

LESSON NOTES

Onomatopoeia #1

Getting Started

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KANJI

1. トムさんはグウグウといびきをかいている。
2. トムさんはグウグウ眠っている。
3. ドアがボタンと閉まった。
4. 明日はデートだ。ウキウキする。

KANA

1. トムさんはグウグウといびきをかいている。
2. トムさんはグウグウねむっている。
3. ドアがボタンとしまった。
4. あしたはデートだ。ウキウキする。

ROMANIZATION

1. Tomu-san wa gūgū to ibiki o kaite iru.
2. Tomu-san wa gūgū nemutte iru.
3. Doa ga batan to shimatta.
4. Ashita wa dēto da. Ukiuki suru.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Tom is snoring.
2. Tom is sleeping well.
3. The door closed with a bang.
4. I'm going on a date tomorrow. I'm excited.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
いびきをかく	いびきをかく	ibiki o kaku	to snore, V1
開ける	あける	akeru	to open, V2
今日	きょう	kyō	today
昨日	きのう	kinō	yesterday
デート	デート	dēto	date (romantic)
明日	あした	ashita or asu	tomorrow
閉まる	しまる	shimaru	to close, to be shut; V1
ドア	ドア	doa	door
眠る	ねむる	nemuru	to sleep; V1
起きる	おきる	okiru	to wake up, to get up; V2

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>私の彼氏は時々いびきをかく。 <i>Watashi no kareshi wa tokidoki ibiki o kaku.</i></p> <p>My boyfriend sometimes snores.</p>	<p>トマトソースのふたを開けてください。 <i>Tomato sōsu no futa o akete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please open the lid of the tomato sauce.</p>
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<p>今日、私は忙しいです。 <i>Kyō watashi wa isogashii desu.</i></p> <p>Today, I'm busy.</p>	<p>明日、南さんとデートをします。 <i>Ashita, Minami-san to dēto o shimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going to go on a date with Minami</p>
<p>明日、彼と会います。 <i>Ashita, kare to aimasu.</i></p> <p>I'll meet him tomorrow.</p>	<p>ドアが閉まった。 <i>Doa ga shimatta.</i></p> <p>The door closed.</p>
<p>ドアを開けてください。 <i>Doa o akete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please open the door.</p>	<p>毎日、7時間くらい眠ります。 <i>Mainichi shichi-jikan kurai nemurimasu.</i></p> <p>I sleep for about seven hours every day.</p>
<p>毎朝、私は六時に起きる <i>Maiasa, watashi wa roku-ji ni okiru.</i></p> <p>I get up at six o'clock every morning.</p>	

GRAMMAR

What is onomatopoeia?

According to the dictionary, "onomatopoeia" is the formation of a word from a sound associated with its name. Examples in English include words like "crash" and "splash;" the sounds of the words imitate the meaning. Also, many animal sounds like "bow-wow" and "neigh" are examples of onomatopoeia.

Japanese onomatopoeia

There are two types of Japanese onomatopoeia, 擬音語 (ぎおんご • *giongo*) and 擬態語 (ぎたいご • *gitaigo*). This is because some Japanese onomatopoeia do not actually mimic sounds, but they do follow the same form.

1. *Giongo* (擬音語)--- are the true onomatopoeia. That is, they mimic sounds, just like our English onomatopoeia.
2. *Gitaigo* (擬態語)--- on the other hand, these words attempt to use similar sound patterns as *giongo*, even though they do not mimic actual sounds.

And, to confuse the matter even more, there are some words that have both *Giongo* and *Gitaigo* senses. For example, there is:

** ぐうぐう *gūgū* **

1. *Giongo* (擬音語)- snoring sound, to snore

トムさんはグウグウといびきをかいている。

Tomu-san wa gūgū to ibiki o kaite iru.

Tom is snoring.

2. *Gitaigo* (擬態語)- to sleep well, to sleep soundly

トムさんはグウグウ眠っている。

Tomu-san wa gūgū nemutte iru.

Tom is sleeping well.

Explanation:

In the first example, the onomatopoeia *gūgū* refers to the sound of snoring. In the second example, *gūgū* expresses the concept of sound sleep, even though sound sleep is usually without any sound.

Sample Sentences:

Giongo (擬音語)

ドアがバタンと閉まった。

Doa ga batan to shimatta.

The door closed with a bang.

Gitaigo (擬態語)

明日はデートだ。ウキウキする。

Ashita wa dēto da. Ukiuki suru.

I'm going on a date tomorrow. I'm excited.

Some additional notes:

- Many Japanese onomatopoeia are repetitive. That is, the syllable, or pair of syllables, is repeated. For example, ペコペコ, which means an empty stomach, repeats the syllables ペコ.

- Japanese onomatopoeia can be used as adverbs, adjective-like words, parts of adjectival phrases and as verbs when combined with する and やる. In this lesson, you will see how to use each onomatopoeia correctly.

- Since most of these words are Japanese in origin, they are not often written in 漢字 (*kanji*). However, they are often written in カタカナ (*katakana*), but occasionally written in ひらがな (*hiragana*).