# Japanese Lesson 6: Verbs

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **People** | | | |
| **#** | **English meaning** | **Japanese (rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese (written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | I | Watashi | わたし |
| **2** | We | Watashi-tachi | わたし たち |
| **3** | You (polite): the person’s name then “san” | Adrian-san | えいどりあん -さん |
| **4** | He | Kare | かれ |
| **5** | She | Kanojo | かのじょ |
| **6** | They (plural) | Karera | かれら |

To ask a question in Japanese, you add the syllable か, “ka”. It helps to also make a question with your voice by lifting your tone at the end of the sentence. You can do this with the verb “desu,” like this:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **English meaning** | **Japanese (rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese (written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Is it us? (Do you mean us?) | Watashi tachi desu ka? | わたし たち ですか |
| **2** | Is it him? (Are you referring to him?) | Kare desu ka? | かれ ですか |
| **3** | Is it you? | ~~ san desu ka? | ~~-さん ですか |

You can also do it with any other verb. Let’s learn some more verbs so that this is more interesting.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verbs** | | | |
| **#** | **English meaning** | **Japanese (rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese (written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Eat | Tabemasu | たべます |
| **2** | Understand | Wakarimasu | わかります |
| **3** | Come | Kimasu | きます |
| **4** | Do | Shimasu | します |
| **5** | Go | Ikimasu | いきます |
| **6** | Say | Iimasu | いいます |

Here are some example question sentences using these verbs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verbs** | | | |
| **#** | **English meaning** | **Japanese (rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese (written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Do you eat? | Tabemasu ka? | たべますか |
| **2** | Do you understand? | Wakarimasu ka? | わかりますか |
| **3** | Do we come? | Watashi tachi wa kimasu ka? | きますか |
| **4** | Does she do (it)? | Kanojo wa shimasu ka? | しますか |
| **5** | Does he go? | Kare wa ikimasu ka? | いきますか |
| **6** | Do they say (it)? | Karera wa iimasu ka? | いいますか |

Check out the sentence “Do you eat” – “tabemasu ka?” I want you to notice a couple of things.

1. The verb always comes at the end of the sentence.
2. To make a sentence in Japanese you only need one word (a verb). In English we have to ask each question like “Do you eat?” – three words. Japanese is pretty streamlined in this way.
3. The person we’re asking about is implied – we don’t need to say the word “you,” it’s just understood we’re asking about the listener. Japanese conversations include a lot of implication like this.
4. You can use the present tense to imply that you’re talking about the future. For example, you can walk up to someone right before lunch and say “tabemasu ka?” They’ll understand that you’re asking them “will you eat?”, not “are you eating right now?”
5. We keep using the syllable “wa” in the middle of the sentence… we’ll get to that later.

Draw a line between the English sentence and the Japanese sentence with the same meaning.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English meaning** |  | **Japanese (rough pronunciation)** |
| They come. |  | Karera wa kimasu. |
| Do you understand? |  | Kanojo wa iimasu. |
| Do we go? |  | Meg san wa shimasu ka? |
| Does he come? |  | Watashi tachi wa iimasu. |
| Does Adrian say (it)? |  | Kare wa ikimasu ka? |
| Does Meg do (it)? |  | Kanojo wa wakarimasu. |
| We say (it). |  | Karera wa tabemasu ka? |
| Do they eat? |  | Wakarimasu ka? |
| She understands. |  | Kare wa kimasu ka? |
| Does he go? |  | Kanojo wa shimasu ka? |
| She says (it). |  | Adrian san wa iimasuka? |
| Does she do (it)? |  | Watashi tachi wa ikimasu ka? |