

# 第

# 4

# 課：日常会話集

## Lesson 4: Basic expressions

In this lesson we will give a short list of basic expressions so that you will begin to feel you are studying Japanese. We already gave a very basic list in lesson 2, and some of those expressions will be repeated here, so as to further solidify concepts. But, of course, in this lesson we will learn many more new expressions.

### Greetings

Here is the list of the most common greetings:

おはようございます <i>ohayō gozaimasu</i>	“Good morning” (until about 11 AM)
こんにちは <i>konnichi wa</i>	“Good afternoon” (from about 11 AM to 6 PM)
こんばんは <i>konban wa</i>	“Good evening” (from about 6 PM on)
お休みなさい <i>o-yasumi nasai</i>	“Good night” (when going to bed)

After the corresponding greeting, you can say:

お元気ですか？ *o-genki desu ka?* “How are you?”

And you answer to that expression with:

はい、元気です *hai, genki desu* “I’m fine.”

### Introducing oneself

Using this conversation as a model, we will learn how to introduce ourselves:

**Person A:** はじめまして *hajimemashite* “How do you do?”

私の名前は\_\_\_\_です “My name is\_\_\_\_.”

*watashi no namae wa \_\_\_\_desu*

よろしくお願ひします “Pleased to meet you.”

*yoroshiku o-negai shimasu*

あなたの名前は何ですか？ “What’s your name?”

*anata no namae wa nan desu ka?*

**Person B:** 私の名前は\_\_\_\_です “My name is\_\_\_\_.”

*watashi no namae wa \_\_\_\_desu*

こちらこそよろしく *kochira koso yoroshiku* “Pleased to meet you (too).”

So all you need to do is put your name in the corresponding place, and you can introduce yourself in Japanese. Try to practice these sentences well, so you can make an excellent first impression.

## Thank you

The most basic way of saying “thank you” is:

ありがとうございます *arigatō*

But there are many more combinations, such as this very formal one:

どうもありがとうございます “Thank you very much.”

*dōmo arigatō gozaimasu*

The next one is a little less formal than the previous one:

ありがとうございます “Thank you.”

*arigatō gozaimasu*

Or there is this very informal and simple one, useful in almost any situation:

どうも *dōmo* “Thanks.”

The answer to any expression of thanks usually is:

どういたしまして *dō itashimashite* “You’re welcome.”

Or a simpler one:

いいえ *iie* “It’s okay.”

## Asking for prices

Knowing how to ask for prices is very important to be able to survive in Japan, so this is what we will study next.

The first thing the shop assistant will say when the client comes into the shop is:

いらっしゃいませ *irasshaimase* “Welcome.” | “Can I help you?”

Then, not being able to speak Japanese, we must point at the thing we want and say:

これはいくらですか? *kore wa ikura desu ka?* “How much is this?”

And the shop assistant replies:

これは\_\_円です *kore wa \_\_en desu* “This is \_\_ yen”.

Don’t worry, we know you can’t count in Japanese yet. This will be solved in the next lesson, where we will talk about numerals.

If we find the price is all right and we want to buy something, we will say:

これをください *kore o kudasai* “I want this, please.”

Or:

これをお願いします *kore o o-negai shimasu* “I would like this, please.”

At that moment, you must pay the price the shop assistant has told you in the previous sentence and then he will give you what you have bought.

## Farewells

Now we will say goodbye to this lesson’s theory section listing the different ways of saying “goodbye.” The best known way of saying goodbye is:

さようなら *sayōnara* “Goodbye.”

But it is not the most usual, in fact we will seldom hear it if we go to Japan. Just like in English, similar expressions to “see you later,” or “see you” are more common than the typical “goodbye.” Combinations with *ja-mata* are very frequent:

This is the complete form and it means “Well, let’s meet again tomorrow.”

それでは (それじゃ)、また明日会いましょう *sore de wa (sore ja), mata ashita aimashō*

Here is a shorter and very common form:

じゃ、また明日 *ja, mata ashita* “Well, see you tomorrow.”

The two following much shorter forms are the most common in colloquial contemporary Japanese, that is, the spoken everyday language:

じゃね、また！ *ja ne, mata!* “Well, see you later!”

またね！ *mata ne!* “See you later!”

There is even a widely used English imported farewell:

バイバイ！ *baibai!* “Bye, bye!”

### Other useful expressions

はい <i>hai</i>	“Yes.”
いいえ <i>iie</i>	“No.”
すみません <i>sumimasen</i>	“Sorry.” / “Excuse me.”
ごめんなさい <i>gomen nasai</i>	“Sorry.”
やった！ <i>yatta!</i>	“Yes!” / “I did it!”
おめでとうございます <i>omedetō gozaimasu</i>	“Congratulations!”

We will conclude the theory section in this fourth lesson, offering a list of kanji which complements the one we offered in L.3. Including both tables, we have presented you with a total of 53 basic kanji which we recommend that you study as soon as possible. Notice that the last four words in the table are formed by two kanji instead of one. You’ve made great progress!

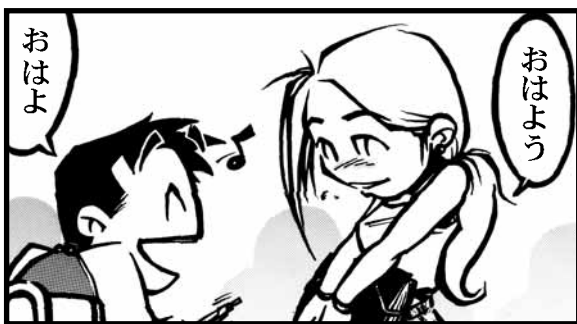
Short list of useful kanji							
何	なに	<i>nani</i>	what?	心	こころ	<i>kokoro</i>	heart
子	こ	<i>ko</i>	child	春	はる	<i>haru</i>	spring
円	えん	<i>en</i>	yen	夏	なつ	<i>natsu</i>	summer
右	みぎ	<i>migi</i>	right	秋	あき	<i>aki</i>	fall
左	ひだり	<i>hidari</i>	left	冬	ふゆ	<i>fuyu</i>	winter
上	うえ	<i>ue</i>	up	東	ひがし	<i>higashi</i>	east
下	した	<i>shita</i>	down	西	にし	<i>nishi</i>	west
中	なか	<i>naka</i>	center	南	みなみ	<i>minami</i>	south
目	め	<i>me</i>	eye	北	きた	<i>kita</i>	north
口	くち	<i>kuchi</i>	mouth	学生	がくせい	<i>gakusei</i>	student
手	て	<i>te</i>	hand	先生	せんせい	<i>sensei</i>	teacher
耳	みみ	<i>mimi</i>	ear	学校	がっこう	<i>gakkō</i>	school
鼻	はな	<i>hana</i>	nose	大学	だいがく	<i>daigaku</i>	university

# 漫画例

# Manga-examples

Fluently mastering basic greetings in Japanese at an early stage in your studies is very important. In the manga-examples, as usual, we will see samples of real usage of some of the most basic and useful expressions. Study them thoroughly.

## a) Morning greeting



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Yui: おはよう (*ohayō*)  
Tetsuya: おはよ (*ohayo*)  
Good morning.

This is the morning greeting, generally used until 11 AM or noon, when it is replaced by *konnichi wa* (“good afternoon.”) *Ohayō* is a colloquial simplification of the

formal expression *ohayō gozaimasu*, and is widely used in everyday conversation between friends. **Note:** Notice how Tetsuya is more concise than Yui, and doesn’t pronounce the long *o* –it sounds more “masculine.”

## b) Afternoon greeting

Professor Shinobu: こんにちは  
*konnichi wa*  
Good afternoon.

This greeting is usually said from noon until late in the afternoon (around 6 or 7 PM.) This is easily one of the most useful Japanese greetings there is, so memorize it as soon as possible.

**Note:** The syllable は is not pronounced *ha* here, which is how it should be read according to the hiragana table in L.1. Here it is pronounced *wa*. In L.16 we will gain more insight on this.



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### c) Evening greeting



Guillermo March

**Mary:** こんばんは 王子様  
*konban wa ōji-sama*  
 Good evening, my prince.

*Konban wa* is the evening greeting, used from around 6 or 7 PM. Like in example b), the syllable は is pronounced *wa* and not *ha*.

**Note:** Regarding the other words in the example, *ōji* means “prince” and *-sama* is a honorific suffix for people’s names. We will thoroughly study these suffixes in L.15.

### d) Expression of gratitude

Here we see a very common way of saying thank you: *dōmo arigatō*. There are other ways of expressing gratitude, but this is a very useful expression and it always sounds good.



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**Takashi:** どうもありがとう  
*dōmo arigatō*  
 thank you very much  
 Thank you very much!

博士によろしく。  
*hakase ni yoroshiku*  
 doctor 10P regards  
 Give the doctor my regards.

### e) Farewell



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**Ken:** 気をつけろな  
*ki o tsukero na*  
 mind DOP take care EP  
 Take care!

In its literal translation, this expression means something like “take care of your spirit.” It is actually used to say goodbye to someone, asking them to take care. Therefore, “take care” is a more exact translation. However, the expression as it is in this example is not used in contemporary colloquial language. The most usual expression, the one that you should use, is 気をつけて (*ki o tsukete*).

① It's 8 PM and you have to greet somebody in Japanese. What do you say?

What would the greeting be at 4 PM?

②

③ Introduce yourself in Japanese.

Write in Japanese the following words, and their pronunciation: "mouth", "yen," and "university."

④

⑤ Write at least two ways of saying thank you in Japanese.

You've done a Japanese man a favor and he says ありがとう. What do you reply?

⑥

⑦ How do you ask for the price?

You've made a mistake and you must apologize. What do you say?

⑧

⑨ Congratulate someone for an achievement, like, for example, passing an exam.

Say goodbye the Japanese way.

⑩