LESSON NOTES

Learn Japanese Grammar Video - Absolute Beginner S1 #8
Using the Japanese Verbs Arimasu/Imasu

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KANJI

1. スーパーがあります。

2. 兄弟がいますか。

KANA

1. スーパーがあります。

2. きょうだいがいますか。

ROMANIZATION

1. Sūpā ga arimasu.

2. Kyōdai ga imasu ka.

ENGLISH

1. There is a supermarket.

2. Do you have siblings?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
スーパー	スーパー	sūpā	supermarket

コンビニ	コンビニ	konbini	convenience store
時間	じかん	jikan	time
あります	あります	arimasu	to be, to exist, to have, to be located;V1 -masu form
アレルギー	アレルギー	arerugī	allergy
います	います	imasu	to be (animate), to exist; -masu form
予定	よてい	yotei	plan

SAMPLE SENTENCES

スーパーでカレーの材料を買った。 *Sūpā de karē no zairyō o katta.* I bought ingredients for curry at the supermarket.	コンビニでは宅急便を送ることもできます。 *konbini dewa takkyūbin o okuru koto mo dekimasu.* People can send parcels using carrier services at convenience stores.
私はコンビニに行きます。 *Watashi wa konbini ni ikimasu.* I'll go to the convenience store.	東京からパリまで十二時間かかります。 *Tōkyō kara pari made jūni-jikan kakarimasu.* It takes 12 hours to go to Paris from Tokyo.
アレルギーがあります。 *Arerugī ga arimasu.* I have allergies.	アレルギーがあります。 *Arerugī ga arimasu.* I have allergies.
テーブルの下にねこがいます。 *Tēburu no shita ni neko ga imasu.* There is a cat under the table.	今夜、予定がありますか。 *Konya, yotei ga arimasu ka.* Do you have any plans tonight?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Japanese Verbs Arimasu/Imasu

Arimasu: Talking about the Existence of Something

In Japanese, we use the word *arimasu* to talk about the existence of something, just like we'd say "there is/are [item]" or "there isn't/aren't [item]" in English. When we say "Oh, there's a supermarket" in English, we're talking about the existence of a supermarket, right? In Japanese, we would use *arimasu* to express this.

Sentence Pattern:

[item, place] *ga arimasu*	"There is [A]"/"[A] exists"

In this pattern, **A** = the thing or place that exists

Item	ga arimasu	"English"
Sūpā (スーパー)	*ga arimasu* (が あります)	"There's a supermarket."
Konbini (コンビニ)	*ga arimasu* (が あります)	"There's a convenience store."
Gasorin sutando (ガソリンスタンド)	*ga arimasu* (が あります)	"There's a gas station."

In the dialogue, we saw the sentence *Asoko ni, doraibu surū ga arimasu* ("there's a drive-thru over there…") with the phrase *asoko ni* in the beginning. This *asoko ni* means "over there," and we can add it when we want to be more specific about the location of something.

Arimasu: Talking about Having Something

We also use the word *arimasu* to talk about having something.

Sentence Pattern:

[thing] *ga arimasu*	"I have [A]."

In this pattern, **A** = the thing or place that exists

Item	Ga Arimasu	"English"
arerugī (アレルギー)	ga arimasu (が あります)	"(I) have allergies."
Yotei (よてい)	ga arimasu (が あります)	"(I) have plans."
Jikan (じかん)	ga arimasu (が あります)	"(I) have time."

When it is obvious who we are talking to, we can use the above phrase [thing] *ga arimasu*. But when we want to also mention the person who has something, our pattern becomes:

Sentence Pattern:

[person] *wa* [thing] *ga arimasu*	"[Person] has [thing]."

In this pattern, **A** = the things or place that exists

Person	Wa	Item	Ga Arimasu	"English"
Kaori (かおり)	wa (は)	arerugī (アレルギー)	ga arimasui (が あります)	"Kaori has allergies."
Taylor (テイラー)	wa (は)	okane (お金)	ga arimasu (が あります)	"Taylor has money."

＊Note: When talking about food allergies, it is common to put the name of the food before the word *arerugī* (アレルギー) in Japanese to specify the type.

For Example:

1. *chikin arerugī*
   チキンアレルギー
   "allergic to chicken"

2. *pīnattsu arerugī*
   ピーナッツアレルギー
   "allergic to peanuts"

Imasu: Talking about People and Animals

Just like we use *arimasu* (Lesson 19), we also use *imasu* to express the meanings "to be," "to exist," "to be located," or "to have." The difference is that we use *imasu* to talk about animate objects, such as people and animals. When talking about people, it often means that that person is currently around or on the premises. We often use it when talking about family members, as in "I have a brother" or "I have a sister."

Sentence Pattern:

[animate object] *ga imasu*	"There is ~"/"~ is here"
	"I have ~" (for family members)

In this pattern, A = the animate object (person/animal) the person is talking about.

For Example:

Item	ga imasu	"English"
Teirā (テイラー)	*ga imasu* (が います)	"Taylor is here."
hito (ひと)	*ga imasu* (が います)	"There's a person."
imōto (いもうと)	*ga imasu* (が います)	"I have a younger sister."

Note: To make *imasu* negative and say that an animate object doesn't exist, use *imasen* instead.

For Example:

1. *Kyōdai ga **imasen**.*
   きょうだいが**いません**。
   "I **don't have** any siblings."