

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Basic Japanese S1 #19

Basic Japanese #19: Basic Sentence Patterns 2: What's this?

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Hiroko: Have you ever had trouble finding a specific item in the supermarket? In this lesson, you are going to learn how to ask questions, is this such and such and what's this? Let's take a look at the conversation between Yuchi and me. Yuchi san, can I see what's in your bag?

Yuichi: Sure.

Hiroko: これはアイポッドですか。 (Kore wa Aipoddo desu ka.)

Yuichi: それはアイホンです。 (Sore wa Aihon desu.)

Hiroko: これはアイホンです。 (Kore wa Aihon desu.) To make a question, you just add か (ka) to the end of the sentence. So これはアイホンですか。 (Kore wa Aihon desu ka.) Now let's practice. これはシーディーですか。 (Kore wa shīdī desu ka.)

Yuichi: それはディーブイディーです。 (Sore wa dībuidī desu.)

Hiroko: What if you don't have any idea about what it is. ゆういちさん。 (Yūichi san.) これは、なんですか。 (Kore wa, nan desu ka.)

Yuichi: それは、おまもりです。 (Sore wa, omamori desu.)

Hiroko: Let's take a closer look at how to ask what something is. When you have no idea about what it is, you use the word なん (nan) instead of the name of the item and add か (ka) to the end of the sentence. Okay let's practice ゆういちさん。 (Yūichi-san.) それは、なんですか。 (Sore wa, nan desu ka.)

Yuichi: これは、ほんです。 (Kore wa, hon desu.)

Hiroko: Now it's time for Hiroko's tip. When you want to ask what something is in the casual manner, you can say これは、なに。 (Kore wa, nani.) or これ、なに。 (kore, nani.) . Here you don't say なん (nan) but you say なに (nani) . See you next time.

Yuichi: じゃあ、また。(Jā, mata.)