

# LESSON 1

Nihon  
Nippon

**Japan**  
**Japan**

**Nihon** is the word used mostly within daily conversation.

**Nippon** the more formal of the two is often chanted at sporting events involving the national team.

-go

**language**

Nihon go

**Japanese** (Japan-language)

## Vocabulary

watashi  
anata

**I, me.**  
**you.**

kale  
kanojo

**he, him.**  
**she, her.**

watashi-tachi  
anata-tachi

**we, us**  
**you (plural)**

kale-tachi  
kanojo-tachi

**they (a group of men)**  
**they (a group of women)**

-tachi

plural

The particle **wa**

topic marker

This particle is the single most important element of basic Japanese grammar used to compose the sentence pattern meaning **as for** or **what about**.

Watashi wa...  
Nihon wa ...

**concerning me...**  
**as for Japan...**

...desu

**is, be**

**desu** always comes at the end of the sentence.

... wa ... desu form

watashi wa ..... desu

**I am ....**

dewa arimasen/ja arimasen

is not, not be (the opposite of **desu**)

watashi wa ..... dewa arimasen  
**dewa nai** and **ja nai** are the informal words

**I am not .....**

The particle **ka?**

**question marker?**

Placed always at the end of the sentence.

anata wa ..... desu ka?

**Are you...?**

miki  
jack  
hiro

**a female Japanese name**  
**a male name (British)**  
**a male Japanese name**

## Pattern sentences

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Watashi wa Miki desu             | I am Miki                |
| 2. Anata wa Jack desu ka?           | Are you Jack?            |
| 3. Kale wa Jack dewa arimasen       | He is not Jack           |
| 4. Kanojo wa Miki desu ka?          | Is she Miki?             |
| 5. Anata wa Jack desu, Kanojo wa... | You are Jack, she is...? |
| 6. Watashi wa Jack dewa arimasen    | I am not Jack            |
| 7. Kale wa Hiro desu ka?            | Is he Hiro?              |
| 8. Anata wa Miki dewa arimasen ka?  | Aren't you Miki?         |
| 9. Hiro desu ka?                    | Are you Hiro?            |
| 10. Kale wa Jack desu ka?           | Is he Jack?              |

When it becomes obvious who or what is being referred to, **anata (avoided especially when addressing superiors, in which the person's surname, occupation, or title is used when necessary)** and **watashi (hardly used)** are usually dropped.

(anata wa) Miki desu ka?  
(watashi wa) Hiro desu

**are you Miki?**  
**I am Hiro**

## Vocabulary

jin (shu)  
nani

race, people  
what

**nan** can also be used instead of **nani** in various instances.

anata wa nani-jin desu ka?  
watashi wa Nihon-jin desu

**what race are you?**  
**I am Japanese**

so desu  
so (pronounced as 'saw' in English )

that's right, that is correct, that's so (agree)  
so

so desu ka?  
so desu ne

oh is that so?, really?, I see  
let me see, well now, (a pauseword)

**etto..., ano (sa)...**

Umm..., excuse me, (a preliminary remark used when asking a question or making a request, a pause-word)

ne

Isn't it/there, you see ( final sentence particle or phrase that seeks confirmation and agreement )

so desu ne

that's correct isn't it

hai  
lie  
chigaimasu or chigau

that is correct, that's right (almost yes)  
not correct, that's wrong (almost no)  
I disagree, that's not correct, that's wrong

yo

you know, I tell you ( final sentence particle )  
added at the end of sentences to call attention or information the speaker believes the other does not know

The difference between **ne** and **yo** is in that **ne** asks while **yo** tells

san

added to family names to mean Mr, Mrs,Ms.  
also added to first names to add some respect.  
It is never used for oneself

-kun

added to boys first and family names as a sign of affection.

-chan

added to mostly girls as a sign of affection. Also can be used for small girls as well as small boys

tanaka

a Japanese surname

akiko  
naoko  
keiichi

Female Japanese name  
Female Japanese name  
Male Japanese name

keiichi-san  
akiko-san  
hiro-kun  
naoko-chan  
tanaka-san-tachi

Mr Keiichi  
Miss/Ms Akiko  
Mr Hiro  
Miss Naoko  
the Tanaka's

chugoku

China

ano hito-tachi

they

## Dialogue sentences

- A: Etto...(anata wa) Naoko-san desu ka?  
B: Iie chigaimasu  
A: Kanojo wa?  
B: Hai, kanojo wa Naoko desu

Umm...are you Naoko?  
No, that's not correct  
How about her?  
Yes, she is Naoko
- A: Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu  
B: So desu ka?  
A: (Anata wa) nani-jin desu ka?  
Chugoku-jin desu ka?  
B: (Watashi wa) Chugoku-jin ja nai

I am Japanese  
Is that so?  
What race are you?  
Are you Chinese?  
I am not Chinese
- A: Ano hito-tachi wa nani-jin desu ka?  
B: Ano hito-tachi wa Nihon-jin desu yo  
A: so desu ne

What race are those people?  
They are Japanese, you know  
That's correct, isn't it
- A: Nani-jin desu ka?  
B: Nihon-jin desu  
A: (Watashi) Chugoku-jin desu

What race are you?  
I am Japanese  
I am Chinese
- A: (Anata-tachi wa) Nihon-jin desu ka?  
B: So desu yo  
A: (Kale-tachi wa) Nihon-jin ja arimasen

Are you Japanese?  
That's right  
Those males are not Japanese
- A: Kanojo-tachi wa Nihon-jin desu  
B: So desu ka?  
A: Ano-hito tachi wa nani-jin desu ka?

Those females are Japanese  
Really?  
What race are those people?
- A: Ano...Nihon-jin desu ka?  
B: So desu

Umm...Are you Japanese?  
That is correct

The particle **no** as a possession

Indicates ownership or belonging  
An English equivalent would translate as “**s**”

## Examples

watashi no desu  
kale no desu  
anata no desu  
nihon no desu  
miki-chan no wa?

**mine**  
**his**  
**yours**  
**Japan's**  
**how about Miki's?**

## Vocabulary

kore  
sore  
are

this or it  
that or it (near)  
that or it (over there)

kudasai  
o-negaishimasu  
dozo  
kore o kudasai  
lan o o-negaishimasu  
sore o dozo

please give me....  
please (do) ... (politer than kudasai)  
here you are, please  
Please give me this/it  
lan please or could you get me lan please  
Here, take that

The object marker **o**

direct objects of verbs are followed by this particle

This can be best translated as a **'thing'**

daijobu

okay, fine

## Dialogue sentences

- A: Kale wa Hiro-Kun desu ka?  
B: Chigaimasu  
A: Nihon-jin ja nai ka?  
B: So desu  
A: Nani-jin desu ka?

Is he (Mr) Hiro?  
no  
Isn't he Japanese?  
That's correct  
What race is he?
- A: Kore wa nan desu ka?  
B: Kore wa watashi no desu  
A: So desu ka?

What is this?  
This is mine  
Is that so or really?
- A: Kanojo wa daijobu desu ka?  
B: Daijobu desu  
A: Akiko-san wa?

Is she okay?  
Okay  
How about Akiko?
- A: Sore wa Miki-san no desu ka?  
B: Hai, so desu  
A: Are o kudasai

Is that Miki's?  
Yes, that is correct  
please give me that over there
- A: (Anata wa) daijobu desu ka?  
B: Daijobu ja arimasen  
A: Nan desu ka?

Are you fine?  
I am not okay  
What is it?
- A: Kanojo-tachi wa daijobu desu ka?  
B: Daijobu desu  
A: Kale-tachi wa?

Are they okay?  
They are okay  
How about them?
- A: Kore o onegaishimasu  
B: Nani?  
A: Kore  
B: Kore desu ka?

Please give me this?  
What?  
This  
What this?

A: So desu

That is correct

**wa** when used with a rising tone can take the meaning of a question particle

watashi wa?  
kale wa?

How about me?  
How about him?

## Vocabulary

Tokyo  
hyojun go

The capital of Japan  
standard language

-ben  
Tokyo-ben  
koku-jin  
haku-jin

dialect  
Tokyo dialect  
a black person  
a white person

o-shoku-jinshu

a yellow person or oriental (Japanese people would rarely refer to another oriental person by this word, instead stating there country )

gaijin  
gaikokujin

a foreigner ( colloquial expression )  
a foreigner ( a politer word )

gai - outside  
koku - country  
jin - person

## Pattern sentences

1. Watashi no Nihon go wa hyojun-go desu
2. Kale no Nihon go wa Tokyo-ben desu
3. Kanojo wa gaikokujin desu
4. Akiko-san wa gaijin ja nai
5. Jack-kun wa gaijin desu

My Japanese language is standard speech  
His Japanese is Tokyo dialect  
She is a foreigner  
Miss Akiko is not a foreigner  
Jack is a foreigner

## Short dialogues

1. A: Tokyo-ben wa Nihon no hyojun-go desu  
B: So desu ka?  
A: So desu yo

The Tokyo dialect is the standard Japanese  
Is that so?  
That's right

2. A: (Anata wa) Chugoku-jin desu ka?  
B: Iie chigaimasu, Nihon-jin desu

Are you Chinese?  
No, I am a Japanese

3. A: Kale wa Nihon-jin desu ka, Chugoku-jin-desu ka?  
B: Kale wa Chugoku-jin desu

Is he a Japanese or Chinese?  
He is a Chinese

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>4. A: Kore wa Tokyo-ben desu ka?<br/>B: Chigaimasu</p>   | <p>Is this Tokyo dialect?<br/>No</p>                                   |
| <p>5. A: Jack-kun wa haku-jin desu ka?<br/>B: Chigaimasu<br/>A: Koku-jin desu ka?<br/>B: Chigau</p> | <p>Is Jack a white person?<br/>Wrong<br/>A black person?<br/>Wrong</p> |

### Reading:

Jack-kun wa gaikokujin desu, Nihon-jin ja nai. Akiko-san wa Nihon-jin desu. Hiro-kun wa Nihon-jin desu. Akiko-san, Hiro-kun no Chugoku-go wa daijobu ja nai. Jack-kun no Nihon-go wa daijobu desu. Jack-kun wa koku-jin desu.

### Fill in the missing words

1. Anata wa ....-jin desu ka?
2. Watashi wa Keiko ....
3. .... Wa Nihon-jin .... Ka?
4. So .... Ka?
5. Kanojo wa Keiko-san ja ...
6. Anata wa ....-... desu ka?
7. Gaijin wa ..... Desu
8. Jack-san .. Nihon-jin ... Ka?
9. Kale wa haku-jin dewa ...
10. So desu ..?

### Translate the following into Japanese

1. I am Japanese
2. Is his Japanese okay?
3. This is Hiro
4. I am not Akiko
5. Is your Japanese from Tokyo?
6. My Japanese is okay
7. What race is Keiichi?
8. Please give me that
9. That is wrong
10. Are those women Japanese?