

Introductory Lesson: Greetings and Useful Phrases

BASIC SENTENCES: FOR MEMORIZATION¹

1. Oh, Mr. (<u>or</u> Mrs. <u>or</u> Miss) Tanaka!	A ¹ a, Tanaka-sa ^ñ .
2. Good morning.	O ¹ hayoo (gozaima ¹ su).
3. Good afternoon.	Ko ^ñ niti wa.
4. Good evening.	Ko ^ñ ba ^ñ wa.
5. How are you? <u>or</u> Are you well? (Lit. Is it health?)	O ¹ ge ¹ nki desu ka.
6. Yes.	Ha ¹ i. <u>or</u> E ¹ e.
7. [I'm fine,] thank you. And you? (Lit. As for you?)	Oka ^g esama de. A ¹ na ¹ ta wa?
8. Goodnight.	O ¹ yasumi-nasa ¹ i.
9. Goodbye.	Sayo(o)nara. ²
10. Excuse me (on leaving).	Si ¹ tu ¹ ree(-simasu).
11. Excuse me (for what I did).	Si ¹ tu ¹ ree-(simasita).
12. No. <u>or</u> Not at all.	Iie.
13. Don't mention it. <u>or</u> You're welcome.	Do ¹ o itasimasite.
14. I'm sorry. <u>or</u> Thank you for your trouble.	Su ¹ (m)imase ¹ n.
15. I'm sorry (for what I did). <u>or</u> Thank you (for the trouble you took).	Su ¹ (m)imase ¹ n desita.
16. [Thanks] very much.	Do ¹ o mo.
17. Thank you.	A ¹ ri ¹ g ¹ atoo (gozaimasu).
18. Thank you very much.	Do ¹ o mo a ¹ ri ¹ g ¹ atoo (gozaimasu).
19. Thank you (for what you did).	A ¹ ri ¹ g ¹ atoo (gozaimasita).
20. Please (speaker requesting something).	O ¹ ne ¹ gai-sima ¹ su.
21. Please (speaker offering something).	Do ¹ ozo.

NOTES ON THE BASIC SENTENCES³

1. -Sa^ñ is added to a family name (as in Tanaka-sa^ñ), a given name (as in Ta¹roo-sa^ñ), or a family name plus a given name (as in Tanaka¹Ta¹roo-sa^ñ), but it is NOT added to one's own name or to that of members of one's

¹ Be sure to read the Introduction before beginning.

² Alternate accent: Sa¹yo(o)na¹ra.

³ Numbers in this section correspond to Basic Sentence numbers.

own family or household when speaking to outsiders. Thus, Mr. Yamamoto calls Mr. Tanaka Tanaka-sa^hn, but Mr. Tanaka identifies himself simply as Tanaka.

2. Ohayoo is used when addressing a friend or colleague or inferior informally. O^hayoo gozaima^hsu is a formal greeting used in addressing a superior, or in any situation requiring formality.
5. O^hge^hn^hki is the honorific (t) equivalent of ge^hn^hki. Only the latter may be used in reference to oneself. In referring to others, ge^hn^hki is plain and o^hge^hn^hki is polite. (O)ge^hn^hki desu ka may occur as the equivalent of 'How are you?' 'How is he?' 'How is she?' or 'How are they?', provided the context makes the meaning clear.
6. In general, ha^hi is a rather stiff word, whereas e^he is conversational. However, ha^hi is the regular response to a knock at the door or the calling of one's name.
7. Oka^hgesama de indicates the speaker's appreciation for interest in his personal affairs ('thanks for asking') and/or appreciation for assistance ('thanks to you'). It always accompanies, or itself implies, favorable or pleasant information.
9. Sayonara is the contracted, less formal equivalent of sayoonara.
10. Si^htu^hree-simasu means literally 'I [am about to] commit a rudeness.' It is a polite way of excusing oneself from someone's presence, sometimes in the sense 'Excuse me for a moment' and sometimes as 'Excuse me—good-bye.' Other uses will be introduced later.
11. Si^htu^hree-simasita is the past equivalent of the preceding and means literally 'I committed a rudeness.' It is an apology for something that has already been done.
12. Iie is used in negative replies to questions, in contradictions and denials, and as an informal reply to apologies, expressions of thanks, and compliments.
13. Do^ho itasimasite is used alone, or with iie, as a formal reply to apologies, expressions of thanks, and compliments.
14. Su^himase^hn is the contracted, less formal equivalent of su^hmimase^hn.
15. Su^h(m)imase^hn desita is the past equivalent of su^h(m)imase^hn and refers to an action already completed. It is commonly used to apologize or say thank you, by someone who is on the point of leaving. However, the non-past form is used in expressing thanks immediately upon receiving something.
16. Do^ho mo, used alone as an expression of thanks, is informal. It means literally 'in every way.'
- 17, 18, 19. The forms with gozaimasu (or gozaimasita) are formal, and those without are informal. Compare 2, above.
19. A^hri^hgatoo gozaimasita is the past equivalent of a^hri^hgatoo gozaimasu and refers to an action already completed. See 15, above.
20. Among the more common English equivalents of o^hne^hgai-sima^hsu are such expressions as: 'Would you please do it?'; 'Please take care of things';

'Please do'; 'May I have it?'; 'I'd like to have it'; etc. The equivalent differs depending upon the context, but the basic meaning is always the same—'I make a request'—and the word is humble (†).

21. Do^oozo, which occurs by itself as an expression of offering or invitation ('Please have some'; 'Go ahead'; 'Here you are'; etc.), also occurs within sentences of request, making the request softer and less abrupt. Thus, do^oozo o^{ne}gai-sima^{su} is a softer equivalent of o^{ne}gai-sima^{su} alone.

DRILLS

A. Response Drill

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tanaka-sa ⁿ . | Ha ⁱ . |
| 2. Ohayoo. | Ohayoo. |
| 3. O ^h ayoo gozaima ^{su} . | O ^h ayoo gozaima ^{su} . |
| 4. O ^h ayoo gozaima ^{su} . | Ohayoo. |
| 5. Ko ⁿ niti wa. | Ko ⁿ niti wa. |
| 6. Ko ⁿ ba ⁿ wa. | Ko ⁿ ba ⁿ wa. |
| 7. O ^g e ⁿ ki desu ka. | Oka ^g esama de. |
| 8. O ^g e ⁿ ki desu ka. | E ^e , oka ^g esama de. A ⁿ a ^{ta} wa? |
| 9. O ^g e ⁿ ki desu ka. | E ^e , a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. |
| 10. O ^y asumi-nasa ⁱ . | O ^y asumi-nasa ⁱ . |
| 11. O ^y asumi-nasa ⁱ . | Sayonara. |
| 12. Sa ^y oona ^{ra} . | Sayoonara. |
| 13. Sayonara. | Sayonara. |
| 14. Sa ^y oona ^{ra} . | Sayonara. |
| 15. Sayonara. | O ^y asumi-nasa ⁱ . |
| 16. Si ^r tu ^{ree} . | Do ^o ozo. |
| 17. Si ^r tu ^{ree} -simasu. | Do ^o ozo. |
| 18. Si ^r tu ^{ree} . | Sayonara. |
| 19. Si ^r tu ^{ree} -simasu. | Sayoonara. |
| 20. Si ^r tu ^{ree} . | Iie. |
| 21. Si ^r tu ^{ree} -simasita. | Do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 22. Si ^r tu ^{ree} -simasita. | Iie, do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 23. Su ^m mimase ⁿ . | Iie. |
| 24. Su ^m mimase ⁿ . | Iie, do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 25. Su ^m mimase ⁿ desita. | Iie. |
| 26. Su ^m mimase ⁿ desita. | Do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 27. A ^r i ^g atoo. | Iie. |
| 28. A ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. | Do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 29. A ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasita. | Iie, do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 30. Do ^o o mo a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasita. | Iie, do ^o o itasimasite. |
| 31. Do ^o o mo. | Iie. |
| 32. Do ^o ozo. | Su ^m mimase ⁿ . |
| 33. Do ^o ozo. | A ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. |
| 34. Do ^o ozo. | Do ^o o mo. |
| 35. O ^{ne} gai-sima ^{su} . | Do ^o ozo. |
| 36. O ^{ne} gai-sima ^{su} . | Ha ⁱ 'do ^o ozo. |
| 37. Do ^o ozo o ^{ne} gai-sima ^{su} . | Do ^o ozo. |

B. Level Drill¹

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ohayoo. | O ^h ayoo -gozaima ^s su. |
| 2. Sayonara. | Sa ^y oon ^a ra. |
| 3. Si ^t u ^r ee. | Si ^t u ^r ee-simasu. <u>or</u>
Si ^t u ^r ee-simasita. |
| 4. Ge ⁿ ki desu ka. | O ^g e ⁿ ki desu ka. |
| 5. Su ^m imase ⁿ . | Su ^m mimase ⁿ . |
| 6. Su ^m imase ⁿ desita. | Su ^m mimase ⁿ desita. |
| 7. A ^r i ^g atoo. | A ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. <u>or</u>
A ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasita. |
| 8. Do ^o mo. | Do ^o mo a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. <u>or</u>
Do ^o mo a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasita. |
| 9. Do ^o mo a ^r i ^g atoo. | Do ^o mo a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasu. <u>or</u>
Do ^o mo a ^r i ^g atoo gozaimasita. |

EXERCISES

1. What would you say to Mr. Tanaka under the following circumstances?
 - a. You have just met him in the morning.
 - b. You have just met him in the afternoon.
 - c. You have just met him in the evening.
 - d. You offer him a cigarette.
 - e. He has just given you something.
 - f. He has just thanked you for something.
 - g. You have just bumped into him.
 - h. You are leaving.
2. Give Mr. Tanaka's reply to the preceding, wherever possible.

¹ The utterances in the right-hand column are more formal or polite equivalents of the utterances in the left-hand column.

NOTES ON THE BASIC DIALOGUES¹

7. When addressing Mr. Tanaka, Tanaka-saⁿ wa? is equivalent to 'How about you, Mr. Tanaka?' It is less direct and more polite in Japanese to refer to the person by his name than by aⁿaⁿta 'you.'
12. Do^o itasimasite, in addition to its use as a reply to expressions of thanks and apology, occurs as a polite reply to compliments.
15. Go^{ku}roosama desita—lit. 'it has been toil on your part'—is used especially commonly in addressing a subordinate. The alternant without desita is informal.

GRAMMATICAL NOTES

1. Verbals

wa ^k karima ^{su} ²	'understanding takes place' <u>or</u> 'understanding will take place'
wa ^k karima ^{sita}	'understanding took place' <u>or</u> 'understanding has taken place'
wa ^k karimase ⁿ	'understanding does not take place' <u>or</u> 'understanding will not take place' <u>or</u> 'understanding has not taken place'
wa ^k karimase ⁿ desita	'understanding did not take place'

In Japanese there are words which are constant (i.e. have only one form) and those which are inflected (i.e. take particular sets of endings; compare English 'listen, listened, listening, listens'). Among the inflected words is a large group having forms similar to the four listed above (in addition to other forms). All such words are hereafter called VERBALS.³

The four forms listed above are named as follows:

- (a) Form ending in -ma^{su}: Formal non-past affirmative
 Meaning: 'something happens (or exists)' or
 'something is going to or will happen (or exist)'

¹ Numbers in this section correspond to those of the sentences in the Basic Dialogues.

² For the accent, see Introduction, page xxxvi.

³ Note that the term 'verbal' is being defined with particular respect to Japanese. It names the word-class to which all words inflected like wa^kkarima^{su} belong—namely, words having other forms ending in -ma^{sita}, -maseⁿ, etc.

statement can be made into a question by adding ka, provided the meaning makes sense. Compare:

- (a) Wa¹karimase¹ñ. ' [I] don't understand.' (Lit. 'There isn't understanding.')
- (b) Wa¹karimase¹ñ ka_┘ ' [You] don't understand?' or 'Don't [you] understand?' (Lit. 'There isn't understanding?')

Questions with ka end in rising intonation (represented in this text by the symbol _┘) or in low intonation (represented by a period).

All sentences ending with the question particle ka are questions; but not all questions end with ka. For example, the phrase a¹na¹ta wa 'as for you' becomes a question when pronounced with question intonation (represented by a question mark).

3. Answers to Yes-or-No Questions

Ha¹i¹ usually means 'what you just said is right.' In answer to affirmative questions, it corresponds to English 'yes,' but in answer to negative questions that anticipate a negative answer, it usually confirms the negative and corresponds to English 'no.' Iie, the opposite of ha¹i, means 'what you just said is wrong' and behaves in a parallel way: in answer to affirmative questions it corresponds to English 'no,' but in answer to negative questions that anticipate a negative answer, it usually contradicts the negative and corresponds to English 'yes.'

	Literal English Equivalent	Normal English Equivalent
I ¹ kima ¹ sita ka _┘	'Going took place?'	'Did you go?'
Ha ¹ i. [I ¹ kima ¹ sita.] ²	'That's right. [Going took place.]'	'Yes. [I did (go).]'
Iie. [I ¹ kimase ¹ ñ desita.]	'That's wrong. [Going didn't take place.]'	'No. [I didn't (go).]'
I ¹ kimase ¹ ñ desita ka _┘	'Going didn't take place?'	'Didn't you go?'
Ha ¹ i. [I ¹ kimase ¹ ñ desita.]	'That's right. [Going didn't take place.]'	'No. [I didn't (go).]'
Iie. [I ¹ kima ¹ sita.]	'That's wrong. [Going took place.]'	'Yes. [I did (go).]'

WARNING: English usage is as unexpected for a Japanese studying English as Japanese usage is for an American studying Japanese. Be wary of single-word answers given by a Japanese who is not yet fluent in English. In answer to 'Don't you have any bananas?' a 'Yes' from many Japanese means 'Yes. We have no bananas.'

¹ Throughout this note, whatever is said about ha¹i applies equally to e¹e.

² Diagonal brackets ([---]) enclose optional portions of the answer.

To sum up: The meaning of ha¹i and ie occurring in answer to a yes-or-no question usually depends on the inflected form of the preceding question: Ha¹i means that the affirmative or negative of the question applies and ie means that it does not apply.

4. ne¹e

Ne¹e 'isn't it true!' at the end of a sentence indicates an exclamation. It sometimes indicates reflection or consideration, and it often implies agreement—actual or assumed—between speaker and person addressed, but it is not a question-word in its occurrences with statement intonation. Compare:

Tanaka-saⁿ wa yo¹ku wakarimasu. 'Mr. Tanaka understands [very] well.'

Tanaka-saⁿ wa yo¹ku wa¹karima¹su
ka¹ 'Does Mr. Tanaka understand well?'

Tanaka-saⁿ wa yo¹ku wakarimasu
ne¹e. 'Doesn't Mr. Tanaka understand well!'
'How well Mr. Tanaka understands!'
'Mr. Tanaka understands [very] well,
doesn't he!' 'Come to think of it, Mr.
Tanaka does understand well!' etc.

As always, unless the subject is explicitly stated, it is inferred from context. Thus, Wa¹karimase¹n ne¹e. may mean 'You don't understand, do you!' or 'He doesn't understand, does he!' or 'They don't understand, do they!' or 'Come to think of it, I don't understand!' etc.

DRILLS

A. Substitution Drill

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. I did [it] all. | <u>Ze</u> ¹ <u>n</u> bu si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 2. I did a little. | <u>Tyo</u> ¹ to si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 3. I did [it] once. | <u>I</u> ¹ ti-do sima ¹ sita. |
| 4. I did [it] yesterday. | <u>Ki</u> ¹ noo sima ¹ sita. |
| 5. I did [it] today. | <u>Kyo</u> ¹ o si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 6. I did [it] once more. | <u>Mo</u> ¹ o iti-do sima ¹ sita. |

B. Substitution Drill

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. I went yesterday. | <u>Ki</u> ¹ noo ikima ¹ sita. |
| 2. I went today. | <u>Kyo</u> ¹ o i ¹ kima ¹ sita. |
| 3. I did [it] today. | <u>Kyo</u> ¹ o si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 4. I did [it] all. | <u>Ze</u> ¹ <u>n</u> bu si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 5. I understood [it] all. | <u>Ze</u> ¹ <u>n</u> bu wa ¹ karima ¹ sita. |
| 6. I understood a little. | <u>Tyo</u> ¹ to wa ¹ karima ¹ sita. |
| 7. I'll do a little. | <u>Tyo</u> ¹ to simasu. |
| 8. I'll do [it] tomorrow. | <u>A</u> ¹ sita sima ¹ su. |

C. Grammar Drill (based on Grammatical Note 1)

Tutor: I¹kima¹su. (non-past verbal)

Student: I¹kima¹sita. (past verbal)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Yo ¹ ku wakarimasu. | Yo ¹ ku wa ¹ karima ¹ sita. |
| 2. A ¹ ri ¹ g ¹ atoo gozaimasu. | A ¹ ri ¹ g ¹ atoo gozaimasita. |
| 3. Ze ¹ n ¹ bu simasu. | Ze ¹ n ¹ bu si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 4. Wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ ka ¹ . | Wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ desita ka ¹ . |
| 5. Kyo ¹ o ikimasu. | Kyo ¹ o i ¹ kima ¹ sita. |
| 6. Su ¹ mimase ¹ n ¹ . | Su ¹ mimase ¹ n ¹ desita. |
| 7. Kyo ¹ o si ¹ ma ¹ su ka ¹ . | Kyo ¹ o si ¹ ma ¹ sita ka ¹ . |
| 8. I ¹ kima ¹ su ka ¹ . | I ¹ kima ¹ sita ka ¹ . |
| 9. Yo ¹ ku wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ . | Yo ¹ ku wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ desita. |
| 10. Tanaka-sa ¹ n wa i ¹ ki-
mase ¹ n ¹ . | Tanaka-sa ¹ n wa i ¹ kimase ¹ n ¹ desita. |

D. Response Drill (based on Grammatical Note 3)

(What does the Ha¹i. or Iie. answer to each of the following questions mean?)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I ¹ kima ¹ su ka ¹ /Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, i ¹ kima ¹ su. |
| 2. Si ¹ mase ¹ n ¹ ka ¹ /Iie./ | Iie, si ¹ ma ¹ su. |
| 3. Wa ¹ karima ¹ sita ka ¹
/Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, wa ¹ karima ¹ sita. |
| 4. I ¹ kima ¹ sita ka ¹ /Iie./ | Iie, i ¹ kimase ¹ n ¹ desita. |
| 5. Si ¹ ma ¹ sita ka ¹ /Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, si ¹ ma ¹ sita. |
| 6. Wa ¹ karima ¹ su ka ¹ /Iie./ | Iie, wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ . |
| 7. I ¹ kimase ¹ n ¹ ka ¹ /Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, i ¹ kimase ¹ n ¹ . |
| 8. Si ¹ ma ¹ su ka ¹ /Iie./ | Iie, si ¹ mase ¹ n ¹ . |
| 9. Wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ ka ¹
/Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ . |
| 10. I ¹ kimase ¹ n ¹ desita ka ¹
/Iie./ | Iie, i ¹ kima ¹ sita. |
| 11. Si ¹ mase ¹ n ¹ desita ka ¹
/Ha ¹ i./ | Ha ¹ i, si ¹ mase ¹ n ¹ desita. |
| 12. Wa ¹ karimase ¹ n ¹ desita
ka ¹ /Iie./ | Iie, wa ¹ karima ¹ sita. |

E. Expansion Drill

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Please say [it]. | I ¹ tte kudasa ¹ i. |
| Please say [it] all. | Ze ¹ n ¹ bu i ¹ tte kudasa ¹ i. |
| Please say [it] all once. | Iti-do ze ¹ n ¹ bu i ¹ tte kudasa ¹ i. |
| Please say [it] all once
more. | Moo iti-do ze ¹ n ¹ bu i ¹ tte kudasa ¹ i. |
| 2. [He] understands. ¹ | Wa ¹ karima ¹ su. |

¹ Remember that the English equivalents given are not the only equivalents. Depending on context, there are various possibilities.

C. Grammar Drill (translation)

Tutor: I am going.

Student: I went.

1. I understand well

I understood well.

2. Thank you (for what you are doing)

Thank you (for what you did)

3. I'll do everything

I did everything.

4. Do you not understand?

Did you not understand?

5. Will you go today?

Did you go today?

6. Sorry (for what I am doing)

Sorry (for what I did)

7. Will you do it today?

Did you do it today?

8. Will you go?

Did you go?

9. Do you not understand well?

Did you not understand well?

10. Mr. Tanaka will not go.

Mr. Tanaka did not go.

D. Response Drill (literal translation)

Hai = Yes Iie = No

(Yes and No are used differently in Japanese than in English).

1. Will you go? /Yes/

Yes, I will go.

2. Will you do it? /No/

No, I will do it.

3. Do you understand? /Yes/

Yes, I understood.

4. Did you go? /No/

No, I did not go.

5. Did you do it? /Yes/

Yes, I did it.

6. Do you understand? /No/

No, I do not understand.

7. Won't you go? /Yes/

Yes, I will not go.

8. Will you do it? /No/

No, I will not do it.

9. Did you not understand? /Yes/

Yes, I did not understand.

10. Did you not go? /No/

No, I went.

11. Did you not do it? /Yes/

Yes, I did not do it.

12. Did you not understand? /No/

No, I understood.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| [He] understands, doesn't he! | Wa ¹ karima ¹ su ¹ ne ¹ e. |
| How well [he] understands! | Yo ¹ ku wakarimasu ¹ ne ¹ e. |
| How well Mr. Tanaka understands! | Tanaka-sa ¹ n wa ¹ yo ¹ ku wakarimasu ¹ ne ¹ e. |
| 3. [He]'s going to go. | I ¹ kima ¹ su. |
| Is [he] going to go? | I ¹ kima ¹ su ka ¹ . |
| Is [he] going to go tomorrow? | A ¹ sita ikima ¹ su ka ¹ . |
| Is Mr. Tanaka going to go tomorrow? | Tanaka - sa ¹ n wa a ¹ sita ikima ¹ su ka ¹ . |
| 4. [He]'s not going to do [it]. | Si ¹ mase ¹ n. |
| [He] didn't do [it]. | Si ¹ mase ¹ n desita. |
| Didn't [he] do [it]? | Si ¹ mase ¹ n desita ka ¹ . |
| Didn't Mr. Tanaka do [it]? | Tanaka-sa ¹ n wa si ¹ mase ¹ n desita ka ¹ . |

EXERCISES

1. Tell Tanaka-sa¹n:
 - a. to wait a minute.
 - b. to repeat.
 - c. that you didn't understand.
 - d. that you are going tomorrow.
 - e. that you'll do the whole thing.
 - f. that you appreciate his trouble.
2. Ask Tanaka-sa¹n:
 - a. if he understood.
 - b. if he is going today.
 - c. if he did [it] yesterday.
 - d. if he understood the whole thing.
 - e. if he is well.
3. Exclaim (using ne¹e) to Tanaka-sa¹n:
 - a. how well Yamamoto-sa¹n understands.
 - b. how well Yamamoto-sa¹n understood.
 - c. how well Yamamoto-sa¹n is.
 - d. that Yamamoto-sa¹n doesn't understand.