

LESSON NOTES

Basic Japanese S1 #2

Basic Japanese #2: Basic Greetings

CONTENTS

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

2

KANJI

1. こんにちは。
2. げんきですか。
3. げんきです。

KANA

1. こんにちは。
2. げんきですか。
3. げんきです。

ROMANIZATION

1. Konnichi wa.
2. Genki desu ka.
3. Genki desu.

ENGLISH

1. Hi./Hello
2. How are you?

CONT'D OVER

3. I'm fine.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
こんにちは	こんにちは	Kon'nichiwa	hello, good day (daytime greeting)
げんき	げんき	genki	energetic, fine, healthy; Adj(na)
最悪	さいあく	saiaku	the worst
まあまあ	まあまあ	māmā	so-so

SAMPLE SENTENCES

皆さん、こんにちは。 <i>Mina-san, kon'nichiwa.</i> Hello, everybody.	げんきですか。 <i>Genki desu ka.</i> How are you?
彼とのデートは最悪でした。 <i>Kare to no dēto wa saiaku deshita.</i> The date with him was the worst.	ここのすしは、まあまあです。 <i>Koko no sushi wa māmā desu.</i> The sushi here is so-so.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is how to say "Hi, How are you?" in Japanese.

こんにちは。 / Konnichi wa = Hi. / Hello

げんきですか。 / Genki desu ka. = How are you?

げんきです。 / Genki desu. = I'm fine.

こんにちは。 / Konnichi wa.

Konnichi wa (こんにちは) is a general greeting that means "hi" or "hello." It also means "good afternoon". But, you can use こんにちは any time of the day as a greeting.

げんきですか。 / Genki desu ka.

Genki desu ka. (げんきですか) literally means "Are you healthy?" but it is used to mean "how are you?"

Genki (げんき) means "healthy."

Desu (です) is a copula which is almost the same as "to be" in English.

ka (か) is a sentence-ending particle that can be used to make a question.

げんきです。 / Genki desu.

To answer the question, "genki desu ka," you just say "genki desu" which means "I'm fine."

げんき? vs げんき。

In a casual conversation, you can say *genki?* with a rising intonation to ask someone "how are you?" To answer this question, you can say *genki* without rising intonation to mean "I'm fine." The only difference is the intonation.

Language Tip

When you want to answer "so so" to the question "how are you," you can say *māmā* (まあまあ) which means "so so." If you are not doing well at all, you can say *saiaku* (さいあく), which means "I'm not doing good at all."