

# Chit-Chat in Japanese (Part 1)

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Remark: These exercises were prepared for a friend some years back.  
This is the first of 5 chapters. Please send your comments to [alpha@gmowe.ws](mailto:alpha@gmowe.ws)

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## Hiragana

The hiraganas are read from left to right. Use the phonetic sounds of the alphabet to help you along.

Eg. A = ah    I = ee        U = uh        E = eh        O=oh

A	あ	I	い	U	う	E	え	O	お
Ka	か	Ki	き	Ku	く	Ke	け	Ko	こ
Sa	さ	Shi	し	Su	す	Se	せ	So	そ
Ta	た	Chi	ち	Tsu	つ	Te	て	To	と
Na	な	Ni	に	Nu	ぬ	Ne	ね	No	の
<b>Ha</b>	<b>は</b>	Hi	ひ	Hu	ふ	He	へ	Ho	ほ
Ma	ま	Mi	み	Mu	む	Me	め	Mo	も
Ya	や	-	-	Yu	ゆ	-	-	Yo	よ
Ra	ら	Ri	り	Ru	る	Re	れ	Ro	ろ
Wa	わ	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>Wo</b>	<b>を</b>
Nn	ん	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Repeat Hiragana characters from “Ka”, with bits of changes to produce new sounds.

Ga	が	Gi	ぎ	Gu	ぐ	Ge	げ	Go	ご
Za	ざ	Ji	じ	Zu	ず	Ze	ぜ	Zo	ぞ
Da	だ	Di/ Ji	ぢ	Du	づ	De	で	Do	ど
Ba	ば	Bi	び	Bu	ぶ	Be	べ	Bo	ぼ
Pa	ぱ	Pi	ぴ	Pu	ぷ	Pe	ぺ	Po	ぽ
Fa	ふぁ	Fi	ふい	Fu	ふ	Fe	ふえ	Fo	ふお

## Again repeat characters

Kya	きゃ	-	-	Kyu	きゅ	-	-	Kyo	きよ
Gya	ぎゃ	-	-	Gyu	ぎゅ	-	-	Gyo	ぎよ
Sha	しゃ	-	-	Shu	しゅ	-	-	Sho	しよ
Ja	じゃ	-	-	Ju	じゅ	-	-	Jo	じよ
Cha	ちゃ	-	-	Chu	ちゅ	-	-	Cho	ちよ
Hya	ひゃ	-	-	Hyu	ひゅ	-	-	Hyo	ひよ
Bya	びゃ	-	-	Byu	びゅ	-	-	Byo	びよ
Pyu	ぴゃ	-	-	Pyu	ぴゅ	-	-	Pyo	ぴよ
Rya	りゃ	-	-	Ryu	りゅ	-	-	Ryo	りよ

The dialogue below had been split into 4 parts: The English dialogue, Japanese pronunciation in alphabets, followed by Hiragana form and finally the standard form.

Please try to memorize the shapes of Hiraganas Wo ( を ) and Ha ( は ) which is pronounced “Wa”. Wo ( を ) is used to show Direct Objects of Verbs, while Ha ( は ) acts like a Link Verb. This will help you notice their usage in the Hiragana dialogue. I will try to explain more in later chapters.

## Introduction

Ishii : Good afternoon Mr. Tanaka. It has been a while.

Ishii : **Konnichi wa, Tanaka-san. Ohisashi buri desu ne.**

いしい こんにちは、たなかさん。おひさしぶりですね。

石井 : 今日は、田中さん。お久しぶりですね。

Tanaka : Good afternoon. I have neglected to call. Are you well?

Tanaka : **Konnichi wa. Gobusata shiteimasu. Ogenki desu ka.**

たなか こんにちは。ごぶさたしています。おげんきですか。

田中 : 今日は。ご無沙汰しています。お元気ですか。

Ishii : Yes, I am fine thank you. Let me introduce my old school friend,  
Miss Cheong.

Ishii : **Hai, ogenki desu. Gakkou no hurui tomodachi wo shoukai shimasu.  
Cheong-san desu.**

いしい はい、おげんきです。がっこうのふるいともだちをしょうかいしま  
す。ちよんぐさんです。

石井 : はい、お元気です。学校の古い友達を紹介します。チョングさんで  
す。

Tanaka : How do you do? I am Tanaka from Dai-Ichi Trading. I am please to  
meet you.

Tanaka: **Hajimemashite, Dai-ichi shouji no Tanaka desu. Yoroshiku  
onegaishimasu.**

たなか はじめまして、だいいちしょうじのたなかです。よろしくおねがい  
します。

田中 : 始めまして、第一商事の田中です。宜しくお願ひします。

Cheong : I am Cheong from Solar Post. I am please to meet you. This is my business card.

Cheong : Sora shimbun no Cheong desu. Kochira koso yoroshiku onegaishimasu. Kore wa watashi no meishi desu.

ちよんぐ そらーしんぶんのちよんぐです。こちらこそよろしくおねがいします。これわわたしのめいしです。

チヨング : ソラー新聞のチヨングです。こちらこそ宜しく申し上げます。これは私の名刺です。

Tanaka : Thank you. I am embarrassed to say that I do not have my card with me today.

Tanaka : Arigatou gozaimasu. Hazukashii koto desu ga, kyou meishi wo motteimasen.

たなか ありがとうございます。はずかしいことですがきょうめいしをもっていないません。

田中 : 有難うございます。恥ずかしいことですが今日名刺を持っています。

Cheong : Oh no, that is all right. Please write your name and address in my pocket-book.

Cheong : iiye, daijoubu desu. Watashi no techou ni namae to renraku saki wo kaitekudasai.

ちよんぐ いいえ、だいじょうぶです。わたしのてちょうになまえとれんらくさきをかいてください。

チヨング : いいえ、大丈夫です。私の手帳に名前と連絡先を書いてください。

**Vocabulary**

Konnichiwa	今日は	Good afternoon
Ohisashiburi	お久しぶり	It has been a while
Gobusata	ご無沙汰	I have neglected to call
Genki	元気	Well/ fine
Gakkou	学校	School
Hurui	古い	Old
Tomodachi	友達	Friend
Shoukai shimasu (v)	紹介します	introduce
Hajimemashite	始めまして	How do you do.
Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu	宜しくお願いします	Please to meet you
Dai-ichi Shouji	第一商事	Dai-ichi Enterprise
Solar Shimbun	ソーラー新聞	Solar Post (Newspaper)
Meishi	名刺	Business card
Mochimasu (v)	持ちます	Carry
Daijoubu	大丈夫	All right
Techou	手帳	Pocket-book
Namae	名前	Name
Renrakusaki	連絡先	Address
Kakimasu (v)	書きます	Write

**Grammar:**

Note: The subject “You” or “I” is often omitted in Japanese conversation so don’t worry if you come across sentences that only consist of predicates.

**Use to indicate objects or animals.**

Kore	<b>wa</b>	techou	desu.
Sore		inu	
Are		meishi	

This	is a	pocket-book	.
That		dog	
Over there		business card	

**Use to indicate people or objects in a polite manner.**

Kochira	<b>wa</b>	Tanaka-san	desu.
Sochira		O-techou	
Achira		kodomo	

This	is	Mr. Tanaka	.
That		a pocket-book	
Over there		a child	

**To show possession:**

Watashi	<b>no</b>	tomodachi	desu.
Tanaka-san		techou	
Anata		meishi	

My	friend	.	
Mr. Tanaka’s			pocket-book
Your			business card

Combine these two structures and you get....

Kore Sore Are	<b>wa</b>	watashi anata Tanaka-san	<b>no</b>	meishi inu shimbun	desu.
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This That Over there	is	my your Mr. Tanaka's	-	business card dog newspaper	.
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Remember, when you want to sound polite, or when you wish to indicate people, use the following forms.

Kochira Sochira Achira	<b>wa</b>	watashi anata Tanaka-san	<b>no</b>	tomodachi kodomo techou	desu.
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This That Over there	is	my your Mr. Tanaka's	-	friend child pocket book	.
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## How about Verbs?

This chapter has 3 kinds of verbs. I am going to do something cruel to the English language, to help you better understand how those verb forms work.

The verb “mochimasu” have multiple meanings such as “carry”, “bring” or “have”. Please note that the simple verb forms end with “...masu” which carries the meaning “do”.

I have a business card.

Watashi wa meishi wo mochimasu.

(I) do not have a business card.

Meishi wo mochimasen.

(I am) bringing my business card.

Meishi wo motteimasu.

(I am) not bringing my business card.

Meishi wo motteimasen.

## How to say please in Japanese.

The direct translation for “Onegaishimasu” is “Please” which is usually used in a situation where the person is requesting for assistance.

Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu (Please to meet you) carries the social meaning of “Please be of assistance to me”.

Forms of “Please” + Verb (write) is

Write                      Kakimasu                      かきます

Please write              Kaitekudasai              かいてください

Read	Yomimasu	よみます
<u>Please read</u>	Yonde <u>kudasai</u>	ようんで <u>ください</u>

**Exercises: (Say the words first then write your answer down)**

1. It has been a while. How are you?

.....

2. This is my newspaper.

.....

3. I have a pocket book.

.....

4. Let me introduce my friend.

.....

5. I am well.

.....

6. Please write (your) name and address.

.....

7. This is my friend.

.....

**Answers.**

1. Ohisashiburi desu. Ogenki desu ka?
2. Kore wa watashi no shimbun desu.
3. Watashi wa techou wo mochimasu. (Techou of mochimasu)
4. Tomodachi wo shoukai shimasu.
5. Watashi wa genki desu. (Genki desu.)
6. Renraku saki wo kaitekudasai.
7. Kochira wa watashi no tomodachi desu.

**Remark:**

Japanese dialogue is as complex as the many levels of hierarchy which applies it. However, the “masu” and “desu” form introduced in this chapter is considered acceptable as they are the standard form used for writing. Close Japanese friends will consider them too formal while members of the Imperial household will blush to hear you use such language with the Emperor, yet I personally believe that it works with almost everyone else in between.

If you like this booklet, please give it a good review and keep an eye out for Chapter 2.

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