

LESSON 5: DESCRIBING DATES AND MOVEMENT



Describing date

A) Months

Jan: ichi gatsu

Feb: ni gatsu

March: san gatsu

April: shi gatsu

May: go gatsu

June: roku gatsu

July: nana/shichi gatsu

Aug: hachi gatsu

Sep: ku gatsu

Oct: Jū gatsu

Nov: Jū ichi gatsu

Dec: Jū ni gatsu

Interrogative: Nan-gatsu

Q: Ima wa nan-gatsu desuka?

A: Ima wa roku gatsu desu.

Days of the month

1st: tsuitachi

2nd: futsuka

3. mikka

4. yokka

5. itsuka

6. muika

7. nanoka

8. yooka

9. kokonoka

10. tooka とおか

11. jū ichi nichi

14. jū yokka

15. jū go nichi

19. jū ku nichi

24. nijū yokka

29: nijū kunichi

30: san jū nichi

Interrogative: Nan-nichi

Q: Kyō wa nan-nichi desuka?

A: Jū ichi nichi desu.

Important notes on expressing date in Japanese:

- Days 1-10 have special words
- After day 10, we use the number + “nichi” (jū nana nichi – 17th, etc)

- Dates after the 10th ending with 4 or 9 are exceptional. They apply “yokka” (**not** yon nichi) and “kunichi” (**not** kyuu nichi) respectively (as indicated above).

Unlike in English or Kiswahili, when expressing date in Japanese, we say the month, then day of the month. If the year is to be included, we start with the year, then the month, then the day.

English: Month-day-year: July 6th, 2024

Day-month-year: 6th July 2024

Kiswahili: day-month-year: tarehe 6 Julai mwaka wa 2024

Japanese: year-month-day: 2024 nen 7gatsu muika

Interrogative for date: nan-gatsu nan-nichi

Interrogative “when”: itsu

Q: Kurisumasu wa nan gatsu nan nichi desuka? – What month & day is Christmas?

A: Kurisumasu wa jū ni gatsu nijū go nichi desu – Christmas is December the 25th

Q: Otieno-san no tanjōbi wa itsu desuka? – When is Otieno’s birthday?

A: Nana gatsu jū ichi nichi desu – July 11th

Q: KCSE wa itsu desuka? – when is KCSE?

A: 10 gatsu desu – In October

Example sentences

1. Kyō wa roku gatsu nijū kunichi desu - Today is June the 29th
2. Ashita wa roku gatsu sanjū nichi desu – Tomorrow is June the 30th
3. Watashi no tanjōbi wa jūichi gatsu mikka desu – My birthday is November 3rd
4. Otieno-san no tanjōbi wa nana gatsu jūichi nichi desu – Otieno’s birthday is July 11th
5. Margaret-san no tanjōbi wa kugatsu nijū yokka desu – Margaret’s birthday is September 24th.

Describing movement

A) Verbs of movement: ikimasu: go, kimasu: come, kaerimasu: return home

Example sentence: Watashi wa ashita Nakuru **e** ikimasu. I will go **to** Nakuru tomorrow

- Particle wa (は) topic marker
 - Particle e (へ) direction marker (comes **after the place/destination/direction**)
1. Senshū **Nairobi** **e** kimashita – last week I came **to Nairobi**
 2. Watashi wa ashita **Tōkyō** **e** ikimasu – tomorrow I will go **to Tōkyō**.
 3. Sengetsu **Mombasa** **e** ikimashita – Last month I went **to Mombasa**

Q: Asatte **doko** **e** ikimasuka? Where will you go the day after tomorrow?

A: Asatte **Nairobi** **e** ikimasu - I will go to Nairobi the day after tomorrow

Q: Kinō Kisumu **e** kaerimashitaka? - did you go (home) to Kisumu yesterday?

A: Hai, kaerimashita – yes, I did

Q: Jeruto-chan wa kyō gakkō **e** ikimashitaka? – did Jeruto go to school today?

A: iie, ikimasendeshita – no, she didn't

Note: Kiswahili **does not** have an equivalent of particle “e”. In English, the equivalent is the preposition “to”, which comes before the place name. This is different from Japanese, since “e” comes after the place name.

Kesho nitaenda **Nakuru**

I will go **to** Nakuru tomorrow

Ashita **Nakuru** **e** **ikimasu**

~nowhere (**doko mo**) – used with negatives

Q: Ashita **doko** **e** ikimasuka? Where will you go tomorrow?

A: Ashita gakkō **e** ikimasu. Tomorrow I will go to school.

Q: Raishū **doko** **e** ikimasuka? Where will you go next week?

A: Raishū **doko mo ikimasen**. I will **not go anywhere** next week

Doko mo: nowhere, used with negatives.

Dare mo: nobody, used with negatives.

Q: Sengetsu doko e ikimashitaka? – where did you go last week?

A: Sengetsu **doko mo ikimasendeshita** – I **did not go anywhere**.

Describing the transport means to be used

- SGR de Mombasa e kimashita – I came to Mombasa by SGR

Particle de: (transport) means marker – placed after the transport means.

- Q: Magdalene-san wa **nan de** Nairobi e kimashitaka? – Magdalene, by what means did you come to Nairobi?
A: **Kuruma de** (Nairobi e) kimashita – I came (to Nairobi) **by** car.
- Beti-san wa **aruite** kaerimashita – Beti went home on foot.

Note!

- Particle “de” (transport means marker) is equivalent to English “by” (by bus, etc), or Kiswahili “kwa” (kwa balskeli, etc).
- When we use ‘**aruite**’ (on foot), we do not add particle ‘de’
- Beti-san wa aruite de kaerimashita – WRONG!**

Describing company/doing something with someone: Particle “to”

In Lesson 4, we encountered particle “to”, meaning “and”.

E.g. Njoro wa Uba (T.V program) wa Mokuyobi to Doyobi desu – Njoro wa Uba is on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Particle “to” can also be used to mean “with”. This is equivalent to Kiswahili “na”

- Brayo-san wa Maria-san **to** Mombasa e kaerimashita – Brayo went home to Mombasa **with** Maria – Brayo alienda nyumbani **na** Maria.
- Q: Murugi-san wa dare **to** Naivasha e ikimashitaka? With whom did Murugi go to Naivasha?
A: (Murugi-san wa) kare **to** (Naivasha e) ikimashita – (Murugi went to Naivasha) with her boyfriend

Hitori de – Alone (no companion)

- Ephraim-san wa dare **to** Kyoto e ikimashitaka? – With whom did Ephraim go to Kyoto?
Hitori de ikimashita – He went **alone**.

Notes on Japanese culture/life regarding public transportation

1. In Japan, the train is the most used means of commuting. The trains are electric and operate on a very strict time schedule.
2. Buses are also available as public transport means. Buses that move within the cities and long-distance buses are available, all following a strict time schedule. Even if the bus is empty, it must move. This is different from Kenyan matatu that move upon getting full.
3. In Japanese buses, standing is allowed. This is different from Kenya, where carrying of excess passengers is illegal.
4. In Japanese buses and trains, there is a “priority seat” section that is reserved for passengers who are elderly, pregnant, sick/using walking aids, and those travelling with children. If there is space, passengers who do not fall under the priority category are allowed to sit there, on condition that they will give up their seat if a passenger that needs a priority seat boards.
5. In the train/bus, you are required to have your phone in manner mode (silent or vibration mode). If you are in the priority seat section, you are required to switch off your phone.
6. It is common, especially in the case of buses, to see Japanese people preferring to sit next to passengers of the same gender. It is also common to see someone preferring to stand even when there is an empty seat available!

Lesson 5 Assignment Performance 1 (54 marks)

A) What is the date? (10 marks)

September 30th

June 18th

January 1st

August 24th

December 29th

B) Minna no Nihongo (44 marks)

Page 43 no 2 (4 marks), no 3(4 marks)

Page 44 no 6 (4 marks), no 7 (4 marks)

Page 47 no 4 (8 marks), no 5(10 marks)

Page 47 no 6 (10 marks)

C) Remarks on Weekly content

Please write about your experience of learning lesson 5 **by yourself using Minna no Nihongo and its English translation.** What was easy to understand? What was difficult to understand? Was the assignment easy to do? Etc. Write as freely and as honestly as possible.

Lesson 5 Assignment Performance 2 (54 marks)

What is the date? (10 marks)

September 30th

June 18th

January 1st

August 24th

December 29th

B) Minna no Nihongo (44 marks)

Page 43 no 2 (4 marks), no 3(4 marks)

Page 44 no 6 (4 marks), no 7 (4 marks)

Page 47 no 4 (8 marks), no 5(10 marks)

Page 47 no 6 (10 marks)

C) Remarks on Weekly content

Please write about your experience of learning lesson 5 **by yourself using the guidebook.** What was different from when you only used Minna no Nihongo texts? Did you feel any difference when doing the second assignment performance as compared to the first performance? Is there any content that was still difficult even after using both materials? Is there any content that requires supplementary information? Etc. Write as freely and as honestly as possible.