



Absolute Beginner S1

Asking Somebody's Age in Japanese

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Kanji

かおり ねえ、テイラーさん、サラちゃんはどこですか？
テイラー こっちです。
かおり (in a soft voice) あ、かわいいい～。
まさと ちいさいですね。なんさいですか？
テイラー 1さいです。
(Sarah starts to cry)
かおり ごめんごめん！うるさい？ごめんね～。

Kana

かおり ねえ、テイラーさん、サラちゃんはどこですか？
テイラー こっちです。
かおり (in a soft voice) あ、かわいいい。
まさと ちいさいですね。なんさいですか？
テイラー いっさいです。
(Sarah starts to cry)
かおり ごめんごめん！うるさい？ごめんね。
(Sarah cries louder)

Romanization

Kaori Nē, Teirā-san, Sara-chan wa doko desu ka?
Teirā Kocchi desu.
Kaori (in a soft voice) A, kawaii.
Masato Chiisai desu ne. Nansai desu ka?
Teirā Issai desu.
(Sarah starts to cry)
Kaori Gomen gomen! Urusai? Gomen ne.
(Sarah cries louder)

English

Kaori Hey, Taylor, where's Sarah?

Taylor She's over here.
Kaori (in a soft voice) Ah, how cute!
Masato She's so small. How old is she?
Taylor One year old.
(Sarah starts to cry)
Kaori Oh, I'm sorry! Are we loud? I'm sorry!
(Sarah cries louder)

Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
どこ	どこ	doko	where
こっち	こっち	kocchi	over here
才	さい	sai	counter for years of age
ごめん	ごめん	gomen	Sorry
何才	なんさい	nansai	how old
うるさい	うるさい	urusai	noisy, loud, annoying; Adj(i)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

改札はどこですか。
Kaisatsu wa doko desu ka.

Where is the ticket gate?

こっち？ そっち？ どっち？
Kocchi? Socchi? Docchi?

Here? There? Where?

健くんは1才です。
Ken-kun wa issai desu.

Ken is 1 year old.

本当にごめん。
Hontō ni gomen.

I'm really sorry.

お嬢ちゃん、何才？
O-jō-chan, nan-sai?

How old are you, young lady?

うるさい音楽は嫌いです。
Urusai ongaku wa kirai desu.

I hate loud music.

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Kocchi (こっち)

Kocchi means "this way" or "over here." The full version of the word is kochira, which sounds more polite and formal, but this shortened version, kocchi, is very common.

Chiisai (小さい)

Chiisai is an adjective that means "small." In the dialogue, Masato uses it to describe Sarah, Taylor's baby daughter.

Urusai (うるさい)

Urusai is an adjective that means "noisy" or "loud."

Gomen (ごめん)

Gomen is a phrase that we use to apologize, and it means "sorry." This is a casual form of the phrase, which is why Kaori uses it with Sarah. The more formal version of the phrase is gomen nasai (ごめんなさい).

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson Is Numbers and Asking or Saying One's Age

Nansai desu ka?

なんさいですか？

"How old is she?"

In this lesson, you will learn how to tell someone your age if asked or how to ask someone's age.

Numbers in Japanese

Let's take a look at the numbers one through twenty and multiples of ten up to one hundred in Japanese.

Numbers from zero through ten:

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Number	Japanese
0	zero/rei
1	ichi
2	ni
3	san
4	shi/yon
5	go
6	roku
7	shichi/nana
8	hachi
9	ky
10	j

Numbers from eleven through twenty:

Number	Japanese
11	j -ichi
12	j -ni
13	j -san
14	j -yon
15	j -go
16	j -roku
17	j -nana
18	j -hachi
19	j -ky
20	ni-j

Multiples of ten up to one hundred:

Number	Japanese
10	j
20	ni-j
30	san-j
40	yon-j
50	go-j
60	roku-j
70	nana-j
80	hachi-j
90	ky -j
100	hyaku

Asking or Saying One's Age

Let's take a look at how to ask one's age or say your own age.

Sentence Pattern (Asking one's age):

Japanese	English
Nansai desu ka?	"How old are you?"
[Person A] wa nansai desu ka?	"How old is [person A]?"

Sentence Pattern (Saying one's age):

Japanese	English
[Person A] wa [number + sai] desu.	"[Person A] is [number] years old."

In this pattern,

Person A = the person being talked about ("me," "you," "he," "she," etc.)

[Number + sai] = the person's age plus the word sai

Examples from This Dialogue

- Masato: (Sara wa) nansai desu ka?
Teir : (Sara wa) Issai desu.
まさと : (サラは) なんさいですか?
テイラー : (サラは) 1 さいです。
Masato: "How old is she (Sarah)?"
Taylor: "(She's) One year old."

Sample Sentences

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1. Watashi wa j go-sai desu.
わたしは15さいです。
"I'm fifteen years old."
2. Merissa wa san-sai desu.
メリッサは3さいです。
"Melissa is three years old."

Important! While saying one's age is as simple as saying a number plus sai, there are some numbers that go through a transformation when we use them to talk about age.

Let's look at those numbers:

Age	Japanese
1	ichi + sai = issai
8	hachi + sai = hassai
10	j + sai = jussai
11	j ichi + sai = j issai
20	nij + sai = hatachi
21	nij ichi + sai = nij issai