

LESSON NOTES

Learn Japanese Grammar Video - Absolute Beginner S1 #11 Negative Forms of Adjectives in Japanese

CONTENTS

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

11

KANJI

1. 新しくない。
2. 元気じゃない。

KANA

1. あたらしくない。
2. げんきじゃない。

ROMANIZATION

1. Atarashiku nai.
2. Genki ja nai.

ENGLISH

1. It's not new.
2. I'm not so good.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
近い	ちかい	chikai	near, close;Adj(i)

遠い	とおい	tōi	far, distant; i-Adj
ハンサム(な)	はんさむ(な)	hansamu(na)	handsome; na-Adj
暑い	あつい	atsui	hot; Adj (na)
きれい	きれい	kirei	beautiful; Adj(na)
寒い	さむい	samui	cold

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>ここから駅は近いですか。 <i>Koko kara eki wa chikai desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is the train station close from here?</p>	<p>病院はここから遠いですか。 <i>Byōin wa koko kara tooi desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is the hospital far from here?</p>
<p>彼女はハンサムな人が好きです。 <i>Kanojo wa hansamu na hito ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>She likes handsome guys.</p>	<p>今日は暑いです。 <i>Kyō wa atsui desu.</i></p> <p>It's hot today.</p>
<p>このイヤリングはきれいです。 <i>Kono iyaringu wa kirei desu.</i></p> <p>These earrings are beautiful.</p>	<p>アラスカはとても寒いです。 <i>Arasuka wa totemo samui desu.</i></p> <p>Alaska is very cold.</p>

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Negative Forms of Adjectives in Japanese

Negative Forms of i-Adjectives

To make an *i*-adjective negative, remove the last *-i* (い) and replace it with *-kunai* (くない). In informal Japanese, you don't need the copula.

For Example:

Adjective	"English"	Negative Form	"English"
<i>atsui</i> (あつい)	"hot"	<i>atsuku nai</i> (あつくない)	"not hot"
<i>samui</i> (さむい)	"cold"	<i>samuku nai</i> (さむくない)	"not cold"
<i>chikai</i> (ちかい)	"close"	<i>chikaku nai</i> (ちかくない)	"not close"
<i>tōi</i> (とおい)	"far"	<i>tōku nai</i> (とおくない)	"not far"

For Example:

1. あまり、おおきくないね。
Amari, ōkiku nai ne.
"It's not that big, is it."
2. あたらしくない。ふるい。
Atarashiku nai. Furui.
"It's not new. It's old."

You can use the word *amari* (あまり) along with an adjective in the negative form to soften your statement a little. It's similar to adding the word "really" or "very" to a negative phrase in English, as in "It's not really/very far," which sounds less assertive than "It's not far."

For Example:

1. とおくない。
Tōku nai. "It's not far." (sounds more assertive)
2. あまりとおくない。
Amari tōku nai.
"It's not really far." (sounds a bit softer, less assertive)

Polite Form: To make the negative form polite, simply add *desu* after *-kunai* or replace *nai* with *arimasen*.

Negative Forms of *Na* Adjectives and Nouns

To create the negative form of *na* adjectives and nouns, we simply add the negative copula *janai* (じゃない) after it.

[*Na* adjective + *janai*]

[Noun + *janai*]

Let's look at some different examples using common *na* adjectives.

<i>Na</i> Adjective	"English "	Negative Form	"English "
<i>kirei</i> (きれい)	"clean"/"beautiful"	<i>kirei janai</i> (きれいじゃない)	"not clean"/ "not beautiful"
<i>genki</i> (げんき)	"energetic," "fine"	<i>genki janai</i> (げんきじゃない)	"not energetic"
<i>hansamu</i> (ハンサム)	"handsome"	<i>hansamu janai</i> (ハンサムじゃない)	"not handsome"
<i>taihen</i> (たいへん)	"tough"	<i>taihen janai</i> (たいへんじゃない)	"not tough"
<i>kantan</i> (かんたん)	"simple"	<i>kantan janai</i> (かんたんじゃない)	"not simple"

Let's look at some different examples using nouns.

Noun	"English "	Negative Form	"English "
<i>nihonjin</i> (日本人)	"Japanese"	<i>nihonjin janai</i> (日本人じゃない)	"not Japanese"
<i>gakusei</i> (学生)	"student"	<i>gakusei janai</i> (学生じゃない)	"not a student"
<i>sensei</i> (先生)	"teacher"	<i>sensei janai</i> (先生じゃない)	"not a teacher"

<i>mizu</i> (水)	"water"	<i>mizu janai</i> (水じゃない)	"not water"
--------------------	---------	------------------------------	-------------

Polite Form: To make the negative form polite, you simply add *desu* after *janai*. We saw this in the dialogue when Kent switched from casual Japanese to polite Japanese by changing *hansamu janai* to *hansamu janai desu* ("I'm not handsome").

For Example:

1. かんじはかんたんじゃない。
Kanji wa kantan janai.
"Kanji is not easy."
2. 今日、先生は元気じゃない。
Kyo, sensei wa genki janai.
"The teacher isn't feeling well today."
3. これは水じゃない。サイダーだ。
Kore wa mizu janai. Saida da.
"This isn't water. It's cider."