

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S1 #20

A Trip to the Japanese Zoo

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#20

DIALOGUE - JAPANESE

KANJI

1. (At the zoo)
2. まさと : どうぶつ…いますか？
3. テイラー : …あ、あそこ！ライオンがいます。
4. まさと : あー！ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
5. かおり : かわいい！
6. テイラー : あ、ゴリラがいます。
7. かおり : え？どこ？
8. テイラー : ここです。
9. まさと : え？ぼく？ [laughs]

ENGLISH

1. (At the zoo)
2. Masato : Are there any animals...?
3. Taylor : ...Oh, over there! There's a lion!
4. Masato : Ah! There's also a baby lion, isn't there?
5. Kaori : It's so cute!
6. Taylor : Oh, there's a gorilla.
7. Kaori : Huh? Where?
8. Taylor : Here.
9. Masato : Huh? Me? [laughs]

RŌMAJI

1. (At the zoo)
2. Masato : Dōbutsu... imasu ka?
3. Teirā : ...A, asoko! Raion ga imasu.
4. Masato : Ā! Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.
5. Kaori : Kawaii!
6. Teirā : A, gorira ga imasu.
7. Kaori : E? Doko?
8. Teirā : Koko desu.
9. Masato : E? Boku? [laughs]

HIRAGANA

1. (At the zoo)
2. まさと : どうぶつ…いますか？
3. テイラー : …あ、あそこ！ライオンがいます。
4. まさと : あー！ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
5. かおり :かわいい！
6. テイラー : あ、ゴリラがいます。
7. かおり : え？どこ？
8. テイラー : ここです。
9. まさと : え？ぼく？ [laughs]

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
います	います	imasu	to be (animate), to exist; -masu form	verb (honorific form)
ゴリラ	ゴリラ	gorira	gorilla	noun
かわいい	かわいい	kawaii	pretty, cute, lovely, charming :Adj(i)	adjective
ぼく	ぼく	boku	I, me (used by males)	pronoun
ライオン	らいおん	raion	lion	noun
動物	どうぶつ	dōbutsu	animal	
あそこ	あそこ	asoko	over there	
ここ	ここ	koko	here	noun
どこ	どこ	doko	where	interrogative
赤ちゃん	あかちゃん	aka-chan	baby	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>テーブルの下にねこがいます。</p> <p><i>Tēburu no shita ni neko ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There is a cat under the table.</p>	<p>ゴリラは草の中で休んでいる。</p> <p><i>Gorira wa kusa no naka de yasunde iru.</i></p> <p>The gorilla is resting in the grass.</p>
<p>黒くて銀色のゴリラ</p> <p><i>kurokute gin iro no gorira</i></p> <p>black and silver gorilla</p>	<p>ゴリラが、ジャングルの中の小道を歩いている。</p> <p><i>Gorira ga, janguru no naka no komichi o aruite iru.</i></p> <p>The gorilla is walking down a path in the jungle.</p>
<p>ゴリラがいます。</p> <p><i>Gorira ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There's a gorilla.</p>	<p>赤ちゃんはかわいい。</p> <p><i>Aka-chan wa kawaii.</i></p> <p>Babies are cute.</p>
<p>ぼくは学生です。</p> <p><i>Boku wa gakusei desu.</i></p> <p>I'm a student.</p>	<p>大きなライオン</p> <p><i>ōki na raion</i></p> <p>big lion</p>
<p>ライオンが寝ている。</p> <p><i>Raion ga nete iru.</i></p> <p>The lion is sleeping.</p>	<p>ライオンが、立ち止まっては、また歩いている。</p> <p><i>Raion ga tachi domatte wa, mata aruite iru.</i></p> <p>The lion pauses and then continues walking.</p>
<p>ライオンがいます。</p> <p><i>Raion ga imasu.</i></p> <p>There's a lion.</p>	<p>動物が好きですか。</p> <p><i>Dōbutsu ga suki desu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you like animals?</p>

あそこにガソリンスタンドがあります。 <i>Asoko ni gasorinsutando ga arimasu.</i> There is a gas station over there.	ここは禁煙です。 <i>Koko wa kin'en desu.</i> This place is no-smoking.
トイレはどこですか。 <i>Toire wa doko desu ka.</i> Where is the bathroom?	タクシー乗り場はどこにありますか。 <i>Takushīnoriba wa doko ni arimasu ka.</i> Where is the taxi stand?
赤ちゃんを生む <i>aka-chan o umu</i> have a baby	可愛い赤ちゃん <i>kawaii aka-chan</i> cute baby
あと二ヶ月で、妻と私に赤ちゃんが生まれる。 <i>Ato ni-kagetsu de, tsuma to watashi ni aka-chan ga umareru.</i> My wife and I are going to have a baby in two months.	赤ちゃんが笑っています。 <i>Aka-chan ga waratte imasu.</i> The baby is smiling.
赤ちゃんはよく泣きます。 <i>Aka-chan wa yoku nakimasu.</i> Babies often cry.	赤ちゃんはかわいい。 <i>Aka-chan wa kawaii.</i> Babies are cute.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

★ Dōbutsu どうぶつ

Dōbutsu is a noun that means "animal." In this conversation, they are at a *dōbutsuen*, which is a "zoo."

★ Akachan あかちゃん

Aka-chan means "baby," which we use to refer to both human and animal babies.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Animate Objects with *Imasu*.

Raion ga imasu.

ライオンがいます。

"There's a lion."

In the last lesson, we learned how to use the verb *arimasu* to talk about the existence of inanimate objects as well as to say that someone has something. In this lesson, we'll learn how to use the verb *imasu* to talk about the same concepts but for animate objects, such as people and animals.

Imasu: Talking about People and Animals

Just like we use *arimasu* (Lesson 19), we also use *imasu* to express the meanings "to be," "to exist," "to be located," or "to have." The difference is that we use *imasu* to talk about animate objects, such as people and animals. When talking about people, it often means that that person is currently around or on the premises. We often use it when talking about family members, as in "I have a brother" or "I have a sister."

Sentence Pattern

[animate object] <i>ga imasu</i>	"There is ~" / "~ is here" "I have ~" (for family members)
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In this pattern, A = the animate object (person/animal) the person is talking about.

For Example:

Item	<i>ga imasu</i>	"English"
<i>Teirā</i> テイラー	<i>ga imasu</i> が います	"Taylor is here."
<i>hito</i> ひと	<i>ga imasu</i> が います	"There's a person."
<i>imōto</i> いもうと	<i>ga imasu</i> が います	"I have a younger sister."

■ Note: To make *imasu* negative and say that an animate object doesn't exist, use *imasen* instead.

For Example:

1. *Kyōdai ga imasen.*
きょうだいが **いません**。
"I **don't have** any siblings."

Using *Ne* at the End of a Sentence

We use the particle *ne* in Japanese to seek agreement from the listener, like saying "right?" or "isn't it?" or "isn't there?" at the end of a sentence in English. We call these tag questions, and we use them very often in Japanese.

We can add the particle *ne* directly after a verb or *desu*.

For Example:

1. *Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.*
ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
"There's also a baby lion, isn't there?"
2. *Kawaii desu ne.*
かわいいですね。
"It's cute, right?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Dōbutsu...(ga) imasu ka.*
どうぶつ・・・(が) いますか。
"Are there any animals...?"
2. *Raion ga imasu.*
ライオンがいます。
"There's a lion."
3. *Raion no akachan mo imasu ne.*
ライオンのあかちゃんもいますね。
"There's also a baby lion, isn't there?"
4. *A, gorira ga imasu.*
あ、ゴリラがいます。
"Oh, there's a gorilla."

Sample Sentences

1. *Otōto ga imasu.*
おとうとがいます。
"I have a younger brother."
2. *Petto ga imasu.*
ペットがいます。
"I have a pet."