Counters:

Hi guys. In this video I’ll be introducing to you, counters which will help us to express quantity in our speech.

* They like expressions such as a sheet of (paper) or a cup of (coffee)
* Anything that quantifies the number of an object
* Used more frequently in Japanese than in English
* In fact there are over a tk different counters in Japanese
* Some of the most common are ones for:
  + Flat objects
  + Long objects
  + Something in containers
  + Books
  + Vehicles/machines
  + Airplanes
* But fortunately, there is a general counter as well which you will be familiar with as the first ten days of the month are based on it:
* The only difference being the pronunciation of 1 and we change the tk to tsu:
* We can use this to describe the quantity of objects in Japanese such as:
  + 3 hotdogs please
  + 2 flights of stairs
  + 4 pairs of shorts
* To form these sentences we use:
* Object (object involved) ga counter arimasu/imasu
  + There are 4 pairs of shorts
* Or
* Object (object involved) wo counter arimasu/imasu
  + We took the 4 pairs of shorts
* And when we're in a restaurant ordering food we can use this:
* Object (object involved) wo counter onegaishimasu
  + 3 ice creams please
* Note we can also say the counter before and after the object its related to
* The first emphasises the number whilst the second emphasises the group, you can think of it as saying 'in particular' but the difference is only subtle, with the first being much more common
  + 3 ice creams please
  + These 2 ice creams are warm
* However it is important to learn the proper counters for some objects as it can come across as forced and emotionally devoid if we use the general counter for some things such as talking about the number of people
* Fortunately to count people is easy, we just use the tk numbers and add ninn to it:
  + There were 5 people in the car
  + I went to the cinema there were about 50 people there
  + We need 4 people to be able to go
* Other objects for which it may be a good idea to learn the proper counters for are:
* Something in containers or drinks
* Which again use the tk numbers with ppai added to it to express how many drinks or containers with something in it:
  + 3 drinks please
  + A cup of coffee
  + Take those 3 containers
* Flat objects which again use, and you'll find this for pretty much all of them, the tk numbers with mai added to it:
  + Can I have a sheet of paper please
  + We need 2 more plates
  + I want to eat 5 pancakes
* And for long, cylindrical objects, which use the tk numbers with bon or pon added to it:
  + 3 corndogs please
  + We need 2 more knives
  + tk another object
* It may be good to know that books and magazines use the tk numbers with sawa added to it:
  + I've read 3 books this week
* With all these counters we can ask questions now too:
  + How many corndogs you've ate?
  + I've ate 5 corndogs
  + How many more knives do we need?
  + We need 2 more knives

And that’s how we use counters in Japanese, we’ve covered a lot today, if your feeling overwhelmed and/or want to cut your work load, I recommend just learning the general and people counter, as you usually can get away with just using the general counter for most objects. If you’ve still got any questions leave them below or send me an email which you can find on the homepage of this course. Thanks guys.