

JP

JAPANESE LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 7 · Days, Dates & Time

Japanese Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 7 · Days, Dates & Time

Days, Dates & Time — ようび、ひづけ、じかん

This is the second three-part chapter, and it is the one with the most things to memorise: **Part 1** covers the days of the week and the months; **Part 2** covers the days of the month (the tricky ones); **Part 3** covers the clock. Learn one part at a time and use the dialogs to practise out loud. Romaji is shown under every line of Japanese.

① Part 1 — What Day Is It Today? — きょうはなんようび?

A:

きょうはなんようびですか。

Kyō wa nan'yōbi desu ka.

What day of the week is it today?

B:

きんようびです。

Kin'yōbi desu.

It's Friday.

A:

あしたは 토요일 ですね。

Ashita wa doyōbi desu ne.

Tomorrow is Saturday, then.

B:

はい、そうです。

Hai, sō desu.

Yes, that's right.

② Part 1 — A Birthday — たんじょうび

A:

たんじょうびは いつですか。

Tanjōbi wa itsu desu ka.

When is your birthday?

B:

さんがつ みっかです。

Sangatsu mikka desu.

It's March the 3rd.

A:

もうすぐですね。

Mō sugu desu ne.

That's soon.

③ Part 2 — What Date Is It? — なんにち?

A:

④ Part 3 — What Time Is It? — いま なんじ?

A:

こんしゅうの きんようびは なんに
ちですか。

Konshū no kin'yōbi wa nannichi desu ka.

What date is this Friday?

B:

じゅうよっかです。

Jūyokka desu.

It's the 14th.

A:

ありがとうございます。

Arigatō gozaimasu.

Thank you.

すみません、いま なんじですか。

Sumimasen, ima nanji desu ka.

Excuse me, what time is it now?

B:

さんじ ごふんです。

Sanji gofun desu.

It's 3:05.

A:

ありがとうございます。

Arigatō gozaimasu.

Thank you.

⑤ Part 3 — A Meeting — かいぎ

A:

かいぎは なんじからですか。

Kaigi wa nanji kara desu ka.

From what time is the meeting?

B:

ごごの にじからです。

Gogo no niji kara desu.

From 2 p.m.

A:

なんじまでですか。

Nanji made desu ka.

Until what time?

B:

よじまでです。

Yoji made desu.

Until 4 o'clock.

⑥ Part 3 — Your Daily Routine — まいにち

A:

なんじに おきますか。

Nanji ni okimasu ka.

What time do you get up?

B:

しちじに おきます。

Shichiji ni okimasu.

I get up at seven.

A:

なんじに ねますか。

Nanji ni nemasu ka.

What time do you go to bed?

B:

じゅういちじはんに ねます。

Jūichiji han ni nemasu.

I go to bed at half past eleven.

① Part 1 — Days of the Week and Months — ようびとつき

The seven days are named after the sun, the moon and the five elements. Each name ends in **ようび**.

DAY	JAPANESE	MEANING OF THE FIRST PART
Monday	げつようび <i>getsuyōbi</i>	げつ = moon
Tuesday	かようび <i>kayōbi</i>	か = fire
Wednesday	すいようび <i>suiyōbi</i>	すい = water
Thursday	もくようび <i>mokuyōbi</i>	もく = wood
Friday	きんようび <i>kin'yōbi</i>	きん = gold; metal
Saturday	どようび <i>doyōbi</i>	ど = earth; soil
Sunday	にちようび <i>nichiyōbi</i>	にち = sun
what day?	なんようび <i>nan'yōbi</i>	

Months are easy: the number plus **がつ**. Just watch out for April, July and September.

MONTH	JAPANESE	NOTES
January	いちがつ <i>ichigatsu</i>	
February	にがつ <i>nigatsu</i>	
March	さんがつ <i>sangatsu</i>	

MONTH	JAPANESE	NOTES
April	しがつ <i>shigatsu</i>	し, not よん
May	ごがつ <i>gogatsu</i>	
June	ろくがつ <i>rokugatsu</i>	
July	しちがつ <i>shichigatsu</i>	しち, not なな
August	はちがつ <i>hachigatsu</i>	
September	くがつ <i>kugatsu</i>	く, not きゅう
October	じゅうがつ <i>jūgatsu</i>	
November	じゅういちがつ <i>jūichigatsu</i>	
December	じゅうにがつ <i>jūnigatsu</i>	

Words for Today, Tomorrow and Yesterday

きのう (*kinō*, yesterday) ・ きょう (*kyō*, today) ・ あした (*ashita*, tomorrow). And いつ (*itsu*) means "when?".

② Part 2 — Days of the Month — ひづけ

*This is the trickiest part of Japanese counting: the first ten days (and a few others) have their **own names**. From the 11th you just add にち, with the exceptions below. Learn them in small batches: 1 to*

5, then 6 to 10.

DATE	JAPANESE	NOTES
1st	ついたち <i>tsuitachi</i>	special
2nd	ふつか <i>futsuka</i>	special
3rd	みっか <i>mikka</i>	special
4th	よっか <i>yokka</i>	special
5th	いつか <i>itsuka</i>	special
6th	むいか <i>muika</i>	special
7th	なのか <i>nanoka</i>	special
8th	ようか <i>yōka</i>	special
9th	こののか <i>kokonoka</i>	special
10th	とおか <i>tōka</i>	special
11th	じゅういちにち <i>jūichinichi</i>	number + にち from here
14th	じゅうよっか <i>jūyokka</i>	special again: 4 is よっか

DATE	JAPANESE	NOTES
20th	はつか <i>hatsuka</i>	special
24th	にじゅうよっか <i>nijūyokka</i>	special again: 4 is よっか
30th	さんじゅうにち <i>sanjūnichi</i>	
what date?	なんにち <i>nannichi</i>	

The Exceptions to Remember

1st–10th are special words. **14th** (じゅうよっか) and **24th** (にじゅうよっか) keep the special よっか. The **20th** is はつか. All other days are number + にち: the 15th is じゅうごにち, the 28th is にじゅうはちにち.

③ Part 3 — Telling the Time — じかん

Hours are the number plus じ. Watch for three special numbers: **4 is よじ**, **7 is しちじ** and **9 is くじ**.

TIME	JAPANESE	NOTES
1:00	いちじ <i>ichiji</i>	
2:00	にじ <i>niji</i>	
3:00	さんじ <i>sanji</i>	
4:00	よじ <i>yoji</i>	よ, not よん or し

TIME	JAPANESE	NOTES
5:00	ごじ <i>goji</i>	
6:00	ろくじ <i>rokuji</i>	
7:00	しちじ <i>shichiji</i>	しち, not なな
8:00	はちじ <i>hachiji</i>	
9:00	くじ <i>kuji</i>	く, not きゅう
10:00	じゅうじ <i>jūji</i>	
11:00	じゅういちじ <i>jūichiji</i>	
12:00	じゅうにじ <i>jūniji</i>	
Minutes use ふん / ぶん (fun / pun). You met this change in Hiragana 2: ふん becomes ぶん after ん and after small つ.		
MINUTES	JAPANESE	NOTES
1	いっぷん <i>ippun</i>	
2	にふん <i>nifun</i>	
3	さんぷん <i>sanpun</i>	

MINUTES	JAPANESE	NOTES
4	よんぷん <i>yonpun</i>	
5	ごふん <i>gofun</i>	
6	ろっぷん <i>roppun</i>	
7	ななふん <i>nanafun</i>	
8	はっぷん <i>happun</i>	
9	きゅうふん <i>kyūfun</i>	
10	じゅっぷん <i>juppun</i>	
30 / half past	はん / さんじゅっぷん <i>han / sanjuppun</i>	はん is the usual way to say "half past"

A.M., P.M. and "Half Past"

ごぜん (*gozen*) is a.m. and ごご (*gogo*) is p.m., placed *before* the time: ごごさんじ is 3 p.m. はん means "half": さんじはん is 3:30. And から (from) and まで (until) work with times: くじから ごじまで, "from nine to five".

abc Three More Verbs — どうし

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to get up (おきる)	おきます <i>okimasu</i>	おきません <i>okimasen</i>	おきました <i>okimashita</i>

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to sleep; to go to bed (ねる)	ねます <i>nemasu</i>	ねません <i>nemasen</i>	ねました <i>nemashita</i>
to end; to finish (おわる)	おわります <i>owarimasu</i>	おわりません <i>owarimasen</i>	おわりました <i>owarimashita</i>

Vocabulary — ごい

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

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	ようび	-yōbi	day of the week	noun
2	げつようび	getsuyōbi	Monday	noun
3	かようび	kayōbi	Tuesday	noun
4	すいようび	suiyōbi	Wednesday	noun
5	もくようび	mokuyōbi	Thursday	noun
6	きんようび	kin'yōbi	Friday	noun
7	どようび	doyōbi	Saturday	noun
8	にちようび	nichiyōbi	Sunday	noun
9	がつ	-gatsu	month (counter)	noun
10	にち	-nichi	day of the month (counter)	noun
11	じ	-ji	o'clock	noun
12	ふん / ぷん	-fun / -pun	minute	noun
13	はん	han	half (past)	noun

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
14	ごぜん	<i>gozen</i>	a.m.; morning	noun
15	ごご	<i>gogo</i>	p.m.; afternoon	noun
16	いま	<i>ima</i>	now	noun
17	なんじ	<i>nanji</i>	what time	noun
18	きょう	<i>kyō</i>	today	noun
19	あした	<i>ashita</i>	tomorrow	noun
20	きのう	<i>kinō</i>	yesterday	noun

Real Japanese Tip — The Date Order

Dates in Japan go from **biggest to smallest**: year, then month, then day. So 3 March is *さんがつ みっか* (March 3rd), not "the 3rd of March". Learn to read dates that way, since it affects every sign, ticket and form.

24-Hour Clock on Timetables

In conversation Japanese people use the 12-hour clock with *ごぜん* and *ごご*, but train timetables, TV listings and shop notices often use the 24-hour clock: *じゅうさんじ* is 1 p.m. (13:00). When in doubt, count back from 12.

Why the Days Are Named That Way

The names come from the old Chinese idea of the seven heavenly bodies: the *moon*, *fire* (Mars), *water* (Mercury), *wood* (Jupiter), *metal* (Venus), *earth* (Saturn) and the *sun*. English uses the same idea for three of its days: Monday is the *moon* day, Saturday is *Saturn's* day and Sunday is the *sun* day.

Kanji Spotlight — 日 月 火 水 木 金 土

The seven days are written with the seven kanji: 日 (sun), 月 (moon), 火 (fire), 水 (water), 木 (wood), 金 (gold) and 土 (earth), each followed by 曜日 (*yōbi*, "day of the week"). Kanji for *day of*

the week go: 月曜日 (Monday) ・ 火曜日 (Tuesday) ・ 水曜日 ・ 木曜日 ・ 金曜日 ・ 土曜日 ・ 日曜日. Have a look at each: [日](#) ・ [月](#) ・ [火](#) ・ [水](#) ・ [木](#) ・ [金](#) ・ [土](#) ・ [曜](#)

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Say the days of the week from Monday to Sunday.

▼ Show answer

げつようび、かようび、すいようび、もくようび、きんようび、どようび、
にちようび

2. Say "My birthday is March 3rd."

▼ Show answer

たんじょうびは さんがつ みっかです。

3. Say "4:30", "7:00" and "9:15".

▼ Show answer

よじはん ・ しちじ ・ くじ じゅうごふん

4. Ask what time it is, politely.

▼ Show answer

すみません、いま なんじですか。

5. Say the 1st, the 14th and the 20th of the month.

▼ Show answer

ついたち ・ じゅうよっか ・ はつか

6. Say "I get up at seven and go to bed at half past eleven."

▼ Show answer

しちじにおきます。じゅういちじはんにねます。

Coming Up in Chapter 8

Ordering food and drink at a café: ～をください, ～をおねがいします, the katakana menu words (コーヒー, ケーキ, サンドイッチ ...) and counting small things.