

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Japanese Counters for Beginners

#4

Tsu

4

Do you know how to count objects in bags? You'll find out at the end of this lesson!

Hi everybody! I'm Alisha

こんにちは、 Yamamori です。

Japanese has a general counter, which is...

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.

It's now 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 if objects are in bags?

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?

つ - (for the later part) [Natsuko] コーヒー、ふたつ。

ひとつ

ふたつ

みっつ

よっつ

いつつ

むっつ

ななつ

やっつ

ここのつ

とう

りんごを七つ買いました。

How many tomatoes did you buy?

一袋

(pause) つ

You can use this general counter when objects don't have specific counter, or when you don't know the specific counter for a certain item. You can also use it to count relatively small objects regardless of their shape, such as oranges, and glasses. When you order something at restaurants and cafe, you can use this general counter to say how many of the same item you want. So, for example, if you're at a cafe with your friend and you order two coffees, you can use this general counter for saying "2".

[Natsuko] コーヒー、ふたつ。

This counter only goes up to 10, and all the numbers might sound very different to the usual numbers. You just need to memorize them, but Yamamori-sensei will help you a

little bit. The numbers 3, and 6 and 4 and 8 are slightly similar.

I bought 7 apples.

トマトを四つ買いました。

You can often find 5 or 6 apples, oranges, or grapefruits in a bag at Japanese supermarkets. So, you might say...

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

Numbers 3, 4, 6 and 8 are 'mittsu', 'yottsu', 'muttsu' and 'yattsu' respectively.

Number 9 is 'kokonotsu' and it sounds similar to "coconuts".

Number 10 is 'tō'; it sounds like "toe".

妹に飴を二つあげました。

How many bags are there?

グレープフルーツを二袋、買いました。

I gave 2 candies to my younger sister.

バッグがひとつあります。

And it means "I bought 2 bags of grapefruits".

コーヒーを五つ、ください。

Can I have 5 cups of coffee, please?