

LESSON NOTES

Basic Japanese S1 #7

Basic Japanese #7: 3 Mistakes You Can Easily Avoid

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GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is 3 Frequent Mistakes by Beginners of Japanese

x Your name + *san* (さん)

x *Sayōnara* (さようなら) to someone who you'll be seeing later day

x *Masu* form of a verb + *desu* (～ますです)

Your name + *san* (さん)

-*san* (さん) is an honorific suffix corresponding with Mr. or Ms. in English used for other people. You cannot attach -*san* with your own name.

Sayōnara (さようなら) to someone you'll be seeing later that day

Sayōnara (さようなら) means "good bye" or "see you later". However, you can't use it when you are expecting to see that person again on the same day.

Masu form of a verb + *desu* (～ますです)

It is wrong to say *desu* (です) after the *masu* form of a verb.

For example

× わたしは、ねますです。(I'll sleep)

○ わたしは、ねます。(I'll sleep)

Nemasu (ねます) is the formal form of *neru* (ねる) which is a verb meaning "to sleep."

Desu (です) is the formal form of the copula which is equivalent to am/is/are in English.

You can't use *desu* (です) after a formal verb, so you can't say *nemasu desu* (ねますです) but you should say *nemasu* (ねます).

But sometimes people say it when they want to sound funny on purpose.

Language Tip

When you are expecting to see that person again on the same day, you could say "ja, mata (じゃ、また)" which means "see you later" in an informal conversation.