

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

# Japanese Counters for Beginners

## #1

### Hon

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# 1

Do you know how to count pairs of chopsticks? You'll find out at the end of this lesson!

Hi everybody! I'm Alisha. (pause)

(pause) こんにちは、 Yamamori です。

When counting inanimate objects that are long and thin, you can use this counter...

Okay, let's count from 1 to 10 with this counter. Yamamori-sensei will give you the numbers one by one. Repeat after Yamamori-sensei.

Okay. Now let's take a look at some sample sentences that use this counter.

Yamamori-sensei will give you three sample sentences. Listen carefully to what sorts of objects can be counted with this counter.

Now it's time for a Quiz. I'm going to ask you a question in English. Answer the question in Japanese. Are you ready? Make sure to use the right counter!

Do you know how to count a pair of chopsticks? The answer is...

Okay, everyone. That's it for this lesson. I'll see you next time!

Welcome to Japanese Counters for Beginners, where you'll learn how to count all sorts of different objects in Japanese! Yamamori-sensei, what counter will we learn in this lesson?

Hon (本)

一本

二本

三本

四本

五本

六本

七本

八本

九本

十本

ワインを3本買います。

How many umbrellas are there?

一膳

(pause) Hon (本)

What are the examples of "long and thin" objects? Objects can be made of soft material, like cords and strings, or hard material, like pens and pencils. You can also count bigger objects such as trees and telephone poles.

Did you notice that there were some numbers that sounded different to how they usually sound? When you read the numbers 1, 3, 6 and 10, you should be careful.

Yamamori-sensei will give you the right pronunciation once again.

I'll buy 3 bottles of wine.

傘が2本あります。

You need to use this counter to specify how many pairs of chopsticks. If you

say...

First, let's take a look at what sorts of objects can be counted with the counter.

For number 1, it's 'i-ppon', not 'ichi-hon.'

For number 6, it's 'ro-ppon' not 'roku-hon.'

For number 10, it's 'ju-ppon' not 'juu-hon.'

For number 3, it's 'san-bon' not 'san-hon'. Only this number 3 takes 'bon'."

ペンを5本ください。

How many bottles of water did you buy?

箸を二膳、ください。

Can I have 5 pens, please?

水を10本買いました。

It means, "can I have two pairs of chopsticks, please?" With this proper counter, you can get 2 pairs of chopsticks, instead of 2 individual sticks!

木が8本あります。

There are 8 trees.