



Absolute Beginner S1

Can You Tell Me What This is in Japanese?

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Kanji

かおり	はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。
テイラー	かおりさん？はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。
かおり	よろしくおねがいします。
テイラー	よろしくおねがいします。

Kana

かおり	はじめまして。わたしはかおりです。
テイラー	かおりさん？はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。
かおり	よろしくおねがいします。
テイラー	よろしくおねがいします。

Romanization

Kaori	Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Kaori desu.
Teirā	Kaori-san? Hajimemashite. Boku wa Teirā desu.
Kaori	Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.
Teirā	Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.

English

Kaori	Nice to meet you! I'm Kaori.
Taylor	Kaori? Nice to meet you, I'm Taylor.
Kaori	It's a pleasure to meet you. (Literally, Please look favorably upon me.)
Taylor	It's a pleasure to meet you too. (Literally, Please look favorably upon me too.)

Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
私	わたし	watashi	I, me
よろしくお願いします	よろしくおねがいします	yoroshiku onegai shimasu	Nice to meet you.
さん	さん	san	polite name suffix, similar to Mr. or Mrs.
です	です	desu	roughly meaning 'to be'
ぼく	ぼく	boku	I, me (used by males)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

私はすずきです。

Watashi wa Suzuki desu.

I'm Suzuki.

田中太郎です。よろしくおねがいします。

Tanaka Tarō desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

I'm Taro Tanaka. It's a pleasure to meet you.

田中さんは、パイロットです。

Tanaka-san wa pairotto desu.

Mr./Ms. Tanaka is a pilot.

私はジョン・スミスです。

Watashi wa Jon Sumisu desu.

I am John Smith.

ぼくは学生です。

Boku wa gakusei desu.

I'm a student.(informal, male speech)

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

You may have noticed that when Taylor and Kaori introduced themselves, they used different words for "I." Taylor used boku, and Kaori used watashi. So what's the difference?

Watashi (わたし)

Basically, the general word for "I" is watashi. Women usually use this when referring to themselves. Men use it too but usually only in very formal situations (think job interviews or similar situations). If a male person overuses watashi when there is no real need to be very polite, it may not sound very natural.

Boku (ぼく)

Boku is another word that means "I," but mostly males use it. In situations where regular

polite language will suffice (as opposed to super polite language), men can use boku instead of watashi to refer to themselves.

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson Is Saying What Something Is (A is B).

Kaori-san? Hajimemashite. Boku wa Teir desu.

かおりさん？はじめまして。ぼくはテイラーです。

"Kaori? Nice to meet you, I'm Taylor."

In this lesson, you will learn how to say what something is in Japanese. In English, we use the verb "to be" to say what something is, and there are many different forms of it: "I am Jennifer," "you are tired," "he is rich," etc. In Japanese, we can use the same pattern to say all of these things.

Saying What Something Is ("A is B")

Let's take a look at the sentence pattern for saying what something is:

Sentence Pattern:

[A] wa [B] desu/"[A] is [B]"

In this pattern,

A = the item being talked about ("me," "you," "he," "the dog," "an apple," etc.)

B = what you are identifying it as ("Jennifer," "Raul," "a souvenir," "water," etc.)

Now, let's make some sentences using this pattern:

A / wa / **B** / desu / "English"

1. Watashi ("I") wa Jenif desu.
"I'm Jennifer."
2. Boku ("I") wa Rauru desu.
"I'm Raul."
3. Watashi wa pairotto ("pilot") desu.
"I'm a pilot."
4. Boku wa shefu ("chef") desu.

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"I'm a chef."

5. Kore ("this") wa omiyage ("souvenir") desu.

"This is a souvenir."

6. Kore wa mizu ("water") desu.

"This is water."

See how the wa and desu never change? To use this pattern, simply change parts A and B!

For Example:

1. Kore wa sushi desu.

これはすしです。

"This is sushi."

2. Watashi wa T masu Ejison desu.

わたしは、トーマスエジソンです。

"I'm Thomas Edison."

Examples from This Dialogue

1. Watashi wa Kaori desu.

わたしはかおりです。

"I'm Kaori."

2. Boku wa Teir desu.

ぼくはテイラーです。

"I'm Taylor."