

JP

JAPANESE LESSON

Basic Conversation 1 · Chapter 9 · Shopping & Prices

Japanese Basic Conversation 1

Chapter 9 · Shopping & Prices

Shopping & Prices — かいもの

Shopping brings together several things you have already learned: numbers, katakana, polite requests and pointing words. This chapter teaches you to ask the price, read yen amounts up to ten thousand, talk about colour and size, and pay. Romaji is shown under every line of Japanese.

① How Much Is It? — いくらですか

A:

すみません。これはいくらですか。

Sumimasen. Kore wa ikura desu ka.

Excuse me. How much is this?

B:

ごひゃくえんです。

Gohyaku-en desu.

It's 500 yen.

A:

ありがとうございます。

Arigatō gozaimasu.

Thank you.

② The Total — ぜんぶで

A:

ぜんぶでいくらですか。

Zenbu de ikura desu ka.

How much is it altogether?

B:

せんにひゃくえんです。

Sen nihyaku-en desu.

It's 1,200 yen.

③ A Bit Expensive — ちょっと たかい

A:

ちょっと たかいですね。

Chotto takai desu ne.

It's a bit expensive.

B:

では、こちらはどうですか。

Dewa, kochira wa dō desu ka.

④ Colours and Sizes — いろと サイズ

A:

ほかの いろは ありますか。

Hoka no iro wa arimasu ka.

Do you have other colours?

B:

はい、あかと あおが あります。

Hai, aka to ao ga arimasu.

Well then, how about this one?

A:

これは やすい ですね。これを ください。

Kore wa yasui desu ne. Kore o kudasai.

This one is cheap. I'll take this.

Yes, we have red and blue.

A:

エムサイズは ありますか。

Emu saizu wa arimasu ka.

Do you have a medium?

B:

はい、あります。

Hai, arimasu.

Yes, we do.

⑤ Paying by Card — カード

A:

カードは つかえますか。

Kādo wa tsukaemasu ka.

Can I use a card?

B:

はい、つかえます。

Hai, tsukaemasu.

Yes, you can.

A:

では、これを ください。

Dewa, kore o kudasai.

Then I'll take this.

⑥ Trying On and Bags — しちやく

A:

これを しちやくしても いいです
か。

Kore o shichaku shite mo ii desu ka.

May I try this on?

B:

はい、どうぞ。

Hai, dōzo.

Yes, please go ahead.

A:

ふくろは いりません。

Fukuro wa irimasen.

I don't need a bag.

B:

はい。ありがとうございます。

Hai. Arigatō gozaimasu.

Alright. Thank you.

Key Phrases — たいせつな ひょうげん

SITUATION	JAPANESE	NOTES
How much is it?	いくらですか <i>ikura desu ka</i>	これは いくらですか
How much altogether?	ぜんぶで いくらですか <i>zenbu de ikura desu ka</i>	
It's a bit expensive	ちょっと たかいですね <i>chotto takai desu ne</i>	a gentle way to say it
It's cheap	やすいですね <i>yasui desu ne</i>	
Do you have other colours?	ほかの いろは ありますか <i>hoka no iro wa arimasu ka</i>	
Can I pay by card?	カードは つかえますか <i>kādo wa tsukaemasu ka</i>	
May I try this on?	しちゃくしても いいですか <i>shichaku shite mo ii desu ka</i>	set phrase for now
I'll take this one	これを ください <i>kore o kudasai</i>	
I don't need a bag	ふくろは いりません <i>fukuro wa irimasen</i>	

👉 This, That and That Over There — これ、それ、あれ

Japanese has three "this/that" words, based on where the thing is: near you, near the other person, or far from both.

WORD	MEANING	USE
これ <i>kore</i>	this (near me)	stands alone: これは いくらですか

WORD	MEANING	USE
それ <i>sore</i>	that (near you)	stands alone
あれ <i>are</i>	that over there	stands alone
この <i>kono</i>	this ...	goes before a noun: この かばん
その <i>sono</i>	that ...	goes before a noun
あの <i>ano</i>	that ... over there	goes before a noun

💰 Yen and Big Numbers — えんとおおきいかず

The Japanese currency is the 円 (えん, yen). Prices are the number plus えん: ごひゃくえん is 500 yen. Learn the hundreds, then the thousands, then the ten-thousands: the sound changes for 3, 6 and 8 are the same pattern you met in Hiragana 3.

NUMBER	JAPANESE	NOTES
100	ひゃく <i>hyaku</i>	
300	さんびゃく <i>sanbyaku</i>	changes
600	ろっぴゃく <i>roppyaku</i>	changes
800	はっぴゃく <i>happyaku</i>	changes

NUMBER	JAPANESE	NOTES
1,000	せん <i>sen</i>	
2,000	にせん <i>nisen</i>	
3,000	さんぜん <i>sanzen</i>	changes: ぜん
4,000	よんせん <i>yonsen</i>	
5,000	ごせん <i>gosen</i>	
6,000	ろくせん <i>rokusen</i>	
7,000	ななせん <i>nanasen</i>	
8,000	はっせん <i>hassen</i>	changes: small っ
9,000	きゅうせん <i>kyūsen</i>	
10,000	いちまん <i>ichiman</i>	まん: ten thousand; you must say いち
20,000	にまん <i>niman</i>	
Reading a Price		

Say each part in order: **1,580 yen** is **せん ごひゃく はちじゅう えん** (*sen gohyaku hachijū en*): one thousand, five hundred, eighty yen. Notice that 1,000 is just **せん**, but 10,000 is **いちまん**: you can't leave out the **いち** before **まん**.

Colours and Sizes — いろとサイズ

COLOUR	JAPANESE	NOTES
red	あか <i>aka</i>	
blue	あお <i>ao</i>	
white	しろ <i>shiro</i>	
black	くろ <i>kuro</i>	
yellow	きいろ <i>kiiro</i>	
green	みどり <i>midori</i>	
pink	ピンク <i>pinku</i>	katakana

SIZE	JAPANESE	NOTES
small (S)	エス / ちいさい <i>esu / chiisai</i>	
medium (M)	エム <i>emu</i>	

SIZE	JAPANESE	NOTES
large (L)	エル / おおきい <i>eru / ōkii</i>	
long	ながい <i>nagai</i>	
short	みじかい <i>mijikai</i>	

abc Three More Verbs — どうし

VERB	PRESENT (POLITE)	NEGATIVE	PAST
to buy (かう)	かいます <i>kaimasu</i>	かいません <i>kaimasen</i>	かいました <i>kaimashita</i>
to look; to see (みる)	みます <i>mimasu</i>	みません <i>mimasen</i>	みました <i>mimashita</i>
to use (つかう)	つかいます <i>tsukaimasu</i>	つかいません <i>tsukaimasen</i>	つかいました <i>tsukaimashita</i>

📖 Vocabulary — ごい

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

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
1	いくら	<i>ikura</i>	how much	noun
2	えん	<i>en</i>	yen	noun
3	ぜんぶで	<i>zenbu de</i>	altogether	noun
4	たかい	<i>takai</i>	expensive; tall	adj

#	JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	TYPE
5	やすい	<i>yasui</i>	cheap	adj
6	おおきい	<i>ōkii</i>	big	adj
7	ちいさい	<i>chiisai</i>	small	adj
8	いろ	<i>iro</i>	colour	noun
9	あか	<i>aka</i>	red	noun
10	あお	<i>ao</i>	blue	noun
11	しろ	<i>shiro</i>	white	noun
12	くろ	<i>kuro</i>	black	noun
13	あれ	<i>are</i>	that over there	noun
14	あの	<i>ano</i>	that ... over there	noun
15	カード	<i>kādo</i>	card	noun
16	ふくろ	<i>fukuro</i>	bag	noun
17	おつり	<i>otsuri</i>	change (money)	noun
18	しちやく	<i>shichaku</i>	trying on	noun
19	かいます	<i>kaimasu</i>	to buy	verb
20	つかいます	<i>tsukaimasu</i>	to use	verb

Real Japanese Tip — Tax Included? ぜいこみ and ぜいぬき

Look for ぜいこみ (tax included) and ぜいぬき (tax not included) on price tags, because in Japan a shelf price is often shown in *both* ways. If a tag shows two prices, the one marked ぜいこみ is what you actually pay.

Money on the Tray

In many Japanese shops the cashier will point to a small tray (トレイ) beside the register. Put your money on it rather than handing it over: it's polite, it avoids touching hands, and you'll get your おつり (change) back on the same tray. And since 2020 you normally pay a few yen for a carrier bag, which is why ふくろはいりません ("no bag, thanks") is a very useful phrase.

Cards, Points and Cash

Cards are accepted in most big shops, but small shops and many restaurants still prefer **cash**, so carry some. You may be asked ポイントカードはありますか ("do you have a points card?"): just say いいえ.

Kanji Spotlight — 円 千 万

円 (*en*) is the yen, and also means *round*: a yen coin is round. 千 (*sen*) is *thousand* and 万 (*man*) is *ten thousand*. Prices on shop signs are often written with these: 千円 is 1,000 yen and 一万円 is 10,000 yen. Together with 百 (*hyaku*, hundred), they make up almost every price you'll see.

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Ask how much something costs.

▼ Show answer

これはいくらですか。

2. Say these prices: 500 yen, 1,000 yen, 3,000 yen, 10,000 yen.

▼ Show answer

ごひゃくえん・せんえん・さんぜんえん・いちまんえん

3. Say "1,580 yen" in Japanese.

▼ Show answer

せんごひゃくはちじゅうえん

4. You think something is a bit expensive. What do you say?

▼ Show answer

ちょっと たかいですね。

5. Ask if the shop has the same thing in another colour.

▼ Show answer

ほかの いろは ありますか。

6. Ask if you can pay by card, and refuse a bag.

▼ Show answer

カードは つかえますか。 ・ ふくろは いりません。

Coming Up in Chapter 10

Asking for directions: 〜は どこですか, ひだり / みぎ / まっすぐ, ここ / そこ / あそこ and landmarks. A very practical chapter for any trip.