Grammar:

Hello, in this lesson we’ll begin looking at a favourite subject for students the world over, grammar. We’ll cover the nature of grammar, a bit vague description but you’ll understand in a second, the difference between the spoken and written word and how grammar, just like words, don’t have a one-to-one exact translation with English grammar.

* So first let’s get one thing out of the way, why? Because sometimes for such disliked subjects its important why we
* Cos you can only get so far without it. Eat, Sleep, Work, sound like a philosopher
* But problems do arise when we Tarzan it, plus, people don’t tend to
* Next thing need to establish is that grammar is not static, like rest of living language it is
* So if someone says your using a…but another says its fine, chances are they’re both right
* But as a learner it’s good to always double-check, but the point is don’t stress too much over
* Which somewhat brings me to my next point, written language always lags behind the spoken language
* You see this all the time, for example the word ‘knight’, once upon a time we used to say ‘kn-ight’ but now we
* Same thing occurs with Japanese, another possibly better point is a slang word like ‘flex’ or ‘yeet’ you wouldn’t use that in
* Again the same happens in Japanese, you might say tk when you mean tk but you wouldn’t write instead tk depending who your actually writing to
* But the same applies to grammar, many grammar forms you’ll hear in, won’t find in a textbook because
* Again those same grammar, if used in an exam would prob, just wouldn’t find
* So really when it comes to grammar, it’s a balancing act, learning just enough so you can make your own sentences but not too much that you don’t experiment with new forms because you didn’t find it in a book
* If people understand you, the grammars correct
* You’ll also find that some words due to the perspective of the people who speak the language has different grammar rules apply to it than it would in English, for example, let’s say there’s a Japanese word we would consider as a noun in English, this example is made-up by the way. But instead, for some reason it’s being treated as a verb. Okay? I hope what I’m trying to say made some sense, if not, don’t worry, I just want you to put the idea in the back of your mind that not even grammar has a direct one-to-one translation into Japanese
* Okay now with all that house-keeping out of the way, let’s dive into our first grammar points
* We gonna keep it simple this week, and first off, actually go a bit meta, we’ll be talking about best way, the ‘forms’ of talking
* Japanese society is much more hierarchical than anything found in the West
* This can be found in their language as well, where different forms of talking is used depend on who your talking to in regards to yours and theirs standing in society
* You’ll find this in English as well, like wouldn’t talk to boss, friends, though the Japanese system is much more sophisticated to point, 3 forms, considered different languages
* So three forms are: Humble- in a customer-relationship for example
* Polite – used with people at your level, co-workers and superiors, acquaintances
* Plain- causal, what you use as a superior to inferior or outside the working environment with friends
* Which you’ll use most depends on your situation if you’re a business
* But most people will use plain form of the language the most
* However when it comes to teaching, it’s easier to start with the polite form so first few weeks go with that
* Once get comfortable we’ll ease