

# Texting, Dates & the Morning After

デート・の・ぜんぶ

From the first LINE reply to locking in the date, what to say **during** it, taking the night further with care, and the considerate morning-after lines that decide whether there's a next time.

LESSON 4 OF 6

## 01 Texting on LINE ライン

The gap between "we swapped LINE" and "we're on a date" is where most foreigners lose people. Japanese texting rewards **light, frequent, low-pressure** messages — short lines, stickers, and a clear, easy invitation.

### Keeping the chat warm やりとり

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
おはよう!今日も頑張ろうね	<i>ohayō! kyō mo ganbarō ne</i>	Morning! Let's both have a good day.
おはよう <i>ohayō</i> morning 今日 <i>kyō</i> today も <i>mo</i> also 頑張ろう <i>ganbarō</i> let's do our best ね <i>ne</i> (soft, right?)		
今日なにしてたの?	<i>kyō nani shiteta no?</i>	What did you get up to today?
今日 <i>kyō</i> today なに <i>nani</i> what してた <i>shiteta</i> were doing の <i>no</i> (question)		
それいいね!写真見たいな	<i>sore ii ne! shashin mitai na</i>	Nice! I'd love to see a photo.
それ <i>sore</i> that いい <i>ii</i> good ね <i>ne</i> (right?) 写真 <i>shashin</i> photo 見たい <i>mitai</i> want to see な <i>na</i> (soft wish)		
急に思い出した、君のこと(笑)	<i>kyū ni omoidashita, kimi no koto (wara)</i>	You just randomly popped into my head, haha.
急に <i>kyū ni</i> suddenly 思い出した <i>omoidashita</i> remembered 君 <i>kimi</i> you の <i>no</i> (possessive) こと <i>koto</i> (about) (笑) <i>(wara)</i> haha		
おやすみ、いい夢見てね	<i>oyasumi, ii yume mite ne</i>	Goodnight, sweet dreams.
おやすみ <i>oyasumi</i> goodnight いい <i>ii</i> good 夢 <i>yume</i> dream 見て <i>mite</i> see ね <i>ne</i> (soft)		

#### CULTURAL NOTE — LINE RHYTHM

Match her energy: reply length, sticker use, and speed. A delayed reply is normal and **not** a snub — don't double-text or send "?" if she's quiet for a few hours. Japanese chats often end on a sticker rather than words; sending a cute stamp instead of "ok" feels natural. Over-texting is the #1 way to cool things down.

## Setting up the date さそう

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
前に話してたお店、行ってみない？	<i>mae ni hanashiteta omise, itte minai?</i>	That place we talked about — wanna try it?
前に <i>mae ni</i> before 話してた <i>hanashiteta</i> we talked about お店 <i>omise</i> the place/shop 行ってみない <i>itte minai</i> wanna try going?		
今週末、空いてる？	<i>konshūmatsu, aiteru?</i>	Are you free this weekend?
今週末 <i>konshūmatsu</i> this weekend 空いてる <i>aiteru</i> are (you) free?		
土曜と日曜、どっちがいい？	<i>doyō to nichiyō, dotchi ga ii?</i>	Saturday or Sunday — which works? <b>(offer a choice, not yes/no)</b>
土曜 <i>doyō</i> Saturday と <i>to</i> and 日曜 <i>nichiyō</i> Sunday どっち <i>dotchi</i> which が <i>ga</i> (subject) いい <i>ii</i> good		
19時に渋谷でどう？	<i>jūku-ji ni shibuya de dō?</i>	7pm in Shibuya, how's that?
19時 <i>jūku-ji</i> 7pm に <i>ni</i> at (time) 渋谷 <i>shibuya</i> Shibuya で <i>de</i> at (place) どう <i>dō</i> how about?		
楽しみにしてるね！	<i>tanoshimi ni shiteru ne!</i>	I'm looking forward to it!
楽しみ <i>tanoshimi</i> looking forward に <i>ni</i> (to) してる <i>shiteru</i> am doing ね <i>ne</i> (soft)		

### THE MOVE THAT GETS A YES

Don't ask "do you want to go on a date?" — ask about a **specific thing** at a **specific time** and offer two options. "That ramen place, Saturday or Sunday?" is almost impossible to vaguely decline, and it shows you actually listened to her.

## 02 On the date デートちゅう

Phrases for the moments that matter — arriving, eating together, making her feel chosen, and handling the bill.

### Arriving & warming up あいさつ

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
来てくれてありがとう	<i>kite kurete arigatō</i>	Thanks for coming out.
来てくれて <i>kite kurete</i> for coming    ありがとう <i>arigatō</i> thank you		
今日の服、似合ってるね	<i>kyō no fuku, niatteru ne</i>	That outfit really suits you today.
今日 <i>kyō</i> today    の <i>no</i> (possessive)    服 <i>fuku</i> outfit    似合ってる <i>niatteru</i> suits (you)    ね <i>ne</i> (right?)		
会いたかった	<i>aitakatta</i>	I wanted to see you.
緊張してる?僕もちょっと(笑)	<i>kinchō shiteru? boku mo chotto (wara)</i>	Nervous? Me too, a little, haha.
緊張してる <i>kinchō shiteru</i> are (you) nervous?    僕 <i>boku</i> I/me    も <i>mo</i> also    ちょっと <i>chotto</i> a little (笑) <i>(wara)</i> haha		

### Eating & drinking together しょくじ

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
何が好き?頼んじゃおう	<i>nani ga suki? tanonjaō</i>	What do you like? Let's order it.
何 <i>nani</i> what    が <i>ga</i> (subject)    好き <i>suki</i> like    頼んじゃおう <i>tanonjaō</i> let's just order		
一口食べてみる?	<i>hitokuchi tabete miru?</i>	Wanna try a bite? ( <b>sharing = closeness</b> )
一口 <i>hitokuchi</i> one bite    食べて <i>tabete</i> eat    みる <i>miru</i> try?		
いただきます!	<i>itadakimasu!</i>	"Let's eat" — say it before the first bite.
美味しいね、ここ	<i>oishii ne, koko</i>	This place is good, isn't it.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
----------	-------------	---------

美味しい *oishii* delicious    ね *ne* isn't it    ここ *koko* here/this place

飲める口?それとも弱い?    *nomeru kuchi? soretomo yowai?*    Are you a drinker, or a lightweight?

飲める *nomeru* can drink    口 *kuchi* type (lit. mouth)    それとも *soretomo* or    弱い *yowai* weak/lightweight

### Making her feel chosen きもち

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
----------	-------------	---------

今日、すごく楽しい    *kyō, sugoku tanoshii*    I'm having such a good time today.

今日 *kyō* today    すごく *sugoku* really    楽しい *tanoshii* fun

ずっと一緒にいたくなる    *zutto issho ni itaku naru*    You make me want to stay together longer.

ずっと *zutto* forever/longer    一緒に *issho ni* together    いたく *itaku* want to be    なる *naru* become

こういう時間、好きだな    *kō iu jikan, suki da na*    I really like time like this.

こういう *kō iu* this kind of    時間 *jikan* time    好き *suki* like    だ *da* is    な *na* (soft)

#### CULTURAL NOTE — PAYING & "GARISH" GENEROSITY

On early dates many Japanese men offer to pay, and a soft 「ここは僕が」 (*koko wa boku ga* — "I've got this one") is smooth. But plenty of women prefer 割り勘 (*warikan*, splitting) and a graceful "next time's on you, then?" (「じゃあ次おごってね」) turns it into a reason to meet again. Don't make a big show of money — quiet generosity reads far better than flash.

## 03 Taking the night further よる・の・つづき

When it's mutual, these move the night forward while keeping it her choice at every step. In Japanese, the **deniable invitation** ("one more drink, just us?") is the polite, attractive way — it lets her say yes without pressure.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
もう少し一緒にいたいな	<i>mō sukoshi issho ni itai na</i>	I want to stay together a bit longer.
もう少し <i>mō sukoshi</i> a bit more 一緒に <i>issho ni</i> together いたい <i>itai</i> want to be な <i>na</i> (soft wish)		
二人で飲み直さない?	<i>futari de nomi-naosanai?</i>	Wanna go have another drink, just us two?
二人 <i>futari</i> two people で <i>de</i> as/with 飲み直さない <i>nomi-naosanai</i> wanna drink again?		
うち、来る?無理はしないで	<i>uchi, kuru? muri wa shinaide</i>	Wanna come over? No pressure at all.
うち <i>uchi</i> my place 来る <i>kuru</i> come? 無理 <i>muri</i> forcing it は <i>wa</i> (topic) しないで <i>shinaide</i> don't		
終電、大丈夫?どうしたい?	<i>shūden, daijōbu? dō shitai?</i>	Last train okay? What do you want to do?
終電 <i>shūden</i> last train 大丈夫 <i>daijōbu</i> okay? どう <i>dō</i> how/what したい <i>shitai</i> want to do?		
嫌なことは絶対しないから	<i>iya na koto wa zettai shinai kara</i>	I'd never do anything you don't want.
嫌な <i>iya na</i> unwanted こと <i>koto</i> thing は <i>wa</i> (topic) 絶対 <i>zettai</i> absolutely しない <i>shinai</i> won't do から <i>kara</i> (so/because)		
キスしていい?	<i>kisu shite ii?</i>	Can I kiss you?
キス <i>kisu</i> kiss して <i>shite</i> do いい <i>ii</i> is it okay?		

### CONSENT — THE LINE THAT NEVER MOVES

This is the same rule from Lesson 2 and it matters most here. 「終電」("last train"), 「ちょっと…」, a pause, or "maybe next time" are all a clear **no** — there won't be a blunt one. A real yes is relaxed, active and sober enough to mean it. If she's had a lot to drink, the **only** right move is making sure she gets home safe — never an invitation back. Enthusiastic, freely-given, and clear, or it's a no.

### IF THE ANSWER IS "LET'S CALL IT HERE"

Take it like a gentleman and the door stays open for next time: 「今日ほんと楽しかった。送るよ、気をつけて帰ろう」 *"Kyō honto tanoshikatta. Okuru yo, ki o tsukete kaerō."* — "Today was really fun. I'll see you off — let's get you home safe." Walking her to the station after a "no" is exactly what earns the second date.

## 04 The morning after あさ

How you behave the next morning decides everything about whether this becomes a second time — or a story she warns friends about. Warm, unhurried, considerate. No rushing her out, no going cold.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
おはよう、よく眠れた？	<i>ohayō, yoku nemureta?</i>	Morning — did you sleep well?
おはよう <i>ohayō</i> morning よく <i>yoku</i> well 眠れた <i>nemureta</i> could sleep?		
昨日、すごく楽しかった	<i>kinō, sugoku tanoshikatta</i>	Last night was really lovely.
昨日 <i>kinō</i> yesterday すごく <i>sugoku</i> really 楽しかった <i>tanoshikatta</i> was fun		
ゆっくりしてって	<i>yukkuri shite itte</i>	Take your time, no rush. <b>(the opposite of kicking her out)</b>
ゆっくり <i>yukkuri</i> slowly/relax してって <i>shite itte</i> stay & take it easy		
コーヒーいる？シャワーどうぞ	<i>kōhī iru? shawā dōzo</i>	Want a coffee? Shower's all yours.
コーヒー <i>kōhī</i> coffee いる <i>iru</i> want? シャワー <i>shawā</i> shower どうぞ <i>dōzo</i> go ahead		
朝ごはん、何か食べる？	<i>asagohan, nanika taberu?</i>	Wanna get some breakfast?
朝ごはん <i>asagohan</i> breakfast 何か <i>nanika</i> something 食べる <i>taberu</i> eat?		
駅まで送るよ	<i>eki made okuru yo</i>	I'll walk you to the station.
駅 <i>eki</i> station まで <i>made</i> up to 送る <i>okuru</i> see (you) off よ <i>yo</i> (emphasis)		
また会いたい、連絡するね	<i>mata aitai, renraku suru ne</i>	I want to see you again — I'll message you.
また <i>mata</i> again 会いたい <i>aitai</i> want to meet 連絡する <i>renraku suru</i> (I'll) contact ね <i>ne</i> (soft)		

## The follow-up text (send it — don't ghost) あとで

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH
無事ついた?今日ありがとう😊	<i>buji tsuita? kyō arigatō</i>	Get home okay? Thanks for today 😊
無事 <i>buji</i> safely ついた <i>tsuita</i> arrived? 今日 <i>kyō</i> today ありがとう <i>arigatō</i> thank you		
また近いうちに会おうね	<i>mata chikai uchi ni aō ne</i>	Let's meet again soon.
また <i>mata</i> again 近いうちに <i>chikai uchi ni</i> soon 会おう <i>aō</i> let's meet ね <i>ne</i> (soft)		
次はどこ行こうか?	<i>tsugi wa doko ikō ka?</i>	Where should we go next time?
次 <i>tsugi</i> next は <i>wa</i> (topic) どこ <i>doko</i> where 行こう <i>ikō</i> shall we go か <i>ka</i> (question)		

### CULTURAL NOTE — CASUAL IS FINE, CARELESS ISN'T

A one-time night (ワンナイト, **wan-naito**) is a normal adult choice when it's mutual — but Japan's social circles are small and reputations stick. The difference between "fun, respectful guy" and "the foreigner who ghosts" is one morning of basic kindness: don't rush her out, send the "got home okay?" text, and be honest about what you're after rather than over-promising. Even when it's not going further, ending with warmth is what keeps your name clean.

### BE STRAIGHT ABOUT INTENTIONS

If you're looking for something casual, the kind move is to not imply otherwise. 「今は真剣な関係は考えてないけど、君のことは大事にしたい」 — "*Ima wa shinken na kankei wa kangaetenai kedo, kimi no koto wa daiji ni shitai*" — "I'm not looking for something serious right now, but I want to treat you well." Honesty up front beats a misunderstanding later, in any language.