

日本語

JAPANESE FOR SOCIAL LIFE

Out & About

日本語 ・ コンビニ ・ 食事 ・ バ

ー

From the konbini counter to buying someone a drink. Short, polite phrases for shops, restaurants and bars — order, pay, and open a conversation.

LESSON 6 OF 7

1 At the Konbini コンビニ

The shop counter is the lowest-stakes conversation in the country — a few set phrases and a smile do the whole thing. Nail these and you'll never freeze when the cashier rattles something off.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
これ、いくらですか？	<i>kore, ikura desu ka?</i>	How much is this?	Point at the item
これ <i>kore</i> this いくら <i>ikura</i> how much です <i>desu</i> is か <i>ka</i> (question)			
これ、お願いします	<i>kore, onegai shimasu</i>	This one, please	Point and nod
これ <i>kore</i> this お願いします <i>onegai shimasu</i> please			
袋ください	<i>fukuro kudasai</i>	A bag, please	Often a few yen now
袋 <i>fukuro</i> bag ください <i>kudasai</i> please give			
カードで	<i>kaado de</i>	By card	Hold up the card
カード <i>kaado</i> card で <i>de</i> by/with			
袋いりません	<i>fukuro irimasen</i>	No bag, thanks	
袋 <i>fukuro</i> bag いりません <i>irimasen</i> don't need			
温めますか？	<i>atatamemasu ka?</i>	“Shall I heat it up?”	You'll hear this — say hai / iie
温めます <i>atatamemasu</i> (I) heat up か <i>ka</i> (question)			

JUST POINT AND PAY

You almost never need a full sentence at a counter. Set your item down, say the short phrase, and let the cashier guide you — a nod handles everything you didn't catch.

2 Ordering 注文

Pointing plus one polite word gets you fed anywhere. You don't need the menu memorised — “this one, please” and a finger covers most of it, and asking what's good opens an actual chat.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
二人です	<i>futari desu</i>	Table for two	Hold up two fingers
二人 <i>futari</i> two people です <i>desu</i> is			
これください	<i>kore kudasai</i>	This one, please	Point at the menu
これ <i>kore</i> this ください <i>kudasai</i> please give			
おすすめは？	<i>osusume wa?</i>	What do you recommend?	Opens a chat
おすすめ <i>osusume</i> recommendation は <i>wa</i> (topic)			
同じものを	<i>onaji mono wo</i>	The same, please	Order what they had
同じ <i>onaji</i> same もの <i>mono</i> thing を <i>wo</i> (object)			
お水ください	<i>o-mizu kudasai</i>	Water, please	Usually free
お水 <i>o-mizu</i> water ください <i>kudasai</i> please give			
すみません！	<i>sumimasen!</i>	Excuse me! (calling staff)	Catch the server's eye

A FINGER IS FLUENT

Point at the dish — on the menu, on the next table, on your phone — and add the polite word. Staff would much rather you point than stay silent.

3 Paying お会計

Asking for the bill and paying cleanly is its own tiny social skill. Get it smooth and you walk out looking like you've done it a hundred times — and “it's on me” is a warm little offer.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
お会計お願いします	<i>o-kaikei onegai shimasu</i>	The bill, please	
お会計 <i>o-kaikei</i> the bill お願いします <i>onegai shimasu</i> please			
カードで払えますか?	<i>kaado de haraemasu ka?</i>	Can I pay by card?	Cash still common
カード <i>kaado</i> card で <i>de</i> by 払えます <i>haraemasu</i> can pay か <i>ka</i> (question)			
別々で払えますか?	<i>betsubetsu de haraemasu ka?</i>	Can we pay separately?	
別々 <i>betsubetsu</i> separately で <i>de</i> by 払えます <i>haraemasu</i> can pay か <i>ka</i> (question)			
おごります	<i>ogorimasu</i>	It's on me	A warm offer
ごちそうさまでした	<i>gochisousama deshita</i>	Thanks for the meal	Say it on the way out
ごちそうさま <i>gochisousama</i> thanks for the feast でした <i>deshita</i> (past, polite)			
おいしかったです	<i>oishikatta desu</i>	It was delicious	Always appreciated
おいしかった <i>oishikatta</i> was delicious です <i>desu</i> (polite)			

NO TIPPING — REALLY

Service is included, and leaving coins behind just causes confusion. A warm “gochisousama deshita” on your way out is the real tip.

4 At the Bar バー

The bar is where a phrase becomes a moment. “What are you having?” and “may I buy you a drink?” are tiny lines that can open a whole evening — say them light, smile, and let the drink do the rest.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	NOTE
何飲んでるんですか？	<i>nani nonderu n desu ka?</i>	What are you drinking?	Easy opener
何 <i>nani</i> what 飲んでる <i>nonderu</i> drinking なんです <i>n desu</i> (explaining) か <i>ka</i> (question)			
一杯おごってもいいですか？	<i>ippai ogotte mo ii desu ka?</i>	May I buy you a drink?	Light and warm
一杯 <i>ippai</i> one drink おごっても <i>ogotte mo</i> even if (I) treat いいですか <i>ii desu ka</i> is it okay?			
もう一杯どうですか？	<i>mou ippai dou desu ka?</i>	One more?	
もう <i>mou</i> another 一杯 <i>ippai</i> one drink どうですか <i>dou desu ka</i> how about?			
乾杯！	<i>kanpai!</i>	Cheers!	Glasses up
乾 <i>kan</i> dry 杯 <i>pai</i> cup			
よく来るんですか？	<i>yoku kuru n desu ka?</i>	Do you come here often?	Classic, and it works
よく <i>yoku</i> often 来る <i>kuru</i> come なんです <i>n desu</i> (explaining) か <i>ka</i> (question)			
いい雰囲気ですね	<i>ii fun'iki desu ne</i>	Nice atmosphere, huh	A shared observation
いい <i>ii</i> nice 雰囲気 <i>fun'iki</i> atmosphere ですね <i>desu ne</i> isn't it			

OFFER, DON'T PRESSURE

“May I buy you a drink?” lands as a light, easy offer — not a transaction. Ask, smile, and be just as happy with a no. The relaxedness is the attractive part, not the drink.

YOU

何飲んでるんですか？

nani nonderu n desu ka?

What are you drinking?

HER

ハイボールです。

haibooru desu.

A highball.

YOU

一杯おごってもいいですか？

ippai ogotte mo ii desu ka?

May I buy you a drink?

HER

いいんですか？ありがとう。

ii n desu ka? arigatou.

Really? Thanks.

YOU

乾杯！よく来るんですか？

kanpai! yoku kuru n desu ka?

Cheers! Do you come here often?

★ Pocket Lines ひとこと

When your brain blanks, these are the words that still come out. One or two syllables each — impossible to fumble. Keep them on the tip of your tongue.

JAPANESE	SOUNDS LIKE	ENGLISH	WHEN TO USE IT
これ	<i>kore</i>	This one	Point and you're understood
同じで	<i>onaji de</i>	Same for me	Order what they had
同じ <i>onaji</i> same で <i>de</i> (with/for)			
いくら?	<i>ikura?</i>	How much?	Works anywhere
乾杯!	<i>kanpai!</i>	Cheers!	Glasses up
乾 <i>kan</i> dry 杯 <i>pai</i> cup			
おいしい!	<i>oishii!</i>	Yum!	Say it mid-bite
お願いします	<i>onagai shimasu</i>	Please / yes please	The all-purpose word

SMALL WORDS, BIG EASE

One confident word with a smile beats a perfect sentence mumbled. These six get you through almost any counter, table or bar — lean on them when your mind goes blank.

Japanese for Social Life · Lesson 6 — Out & About · Point, pay, and offer a drink. The counter is the easiest conversation there is.