# Japanese Lesson 1: being polite and saying “hi”

## Greeting vocabulary:

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| **#** | **English phrase** | **Japanese phrase**  **(rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese phrase**  **(written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Pleased to meet you | Ha ji me ma shi te | はじめまして |
| **2** | Good morning (LOUD) | O ha yo o go za i ma su | おはようございます |
| **3** | Good afternoon (LOUD) | Ko n ni chi wa | こんにちわ |
| **4** | Good evening | Ko n ba n wa | こんばんわ |
| **5** | Goodnight (before sleep) | O ya su mi na sa i | おやすみなさい |
| **6** | Goodbye | Sa yo o na ra | さようなら |

## Other essential phrases:

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| **#** | **English phrase** | **Japanese phrase**  **(rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese phrase**  **(written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Thank you | A ri ga to o go za i ma su | ありがとうございます |
| **2** | Sorry (“excuse me”) | Su mi ma se n | すみません |
| **3** | Sorry (really feeling bad) | Go me n na sa i | ごめんなさい |
| **4** | I don’t understand | Wa ka ri ma se n | わかりません |
| **5** | Yes | Hai | はい |
| **6** | No | Iie | いいえ |

## Explanations:

These are the most important phrases to communicate and be seen as polite while in Japan. Greetings are especially important.

Japanese people greet each other louder and more often than Americans. While in America we may roll out of bed and get a piece of toast before saying “hello”, Japanese people greet everyone in their home, on the street, and in school when they first see them. Don’t be shy!

Japanese kids are LOUD about greetings. Teachers train the first graders to shout them when the first graders enter the school. Be loud. Do not be shy about being loud.

The biggest drain on learning is forgetting. The brain is very good at forgetting information you don’t practice, so the key is to practice! Make flashcards of these words and review them for just 2 minutes per night, saying the words out loud. When your flashcard sessions feel very easy, you can review the cards once per week, and the information will stay with you to Japan.