

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Japanese Counters for Beginners

#8

Hiki

8

Do you know how to count crabs? I'll tell you the answer at the end of this lesson!

Hi everybody! I'm Alisha

こんにちは、 Yamamori です。

When counting animals, you can use the counter...

Okay, let's count numbers 1 to 10 with this counter.

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

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

Japanese counters can sometimes change according to the state of objects. When you go to a fishmarket, some fish or seafood can be counted with a different counter. For example, how would you count crabs, octopuses and squid when they're seen as food? 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?

匹

一匹

二匹

三匹

四匹

五匹

六匹

七匹

八匹

九匹

十匹

犬が三匹います。

How many cats are there?

一杯

(pause) 匹

You can use this counter when you count small to medium-sized animals, and any insects and fish. The object you count can be as small as a mosquito, or as big as a large-breed dog.

Did you notice that there were some numbers that sounded different to how they usually sound? You need to be careful when you say the numbers 1, 3, and 10.

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

There are 3 dogs.

猫が四匹います。

When Japanese people see crabs, octopuses and squid as food, they change the

counter. So, you can ask at the fishmarket...

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

For number 1, it's 'i-ppiki, not 'ichi-hiki.'

For number 10, it's 'ju-ppiki' not 'juu-hiki.'

For number 3, it's 'san-biki' not 'san-hiki'. Only this number three takes 'biki'.

カブトムシを一匹、捕まえました。

How many fish are swimming?

このカニは、一杯いくらですか。

I caught a beetle.

魚が八匹泳いでいます。

And that means "how much is one crab of this (type)?"

コイが五匹、泳いでいます。

There are 5 carp swimming.