

JP

JAPANESE LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 • Chapter 12

• Trains, Buses & Tickets

Japanese Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 12 · Trains, Buses & Tickets



Getting Around: Trains, Buses & Tickets — のりもの

The last chapter of the course takes you onto the trains and buses: buying a ticket, finding the right platform, asking about the next train, changing and getting off, and using an IC card. It finishes with a Course Complete recap of the whole course. Romaji is shown under every line of Japanese.

① Buying a Ticket — きっぷを かう

A:

すみません。とうきょうまでひとつください。

Sumimasen. Tōkyō made hitotsu kudasai.

Excuse me. One ticket to Tokyo, please.

B:

かたみちですか、おうふくですか。

Katamichi desu ka, ōfuku desu ka.

One way or return?

A:

かたみちです。

Katamichi desu.

One way.

B:

せんごひゃくえんです。

Sen gohyaku-en desu.

That's 1,500 yen.

② Which Platform? — なんばんせん?

A:

とうきょういきはなんばんせんですか。

Tōkyō-iki wa nanbansen desu ka.

Which platform is the train for Tokyo?

B:

さんばんせんです。

Sanbansen desu.

Platform 3.

A:

ありがとうございます。

Arigatō gozaimasu.

Thank you.

③ The Next Train — つぎの でんしゃ

A:

つぎの でんしゃは なんじですか。

④ Changing Trains — のりかえ

A:

おおさかまで いきたいです。

Tsugi no densha wa nanji desu ka.

What time is the next train?

B:

じゅうじ じゅうごふんです。

Jūji jūgofun desu.

10:15.

A:

すぐですね。

Sugu desu ne.

That's soon.

Ōsaka made ikitai desu.

I want to go to Osaka.

B:

とうきょうで のりかえて ください。

Tōkyō de norikaete kudasai.

Please change at Tokyo.

A:

わかりました。ありがとうございます。

Wakarimashita. Arigatō gozaimasu.

I understand. Thank you.

⑤ Which Stop? — つぎは どこ？

A:

つぎは どこですか。

Tsugi wa doko desu ka.

Where is the next stop?

B:

つぎは しぶやです。

Tsugi wa Shibuya desu.

The next stop is Shibuya.

A:

ここで おります。

Koko de orimasu.

I'll get off here.

⑥ Topping Up an IC Card — チャージ

A:

アイシーカードに チャージを おねがいします。

Aishī kādo ni chājī o onegai shimasu.

Please top up my IC card.

B:

いくらですか。

Ikura desu ka.

How much?

A:

せんえんを おねがいします。

Sen-en o onegai shimasu.

1,000 yen, please.

Key Phrases — たいせつな ひょうげん

SITUATION	JAPANESE	NOTES
A ticket to ..., please	～まで ください ... made kudasai	まで = as far as; to
One way / return	かたみち / おうふく katamichi / ōfuku	
Which platform for ...?	～いきは なんばんせんですか ... iki wa nanbansen desu ka	いき = bound for
What time is the next train?	つぎの でんしゃは なんじですか tsugi no densha wa nanji desu ka	
Please change at ...	～で のりかえて ください ... de norikaete kudasai	set phrase for now
Where is the next stop?	つぎは どこですか tsugi wa doko desu ka	
I'll get off here	ここでおります koko de orimasu	
Please top up my IC card	アイシーカードに チャージを おねがいし ます aishī kādo ni chājī o onegai shimasu	



Transport Words — のりもの

WORD	JAPANESE	NOTES
train	でんしゃ densha	
bullet train	しんかんせん shinkansen	lit. "new trunk line"

WORD	JAPANESE	NOTES
subway	ちかてつ <i>chikatetsu</i>	
bus	バス <i>basu</i>	
taxi	タクシー <i>takushī</i>	
platform	ホーム <i>hōmu</i>	～ばんせん = platform number
ticket	きっぷ <i>kippu</i>	
ticket gate	かいさつ <i>kaisatsu</i>	where you tap or insert your ticket
exit	でぐち <i>deguchi</i>	from Hiragana 2
IC card	アイシーカード <i>aishī kādo</i>	スイカ (Suica), パスモ (PASMO)

1234 Platform Numbers — ～ばんせん

Platforms are numbered with **ばんせん**. Notice that 4 is **よん** here: **よんばんせん**.

PLATFORM	JAPANESE	NOTES
1	いちばんせん <i>ichibansen</i>	
2	にばんせん <i>nibansen</i>	

PLATFORM	JAPANESE	NOTES
3	さんばんせん <i>sanbansen</i>	
4	よんばんせん <i>yonbansen</i>	
5	ごばんせん <i>gobansen</i>	
6	ろくばんせん <i>rokubansen</i>	
7	ななばんせん <i>nanabansen</i>	
8	はちばんせん <i>hachibansen</i>	
9	きゅうばんせん <i>kyūbansen</i>	
10	じゅうばんせん <i>jūbansen</i>	
which?	なんばんせん <i>nanbansen</i>	



Three More Verbs — どうし

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to ride; to board (のる)	のります <i>norimasu</i>	のりません <i>norimasen</i>	のりました <i>norimashita</i>
to get off (おりる)	おります <i>orimasu</i>	おりません <i>orimasen</i>	おりました <i>orimashita</i>

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to change trains (のりかえる)	のりかえます <i>norikaemasu</i>	のりかえません <i>norikaemasen</i>	のりかえました <i>norikaemashita</i>

Vocabulary — ごい

20 key words. Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	きっぷ	<i>kippu</i>	ticket	noun
2	でんしゃ	<i>densha</i>	train	noun
3	しんかんせん	<i>shinkansen</i>	bullet train	noun
4	ちかてつ	<i>chikatetsu</i>	subway; metro	noun
5	バス	<i>basu</i>	bus	noun
6	タクシー	<i>takushī</i>	taxi	noun
7	ホーム	<i>hōmu</i>	platform	noun
8	ばんせん	<i>-bansen</i>	platform number	noun
9	いき	<i>-iki</i>	bound for	noun
10	のりかえ	<i>norikae</i>	transfer; change	noun
11	かたみち	<i>katamichi</i>	one way	noun
12	おうふく	<i>ōfuku</i>	return; round trip	noun
13	おとな	<i>otona</i>	adult	noun
14	かいさつ	<i>kaisatsu</i>	ticket gate	noun

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
15	アイシーカード	<i>aishī kādo</i>	IC card	noun
16	チャージ	<i>chājī</i>	top-up; charge	noun
17	のります	<i>norimasu</i>	to ride; to board	verb
18	おります	<i>orimasu</i>	to get off	verb
19	のりかえます	<i>norikaemasu</i>	to change trains	verb
20	つぎ	<i>tsugi</i>	next	noun

Real Japanese Tip — The IC Card Is Your Friend

An **IC card** (スイカ in Tokyo, パスモ, イコカ and others) is a rechargeable card that works on trains, buses, subways and even in shops and vending machines almost everywhere in Japan. Buy one at a ticket machine, **チャージ** it with cash, and tap it on the gate. No need to work out the fare.

Punctual and Quiet

Japanese trains are famously **punctual**, so the times you are told are the times you'll get. On board it is polite to keep quiet, to put your phone on silent (マナーモード) and not to take calls. The **しゅうでん** (last train) leaves around midnight, so check it when you go out for the evening.

いき and ゆき

〜いき and 〜ゆき both mean "bound for": とうきょういき and とうきょうゆき are the same. You'll see both on signs and announcements.

Reserved and Unreserved Seats

On the Shinkansen and limited-express trains you can choose **しつていせき** (reserved seats) or **じゅうせき** (unreserved, first-come). Reserved seats are safer in busy seasons: ask **しつていせきをおねがいします**.

Kanji Spotlight — 出入口

出 (*de(ru)*, *shutsu*) means *go out*, 入 (*hai(ru)*, *nyū*) means *enter*, and 口 (*kuchi*, *guchi*) means *mouth*, *opening*. Together: 出口 (*deguchi*, *exit*) and 入口 (*iriguchi*, *entrance*), the signs you will see in every station and building. You've already read でぐち and いりぐち in hiragana: now you can spot them in kanji too.

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Ask for a one-way ticket to Tokyo.

▼ Show answer

とうきょうまでひとつください。かたみちです。

2. Ask which platform the train for Osaka leaves from.

▼ Show answer

おおさかいきは なんばんせんですか。

3. Ask when the next train is.

▼ Show answer

つぎの でんしゃは なんじですか。

4. What do you say to show you are getting off at this station?

▼ Show answer

ここでおります。

5. What is an IC card, and what do you ask to add money?

▼ Show answer

A rechargeable card for transport and shops. チャージを おねがいします。

6. What does ばんせん count?

▼ Show answer

Platform numbers: いちばんせん (platform 1), にばんせん (platform 2) ...

Course Complete — おめでとう！

You have finished Japanese Basic Conversation 1. In twelve chapters you went from reading kana to handling the main situations of a first trip to Japan. Here is the whole journey.

CHAPTER	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
1	Greetings & Goodbyes	You can now greet, thank, apologise and say goodbye politely.
2	Introducing Yourself	You can now say your name, ask someone's, and use さん.
3	Numbers, Age & Contact Details	You can now count to 100, say your age and phone number.
4	Countries & Nationalities	You can now say where you come from and what you speak.
5	Talking About Your Family	You can now describe your family and ask about others'.
6	Talking About Your Job	You can now say what you do and where you work.
7	Days, Dates & Time	You can now say the day, date and time.
8	Ordering at a Café	You can now order food and drink and pay.
9	Shopping & Prices	You can now ask prices and read yen amounts.
10	Asking for Directions	You can now ask the way and understand directions.
11	Booking a Hotel	You can now book and check into a hotel.
12	Trains, Buses & Tickets	You can now buy tickets and find your platform.

What Next?

You have finished **Japanese Basic Conversation 1**. Next steps: the **kanji courses**, which build on the kanji spotlights in this course, and a future **Japanese Basic Conversation 2**, which moves on to routines, plans, the past and opinions.