

LESSON NOTES

Learn Japanese Grammar Video - Absolute Beginner S1 #6 Asking for Something in Japanese

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KANJI

1. すみません。
2. 水、お願いします。

KANA

1. すみません。
2. みず、おねがいします。

ROMANIZATION

1. Sumimasen.
2. Mizu, onegai shimasu.

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me.
2. Can I have some water, please?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
メニュー	メニュー	menyū	menu

注文	ちゅうもん	chūmon	order
すみません	すみません	Sumimasen	Excuse me
お願いします	おねがいします	onegai shimasu	please

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>英語のメニューを下さい。 <i>Eigo no menyū o kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can you give me an English menu?</p>	<p>ご注文は。 <i>Go-chūmon wa.</i></p> <p>What would you like to order?</p>
<p>お客様、すみません。 <i>O-kyaku-sama, sumimasen.</i></p> <p>Excuse me, sir/ma'am.</p>	<p>コーヒー、お願いします。 <i>Kōhī onegai shimasu.</i></p> <p>Coffee please.</p>

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Asking For Something in Japanese

Getting Someone's Attention with *Sumimasen*

In Japanese, the phrase that covers both "excuse me" and "I'm sorry" is *sumimasen* (すみません).

Sumimasen.

すみません。

"Excuse me."

Sumimasen is the same as "excuse me" in English, and we can use it to get the attention of someone, like a stranger or a clerk in a store or restaurant.

Asking for Something with *Onegai Shimasu*

The phrase *o-negai shimasu* basically means "please" in English, and we use it when asking for something. To ask for something, simply say *o-negai shimasu* after you say the name of the item or service that you want.

Formation

[item/service that you want] + **onegai shimasu**

For Example:

Item/Service That You Want	+ onegai shimasu	"English"
<i>menyu</i> (メニュー)	<i>onegai shimasu</i> (おねがいします)	"Can I get a menu?" (literally, "Menu, please.")
<i>mizu</i> (水)	<i>onegai shimasu</i> (おねがいします)	"Can I get some water?" (literally, Water, please.)
<i>chūmon</i> (注文)	<i>onegai shimasu</i> (おねがいします)	"Can you take my order?" (literally, "Order, please.")

Note that as seen in the examples above, we can use *onegai shimasu* to ask for things like that aren't tangible (like a service).

The third example, *chūmon onegai shimasu*, literally means "order, please," and we use it to ask the clerk to take the order.

Example Sentences

1. *O-kaikei onegai shimasu.*
おかいけいおねがいします。
"Can I get the check?" (literally, "Check, please.")
2. *Sain onegai shimasu.*
サインおねがいします。
"Can I have your signature/autograph?" (literally, "Sign, please.")