

Lesson 3: Shopping Kaimono wo Suru

Conversation 1

(John Smith is souvenir shopping.)

John Smith: Kono uchiwa wo kaitai desu.

Mise no Hito: Aa, sono uchiwa wa kirei desu.

John Smith: Ee. Okusan wa kono iro ga daisuki desu.

Mise no Hito: Sō desu ka. Jā, roppyaku go jū en wo kudasai.

John Smith: I'd like to buy this fan.

Shopkeeper: Ah, that fan is beautiful.

John Smith: Yeah. My wife loves that color.

Shopkeeper: I see. Well, then, six hundred fifty yen, please.

Conversation 2

(Kyōko Suzuki and her daughter Aiko are grocery shopping.)

Kyōko Suzuki: Nē, Aiko-chan, bangohan ni nani wo tabetai desu ka.

Aiko Suzuki: Ee tō...Karē wo tabetai desu!

Kyōko Suzuki: Sō desu ka. Jā, yasai wo kaimasho!

Aiko Suzuki: Demo, tamanegi ga daikirai desu!

Kyōko Suzuki: Watashi mo tamanegi ga amari suki ja arimasen. Ninjin to imo wo kaimasho.

Kyōko Suzuki: Hey, Aiko, what would you like to eat for dinner tonight?

Aiko Suzuki: Umm...I want to eat curry!

Kyōko Suzuki: I see. Well, then, let's buy some vegetables!

Aiko Suzuki: But I hate onions!

Kyōko Suzuki: I don't really like onions either. Let's buy some carrots and potatoes.

Conversation 3

(Kyōko Suzuki, her husband Rei, and their daughter Aiko are eating dinner.)

Aiko Suzuki: Gochisōsama deshita.

Rei Suzuki: Aiko-chan, yasai wo tabemasen deshita.

Aiko Suzuki: Yasai ga daikirai desu.

Kyōko Suzuki: Aiko-chan, yasai wo tabete kudasai.

Aiko Suzuki: Hai...

Aiko Suzuki: Thank you for the meal.

Rei Suzuki: Aiko, you didn't eat your vegetables.

Aiko Suzuki: I hate vegetables.

Kyōko Suzuki: Aiko, please eat your vegetables.

Aiko Suzuki: Yes...

I want to...

There are two ways of expressing want in Japanese. The first way expresses that *you* want to do something. This is done by using the stem form of a verb plus the ending “tai.” To be polite, this is followed by “desu,” or “ndesu” (for a little extra emphasis.)

- take the positive present form (tabemasu: I eat)
- drop the “masu” (tabe-)
- and add “tai” (tabetai.)
- For the negative, add “taku nai desu.”

Watashi wa kaimono wo shitai desu. (I want to go shopping.)

Watashi wa shukudai wo shitaku nai desu. (I don't want to do my homework.)

The “te” form

The “te” form of a verb is its imperative, and is often followed by another word or phrase, such as “onegai shimasu” or “kudasai” which denote the statement as a polite request.

To conjugate the “te” form of a ru-verb:

- take the long form (taberu: to eat)
- drop the “ru” (tabe-)
- and add “te” (tabete)
- For the negative, add “naide” (tabenaide.)

For an u-verb, it gets a little more difficult:

- For verbs ending in “ku” (kaku: to write): take the long form, drop the “ku” and add “ite.” The *one major exception* is “iku,” which becomes “itte.”
- For verbs ending in “gu” (isogu: to be busy): take the long form, drop the “gu” and add “ide”
- For verbs ending in “bu” (asobu: to play), “mu” (nomu: to drink), and “nu” (shinu: to die): take the long form, drop the final syllable, and add “nde”
- For verbs ending in “vowel+ru” (kaeru: to return): take the long form, drop the vowel and the final syllable, and add “tte”
- For verbs ending in “u” (kau: to buy): take the long form, drop the “u” and add “tte”
- For verbs ending “tsu” (matsu: to wait): take the long form, drop the “tsu” and add “tte”
- For verbs ending in “su” (hanasu: to talk): take the long form, drop the “su” and add “shite”

The irregular verbs “suru” and “kuru” become “shite” and “kite.”

Kusuri wo nonde kudasai. (Please drink the medicine.)

Adjectives

Japanese adjectives come in two types: i-adjectives and na-adjectives. There is also one major irregular adjective.

i-adjectives

atarashī	new
furui	old
atsui	hot (weather; objects)
samui	cold (weather)
tsumetai	cold (objects)
ōkī	big
chīsai	small
nagai	long
mijikai	short
hayai	fast
osoi	slow
omoshiroi	interesting
tanoshī	fun
tsumaranai	boring
yasashī	easy; nice
musukashī	hard
kowai	scary
yasui	cheap
takai	expensive
kitanai	dirty
itai	painful
warui	bad
yakamashī	loud

na-adjectives

kirei na	beautiful
genki na	energetic
shizuka na	quiet
nigiyama na	lively
hima na	not busy
shinsetsu na	kind
benri na	convenient
kantan na	simple
suteki na	fantastic
sugoi na	awesome
(dai)suki na	like (love)
(dai)kirai na	dislike (hate)

irregular adjectives

ī good

An i-adjective is conjugated in the following form:

- Positive: add “desu” to the end (Atarashī desu.)
- Negative: change the “i” to “ku” and add “arimasen” (Atarashiku arimasen.)
- Past Positive: drop the “i” and add “katta desu” (Atarashikatta desu.)
- Past Negative: add “deshita” to the end of the negative verb (Atarashiku arimasen deshita.)

The adjective “ī” is an exception: the negative, past positive, and past negative forms have the initial “i” change to yo (yoku arimasen, yokatta desu, yoku arimasen deshita.)

A na-adjective is conjugated in the following form:

- Positive: drop the “na” and add “desu” to the end (Kirei desu.)
- Negative: drop the “na” and add “ja arimasen” to the end (Kirei ja arimasen.)
- Past Positive: drop the “na” and add “deshita” to the end (Kirei deshita.)
- Past Negative: drop the “na” and add “ja arimasen deshita” to the end (Kirei ja arimasen deshita.)

Many of the adjectives listed here have an opposite, but if you don’t know the opposite of that adjective, it doesn’t hurt to say “not quiet” instead of “loud.”

Some of the more important of the na-adjectives are (dai)suki and (dai)kirai, which are commonly used to denote something you like. The prefix “dai” can be used for extra emphasis on liking or disliking. In this case, the particle used is “ga.”

Ringo ga suki desu. (I like apples.)
Hōrensō ga kirai desu. (I don’t like spinach.)
Okashi ga daisuki desu. (I love candy.)
Nezumi ga daikirai desu. (I hate mice.)

If you want to be polite, you can always say “Noun ga amari suki ja arimasen” which translates to “I don’t really like Noun.”

Imo ga amari suki ja arimasen. (I don’t really like potatoes.)

Shall we...Let’s!

If you want to suggest a plan of action, add “masho” or “masho ka?” to the end of a verb:

- take the positive present form (tabemasu: I eat)
- drop the “masu” (tabe-)
- and add “masho” (tabemasho.)

Using “ka” at the end will make the statement into a question.

Ikimasho ka? (Shall we go?)

Un, ikimasho! (Yes, let's go!)

Vocabulary

Foods

breakfast	asagohan
egg	tamago
bread	pan
sugar	satō
lunch	hirugohan
sandwich	sandōichi
pickle(s)	tsukemono
soy sauce	shoyū
salt	shio
pepper	koshō
dinner	bangohan
rice	gohan
meat	niku
chicken	chikin
pork	butaniku
beef	gyūniku
fish	sakana
dessert	amaimono
cake	kēki
cookie	kukkī
pie	pai
pudding	purin
ice cream	aisu kurīmu
candy	okashi
fruit	kudamono
apple	ringo
orange	orenji
banana	banana
pear	nashi
peach	momo
plum	ume
cherry	sakuranbo
grape	budō
melon	meron
watermelon	suika
strawberry	ichigo
vegetables	yasai

carrot	ninjin
celery	serorī
lettuce	retasu
onion	tamanegi
tomato	tomato
potato	imo
sweet potato	satsuma imo
spinach	hōrensō
peas	endōmame
beans	mame
drinks	nomimono
wine	wain
beer	bīru
rice wine; alcohol in general	(o)sake
soda	sōda
juice	jūsu
green/black tea	ocha/kōcha
coffee	kōhī
milk	gyūnyū; miruku

Numbers

one	ichi	seventy	nana-jū
two	ni	eighty	hachi-jū
three	san	ninety	kyū-jū
four	shi; yon	one hundred	hyaku
five	go	two hundred	ni-hyaku
six	roku	three hundred	san-byaku
seven	shichi; nana	four hundred	yon-hyaku
eight	hachi	five hundred	go-hyaku
nine	ku; kyū	six hundred	ro-ppyaku
ten	jū	seven hundred	nana-hyaku
eleven	jū-ichi	eight hundred	ha-ppyaku
twelve	jū-ni	nine hundred	kyū-hyaku
thirteen	jū-san	one thousand	sen
fourteen	jū-yon	two thousand	ni-sen
fifteen	jū-go	three thousand	san-zen
sixteen	jū-roku	four thousand	yon-sen
seventeen	jū-nana	five thousand	go-sen
eighteen	jū-hachi	six thousand	roku-sen
nineteen	jū-kyū	seven thousand	nana-sen
twenty	ni-jū	eight thousand	ha-ssen
thirty	san-jū	nine thousand	kyū-sen
forty	yon-jū	ten thousand	(ichi) man
fifty	go-jū	one hundred thousand	jū-man
sixty	roku-jū	one million	hyaku man