

JP

JAPANESE LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 2 · Introducing Yourself

Japanese Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 2 · Introducing Yourself

Introducing Yourself — じこしょうかい

Now you can greet people, so let's tell them who you are. In this chapter you'll learn to introduce yourself, ask someone's name, use the right title (さん and friends) and say the all-purpose phrase よろしくおねがいします. Romaji is shown under every line of Japanese.

① First Meeting (polite) — はじめまして

A:

はじめまして。たなかです。よろしくおねがいします。

Hajimemashite. Tanaka desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

Nice to meet you. I'm Tanaka. Please treat me well.

B:

はじめまして。フィリップです。こちらこそ、よろしくおねがいします。

Hajimemashite. Firippu desu. Kochira koso, yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

Nice to meet you. I'm Philip. The pleasure is mine.

② Asking a Name — おなまえは？

A:

おなまえは なんですか。

Onamae wa nan desu ka.

What is your name?

B:

フィリップです。

Firippu desu.

I'm Philip.

A:

フィリップさん、ですね。

Firippu-san, desu ne.

Philip, is that right?

B:

はい、そうです。

Hai, sō desu.

Yes, that's right.

③ At the Hotel Desk — ホテルで

A:

いらっしゃいませ。おなまえは？

Irasshaimase. Onamae wa?

Welcome. Your name, please?

④ Saying You're Pleased — うれしいです

A:

おあいできて うれしいです。

Oaidekite ureshii desu.

I'm pleased to meet you.

B:

オストロモクです。

Osutoromoku desu.

It's Ostromok.

A:

オストロモクさまですね。

Osutoromoku-sama desu ne.

Mr Ostromok, is that right?

B:

はい、そうです。

Hai, sō desu.

Yes, that's right.

B:

こちらこそ。

Kochira koso.

Likewise.

⑤ A Work Meeting — かいしゃで

A:

はじめまして。わたしは たなかと
いいます。

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Tanaka to iimasu.

Nice to meet you. I'm called Tanaka.

B:

はじめまして。わたしは フィリッ
プと いいます。

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Firippu to iimasu.

Nice to meet you. I'm called Philip.

A:

フィリップさんですね。よろしく
おねがいします。

*Firippu-san desu ne. Yoroshiku onegai
shimasu.*

You're Philip, aren't you? Pleased to work
with you.

⑥ Meeting Someone Your Age (casual) — ともだちに

A:

はじめまして！あやです。

Hajimemashite! Aya desu.

Nice to meet you! I'm Aya.

B:

ぼくは ケンです。よろしく！

Boku wa Ken desu. Yoroshiku!

I'm Ken. Nice to meet you!

A:

よろしくね！

Yoroshiku ne!

Nice to meet you too!

Key Phrases — たいせつな ひょうげん

SITUATION	JAPANESE	NOTES
Nice to meet you (first time)	はじめまして <i>hajimemashite</i>	lit. "for the first time"; said once, at the start
I am ...	～です <i>... desu</i>	the simplest, polite way: フィリップ です
I am called ...	～と いいます <i>... to iimasu</i>	a little more formal: lit. "I say ... "
Please treat me well	よろしくおねがいします <i>yoroshiku onegai shimasu</i>	said at the end of a self-introduction
Likewise; the pleasure is mine	こちらこそ <i>kochira koso</i>	the standard reply to よろしく
What is your name?	おなまえは なんですか <i>onamae wa nan desu ka</i>	short: おなまえは？
I'm pleased to meet you	おあいできて うれしい です <i>oaidekite ureshii desu</i>	warm and a little formal

Sentence Patterns — ぶんけい

One tiny word does the work of "am", "is" and "are": **です**. The little word **は** (read *wa*) marks the topic: "as for me...".

PATTERN	EXAMPLE	MEANING
[Name] です	フィリップです。 <i>Firippu desu.</i>	I'm Philip.

PATTERN	EXAMPLE	MEANING
わたしは [Name] です	わたしは フィリップです。 <i>Watashi wa Firippu desu.</i>	I (as for me) am Philip.
[Name] と いいます	フィリップと いいます。 <i>Firippu to iimasu.</i>	I'm called Philip.
[Name]さん ですか	フィリップさんですか。 <i>Firippu-san desu ka.</i>	Are you Philip?

Japanese Often Leaves Out "I" and "You"

わたしは フィリップです is correct, but Japanese speakers often drop わたしは when it's obvious who is being talked about: フィリップです is the natural way to introduce yourself. And you almost never say "you" (あなた): use the person's name plus さん instead.

Titles for Names — さん、さま、くん、ちゃん

In Japanese you attach a title to a name. Get this right and you'll sound polite from your very first conversation.

TITLE	USE	EXAMPLE
さん -san	the everyday polite title: for anyone, any gender, never for yourself	たなかさん <i>Tanaka-san</i>
さま -sama	very respectful: customers, guests, formal letters	オストロモクさま <i>Osutoromoku-sama</i>
くん -kun	boys, younger colleagues, among friends	ケンくん <i>Ken-kun</i>
ちゃん -chan	small children, close friends, pets	あやちゃん <i>Aya-chan</i>

Three More Verbs — どうし

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to say; to be called (いう)	いいます <i>iimasu</i>	いいません <i>iimasen</i>	いいました <i>iimashita</i>
to meet (あう)	あいます <i>aimasu</i>	あいません <i>aimasen</i>	あいました <i>aimashita</i>
to ask (きく)	ききます <i>kikimasu</i>	ききません <i>kikimasen</i>	ききました <i>kikimashita</i>



Vocabulary — ごい

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

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	はじめまして	<i>hajimemashite</i>	nice to meet you	phrase
2	わたし	<i>watashi</i>	I; me	noun
3	なまえ	<i>namae</i>	name	noun
4	おなまえ	<i>onamae</i>	your name (polite)	noun
5	たなか	<i>Tanaka</i>	Tanaka (a common surname)	noun
6	さん	<i>-san</i>	Mr / Ms (polite title)	noun
7	さま	<i>-sama</i>	Mr / Ms (very respectful)	noun
8	くん	<i>-kun</i>	title for boys and juniors	noun
9	ちゃん	<i>-chan</i>	title for children and close friends	noun
10	です	<i>desu</i>	is; am; are (polite)	verb

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
11	ですか	<i>desu ka</i>	is it...? (question)	phrase
12	はい	<i>hai</i>	yes	phrase
13	いいえ	<i>iie</i>	no	phrase
14	そうです	<i>sō desu</i>	that's right; it is so	phrase
15	よろしく	<i>yoroshiku</i>	please treat me well (casual)	phrase
16	おねがいします	<i>onagai shimasu</i>	please	phrase
17	こちらこそ	<i>kochira koso</i>	likewise; the pleasure is mine	phrase
18	いいます	<i>iimasu</i>	to say; to be called	verb
19	あいます	<i>aimasu</i>	to meet	verb
20	うれしい	<i>ureshii</i>	happy; glad	adj

Real Japanese Tip — Family Name First

In Japan names are written and said **family name first**: たなか たろう is Mr Tanaka, Taro (family name Tanaka, given name Taro). When you introduce yourself in Japanese, though, foreigners usually say their given name first or just their given name, as in the dialogs above. Both are understood: フィリップです is perfectly natural.

さん Is Never Used for Yourself

Never put **さん** after your own name: フィリップさんです would be like saying "I'm Mr Philip" about yourself. It's for other people. Use plain フィリップです for yourself, and add **さん** when you talk to or about someone else.

はじめまして and Business Cards

はじめまして literally means "for the first time" and is used only at a first meeting. In a work setting, introductions usually include a bow and the exchange of business cards (めいし), which are

handed over with both hands and read carefully, never shoved in a back pocket.

ぼく, わたし and Casual Speech

In Chapter 8 of Hiragana 2 you met **ぼく** (casual, boys and men). In a real introduction **わたし** is the safe choice for everyone. You'll hear **ぼく** from friends your age, as in the last dialog, and **おれ** (very casual) in anime: understand them, but don't use them yet.

Kanji Spotlight — 前 (and 名)

なまえ ("name") is normally written 名前. 名 (*na, mei*) means *name*, and 前 (*mae, zen*) means *before, in front*. Together they literally mean "front name", the name that comes first. [See the kanji page for 前](#) ▶

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. You meet someone for the first time at work. What do you say first?

▼ Show answer

はじめまして。 (Hajimemashite.)

2. Introduce yourself with your own name, then ask them to treat you well.

▼ Show answer

(Your name)です。よろしくおねがいします。 For example フィリップです。よろしくおねがいします。

3. Someone says よろしくおねがいします. What is the standard reply?

▼ Show answer

こちらこそ。 (Kochira koso.)

4. Ask a stranger politely what their name is.

▼ Show answer

おなまえは なんですか。 (Onamae wa nan desu ka.) or おなまえは？

5. Which title would a hotel clerk use for a guest named Ostromok?

▼ Show answer

オストロモクさま: *-sama*, the very respectful title.

6. Why is フィリップさんです wrong when you introduce yourself?

▼ Show answer

さん is for other people, never for yourself. Say フィリップです.

Coming Up in Chapter 3

Numbers, ages and contact details: counting from 0 to 100, giving your age with 〜さい, and saying a phone number. You'll meet the two readings of 4 and 7 that trip up every learner.