

## LESSON NOTES

# Absolute Beginner S1 #16

## These Japanese Interjections Aren't Impolite!

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#16

## DIALOGUE - JAPANESE

## KANJI

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. テイラー：     | これは、僕の家族のアルバムです。   |
| 2. かおり：      | へー（turning pages）。 |
| 3. これは、誰ですか？ |                    |
| 4. テイラー：     | 僕の妹です。             |
| 5. かおり：      | へー。かわいいー。          |
| 6. これは？      |                    |
| 7. テイラー：     | あ、えっと...僕です。       |
| 8. かおり：      | え！若い！！             |

ENGLISH

1. Taylor : This is my family's photo album.
2. Kaori : Neat~ (turns pages)
3. Who's this?
4. Taylor : This is my younger sister.
5. Kaori : Hmm, she's cute!
6. Who's this?
7. Taylor : Oh, uhh...that's me.
8. Kaori : What! You're so young!

## RŌMAJI

1. Teirā : Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.
2. Kaori : He~. (turns pages)
3. Kore wa, dare desu ka?
4. Teirā : Boku no imōto desu.
5. Kaori : He~. kawaii~.
6. Kore wa?
7. Teirā : A, etto... boku desu.
8. Kaori : E! Wakai!!

## HIRAGANA

1. テイラー : これは、ぼくのかぞくのアルバムです。
2. かおり : へー。 (turns pages)
3. これは、だれですか？
4. テイラー : ぼくのいもうとです。
5. かおり : へー。かわいいー。
6. これは？
7. テイラー : あ、えっと...ぼくです。
8. かおり : え！わかい！！

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
家族	かぞく	kazoku	family	noun
アルバム	アルバム	arubamu	album	
誰	だれ	dare	who	interrogative
妹	いもうと	imōto	younger sister	noun
かわいい	かわいい	kawaii	pretty, cute	
僕の	ぼくの	boku no	my (mainly used by male speakers)	
若い	わかい	wakai	young;Adj(i)	
えっと	えっと	etto	let's see..., umm (casual)	expression

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

家族が夕食を食べている。 <i>Kazoku ga yūshoku o tabete iru.</i> The family is eating dinner.	幸せな家族 <i>shiawase na kazoku</i> happy family
家族が昼食を食べている。 <i>Kazoku ga chūshoku o tabete iru.</i> The family is having lunch.	家族が写真をとるために笑っている。 <i>Kazoku ga shain o toru tame ni waratte iru.</i> The family is smiling for the picture.
家族の写真 <i>kazoku no shashin</i> family picture	私たちは4人家族です。 <i>Watashitachi wa yo-nin kazoku desu.</i> We have a family of four.
私たちは5人家族です。 <i>Watashi-tachi wa go-nin kazoku desu.</i> There are five people in my family.	家族のアルバムです。 <i>Kazoku no arubamu desu.</i> This is my family's picture album.
明日の夜、誰が夕食に来ますか。 <i>Ashita no yoru, dare ga yūshoku ni kimasu ka.</i> Who is coming to dinner tomorrow night?	誰と <i>dare to</i> with who
あの人は誰ですか。 <i>Ano hito wa dare desu ka.</i> Who is that person?	可愛い妹 <i>kawaii imōto</i> sweet younger sister

<p>妹はいつも着古した服を着なければならない。</p> <p><i>Imōto wa itsumo kifurushita fuku o kinakereba naranai.</i></p> <p>The younger sister always has to wear used clothes.</p>	<p>妹はイングランドに留学しました。</p> <p><i>Imōto wa Ingurando ni ryūgaku shimashita.</i></p> <p>My younger sister went to England to study abroad.</p>
<p>妹はアイススケートの選手です。</p> <p><i>Imōto wa aisu sukēto no senshu desu.</i></p> <p>My little sister is an ice skating player.</p>	<p>孫はとてもかわいい。</p> <p><i>Mago wa totemo kawaii.</i></p> <p>The grandchild is very cute.</p>
<p>僕の妻はフランス人です。</p> <p><i>Boku no tsuma wa Furansu-jin desu.</i></p> <p>My wife is French.</p>	<p>僕の名前は三門満です。</p> <p><i>Boku no namae wa Mikado Mitsuru desu.</i></p> <p>My name is Mitsuru Mikado.</p>
<p>トムのおばあちゃんはとても若い。</p> <p><i>Tomu no o-bā-chan wa totemo wakai.</i></p> <p>Tom's grandma is very young.</p>	<p>えっと。。。私は日本人です。</p> <p><i>Etto...Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.</i></p> <p>Umm...I'm Japanese.</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ★ kazoku (かぞく).

*Kazoku* is a noun that means "family."

### ★ imōto (いもうと).

*Imōto* is the word for "little sister." In Japanese, there are no words that simply mean "brother" and "sister": you must specify "younger" or "older," as in "younger brother" and "younger sister" or "older brother" and "older sister."

### ★ arubamu (アルバム).

*Arubamu* comes from the English word "album" and in this lesson refers to a photo album. We also use this word to refer to a "music album."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is Responding to Someone in a Conversation.

A, *etto...boku desu.*

あ、えっと ...ぼくです。

"Oh, uhh...that's me."

In Japanese conversation, it's common to respond to or acknowledge what the other person is saying using certain words and phrases. To an English speaker, these kinds of constant interjections might take some getting used to, since we do not do this nearly as often when speaking in English. You'll find, though, that conversations in Japan go a lot smoother when using these words and phrases!

## Responding to Someone in a Conversation

Let's look at some words and phrases we commonly use in response to what someone says in a conversation:

Purpose	Romanization	Japanese	"English"
Used when thinking	<i>etto...</i>	えっと...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when thinking	<i>ano...</i>	あの...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when you find something interesting	<i>hē</i>	へー	"Neat!" or "Wow!"
Used to agree with someone	<i>sō desu ne</i>	そうですね	"yes," "that's right" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>hai</i>	はい	"yes," "I see" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	<i>un</i>	うん	"yeah," "right" (informal)

### For Example:

1. A: *Atsui desu ne.*

あついですね。

"It's hot, isn't it?"

B: *Sō desu ne.*

そうですね。

"Yes, it is."

2. A: *Sore wa nan desu ka?*

それはなんですか。

"What's that?"

B: *Etto, sore wa niku desu.*

えっと、それは にくです。

"Umm...it's meat."

### Examples from This Dialogue

1. *Teirā: Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.*

*Kaori: He~.*

テイラー：これは、ぼくのかぞくのアльバムです。

かおり：へー。

Taylor: "This is my family's photo album."

Kaori: "Neat!"

## Language Tip: Words for Family Members

We only learned the word for younger sister (*imōto*) in this lesson, but it will help to learn the words for other family members as well!

When you are...

- talking about your own family members to someone outside the family → use regular terms
- talking about someone else's family member → use polite terms

\* We can use words marked with an asterisk to refer to members of your own family in informal situations.

"English"	Regular Terms		Polite Terms	
	Japanese	Romanization	Japanese	Romanization
"father"	父	<i>chichi</i>	お父さん	<i>o-tō-san*</i>
"mother"	母	<i>haha</i>	お母さん	<i>o-kā-san*</i>
"older brother"	兄	<i>ani</i>	お兄さん	<i>o-nī-san*</i>
"older sister"	姉	<i>ane</i>	お姉さん	<i>o-nē-san*</i>
"younger brother"	弟	<i>otōto</i>	弟さん	<i>otōto-san</i>
"younger sister"	妹	<i>imōto</i>	妹さん	<i>imōto-san</i>
"grandfather"	祖父	<i>sofu</i>	おじいさん	<i>o-jī-san*</i>
"grandmother"	祖母	<i>sobo</i>	おばあさん	<i>o-bā-san*</i>
"parents"	両親	<i>ryōshin</i>	ご両親	<i>go-ryōshin</i>
"siblings"	兄弟	<i>kyōdai</i>	ご兄弟	<i>go-kyōdai</i>
"husband"	主人 旦那	<i>shujin</i> <i>danna</i>	ご主人	<i>go-shujin</i>
"wife"	家内 妻	<i>kanai</i> <i>tsuma</i>	奥さん	<i>oku-san</i>
"son"	息子	<i>musuko</i>	息子さん	<i>musuko-san</i>
"daughter"	娘	<i>musume</i>	娘さん	<i>musume-san</i>
"child"	子供	<i>kodomo</i>	お子さん	<i>o-ko-san</i>
"grandchild"	孫	<i>mago</i>	お孫さん	<i>o-mago-san</i>

