

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Basic Japanese S1 #23

Basic Japanese #23: Useful Expressions 4: How to Ask if Something Exists

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Hiroko: Have you ever had trouble finding what you want to eat at a Japanese restaurant? In this lesson, you are going to learn how to ask if they have certain items. When you want to eat a hamburger at a restaurant, you can say ハンバーガーは、ありますか。 (Hanbāgā wa, arimasu ka.) which means, do you have hamburger. Wa is a topic marking particle あります (arimasu) is a verb meaning to be, to exist or to have and ka is a question marking particle. So Aは、ありますか。 (A wa, arimasu ka.) means do you have a or is there a. Let's take a look at one more example of this sentence structure. If you left a cell phone at home and you are looking for a Payphone, what would you say? The Japanese word for Payphone is 公衆電話 (kōshūdenwa) . So you can say こうしゅうでんわは、ありますか。 (Kōshūdenwa wa, arimasu ka.) which means, is there a Payphone. Now let's watch a skit to review this lesson.

(at a restaurant)

Shop clerk: いらっしゃいませ。 (Irasshaimase.)

Customer: パンケーキはありますか。 (Pankēki wa, arimasu ka.)

Shop clerk: はい、あります。

Customer: パンケーキ、ください。 (Pankēki, kudasai.)

Shop clerk: はい、かしこまりました。 (Hai, kashikomarimashita.)

Customer: トイレは、ありますか。 (Toire wa, arimasu ka.)

Shop clerk: ありません。 (Arimasen.)

Customer: え、うそ！ (E, uso!)

Hiroko: Did you catch one of my top 5 favorite expressions? It's うそ！ (Uso!) which means you are kidding. Okay here is Hiroko's hint. In this conversation, the customer says パンケーキ、ください。 (Pankēki, kudasai.) to order a pancake. This ください (kudasai) is a phrase you learned in the previous lesson which means please. So when you order something, you can just say something ください。 (kudasai.) . See you next time.