



## Absolute Beginner S1

Say Hello in Japanese No Matter the Time of Day

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## Kanji

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[in the morning]

- A おはよう。  
B おはようございます。

[during the day]

- A こんにちは。  
B こんにちは。

[at night]

- A こんにちは！  
B こんにちは。

## Kana

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[in the morning]

- A おはよう。  
B おはようございます。

[during the day]

- A こんにちは。  
B こんにちは。

[at night]

- A こんにちは。  
B こんにちは。

## Romanization

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[in the morning]

- A Ohay .  
B Ohay gozaimasu.

[during the day]

- A Kon'nichi wa.

B Kon'nichi wa.

[at night]

A Konban wa.

B Konban wa.

## English

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[in the morning]

A Morning!

B Good morning.

[during the day]

A Hello!

B Hello.

[at night]

A Good evening!

B Good evening.

## Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
おはよう	おはよう	Ohay	Good morning! (informal)
おはようございます	おはようございます	Ohay gozaimasu	Good morning (formal)
こんにちは	こんにちは	Kon'nichi wa.	Hello.
こんばんは	こんばんは	Konban wa	Good evening

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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まさる君、おはよう！

Good morning, Masaru!

Masaru-kun, ohay !

菊川社長おはようございます。

Good morning, President Kikukawa.

Kikukawa-shach ohay gozaimasu.

こんにちは。はじめまして。

Hello. Nice to meet you.

Kon'nichiwa. Hajimemashite.

こんばんは!

Konban wa.

Good evening!

## Grammar Points

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The Focus of This Lesson Is Greeting Someone in Japanese.

Ohay gozaimasu.

おはようございます。

"Good morning!"

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Welcome to Absolute Beginner Season 1! This series is geared toward those who have absolutely no background in Japanese and want to be able to speak Japanese without spending a lot of time studying grammar. You'll learn Japanese through sentence patterns that are easy to grasp and to put together. In the first five lessons, we will focus on the very basics of Japanese to give you a solid foundation to work with. In this first lesson, we will look at different greetings in Japanese.

### Greeting Someone in Japanese (at Any Time of Day!)

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Let's take a look at how to greet someone in Japanese. Just as there are multiple greetings in English, such as "good morning," "hi"/"hello," and "good evening," depending on the time of day, the greeting you use in Japanese will change depending on the time of day as well.

In the morning:

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
おはよう*	Ohay *	"Morning!"*
おはようございます	Ohay gozaimasu	"Good morning!"

At any time (usually during the day):

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
こんにちは	Kon'nichi wa	"Hi!" "Hello!"

In the evening/at night:

Japanese	Romanization	"English"
こんばんは	Konbanwa	"Good evening!"

\* Note that ohay is the casual version of the phrase ohay gozaimasu, and we should only use it with close family members or friends. With people you don't know very well, you should use the full phrase ohay gozaimasu.

## Cultural Insight

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### Formal and Informal Speech

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One important thing to know about Japanese is that there are two distinct types of speech: formal speech and informal speech.

You should use formal speech with strangers, people older than you, and family members you do not know well.

Informal speech is casual speech you should use with close friends and family members and those who are the same age or younger than you.

Because it can be rude to use informal speech in certain situations, this series mainly uses formal speech, which is safe to use with anyone.

### Japanese Writing System

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The Japanese writing system is made up of three scripts: hiragana, katakana, and kanji. Hiragana and katakana are phonetic scripts (meaning each character represents one sound), while kanji is a script that uses Chinese characters that have meanings.

Hiragana is the most basic of the scripts: it is the one Japanese children learn to read and

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write first, and technically we can write every Japanese word using hiragana.

In the Lesson Notes for this Absolute Beginner series, the Japanese you see is written using hiragana. If you don't know hiragana or katakana yet and want to learn how to read and write it, check out our Kantan Kana video series:

<http://www.japanesepod101.com/index.php?cat=47&order=asc>