



Absolute Beginner S1

These Japanese Interjections Aren't Impolite!

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Kanji

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	これは？		
テイラー	あ、えっと...ぼくです。		
かおり	え！わかい！！		

Kana

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。(turns pages)
	これは、だれですか？
テイラー	これは、いもうとです。
かおり	へー。かわいいー。
	これは？
テイラー	あ、えっと...ぼくです。
かおり	え！わかい！！

Romanization

Teirā	Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.
Kaori	He~. (turns pages)
	Kore wa, dare desu ka?
Teirā	Kore wa, imōto desu.
Kaori	He~. kawaii~.
	Kore wa?
Teirā	A, etto... boku desu.
Kaori	E! Wakai!!

English

Taylor: This is my family's photo album.
Kaori: Neat-(turns pages)
Who's this?
Taylor: This is my younger sister.
Kaori: Hmm, she's cute!
Who's this?
Taylor: Oh, uhh...that's me.
Kaori: What! You're so young!

Vocabulary

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

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

私たちは5人家族です。
Watashi-tachi wa go-nin kazoku desu.
家族のアルバムです。
Kazoku no arubamu desu.
あの人は誰ですか。
Ano hito wa dare desu ka.
二月二十日は妹の誕生日です。
Ni-gatsu hatsuka wa imōto no tanjōbi desu.
孫はとてもかわいい。
Mago wa totemo kawaii.
私はもう若くない。

There are five people in my family.
This is my family's picture album.
Who is that person?
February 20th is my sister's birthday.
The grandchild is very cute.
I'm not young any more.

Watashi wa mō wakaku nai.

僕のペンがない。

I don't have my pen.

Boku no pen ga nai.

えっと。。。私は日本人です。

Umm...I'm Japanese.

Etto...Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

kazoku (家族)

Kazoku is a noun that means "family."

im to (いもうと)

Im to 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."

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Grammar Points

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	etto...	えっと...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when thinking	ano...	あの...	"umm," "uhh"
Used when you find something interesting	h	へー	"Neat!" or "Wow!"
Used to agree with someone	s desu ne	そうですね	"yes," "that's right" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	hai	はい	"yes," "I see" (formal)
Used to show you are listening or agreeing	un	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: S 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. Teir : Kore wa, boku no kazoku no arubamu desu.

Kaori: He~

テイラー : これは、ぼくのかぞくのアルバムです。

かおり : ヘー。

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

Kaori: "Neat!"

Language Tip: Words for Family Members

We only learned the word for younger sister (im to) 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.

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"English"	Regular Terms		Polite Terms	
	Japanese	Romanization	Japanese	Romanization
"father"	父	chichi	お父さん	o-t -san*
"mother"	母	haha	お母さん	o-k -san*
"older brother"	兄	ani	お兄さん	o-n -san*
"older sister"	姉	ane	お姉さん	o-n -san*
"younger brother"	弟	ot to	弟さん	ot to-san
"younger sister"	妹	im to	妹さん	im to-san
"grandfather"	祖父	sofu	おじいさん	o-j -san*
"grandmother"	祖母	sobo	おばあさん	o-b -san*
"parents"	両親	ry shin	ご両親	go-ry shin
"siblings"	兄弟	ky dai	ご兄弟	go-ky d ai
"husband"	主人 旦那	shujin danna	ご主人	go-shujin
"wife"	家内 妻	kanai tsuma	奥さん	oku-san
"son"	息子	musuko	息子さん	musuko-san
"daughter"	娘	musume	娘さん	musume-san
"child"	子供	kodomo	お子さん	o-ko-san
"grandchild"	孫	mago	お孫さん	o-mago-san