

# Lesson 1

Watashi wa Mari desu.

I'm Mari.

Ohayoo gozai-masu.

: Good morning.

Konnichiwa.

: Hello.

Konbanwa.

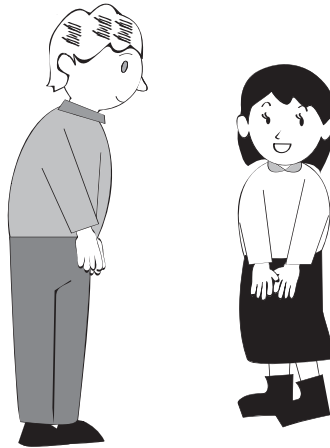
: Good evening.

Oyasuminasai.

: Good night.

Sorejaa.

: See you.



## Dialogue

Mari is a Japanese lady. John is an Australian man. They are just getting to know each other.

Mari : ♣Konnichiwa.

Jon : Konnichiwa.

Mari : ♣Hajimemashite.  
Tanaka Mari desu.  
♣Doozo yoroshiku.

Jon : Hajimemashite.  
Jon Sumisu desu.  
Doozo yoroshiku.  
♣Mari-san wa Nihon-jin desu ka.

Mari : Hai, Nihon-jin desu.  
Jon-san wa Amerika-jin desu ka.

Jon : Iie, Amerika-jin dewa ari-masen.  
Oosutoraria-jin desu.

Mari : Hello.  
 John : Hello.  
 Mari : How do you do?  
       I'm Mari Tanaka.  
       Nice to meet you.  
 John : How do you do?  
       I'm John Smith.  
       Nice to meet you.  
       Are you Japanese, Mari ?  
 Mari : Yes, I am.  
       Are you American, John ?  
 John : No, I'm not.  
       I'm Australian.

## New Vocabulary

Hajimemashite	: How do you do?
Tanaka	: Tanaka (surname)
Mari	: Mari (girl's name)
wa	: as for
desu	: am, are, is (to be)
Doozo yoroshiku	: Nice to meet you.
Jon Sumisu	: John Smith
Nihon-jin	: Japanese person
ka	: question marker
hai	: yes
san	: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. etc. (honorific title)
Amerika-jin	: American person
iie	: no
dewa ari-masen	: negative form of desu
Oosutoraria-jin	: Australian person

## ♣ Explanations

### 1. Konnichiwa

In Japanese conversation, **Konnichiwa** is used for ‘Hello’, ‘Good afternoon’, but it includes ‘How are you?’. You may say **O-genki desu ka** which means ‘How are you?’. However, it is not so popular in Japanese. It is just a Japanese form of the English expression.

e.g. A: **Konnichiwa. O-genki desu ka.** : Hello. How are you?  
B: **Hai, genki desu.** : Yes, I’m fine.

### 2. Hajimemashite

Literally it means ‘I’m meeting you for the first time’, so it can be used for ‘How do you do?’.

### 3. Doozo yoroshiku

Originally it means ‘Please do me a favour’. It is used for ‘I’m glad to meet you’. It is often used with **Hajimemashite**.

e.g. **Hajimemashite.** : How do you do?  
**Doozo yoroshiku.** : Nice to meet you.

### 4. San

The suffix **san** is usually put after the name, and is similar to ‘Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs.’. It is used not only after family names, but also first names and full names for politeness. **San** can not be used when talking about yourself.

e.g. **Tanaka-san** : Miss Tanaka  
**Mari-san** : Mari  
**Tanaka Mari-san** : Miss Mari Tanaka  
**Sumisu-san** : Mr. Smith  
**Jon-san** : John  
**Jon Sumisu-san** : Mr. John Smith

## ♠ Grammar

### 1. Word order ( I )

In the Japanese language, sentences end in their predicates (verbs etc.).

e.g. *Watashi wa Mari desu.* : I am Mari.  
*Jon-san wa Oosutoraria-jin desu.* : John is Australian.

The subject of a sentence can often be omitted if we already know what it is.

e.g. A: */Anata wa/ Nihon-jin desu ka.* : Are /you/Japanese ?  
 B: *Hai, /watashi wa/ Nihon-jin desu.* : Yes, /I/ am Japanese.

Note: *Anata* (you) is not often used in Japanese. When we know the name, it is usually used.

e.g. A: *Mari-san wa Nihon-jin desu ka.* : Are /you/Japanese, Mari?  
 B: *Hai, Nihon-jin desu.* : Yes, /I/ am Japanese.

In addition, verbs are not changed between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd person, or in plurals.

e.g. *Watashi wa Tanaka Mari desu.* : I am Mari Tanaka.  
*Anata wa Amerika-jin desu.* : You are American.  
*Jon-san wa Oosutoraria-jin desu.* : John is Australian.  
*Watashi-tachi wa Nihon-jin desu.* : We are Japanese.

### 2. Particle *Wa*

In Japanese sentences, particles are used to indicate the function of the preceding words.

The particle *wa* indicates the topic. Therefore, the word preceding *wa* often becomes a subject.

*Wa* is translated into English as ‘as for...’, ‘talking about...’ etc.

e.g. *Watashi wa Jon desu.* : Talking about me /I/ am John.  
*Mari-san wa Nihon-jin desu.* : As for Mari /she/ is Japanese.

### 3. Negative form *dewa ari-masen*

*Dewa ari-masen* is used for the negative form of *desu*. *Ja ari-masen* which is a colloquial form of *dewa ari-masen* is also used.

e.g. *Watashi wa Nihon-jin dewa ari-masen.* : I’m not Japanese.  
*Jon-san wa Amerika-jin dewa ari-masen.* : John is not American.  
*Watashi wa Amerika-jin ja ari-masen.* : I’m not American.

#### 4. Particle Ka

When the particle ka is put at the end of a sentence, it becomes a question.

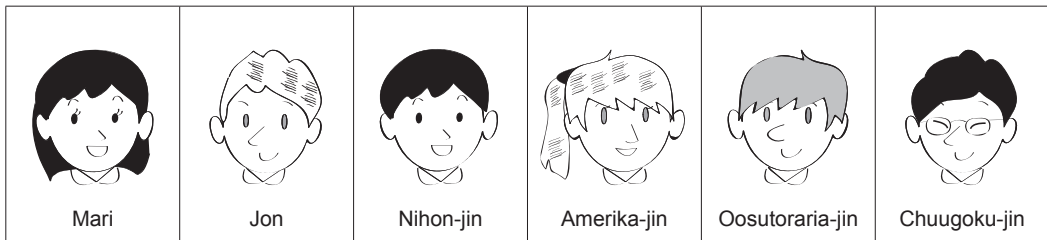
e.g. Jon-san wa Oosutoraria-jin desu ka. : Are you Australian, John?  
Tanaka-san wa Nihon-jin desu ka. : Is Tanaka Japanese?

### ♥ Exercises

1. Substitute the following words for the ones underlined>. Students should not look at their textbooks.

(1) Watashi wa Mari desu.

Jon  
Nihon-jin  
Amerika-jin  
Oosutoraria-jin  
Chuugoku-jin\*      Chinese\*  
your name



(2) Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.

watashi-tachi  
anata  
anata-tachi\*      you (plural) \*  
kare\*      he\*  
kanojo\*      she\*

Note: Tachi is a plural sign for people only.

(3) Watashi wa Mari dewa ari-masen.

Substitute as in (1).

(4) Watashi wa Nihon-jin dewa ari-masen.

Substitute as in (2).

(5) Mari-san desu ka.

Substitute as in (1).

2. Answer Exercise 1-(5) both in the positive and negative forms as follows.

e.g. T\*: Mari-san desu ka. teacher\*

S\*: Hai, Mari desu. student\*

lie, Mari dewa ari-masen.

3. Repeat the following sentences after the teacher. Students should not look at their textbooks.



(1) Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.

(2) Mari-san wa Amerika-jin dewa ari-masen.

(3) Jon-san wa Oosutoraria-jin desu.

(4) Anata-tachi wa Chuugoku-jin desu ka.

(5) Watashi-tachi wa Nihon-jin dewa ari-masen.

(6) Kanojo wa Mari-san desu.

(7) Kare wa Amerika-jin dewa ari-masen.

(8) Anata wa Oosutoraria-jin desu ka.

(9) Watashi wa Chuugoku-jin dewa ari-masen.

(10) Kazuo-san wa Nihon-jin desu ka.

4. Substitute the given words into the following sentence patterns.

e.g. Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.

T: Watashi-tachi

S: Watashi-tachi wa Nihon-jin desu.

T: Oosutoraria-jin

S: Watashi-tachi wa Oosutoraria-jin desu.

(1) Jon-san wa Oosutoraria-jin desu.  
 Sumisu-san  
 Amerika-jin  
 watashi-tachi  
 Ijirisu-jin\* British person\*  
 anata-tachi  
 Nihon-jin  
 Tanaka-san

(2) Jon-san wa Amerika-jin desu ka.  
 anata-tachi  
 Nihon-jin  
 Mari-san  
 Chuugoku-jin  
 Ryuu-san\* Chinese name\*  
 Kankoku-jin\* Korean\*  
 Kimu-san\* Korean name\*

(3) Watashi wa Chuugoku-jin dewa ari-masen.  
 watashi-tachi  
 Indo-jin\* Indian\*  
 kare  
 Amerika-jin  
 kanojo  
 Nihon-jin  
 anata-tachi

(4) Watashi wa Chuugoku-jin desu.  
 anata-tachi  
 Amerika-jin desu ka  
 Satoo-san\* Japanese family name\*  
 Indo-jin dewa ari-masen  
 watashi-tachi  
 Nihon-jin desu  
 Mari-san

5. Introduce yourself as follows and substitute the words given for the ones underlined>.

e.g. Konnichiwa.  
 Hajimemashite.  
 Watashi wa (your name) desu.  
 Doozo yoroshiku.

- (1) ohayoo gozai-masu
- (2) konbanwa

◆ **Pronunciation Drill**

Pronounce the following, paying attention to the accents.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>A. 1. oha yo o go za i-masu</p> <p>2. kon ni chiwa</p> <p>3. kon ba n wa</p> <p>4. oya su mi na sai</p> <p>5. sore ja a</p> | <p>6. watashi</p> <p>7. watashi-tachi</p> <p>8. Jon- sa n</p> <p>9. Mari- sa n</p> <p>10. Niho n- ji n</p> |
|--|--|

- B. 1. Watashi wa Nihon- ji n de su.
2. Jon-sa n wa Oo su to ra ri a- ji n de su.
3. Kimu-sa n wa Niho n- ji n de wa a ri-ma se n.
4. Mari-sa n wa Niho n- ji n de suka.
5. Sumisu-sa n wa Ameri ka-ji n de suka.



## ★ Extra Study

## Numbers ( I )



	1 ichi	2 ni	3 san	4 shi yon	5 go	6 roku	7 shichi nana	8 hachi	9 kyu ku
10 juu	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 ni-juu	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 san-juu	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40 yon-juu	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50 go-juu	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60 roku-juu	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
70 nana-juu	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80 hachi-juu	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90 kyuu-juu	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100 hyaku									

0: ree, zero

$$11(\text{juu-ichi}) = 10(\text{juu})+1(\text{ichi})$$

$$20(\text{ni-juu}) = 2(\text{ni})\times 10(\text{juu})$$

$$21(\text{ni-juu-ichi}) = 2(\text{ni})\times 10(\text{juu})+1(\text{ichi})$$

Note: Both shi and yon, shichi and nana, kyuu and ku can be used for 4, 7, 9 respectively.



Months		Time	
ichi-gatsu	January	ichi-ji	1 o'clock
ni-gatsu	February	ni-ji	2 o'clock
san-gatsu	March	san-ji	3 o'clock
<u>shi</u> -gatsu	April	<u>yo</u> -ji	4 o'clock
go-gatsu	May	go-ji	5 o'clock
roku-gatsu	June	roku-ji	6 o'clock
<u>shichi</u> -gatsu	July	<u>shichi</u> -ji	7 o'clock
hachi-gatsu	August	hachi-ji	8 o'clock
<u>ku</u> -gatsu	September	<u>ku</u> -ji	9 o'clock
juu-gatsu	October	juu-ji	10 o'clock
juu-ichi-gatsu	November	juu-ichi-ji	11 o'clock
juu-ni-gatsu	December	juu-ni-ji	12 o'clock

## ♥ Exercises

1. Say the following numbers in Japanese.

e.g. 11 juu-ichi

12---23---34---45---56---67---78---89---99---91---82---73---64---55---47---38---29---100

2. Say the following months in Japanese.

e.g. January ichi-gatsu

April---December---July---February---November---October---May---August---June---  
September---March

3. Each student should say the months from January to December in Japanese without looking at the textbook.
4. Each student should say the times from 1 o'clock to 12 o'clock in Japanese without looking at the textbook.

## About Japan

**O - j i g i** Bow

Whenever they are in a formal situation, such as when meeting or leaving people, saying thank you etc., Japanese people bow to each other. There are different types of bows, from a deep to a slight bow. If you bow deeply, it shows deep respect or gratitude. Therefore whenever you are in Japan, it is better to bow as Japanese do.

