

Lesson 1:1

Welcome and Overview of CD1: The Basics

Welcome to *Japanese For Dummies Audio Set*. This set consists of three audio CDs for you to have fun while learning Japanese. You can listen to this audio-based program while driving, walking, relaxing, or any time that is convenient for you. You can take your time, repeat words and phrases, and repeat any track until you feel comfortable.

On each lesson you'll hear a word or phrase in English, then the Japanese version, then a pause for you to repeat and practice. Then you'll hear another repetition of the Japanese version with another pause for you to practice again.

On disc one, you start off with essential words and phrases that you can't live without. Master their pronunciations and use them for getting around your favorite Japanese towns or for making small talk with your Japanese friends in your neighborhood. We encourage you to listen, repeat, and have fun.

Lesson 1:2

Personal Pronouns and Formalities

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The personal pronouns in Japanese are

I	<i>watashi</i>
you (singular)	<i>anata</i>
he	<i>kare</i>
she	<i>kanojo</i>
we	<i>watashi-tachi</i>
you (plural)	<i>anata-tachi</i>
they (masculine)	<i>karera</i>
they (feminine)	<i>kanojora</i>
they (masculine, feminine, or mixed group)	<i>karera</i>



In Japanese conversations, pronouns are often dropped, and the use of *anata* especially is avoided. If *anata* can't be dropped, it's replaced by the person's name. For example, instead of saying, "Hey, Ken. Is this your book?", the Japanese say something like, "Hey, Ken. Is this Ken's book?" It may sound strange to you, but it is perfectly fine and is preferred for Japanese.

Respectful titles

polite/neutral respectful title	<i>san</i>
Mr. Smith	<i>Sumisu-san</i>
Michael	<i>Maikeru-san</i>
Ms. Tanaka	<i>Tanaka-san</i>
Sandra	<i>Sandora-san</i>
formal respectful title	<i>sama</i>
Mr. Smith	<i>Sumisu-sama</i>
Ms. Tanaka	<i>Tanaka-sama</i>



Place a respectful title after other people's names, but not after your own name. *San* is the most commonly used respectful title placed after other people's family names or given names, regardless of their gender or marital status. *Sama* is a formal respectful title that you use after family names of your clients, customers, or those to whom respect is due. When addressing your superiors, place their job titles, if available, after their family name, instead of using respectful titles.



Some job-related titles can be placed after a person's name instead of a generic respectful title such as *san*. For example, if Mr. Brown is your teacher, address him as *Buraun-sensei*. *Sensei* means "teacher."

Lesson 1:3

Saying “Hello” and “Goodbye”

.....

Good morning. (formal)

Ohayō gozaimasu.

Good morning. (informal)

Ohayō.

Good afternoon, or Hi.

Konnichiwa.

Good evening.

Konbanwa.



Say *Ohayō gozaimasu* to your superior instead of *Ohayō*. Don't forget to bow when you greet him.

See you tomorrow.

Mata ashita.

Goodbye.

Sayōnara.

Good night.

Oyasumi nasai.



Say *Shitsurei shimasu* when you're parting from your superior. Its literal meaning is “I will be rude.” The idea in this context is “Excuse my rudeness of leaving you.”

Lesson 1:4

Saying and Replying to “How Are You?”

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The Japanese phrase equivalent to “How are you?” is *Genki desu ka*, which literally means “Are you well?”

How are you? (formal)

O-genki desu ka.

How are you? (informal)

Genki?

Yes, I’m fine.

Hai, genki desu.

Well, so-so.

Ē, māmā desu.

How about you, Mike?

Maiku-san wa?

Yes, I’m fine, too.

Hai, watashi mo genki desu.



The particle *mo* in *Watashi mo genki desu* means “also.”

Lesson 1:5

Introducing Yourself and Talking about Where You're From



How do you do?

Hajimemashite.

I am Mr. Smith.

Watashi wa Sumisu desu.

It is a pleasure to make
your acquaintance.

Yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.

Nice to meet you.

Yoroshiku.

Likewise.

Kochira koso.

What is your name?

O-namae wa nan desu ka.

Your name?

O-namae wa?

My name is John Brown.

*Watashi no namae wa Jon
Buraun desu.*

Where are you from?

Dochira kara desu ka.

I'm from San Francisco.

San Furanshisuko kara desu.

Where were you born?

Go-shusshin wa?

I was born in Tokyo.

Shusshin wa Tōkyō desu.

I grew up in Osaka.

Ōsaka de sodachimashita.

Where do you live?

Doko ni sunde imasu ka.

I live in Boston.

Bosuton ni sunde imasu.

Lesson 1:6

Indispensable Words

.....

Yes.	<i>Hai.</i>
Yes, it is.	<i>Hai, sō desu.</i>
Yes, I agree with you.	<i>Hai, sō desu ne.</i>
Of course!	<i>Mochiron.</i>
Maybe.	<i>Tabun.</i>
No.	<i>Īe.</i>
No, it isn't.	<i>Īe, sō ja arimasen.</i>
Oh, I see.	<i>Ā, sō desu ka.</i>



Hai shows agreement, and *Īe* shows disagreement. They correspond to “yes” and “no” in English if the question is affirmative, but they become reversed when the question is negative.

Please.	<i>Dōzo.</i>
Please come in.	<i>Dōzo haitte kudasai.</i>



You can just say *Dōzo* to encourage someone to do something understood in the context.

Thank you very much.	<i>Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.</i>
Thanks. (informal)	<i>Arigatō.</i>
Oh, it's nothing.	<i>Īe.</i>
You're welcome.	<i>Dō itashimashite.</i>
No, thank you.	<i>Īe, ii desu.</i>

Sorry!	<i>Gomennasai.</i>
I'm sorry.	<i>Sumimasen.</i>
Excuse me.	<i>Chotto sumimasen.</i>



Chotto literally means “a little,” but it’s used to soften the expression in *Chotto sumimasen*.

People

friend	<i>tomodachi</i>
family	<i>kazoku</i>
relative	<i>shinseki</i>
adult	<i>otona</i>
child	<i>kodomo</i>
man	<i>otoko no hito</i>
boy	<i>otoko no ko</i>
woman	<i>onna no hito</i>
girl	<i>onna no ko</i>
baby	<i>akachan</i>

Places

airport	<i>kūkō</i>
bank	<i>ginkō</i>
bus stop	<i>basu-tei</i>
cafe	<i>kissaten</i>
consulate	<i>ryōjikan</i>
embassy	<i>taishikan</i>
hospital	<i>byōin</i>

hotel	<i>hoteru</i>
house	<i>ie</i>
library	<i>toshokan</i>
pharmacy	<i>yakkyoku</i>
police station	<i>keisatsusho</i>
post office	<i>yūbinkyoku</i>
restaurant	<i>resutoran</i>
restroom	<i>otearai</i>
school	<i>gakkō</i>
store	<i>mise</i>
train station	<i>eki</i>
travel agency	<i>ryokō-gaisha</i>

Emergency

police officer	<i>keisatsukan</i>
doctor	<i>isha</i>
nurse	<i>kangoshi</i>
Please help.	<i>Tasukete kudasai.</i>
Thief!	<i>Dorobō.</i>

Important items

passport	<i>pasupōto</i>
money	<i>o-kane</i>
credit card	<i>kurejitto kādo</i>
ID	<i>mibun-shōmeisho</i>
driver's license	<i>untan-menkyoshō</i>

Lesson 1:7

Useful Expressions and Phrases

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I don't understand Japanese.	<i>Nihongo ga wakarimasen.</i>
I don't speak Japanese well.	<i>Nihongo ga amari hanasemasen.</i>
Can you say it again?	<i>Mō ichido itte kudasai.</i>
One more time, please.	<i>Mō ichido onegai shimasu.</i>
Slowly, please.	<i>Yukkuri onegai shimasu.</i>
Help me, please.	<i>Chotto tasukete kudasai.</i>
Do you understand English?	<i>Eigo ga wakarimasu ka.</i>
How do you say "train" in Japanese?	<i>"Train" wa Nihongo de nan desu ka.</i>
I don't know.	<i>Chotto wakarimasen.</i>



Wakarimasen can mean either "I don't know" or "I don't understand." When you mean *I don't know*, add *chotto* to soften it.

Are you all right?	<i>Daijōbu desu ka.</i>
Yes, I'm all right.	<i>Hai, daijōbu desu.</i>

Lesson 1:8

Question Words



Who?

Dare?

What?

Nani?

Where?

Doko?

Why?

Dōshite?

When?

Itsu?

How?

Dō?

How much?

Ikura?

Lesson 1:9

Useful Questions

.....

All the Japanese questions end in the particle *ka* regardless of whether it is a content question or a yes-no question.

Who is that person
over there?

Ano hito wa dare desu ka.

What is this?

Kore wa nan desu ka.

What is that over there?

Are wa nan desu ka.

Is that Mount Fuji?

Are wa Fujisan desu ka.

What is your name?

O-namae wa nan desu ka.

Where is the restroom?

Otearai wa doko desu ka.

Where are you from?

Dochira kara kimashita ka.

When is your birthday?

Tanjōbi wa itsu desu ka.

When will you go (there)?

Itsu ikimasu ka.

What time do you close?

Nan-ji ni shimarimasu ka.

At what time does
the train leave?

*Densha wa nan-ji ni
demasu ka.*

When is checkout time?

Chekkuauto wa nan-ji desu ka.

How much is this?

Kore wa ikura desu ka.

Lesson 1:10

An Overview of Numbers



1	<i>ichi</i>
2	<i>ni</i>
3	<i>san</i>
4	<i>shi</i>
5	<i>go</i>
6	<i>roku</i>
7	<i>shichi</i>
8	<i>hachi</i>
9	<i>kyū</i>
10	<i>jū</i>
11	<i>jūichi</i>
12	<i>jūni</i>
13	<i>jūsan</i>
14	<i>jūshi</i>
15	<i>jūgo</i>
16	<i>jūroku</i>
17	<i>jūshichi</i>
18	<i>jūhachi</i>
19	<i>jūkyū</i>
20	<i>nijū</i>
21	<i>nijūichi</i>
22	<i>nijūni</i>

23	<i>nijūsan</i>
30	<i>sanjū</i>
31	<i>sanjūichi</i>
32	<i>sanjūni</i>
40	<i>yonjū</i>
50	<i>gojū</i>
60	<i>rokujū</i>
70	<i>nanajū</i>
80	<i>hachijū</i>
90	<i>kyūjū</i>
99	<i>kyūjūkyū</i>
100	<i>hyaku</i>
999	<i>kyūhyakukyūjūkyū</i>
1,000	<i>sen</i>



When you read the numbers one after another in order, you commonly use this pronunciation of numbers. However, the number 4 can be read as *shi* or *yon*, and the number 7 can be read as *shichi* or *nana*. Likewise, the number 14 can be read as *jūshi* or *jūyon*, the number 17 can be read as *jūshichi* or *jūnana*, and the number 19 can be read *jūkyū* or *jūku*. Furthermore, when the numbers are followed by suffixes (counters) such as *ji* (o'clock) and *mai* (sheets of), many numbers are often read differently, as shown in Lesson 1:11 and Lesson 2:4.



The Japanese number system is quite logical. For example, 11 is *jū-ichi*, which is 10 (*jū*) plus 1 (*ichi*). 21 is *ni-jū-ichi*, which is 2 (*ni*) times 10 (*jū*) plus 1 (*ichi*). 999 is *kyū-hyaku-kyū-jū-kyū*, which is 9 (*kyū*) times 100 (*hyaku*), plus 9 (*kyū*) times 10 (*jū*), plus 9 (*kyū*).

Lesson 1:11

Talking about Time

.....

o'clock	<i>ji</i>
hour	<i>jikan</i>
minute	<i>fun</i>



Fun (minute) alternates with *pun* when following certain numbers including 1 and 3.

second	<i>byō</i>
half past (of time)	<i>han</i>
a.m.	<i>gozen</i>
p.m.	<i>gogo</i>
1 o'clock	<i>ichi-ji</i>
2 o'clock	<i>ni-ji</i>
3 o'clock	<i>san-ji</i>
4 o'clock	<i>yo-ji</i>
5 o'clock	<i>go-ji</i>
6 o'clock	<i>roku-ji</i>
7 o'clock	<i>shichi-ji</i>
8 o'clock	<i>hachi-ji</i>
9 o'clock	<i>ku-ji</i>
10 o'clock	<i>jū-ji</i>
11 o'clock	<i>jūichi-ji</i>
12 o'clock	<i>jūni-ji</i>
7:15	<i>shichi-ji jūgo-fun</i>

10:55 (5 minutes to 11) *jūichi-ji go-fun mae*

11 a.m. *gozen jūichi-ji*



The 24-hour clock is used in timetables for trains in Japan. For example, 2:15 p.m. is 14:15 (*jūyo-ji jūgo-fun*).

Asking about time

What time is it now?

Ima nan-ji desu ka.

It's 11:15.

Jūichi-ji jūgo-fun desu.

From what time?

Nan-ji kara desu ka.

Until what time?

Nan-ji made desu ka.

It's from 2 to 5.

Ni-ji kara go-ji made desu.

At what time are you leaving?

Nan-ji ni demasu ka.

I'll leave at 3.

San-ji ni demasu.

How many hours does it take?

Nan-jikan kakarimasu ka.

It takes two hours.

Ni-jikan kakarimasu.

Time-related terms

morning *asa*

noon *hiru*

evening *ban*

night *yoru*

afternoon *gogo*

today *kyō*

tomorrow *ashita*

yesterday *kinō*

Lesson 1:12

The Calendar and Dates

.....

The days of the week

All of the days of the week in Japanese end in *yōbi*.

Monday	<i>getsuyōbi</i>
Tuesday	<i>kayōbi</i>
Wednesday	<i>suiyōbi</i>
Thursday	<i>mokuyōbi</i>
Friday	<i>kinyōbi</i>
Saturday	<i>doyōbi</i>
Sunday	<i>nichiyōbi</i>

The months

All of the months in Japanese end in *gatsu*, which follows numbers from 1 to 12.

January	<i>ichi-gatsu</i>
February	<i>ni-gatsu</i>
March	<i>san-gatsu</i>
April	<i>shi-gatsu</i>
May	<i>go-gatsu</i>
June	<i>roku-gatsu</i>
July	<i>shichi-gatsu</i>
August	<i>hachi-gatsu</i>

September	<i>ku-gatsu</i>
October	<i>jū-gatsu</i>
November	<i>jūichi-gatsu</i>
December	<i>jūni-gatsu</i>

The days of the month

The days of the month in Japanese are full of irregularities.

the first	<i>tsuitachi</i>
the second	<i>futsuka</i>
the third	<i>mikka</i>
the fourth	<i>yokka</i>
the fifth	<i>itsuka</i>
the sixth	<i>muika</i>
the seventh	<i>nanoka</i>
the eighth	<i>yōka</i>
the ninth	<i>kokonoka</i>
the tenth	<i>tōka</i>
the 11th	<i>jūichi-nichi</i>
the 12th	<i>jūni-nichi</i>
the 13th	<i>jūsan-nichi</i>
the 14th	<i>jūyokka</i>
the 15th	<i>jūgo-nichi</i>
the 16th	<i>jūroku-nichi</i>
the 17th	<i>jūshichi-nichi</i>
the 18th	<i>jūhachi-nichi</i>
the 19th	<i>jūku-nichi</i>
the 20th	<i>hatsuka</i>

the 21st	<i>nijūichi-nichi</i>
the 22nd	<i>nijūni-nichi</i>
the 23rd	<i>nijūsan-nichi</i>
the 24th	<i>nijūyokka</i>
the 25th	<i>nijūgo-nichi</i>
the 26th	<i>nijūroku-nichi</i>
the 27th	<i>nijūshichi-nichi</i>
the 28th	<i>nijūhachi-nichi</i>
the 29th	<i>nijūku-nichi</i>
the 30th	<i>sanjū-nichi</i>
the 31st	<i>sanjūichi-nichi</i>

Month and date-related questions and answers

What is today's date?	<i>Kyō wa nan-nichi desu ka.</i>
Today is the 16th.	<i>Kyō wa jūroku-nichi desu.</i>
What day is it today?	<i>Kyō wa nanyōbi desu ka.</i>
It's Monday.	<i>Getsuyōbi desu.</i>

Lesson 1:13

Directions



far	<i>tōi</i>
close	<i>chikai</i>
next to	<i>tonari</i>
in front of	<i>mae</i>
behind	<i>ushiro</i>
nearby	<i>chikaku</i>
east	<i>higashi</i>
west	<i>nishi</i>
south	<i>minami</i>
north	<i>kita</i>
right	<i>migi</i>
left	<i>hidari</i>
intersection	<i>kōsaten</i>
street, road	<i>michi</i>
corner	<i>kado</i>
bridge	<i>hashi</i>
to go straight	<i>massugu iku</i>
to turn right	<i>migi ni magaru</i>
to turn left at the intersection	<i>kōsaten o hidari ni magaru</i>