



Absolute Beginner S1

What is This Delicious Japanese Dish?

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Kanji

(timer goes off)

テイラー

はい、どうぞ！

かおり

うわ～ すごーい！

かおり & まさと

いただきます。

まさと

((munch munch munch) うーん。おいしい！

テイラーさん、これは、なんですか？

Kana

(timer goes off)

テイラー

はい、どうぞ！

かおり

うわー すごーい！

かおり & まさと

いただきます。

まさと

(munch munch munch) うーん。おいしい！

テイラーさん、これは、なんですか？

Romanization

(timer goes off)

Teirā

Hai, dōzo!

Kaori

Uwā sugo~i!

Kaori & Masato

Itadakimasu.

Masato

(munch munch munch) ūn. Oishii!

Teirā-san, kore wa, nan desu ka?

English

(timer goes off)

Taylor

Okay, here you go!

Kaori

Oh, wow!

Kaori and Masato

Let's eat! (Literally, We are about to receive this meal.)

Masato

(munch munch munch) Mmm. This is great!

Taylor, what is this?

Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	this
何ですか	なんですか	nan desu ka	What is it?
あれ	あれ	are	that(one over there)
いただきます。	いただきます。	Itadakimasu.	I will start eating. (lit: I will receive.)
すごい	すごい	sugoi	wow, great, amazing; Adj(i)
おいしい	おいしい	oishii	delicious
それ	それ	sore	that

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

これは本です。

Kore wa hon desu.

This is a book.

これは何ですか？

Kore wa nan desu ka?

What is this?

あれは何ですか。

Are wa nan desu ka?

What's that?

東京はすごいです。

Tōkyō wa sugoi desu.

Tokyo is great.

イギリスのクッキーはおいしい。

Igirusu no kukkī wa oishii.

British cookies are delicious.

それは、日本茶ですか。

Sore wa nihon-cha desu ka.

Is that Japanese tea?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Itadakimasu (いただきます)

This is a phrase that we say before eating a meal. It literally means "I will receive" and is a way to show thanks and appreciation for the meal you are about to eat. It is important to say this especially in a situation where someone has prepared something for you.

sugoi (すごい)*

Sugoi is an adjective that means "wow," "great," or "amazing." You can use it when you are

impressed or surprised by something. In the dialogue, Kaori used it after seeing the food that Taylor made.

oishii (おいしい)*

Oishii is an adjective that means "delicious" that we use to describe food. If you think that something tastes good, it is important to say so-especially if someone has prepared something for you. Telling the person that the food he or she made is oishii would make his or her day!

* To make these adjectives sound more polite, you can add the word desu after them, as in sugoi desu! and oishii desu!

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking What Something Is.

Teir -san, kore wa, nan desu ka?

テイラーさん、これは、なんですか？

"Taylor, what is this?"

If you go to Japan, you're likely to see a lot of new, unfamiliar things. Likewise, a gift that you receive from a Japanese friend or from family members may be something you've never seen before! In that case, you'll want to know how to ask "what is this?" or "what is that?" In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask what something is.

Asking What Something Is: [A] wa nan desu ka?

Sentence Pattern:

[A] wa nan desu ka? "What is [A]?"

In this pattern, **A** = the item you want to know about

Now, let's make some sentences using this pattern:

A	Wa Nan Desu Ka?	"English"
Kore ("this")	wa nan desu ka?	"What's this?"
Sore ("that")	wa nan desu ka?	"What's that?"
Are ("that (over there)")	wa nan desu ka?	"What's that (over there)?"

For Example:

1. Sumimasen, kore wa nan desu ka?
すみません。これはなんですか。
"Excuse me, (but) what is this? "
2. Y kan wa nan desu ka?"
「ようかん」はなんですか。
"What's y kan?"

Examples from This Dialogue

1. テイラーさん、これは、なんですか？
Teir -san, kore wa, nan desu ka?
"Taylor, what is this?"