

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Japanese Counters for Beginners

#5

Nin

5

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

Hi everybody! I'm Alisha

こんにちは、 Yamamori です。

When counting people, you can use the 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.

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.

The Japanese language always involves politeness and respect. For counting people, there's a politer way. Do you know how to say the number of people in a politer way?

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?

人

一人

二人

三人

四人

五人

六人

七人

八人

九人

十人

私の家族は、四人です。

How many students are there?

一名

(pause) 人

This counter is limited strictly to people. You can use this counter for anyone: men, women, children, and the elderly.

Did you notice that there were some numbers that sounded different from the usual numbers? Counting 1 and 2 persons takes a special form. And when you read the number 4, you should be careful. Yamamori-sensei will give you the right pronunciation once again.

My family has 4 family

members.

生徒が七人います。

You will often hear this counter at hotels, restaurants and cafes to confirm the number of people in your group. For example...

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

For number 1, it's 'hitori'

For number 2, it's 'futari'

For number 4, it's 'yo-nin', not 'yon-nin.'

お客さんが十人います。

How many children do they have?

三名様ですか。

There are 10 customers.

子供が二人います。

And it means "are you a group of three?" You will hear this sentence to confirm you visited the place as a group of three persons. And they will always add the most polite suffix '-sama' after the number and the counter.

パーティーに八人来ました。

8 people came to the party.