemashite omedetō gozaimasu.</i></p> <p>Happy new year, everyone!</p>                         |
| <p>こちらこそ。<br/><i>Kochira koso.</i></p> <p>Same here.</p>  | <p>今年の学生は100人です。<br/><i>Hon'nen no gakusei wa hyaku-nin desu.</i></p> <p>We have 100 students this year.</p>                             |
| <p>浅草にお寺があります。<br/><i>Asakusa ni o-tera ga arimasu.</i></p> <p>There's a temple in Asakusa.</p> | <p>扇風機をつけて、涼んだ。<br/><i>Senpūki o tsukete suzunda.</i></p> <p>I cooled myself by turning on the fan.</p>                                  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| いえ。全然。<br><i>ie. Zenzen.</i><br><br>Nope. Not at all. | 水をたくさん飲んでください。<br><i>Mizu o takusan nonde kudasai.</i><br><br>Please drink a lot of water. |
|---|--|

明日までに、レポートを書かなくてははいけない。  
*Ashita madeni repōto o kakanakute wa ikenai.*

I have to write a paper by tomorrow.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***tsukeru* (つける) "to turn on," "to switch on"**

The particle *o* marks the object turned on. "To turn off" is *kesu* (けす). It's a class 1 verb.

- *terebi o tsukeru* (テレビをつける) ⇔ *terebi o kesu* (テレビをけす)

### ***kochira koso* (こちらこそ) "Same here."**

*Kochira* means "here," "this direction," or "this way," but it refers to the speaker himself or herself. *Koso* emphasizes the preceding noun. We use *kochira koso* as a response to a greeting, apology, or thanking phrase. The nuance is something like "I'm the one who should say that phrase to you."

#### **For Example:**

- A: *Arigatō.*  
 ありがとう。  
 "Thank you."  
 B: *ie, kochira koso, arigatō.*  
 いえ、こちらこそありがとう。  
 "No, thank YOU."
- A: *Sumimasen.*  
 すみません。  
 "I'm sorry."  
 B: *ie, Kochirakoso.*  
 こちらこそ。  
 "No, I'M sorry."

*hon'nen/kotoshi* (本年 / 今年) "this year"

Both *hon'nen* and *kotoshi* mean "this year," but *hon'nen* sounds more formal than *kotoshi*.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Speak Extra Formally.**

*Shitsurei itashimashita.*

失礼いたしました。

"Excuse me."

---

In this lesson, you'll review the usage of *kenjō-go*, or "humble language," focusing on the usage of *itasu* and *oru*: the humble forms of *suru* ("to do") and *iru* ("to exist").

### What's *Kenjō-go*?

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We use *kenjō-go*, or "humble language," when we need to be extra polite and/or formal; that is, when we are in a very formal situation or talking to someone very important. The basic function of *kenjō-go*, or "humble language," is to lower the status of the subject and conversely elevate the listening party, so we usually use it to describe our own actions or state.

### *Itasu* and *Oru*

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*Itasu* is a humble form of the verb *suru*, meaning "to do," and is sorted as a class 1 verb. *Oru* is a humble form of the verb *iru*, meaning "to exist," and is sorted as a class 2 verb.

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| <i>Original Verb</i> | "English"                    | <i>Humble Form</i>    | <i>Class</i> | <i>-Masu Form</i>            |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| <i>iru</i><br>(いる)   | "to exist"<br>("to animate") | <i>oru</i><br>(おる)    | 2            | <i>orimasu</i><br>(おります)     |
| <i>suru</i><br>(する)  | "to do"                      | <i>itasu</i><br>(いたす) | 1            | <i>itashimasu</i><br>(いたします) |

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### Sample Sentences

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"Excuse me."

---

Formal

*Shitsurei **shimasu.***  
(失礼します。)

---

↓

↓

↓

---

Humble

*Shitsurei **itashimasu.***  
(失礼いたします。)

---

"Please treat me well." (Though this is the literal meaning of these phrases, we also use them to mean "Please do that (for me)," "Pleased to meet you," "Thank you for your continued help/support," and "Thank you in advance", etc.)

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Formal

*Yoroshiku onegai **shimasu.***  
(よろしくお願ひします。)

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↓

↓

↓

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Humble

*Yoroshiku onegai **itashimasu.***  
(よろしくお願ひいたします。)

---

"I'm in front of the train station."

---

Formal

*Eki no mae ni **imasu.***  
(駅の前にいます。)

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↓

↓

---

Humble

*Eki no mae ni **orimasu.***  
(駅の前におります。)

---

"I'm studying Japanese."

---

Formal

*Nihon-go o benkyō shite **imasu.***  
(日本語を勉強しています。)

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↓

↓

↓

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Humble

*Nihon-go o benkyō shite **orimasu.***  
(日本語を勉強しております。)

## Reference

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Please also review the following grammar points.

- Humble forms ⇒ Beginner Series Season 5 Lesson 24
- *-yō* ; Volitional form ⇒ Beginner Series Season 4 Lesson 33
- *-ni naru* ⇒ Beginner Series Season 4 Lesson 48
- *-koto ga dekiru* ⇒ Beginner Series Season 4 Lesson 42
- *Zenzen* ⇒ Newbie Series Season 3 Lesson 24

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### *Hatsumōde* (初詣 / はつもうで)

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- 初 = "first"
- 詣 = "to visit a shrine or temple"; "to make a pilgrimage"

Visiting a shrine or temple for the first time of the year and praying for happiness for the new year is called *Hatsumōde*. Especially on the first, second, and third of January, shrines and temples are packed with people coming for *Hatsumōde*.

### New Year's Greetings

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The following are common greetings for the New Year:

1. Formal: *Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu.* (明けましておめでとうございます。)  
Informal: *Akemashite omedetō.* (明けましておめでとう。)

*Akeru* means "to dawn" or "to grow light," and in this case it means starting a bright new year. *Omedetō* means "congratulations," so *akemashite omedetō* means "Congratulations on starting a bright new year," and we use it as a greeting celebrating the new year.

1. Formal: *Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.* (今年もよろしくお願ひします。)  
Informal: *Kotoshi mo yoroshiku.* (今年もよろしく。)

This phrase literally means "Please treat me well this year too" and is asking for the continuing support or friendship of the listening party. We often use *Akemashite omedetō* (*gozaimasu*) and *Kotoshi mo yoroshiku* (*onegaishimasu*) together.