# Lesson 11: More phrases

Some basic words

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **English word** | **Japanese word**  **(rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese word**  **(written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Weather | Tenki | てんき |
| **2** | Good | Ii | いい |
| **3** | Right? (seeking agreement) | Ne | ね |
| **4** | Healthy/energetic | Genki | げんき |
| **5** | Name | Namae | なまえ |
| **6** | What? / What is it? | Nani / Nan desu ka? | なに / なんですか |

Some phrases

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | The weather is good, huh? | Tenki wa ii desu ne? | てんきはいいですね |
| **2** | How are you? | O genki desu ka? | おげんきですか。 |
| **3** | I'm fine. | Genki desu. | げんきです。 |
| **4** | What is your name? | O namae wa nan desu ka? | おなまえはなんですか。 |
| **5** | “See you later” (casual goodbye and not for long) | Ja mata | じゃまた |
| **6** | Go ahead (giving permission) | Douzo | どうぞ |

In Japanese we can show that something we hold something in very high esteem by adding the syllable “o” in front. This is called an “honorific.” For example, we added “O” to the front of “namae” to ask what someone’s name was. Saying “O namae wa nan desuka?” could be literally translated as “What is the honorable name?” This question is asking about someone’s name without using the word “you,” which is similar to how Japanese uses the 3rd person to refer to people to their faces.

The implication is that you’re asking about the other person’s name, while also being polite and giving respect to the other person. This is the standard way to ask about someone’s name in Japanese – much more indirect and polite than English’s “What’s your name?”

More phrases

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Yes (casual) | Un (tone of yes) | うん |
| **2** | No (casual) | Uun (tone of no) | ううん |
| **3** | “Let’s eat!” Before meals. Literally means “I humbly receive (this food).” | Itadakimasu | いただきます |
| **4** | “That was delicious.” After meals. Literally: “It must’ve been a lot of work to prep the food/It was a feast.” | Gochisousama deshita | ごちそうさまでした |
| **5** | Please (seeking help) | Kudasai | ください |
| **6** | You're welcome. | Douitashimashite | どういたしまして。 |
| 7 | Please, and also thank you. | Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu | よろしくおねがいします |

**Yoroshiku onegaishimasu**

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu is used for an incredibly wide variety of things and it’s very difficult to translate into English. It means any of the following:

* “Be kind to me”
* “I am in your debt”
* “I’m counting on you”
* “Please help me”
* “Please take care of me”
* “Nice to meet you”

At its core, it is a commitment to a good working relationship. In long form it means something like: “I am humbly greeting you, and I want you to know that I’m showing respect by showing formality and politeness. I’d like you to be formal and polite to me, too, because I’d like us to work together well and have a good relationship. Therefore, it is nice to meet you, or please do something for me, or thank you for doing the thing you already did.”

It can be abbreviated and made less formal as either “yoroshiku” or “onegaishimasu” –It’s best to stick with the formal version (“yoroshiku onegaishimasu”).

So, when should you say yoroshiku onegaishimasu? Here’s a simple rule: just say it whenever someone says it to you. You can use the same rule for bowing.

Sentence-ending particles

English communicates a lot through tone. The sentence “I’m at school right now” can be many different things depending on the tone that the speaker uses. It can be used as a question, can seek agreement, can be informative, can seek explanation, can be doubtful, and can be aggressive. Try to say the sentence “I’m at school right now” with a tone that means each one of those things.

Japanese uses particles instead of tone to indicate these kinds of meanings. These particles come at the end of the sentence and indicate tone about everything that came before them. A great example of this is “Tenki wa ii desu ne?” meaning “The weather is good, huh?”

Below is a chart of the most common sentence-ending particles.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Pronunciation** | **Meaning** | **Written in Japanese** |
| 1 | Ka | Indicates that the sentence is a question. | か |
| 2 | Ne | Seeking agreement – “right?” “You know what I mean?” | ね |
| 3 | Yo | Informing something of something they don’t know | よ |
| 4 | No | A question seeking extra explanation | の |
| 5 | Sa | Informal, hedging – similar to saying “like” a lot in English | さ |
| 6 | Zo | Informal, forceful, and masculine – like saying “yo” in English | ぞ |