

LESSON NOTES

Japanese for Everyday Life Lower Intermediate S1 #2 Changing Seats in a Japanese Restaurant

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KANJI

1. RESTAURANT STAFF: いらっしゃいませ。何名様ですか。
2. CUSTOMER: 4人です。
3. RESTAURANT STAFF: 禁煙席と喫煙席、どちらがよろしいですか。
4. PERSON A: 禁煙席をお願いします。
5. RESTAURANT STAFF: はい、では、こちらへどうぞ。
6. PERSON A: あの窓側の席でもいいですか。
7. RESTAURANT STAFF: はい、大丈夫です。どうぞ。

KANA

1. RESTAURANT STAFF: いらっしゃいませ。なんめいさまですか。
2. CUSTOMER: 4にんです。
3. RESTAURANT STAFF: きんえんせきと きつえんせき、どちらがよろしいですか。
4. PERSON A: きんえんせきを おねがいします。

CONT'D OVER

5. RESTAURANT STAFF: はい、では、こちらへどうぞ。
6. PERSON A: あのまどがわのせきでもいいですか。
7. RESTAURANT STAFF: はい、だいじょうぶです。どうぞ。

ROMANIZATION

1. RESTAURANT STAFF: Irasshaimase. Nan-mei-sama desu ka.
2. CUSTOMER: Yo-nin desu.
3. RESTAURANT STAFF: Kin'en seki to kitsuen seki,
4. dochira ga yoroshii desu ka.
5. PERSON A: Kin'en-seki o o-negaishimasu.
6. RESTAURANT STAFF: Hai, dewa kochira e dōzo.
7. PERSON A: Ano mado-gawa no seki demo ii desu ka.
8. RESTAURANT STAFF: Hai, daijōbu desu. Dōzo.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. RESTAURANT STAFF: Hello. How many people?
2. CUSTOMER: There are four of us.
3. RESTAURANT STAFF: Would you like a non-smoking or smoking table?
4. PERSON A: Non-smoking please.
5. RESTAURANT STAFF: OK. Please follow me.
6. PERSON A: Excuse me, but would that seat by the window be OK?
7. RESTAURANT STAFF: Yes, sure.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
奥	おく	oku	back
側	がわ	gawa	beside
座敷	ざしき	zashiki	tatami mat room
禁煙	きんえん	kin'en	non-smoking
喫煙	きつえん	kitsuen	smoking
窓	まど	mado	window
カウンター	カウンター	kaunta	counter

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>奥の席があいています。 <i>Oku no seki ga aite imasu.</i></p> <p>A seat in the back is available.</p>	<p>窓側の席をお願いします。 <i>Mado gawa no seki o o-negai shimasu.</i></p> <p>A seat beside the window, please.</p>
<p>その店に、座敷はありますか。 <i>Sono mise ni, zashiki wa arimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Are there any tatami mat rooms at that place?</p>	<p>ここは禁煙です。 <i>Koko wa kin'en desu.</i></p> <p>This place is no-smoking.</p>
<p>喫煙席に座りたくないです。 <i>Kitsuenseki ni suwaritakunai desu.</i></p> <p>I don't want to sit in the smoking section.</p>	<p>少し寒くなってきました。窓を閉めていただけませんか。 <i>Sukoshi samuku natte kimashita. Mado o shimete itadakemasuka.</i></p> <p>It's getting a bit cold. Could you close the window, please?</p>
<p>窓側の席は、景色が良い。 <i>Madogawa no seki wa keshiki ga ii.</i></p> <p>The view from the window seat is lovely.</p>	<p>カウンター席はいっぱいです。 <i>Kauntā seki wa ippai desu.</i></p> <p>There are no counter seats available.</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

窓側の席, *mado gawa no seki*, "a seat by the window"

There are many phrases to describe a seat in restaurants. 席 (*seki*) means "seat" and you can say many kinds of seats by replacing any words before 席 (*seki*). For example, if you want to say "a seat by the window," that would be 窓側の席 (*mado-gawa no seki*). 窓側 (*mado-gawa*) means "beside the window." の (*no*) is a particle that connects noun1 and noun2, and noun1 acts like an adjective when followed by の (*no*). If you want to say "a seat in the back," that would be 奥の席 (*oku no seki*). 奥 (*oku*) means "back."

But sometimes we drop の (*no*). For example, if you want to say "a seat at the counter," that would be カウンター (の) 席 (*kauntā (no) seki*) or if you want to say "a seat at the table," that would be テーブル (の) 席 (*tēburu (no) seki*).

For example:

1. 窓側の席
まどがわのせき
"a seat beside the window"
2. 奥の席
おくのせき
"a seat in the back"
3. カウンター席
カウンターせき
"a seat at the counter"
4. テーブル席
テーブルせき
"a seat at the table"
5. ソファース席
ソファースせき
"a sofa seat"
6. 座敷席 (*zashiki-seki*)
ざしきせき
"a seat in a tatami mat room"

GRAMMAR

Key Expression for this Lesson: To Request to Change a Table at a Restaurant

あの窓側の席でもいいですか。

"Would that seat by the window be OK?"

あの (*ano*) is a demonstrative adjective which means "that." The phrase noun + でもいいですか (*demo ii desu ka.*) is used when you want to ask for permission, such as if something is OK. For example, when you want to ask about the dress code, such as if a t-shirt would be OK, you would say Tシャツでもいいですか。 (*Tī shatsu demo ii desu ka*). でも (*demo*) intends that there is another choice. So noun + でもいいですか means you are shown a choice, but you think you have another choice, and ask if another choice would be OK. When you are shown to a seat that you don't like, and you find a nice seat by the window, you would say あの窓側の席でもいいですか。 (*Ano mado gawa no seki demo ii*

desu ka.) which means "Would that seat by the window be OK?"

Structure

noun or noun phrases	+	particle	+	ii desu ka
<名詞> また は <名詞句>	+	でも	+	いいですか。
Tシャツ		でも		いいですか。
あの窓側の席		でも		いいですか。

Examples from this Lesson

1. あの窓側の席でもいいですか。
あのまどがわのせきでもいいですか。
"Would that seat by the window be OK?"
2. あのソファ一席でもいいですか。
あのソファ一せきでもいいですか。
"Would that sofa seat be OK?"
3. あのカウンター席でもいいですか。
あのカウンターせきでもいいですか。
"Would that seat at the counter be OK?"
4. あそこでもいいですか。
あそこでもいいですか。
"Would that place be OK?"

Alternative expressions:

1. あの席はいいですか。 / あの席は大丈夫ですか。
あのせきはいいですか。 / あのせきはだいじょうぶですか。
"Would that seat be OK?"

- あの窓側の席はいいですか。 / あの窓側の席は大丈夫ですか。
あのまどがわのせきはいいですか。 / あのまどがわのせきはだいじょうぶですか。
"Would that seat by the window be OK?"
- あの窓側の席に座ってもいいですか。
あのまどがわのせきにすわってもいいですか。
"Would it be OK to sit on that seat by the window?"

あの窓側の席に座ってもいいですか。
"Would it be OK to sit on that seat by the window?"

The phrase *-temo ii desu ka* (~てもいいですか) is used when you ask for permission to do something. So it means "Would it be OK to do ~?" *-temo* consists of *te*-form of verb and a particle *も* (*mo*).

Structure

te-form of verb	+	particle	+	ii desu ka
<動詞のて形>	+	も	+	いいですか。
座って		も		いいですか。

Examples from this dialogue:

- あの窓側の席に座ってもいいですか。
あのまどがわのせきにすわってもいいですか。
"Would it be OK to sit on that seat by the window?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Smoking in Japanese

Restaurants

When you go to restaurants in Japan, first of all you are surely asked "how many people?" and "which seat would you like, non-smoking or smoking?" Recently, the many risks and dangers of secondhand smoke are being recognized and most restaurants and cafes make a no-smoking time or distinction between where people can and cannot smoke. in 2010 Kanagawa prefecture first enforced the ordinance that bans smoking in public institutions.