

LESSON NOTES

Introduction to Japanese #5 Basic Bootcamp

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar

5

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
ありがとう。	ありがとう。	arigatō	Thank you.	expression
すみません。	すみません。	Sumimasen.	Excuse me. I'm sorry.	
トイレはどこですか？	トイレはどこですか？	Toire wa doko desu ka?	Where is the bathroom?	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

教えてくれてありがとう。 <i>Oshiete kurete arigatō.</i> Thank you for telling me.	ほんとうにすみません。 <i>Hontō ni sumimasen.</i> I'm really sorry.
---	--

GRAMMAR

Basic Bootcamp

Expressing Thanks and Forgiveness

ありがとう

This means "Thank you."

The best phrase to learn when studying a new language is one that expresses gratitude and appreciation. If you had to learn only a single phrase, this would be it!

すみません

This means "excuse me" or "I'm sorry."

It's to apologize or to excuse yourself.

You can use it also when you want to grab a waiter's attention, or when you're hustling through the busy streets of Tokyo!

Where is...?

Asking where something is, is an incredibly important and useful phrase to learn. You're going to need this when asking where the bathroom, the train station, or where the hotel is.

To ask where something is, put the name of the place or location *first*, and then add...

〇〇はどこですか。

For example, if you want to ask "Where is the bathroom?"...

トイレはどこですか。

For the train station, it'll be...

駅はどこですか。

You can ask where something is, by simply adding 〇〇はどこですか。

は marks the place as the subject of the sentence, どこ means "where," です is a polite word that roughly translates to "is," and か marks the sentence as a question - you can kind of think of it like a question mark in Japanese.

More examples:

"Tokyo station" 東京駅 + "Where is...?"はどこですか。 → 東京駅はどこですか。 "Where is Tokyo station?"

"hotel" ホテル + "Where is...?"はどこですか。 → ホテルはどこですか。 "Where is the hotel?"

"Hilton hotel" ヒルトンホテル + "Where is...?"はどこですか。 → ヒルトンホテルはどこですか。 "Where is the Hilton hotel?"

"convenience store" コンビニ + "Where is...?"はどこですか。 → コンビニはどこですか。 "Where is the convenience store?"

Language Tip

The *best* way to learn Japanese, particularly if you want to improve your communication skills, is **to watch and study contemporary Japanese videos**. That's because we often use expressions that aren't necessarily introduced in grammar text books in daily conversation.

The *biggest mistake* that I see learners make is watching and mimicking what they see and hear in anime, and to a lesser degree Japanese dramas. A lot of the expressions used in anime are not commonly used in daily conversation, as their reactions are often exaggerated. The same thing happens in Japanese dramas too, but to a lesser extent. One such example, is the use of どうも as a casual way to say "thanks". We often see this in comedic shows, and so a lot of learners are saying どうも, but in fact, it is rarely used even among friends. It should generally be avoided.