



virtual japanese conversational language exchange

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Japanese Cultural and  
Community Center of  
Northern California



JET Alumni Association of  
Northern California

**Beginner and Intermediate  
Japanese Language Lesson  
with Dr. Lisa Hofmann-Kuroda**

**J-Chat Session 6  
Friday, October 15, 2021**

# Virtual Japanese Language Exchange

JCCCNC / JETAANC



Introduce yourself !

はじめまして。[NAME] です。

Hajimemashite. \_\_\_\_\_desu.

よろしくおねがいします。

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Goal: Learn a few simple words and phrases to talk about your identity or background, including race, ethnicity, nationality, family, profession, hometown, etc.)

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Asking someone where they're from, talking about where you're from

Q: しゅっしんはどこですか？

Shusshin wa doko deska?

Where are you from? (Usually meaning where you grew up, have family, etc.)

A: アメリカです

Amerika des.

I'm from America. (You can also be more specific and say you're from a certain state, if you think your interlocutor is familiar with regions of the US)

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Talking about nationality, ethnicity, “roots”

Nationality = usually name of country + じん (jin)

E.g. アメリカじん (Amerika jin) = American person

かんこくじん (Kankoku jin) = Korean person

わたしはアメリカじんです (Watashi wa Amerika jin des)

I'm American

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Hyphenated identities =

country of origin / region of origin + けい (kei) + adopted country + じん (jin)

E.g. アジアけいアメリカじん (Ajia kei Amerika jin) = Asian American

わたしはアジアけいアメリカじんです (Watashi wa Ajia kei Amerika jin des)

I'm Asian American

わたしはにっけいアメリカじんです (Watashi wa Nikkei Amerika jin des)

I'm Japanese American

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Mixed race identities = Name of country と (to) Name of country の (no) ハーフです (hafu desu)

E.g. わたしはアメリカとにほんのハーフです

Watashi wa Amerika to Nihon no Hafu des.

I am mixed Japanese and American

わたしはハーフです

Watashi wa Hafu des.

I am mixed.

\*\*Note: Some mixed people in Japan prefer the term ダブル (daburu) to ハーフ (hafu), but hafu is still the most widely used and recognizable term for a mixed race person in Japan



# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

How to ask about someone's profession / line of work:

Polite: おしごとはなにをされていますか？

Oshigoto wa nani wo saretemaska?

Casual: しごとはなんですか？

Shigoto wa nandseka?

# Today's Beginner Lesson: Talking about your Background

Talking about your profession

わたしはきょうしです

Watashi wa kyoshi des (I'm a teacher)

わたしはべんごしです

Watashi wa bengoshi des (I'm a lawyer)

わたしはいしゃです

Watashi wa isha des (I'm a doctor)

わたしはさくしゃです

Watashi wa sakusha des (I'm a writer)

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

(will only cover first two today; the rest next time)

Ending	Conditional Form
～たら	The General Case
～ば	The Strong Conditional
なら	Basis
とすると	The Hypothetical
と	Natural Consequences

Source: <https://www.japanistry.com/conditionals/>

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

## The General Case (～ら)

The ～たら form of the conditional is the most common and the safest for learners precisely because it is so universally applicable. Translates as “if” or “when” depending on context.

To create the ～たら conditional for all verbs we simply take standard past tense or negative and add ら.

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

To create the ～たら conditional for all verbs we simply take standard past tense or negative and add ら

Verb	Dictionary	+ve Conditional	-ve Conditional
to say	言う <sup>い</sup>	言ったら	言わなかったら
to come back	戻る <sup>もど</sup>	戻ったら	戻らなかったら
to see	見る <sup>み</sup>	見たら	見なかったら
to do	する	したら	しなかったら

出張で京都に行ったら金閣寺の写真を撮る。

If I go to Kyoto on a business trip I will take a photo of the kinkaku-ji.

今夜、家に帰ったらビールを飲んでテレビを見ます。

Tonight when I get home I'll drink a beer and then watch television.

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

## The Stronger Conditional (～ば)

Unlike ～たら, ～ば places more emphasis on the possibility that the first clause might not happen and, as such, is usually translatable as “if”.

The ～ば affirmative conditional ending is formed for all verbs by changing the “u” ending to an “e” ending syllable on the same row and adding ば.

する → すれ + ば → すれば

For the negative conditional we replace the ending ない with なければ.

する → しな~~い~~ → しなければ

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

Verbs	Dictionary	+ve Conditional	-ve Conditional
to ask	聞く	聞けば	聞なければ
to go home	帰る	帰れば	帰らなければ
to see	見る	見れば	見なければ
to do	する	すれば	しなければ

If I drink alcohol I get sleepy.

お酒を飲めば、眠くなる。

Let's go on holiday together if we get another chance.

また機会があれば一緒に旅行しましょうね。

# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

The ～ば conditional is also very often used to form a “What should I do?” type of question.

何を注文すればいいですか？

What should I order?

彼女に会ったら何を言えばいいですか？

When I meet her what should I say?



# Today's Intermediate Lesson: Conditional Phrases

Practice with your group by asking some hypothetical questions. How would you say the following in Japanese? Try to build off the questions to make a conversation.

-If/when you travel to Japan, where would you like to go?

-When I meet my host family, what should I say to them?

-If you had a million dollars, what would you buy?

-When you get home tonight, what will you do?