
LESSON 1 INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hayashi introduces Mr. Smith to Mr. Tanaka.

はやし：たなかさん、こちらは スミスさんです。

スミス：はじめまして。スミスです。どうぞ よろしく。

たなか：はじめまして。とうきょうでんきの たなかです。

どうぞ よろしく。

はやし：スミスさんは ABCの べんごしです。

Hayashi: Tanaka-san, kochira wa Sumisu-san desu.

Sumisu: Hajimemashite. Sumisu desu. Dōzo yoroshiku.

Tanaka: Hajimemashite. Tōkyō Denki no Tanaka desu. Dōzo yoroshiku.

Hayashi: Sumisu-san wa ABC no bengoshi desu.

Hayashi: Mr. Tanaka, this is Mr. Smith.

Smith: How do you do. My name's Smith. I'm very glad to meet you.

Tanaka: How do you do. I'm Tanaka from Tokyo Electric. I'm very glad to meet you.

Hayashi: Mr. Smith is ABC's lawyer.

GRAMMAR I

Lessons 1–5 Identifying People and Things

1. noun 1 **WA** noun 2 **DESU**
2. noun 1 **WA** noun 2 **DESU KA**
Hai, (noun 1 **wa**) noun 2 **desu**.
Iie, (noun 1 **wa**) noun 2 **dewa/ja arimasen**.

Present Form		Past Form	
<i>aff.</i>	<i>neg.</i>	<i>aff.</i>	<i>neg.</i>
desu	dewa arimasen	deshita	dewa arimasendeshita
is	is not	was	was not

- Particle **wa**. Topic marker.

Wa follows noun 1 indicating that it is the topic under discussion. Noun 2 is then identified and the phrase is concluded with **desu**. The topic is often the same as the subject, but not necessarily. It is also possible for the object to be the topic. (See Note 2, p. 54; Grammar III, p. 66; Note 3, p. 183.) The . . . **wa** . . . **desu** structure is not affected by person or number.

ex. **A-san wa bengoshi desu.** "Mr. A is a lawyer."

A-san to B-san wa bengoshi desu. "Mr. A and Mrs. B are lawyers."

- Particle **ka**. Question marker.

The formation of questions in Japanese is easy. Put **ka** at the end of a sentence and it becomes a question. No change in word order is required even when the question contains interrogative words such as who, what, when, etc. Intonation normally rises on the particle **ka** only, i.e., . . . **desu ka**.

- **Hai** and **Iie**

Hai is virtually the same as "yes." **Iie** is virtually the same as "no." It is better, however, to think of **hai** as meaning, "That's right," and **iie** as meaning, "That's wrong." Otherwise negative questions can be a problem. I.e., to the question, **Ja, banana ga arimasen ka**, "So you have no bananas?" the reply is **Hai, arimasen**, "That's right, we have none." Or **Iie, arimasu**, "That's wrong, we have some."

- Omission of topic (noun 1)

When it is obvious to the other person what the topic is, it is generally omitted.

ex. **[Watashi wa] Sumisu desu.** "(As for me) I'm Smith."

But when it is necessary to make the topic clear, it is not omitted.

ex. **Kochira wa Sumisu-san desu.** "This is Mr. Smith."

• **Dewa arimasen./Ja arimasen.**

Negative form of **desu**. **Ja** is more informal than **dewa**.

KEY SENTENCES _____

1. My name's Smith.
2. I'm Smith from ABC.
3. This is Mr. Tanaka.
4. Mr. Tanaka is not a lawyer.

EXERCISES

I Practice the following pattern by changing the underlined part as in the example given.

ex. [Watashi wa] Sumisu desu.

1. Amerika Taishikan no Sumisu
2. Amerika-jin
3. bengoshi

II Make dialogues by changing the underlined parts as in the examples given.

A. *ex.* Q: [Anata wa] Sumisu-san desu ka.

A: Hai, Sumisu desu.

1. Tanaka

B. *ex.* Q: [Anata wa] Nihon-jin desu ka.

A: Hai, Nihon-jin desu.

A: Iie, Nihon-jin dewa arimasen.

1. bengoshi

2. hisho

C. *ex.* Q: [Anata wa] Nihon-jin desu ka, Chûgoku-jin desu ka.

A: Nihon-jin desu.

1. Amerika-jin, Doitsu-jin

2. gakusei, kaishain

3. bengoshi, hisho

D. *ex.* Q: [Anata wa] Donata desu ka.

A: Sumisu desu.

1. Tanaka

2. Amerika Taishikan no Tanaka

3. Nihon Ginkô no Tanaka

E. *ex.* Q: Kochira wa donata desu ka.

A: Sumisu-san desu.

1. Tanaka-san

2. Nihon Ginkô no Tanaka-san

SHORT DIALOGUES

1. **Sumisu:** Tanaka-san desu ka.

Tanaka: Hai, Tanaka desu.

Sumisu: Tanaka-san wa gakusei desu ka.

Tanaka: Iie, gakusei dewa arimasen. Kaishain desu.

Smith: Are you Mr. Tanaka?

Tanaka: Yes, I am.

Smith: Are you a student.

Tanaka: No, I'm not a student. I'm a company employee.

2. Mr. Hayashi introduces Miss Yamada to Mr. Tanaka.

Hayashi: Go-shōkai shimasu. Kochira wa Yamada-san desu. Sumisu-san no hisho desu. Kochira wa Tanaka-san desu.

Yamada: Hajimemashite. Yamada desu. Dōzo yoroshiku.

Tanaka: Hajimemashite. Tanaka desu. Dōzo yoroshiku.

Hayashi: Let me introduce you. This is Miss Yamada. She is Mr. Smith's secretary.
This is Mr. Tanaka.

Yamada: How do you do. My name's Yamada. I'm very glad to meet you.

Tanaka: How do you do. My name's Tanaka. I'm very glad to meet you.

QUIZ

I Supposing you are Mr. Smith in the opening dialogue, answer the following questions.

1. Donata desu ka.

A.

2. Nihon-jin desu ka.

A.

3. Kaishain desu ka, bengoshi desu ka.

A.

II Complete the questions so that they fit the answers.

1. () desu ka.

Hai, Sumisu desu.

2. Sumisu-san wa () desu ka.

Iie, Doitsu-jin dewa arimasen.

3. Sumisu-san wa () desu ka, kaishain desu ka.

Bengoshi desu.

4. Kochira wa () desu ka.

Tanaka-san desu.

III Put the appropriate particles in the parentheses.

1. Kochira () Yamada-san desu.

2. Hayashi-san wa bengoshi desu (), kaishain desu ().

Kaishain desu.

3. Sumisu-san wa ABC () bengoshi desu.

IV Translate into Japanese.

1. I'm Smith.

2. How do you do. I'm glad to meet you.

3. Miss Yamada, this is Mr. Tanaka of Tokyo Electric.

4. Is Mr. Smith American or German?