

UNIT THREE

This Unit explains how to say 'there is' and indicate where people and things are. It looks at the Japanese equivalent of 'with' (a pen, etc.), 'at' (a restaurant) and 'at' (a time). And it introduces respect language.

Structure 21: aru ('there is', etc.)

Zasshi ga arimasu.

There are magazines.

Shitsumon wa arimasu ka. Hai, futatsu arimasu.

Are there [any] questions? Yes, there are two.

Or: Do you have [any] questions? Yes, I have two.

Chokorēto ga ikutsu arimasu ka. Mittsu arimasu.

How many chocolates do you have? I have three.

CHECKNOTES 21

- Aru** (literally, 'exist') roughly corresponds to 'there is'/'there are' or 'has'/'have'. The appropriate translation should be clear from the context.
- Aru** is used only when referring to inanimate objects.
- Before **aru** and **iru** (see Structure 22), **ga** indicates the subject of the sentence (not to be confused with the topic, indicated by **wa**).
However, in questions and statements confirming information about a topic already known by the speakers, **wa** is used with **aru** and **iru**.
- Note that the subject or topic of **aru** will be an object in English, if you translate **aru** as 'has'/'have'. Therefore it may be better to think of **aru** as meaning 'exist', or 'is in my, etc. possession', even though this produces rather strange English. For example, **Chizu ga arimasu** will usually be translated as 'There is a map' or 'I, etc. have a map' (where 'map' is the object of 'have' in English). But actually the meaning is nearer to 'A map exists' or 'A map is in my, etc. possession', since **chizu ga** is felt to be the subject in Japanese.

e) The basic method of counting was introduced in Structure 8. However, as noted then, different sorts of numbers, or 'counters', are used for different things.

-**tsu** is the most general counter in Japanese. Although typically used to count small things such as chocolates or fruit, it tends also to be used in cases where there doesn't seem to be an appropriate counter.

The forms from one to ten are irregular:

hitotsu	one	muttsu	six
futatsu	two	nanatsu	seven
mittsu	three	yattsu	eight
yottsu	four	kokonotsu	nine
itsutsu	five	tō	ten

Note also **ikutsu** ('how many?')

After ten, the **jū-ichi, jū-ni**, etc. system is used on its own with no counter. This latter system and most of the counters, for example, **-mai** for flat things and **-en** for Yen, originally came from Chinese. **Hitotsu, futatsu**, etc. are the remnants of the native Japanese system.

f) Note that **ga, wa, o**, etc. are not normally used after a counter.

Checklist 21

chokorēto	chocolate
inkan	seal (used instead of a signature)
kami	paper (becomes -gami in ori-gami , 'paper folding')
o-jikan	time (Polite form of jikan , 'time')
kippu	ticket (train, etc.)
o-kane	money
pasokon	personal computer (from pāsonaru konpyūtā)
shitsumon	question
shikoshi	(adverb) a little

FLUENCY PRACTICE 21

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Mondai ga arimasu.
- O-kane wa arimasu ka. Hai, sukoshi arimasu.
- Yakusoku ga arimasu.
- Kami wa arimasu ka. Hai, arimasu.
- Pasokon ga arimasu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 There are [some] tickets.
- 7 Do you have time? Yes, [I] do.
- 8 I have three seals.
- 9 Do you have a credit card? Yes, [I] have four. (Use **-mai**, not **-tsu**, as cards are flat.)
- 10 There is a bank.

Structure 22: iru ('there is', etc.)

Neko ga imasu.

There is a cat.

Yamaguchi-san wa imasu ka. Hai, imasu.

Is Mr/Mrs/Miss Yamaguchi [there]? Yes, he/she is.

Igrisu no Buraun-san wa imasu ka. Hai, imasu.

Is Mr Brown from the U.K. [here]? Yes, he is.

CHECKNOTES 22

- a) **Iru** is similar in meaning to **aru** (Structure 21), but is used with reference to people or animals. It is often necessary to add 'in', 'there' or 'there' to make the meaning clear in English.
- b) **Da** is concerned with identity; **aru** and **iru** are concerned with location (and, sometimes, possession). On occasion, all may be translated as 'be', etc. in English.

Checklist 22

annai-gakari information officer (from **annai**, 'guide', and **kakari/gakari**, 'person in charge')

eki-in station attendant (from **eki**, 'station', and **-in**, 'worker')

insatsu printing

ka mosquito

neko cat

FLUENCY PRACTICE 22

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Enjinia ga imasu.
- 2 Ka ga imasu.
- 3 Suzuki-san ga imasu.
- 4 Buchō-san wa imasu ka. Hai, imasu.
- 5 Chiyoda Insatsu no Nakajima-san wa imasu ka. Hai, imasu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 The station attendant is [there].
- 7 Is the information officer [in]? Yes, [she] is.
- 8 Mr Asano is [there].
- 9 Are the consultants [there]? Yes, [they] are.
- 10 Mr Jones (**Jōnzu-san**) from Jones Associates (**Jōnzu Asoshiētusu**) is [there].

Structure 23: ni (expressions of place)

Koko ni pen to kami ga arimasu.

Here is a pen and [some] paper.

Kūkō ni annai-jo ga arimasu.

There is an information desk in the airport.

Hoteru ni kissa-ten ga arimasu.

There is a café in the hotel.

Resutoran ni kōkō-sei ga imasu.

There are [some] high school students in the restaurant.

CHECKNOTES 23

- a) **Ni** indicates where something or somebody is.
- b) In the same sentence, a noun with **ga** usually comes after a noun with **ni**.

Checklist 23

annai-jo information centre/desk (**annai suru** means 'guide')

gasorin suttando petrol station (from 'gasoline stand')

genkan entrance hall

hon'ya
kissa-ten
kōkō-sei

bookshop
café (literally, a 'drinking tea shop')
high school students (kōkō is short for kōtō
gakkō, 'high school')

nimotsu
rōka
saifu

luggage
corridor
wallet

FLUENCY PRACTICE 23

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Eki ni fakkūsu ga arimasu.
- 2 Heya ni bengo-shi ga imasu.
- 3 Rōka ni denwa ga arimasu.
- 4 Genkan ni Amerika no Howaito-san (Mrs White) ga imasu.
- 5 Asoko ni gasorin shitando ga arimasu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 There is a computer in the office.
- 7 There is [some] money in the wallet.
- 8 There are [some] consultants in the office.
- 9 There is a passport in the luggage.
- 10 Are there maps in the bookshop?

Structure 24: Negatives of aru and iru

Pan ga arimasen.

There is no bread.

Tanaka-san wa imasen.

Mr Tanaka is not in.

Sumimasen ga, kami ga arimasen.

I am sorry, but there isn't any paper.

Asoko ni wa nanimo arimasen.

There is nothing over there.

Sono kissa-ten ni wa daremo imasen.

There is nobody in that café.

CHECKNOTES 24

- a) As you would expect from Structure 15, the negative forms of arimasu and imasu are arimasen and imasen, respectively.
- b) Wa (not ga) is used in Tanaka-san wa imasen, because Mr Tanaka is known to the speakers.
- c) If the place comes at the beginning of the sentence and is felt to be the topic, ni is followed by wa. For example, Koko ni wa hon ga arimasen ('There are no books here [but there may be somewhere else]').
- d) 'Nothing' and 'nobody' are expressed by using nanimo and daremo, respectively, and a negative verb.
- e) Note that in clauses with ga ('but'), such as Sumimasen ga, ... ('I'm sorry, but ...'), the comma is always after ga.

Checklist 24

sumimasen	I'm sorry
ga	but
hiki-dashi	drawer (from hiku, 'pull', and dasu, 'take out')
kaigi-shitsu	conference room (from kaigi, 'conference', and -shitsu, 'room')

FLUENCY PRACTICE 24

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Hoteru ni wāpuro ga arimasen.
- 2 Sumimasen ga, sukkiyaki ga arimasen.
- 3 Tsuji-san wa imasen ka.
- 4 Hiki-dashi ni nanimo arimasen.
- 5 Daremo imasen ka.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 There isn't [any] time.
- 7 Mr Yoshizawa is not [in].
- 8 I am sorry but there aren't [any] tickets.
- 9 There isn't anything in the room (or: There is nothing in the room). (Use ni wa.)
- 10 Nobody is in the conference room. (Use ni wa.)

Structure 25: de ('by', 'with', etc.)

Pen de tegami o kakimasu.

I write letters with a pen.

Funabin/kōkūbin de kozutsumi o okurimasu.

I send a parcel by seammil/airmail.

Nihon-go de hanashimashō.

Let's speak in Japanese.

Jidō-sha de jimu-sho ni ikimasu.

I go to the office by car.

CHECKNOTES 25

- a) De ('with', 'using', 'by', 'in') indicates the object used to do something. It follows the noun.

Checklist 25

hanasu	speak
harau	pay
chika-tetsu	underground (from chika, 'underground', and -tetsu, 'iron')
Eigo	English (language)
fakkusu-bun	fax message
funa-bin	seamail (from fune, 'boat', 'ship', and -bin, 'mail')
jidō-sha	car (from jidō, 'automatic', and -sha, 'vehicle')
kōkū-bin	airmail (from kōkū, 'aviation', and -bin, 'mail')
kozutsumi	parcel
Nihon-go	Japanese (language)
Nihon'en	Japanese Yen
Rimujin Basu	Limousine Bus (airport bus between Narita Airport and Tokyo)
Shinkansen	Bullet Train
takushi	taxi

FLUENCY PRACTICE 25

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Eigo de fakkusu-bun o kakimasu.
- 2 Rimujin Basu de Narita Kūkō ni ikimashō.
- 3 Nihon'en de kanjō o haraimashita.
- 4 Sijimisu-shachō wa hikō-ki de kaerimashita.
- 5 Denwa de Nihon-go de hanashimashita.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I wrote the report on the word processor.
- 7 I'm going to Ōsaka by Bullet Train.
- 8 Let's go by underground.
- 9 He made a speech in Japanese.
- 10 I'll go back to the hotel by taxi.

Structure 26: de ('in', 'at', etc.)

Resutoran de aimashō.

Let's meet at the restaurant.

CHECKNOTES 26

- a) De is also used to indicate the place where an action occurs. But remember: if the verb is aru or iru, you need to use ni to indicate the place where the things or people are.

Checklist 26

kaeru	change (something)
okonau	hold, carry out
asa-gohan	breakfast (from asa, 'morning', and gohan, 'rice', 'meal')
hoferu no heya	hotel room
kiji	(newspaper) article
kōjō	factory
toshokan	library

FLUENCY PRACTICE 26

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Watashi wa hikō-ki de hon o yomimashita.
- 2 Kōbe de kaigi o okonaimashita.
- 3 Shinbun kisha wa tosho-kan de kiji o kakimashita.
- 4 Kaisha no genkan de aimashō.
- 5 Kōjō de kikai no shashin o torimashō.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 I had (literally, 'ate') breakfast at the airport.
- 7 Let's talk in that café.
- 8 I changed [some] money at the bank.
- 9 Let's meet at Yoyogi station.
- 10 Let's watch television in the hotel room.

Structure 27: ni (expressions of time)

Nan-ji ni okimasu ka. Shichiji ni okimasu.

What time do you get up? I get up at 7.00.

Nan-ji ni dekakemasu ka. Hachi-ji ni dekakemasu.

What time do you set out? I set out at 8.00.

CHECKNOTES 27

- a) **NI** ('at') indicates the time when something happens. It is only used when specific times are involved. It is not used with some common words like **kyō** ('today') and **raishū** ('next week'). **NI** is usually needed if numbers, such as '3 o'clock', are quoted.

Checklist 27

dekakeru	set out, leave
hajimaru	(something) begins; but hajimeru is used for '(somebody) begins (something)'
neru	go to bed; sleep
okiru	get up
owaru	(something) ends
tsuku	arrive
robī	lobby

torēdo fea

itsu

nan'yōbi

getsu-yōbi

ka-yōbi

sui-yōbi

moku-yōbi

kin-yōbi

do-yōbi

nichi-yōbi

trade fair

when?

what day of the week?

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

FLUENCY PRACTICE 27

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Nan-ji ni nemasu ka. Jū-ichi-ji ni nemasu.
- 2 Kyō wa nan'yōbi desu ka. Sui-yōbi desu.
- 3 Roku-ji ni kaisha no robī de aimashō.
- 4 Shichiji juppun-mae ni Haneda Kūkō ni tsukimashita.
- 5 Kaigi wa itsu owarimasu ka. Go-ji ni owarimasu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese:

- 6 When does the meeting begin? It begins at 10.15.
- 7 When does it end? It ends at 10.45.
- 8 When does the trade fair begin? It begins on Tuesday.
- 9 What time will [you] arrive? [I]'ll arrive at 4.50.
- 10 The section head attended a meeting at half past four.

Structure 28: The language of respect

Japanese contains various devices to pay respect to the person or people one is talking to or about.

- a) **VERBS** In addition to Polite verbs (see Structure 10), there are 'Humble' verbs and 'Honoric' verbs. Humble verbs talk down the importance of one's own actions and those in one's social group (for example, your company or family). Honoric verbs talk up the actions of those in another social group (for example, a guest, somebody from a company with which you want to do business, a teacher, somebody older).

There is a system for forming Humble adjectives, but it is rarely used and beyond the scope of this book.

The approach to these concepts throughout the rest of the language is more piecemeal. We will mark such items as they come up, 'Pol.', 'Hum.' or 'Hon.'. For example: **kanai** (Hum. 'my, etc. wife'); **okusan** (Hon. 'your, etc. wife').

Structure 29: Common Honorific verbs

Shachō-sama wa irasshaimasu ka.

Is the company president in?

Kyōto ni irasshaimasu ka.

Are you going to Kyoto?

O-sake de mo meshiagarimasen ka.

Won't you drink some rice wine or something?

CHECKNOTES 29

a) Here are some common Honorific verbs:

da	*de irasshaimasu	be
iru	irasshaimasu	exist
iku	irasshaimasu	go
kuru	irasshaimasu	come
suru	nasaimasu	do, make
yuu	osshaimasu	say
taberu	meshiagarimasu	eat
nomu	meshiagarimasu	drink
miru	goran ni narimasu	see
kureru	kudasaimasu	give

*Only used when a person is the subject.

b) All the above Honorific verbs have been given in the Polite present, as this is much more common than the Plain present in the case of Honorific verbs.

However, note that the Plain forms of **de irasshaimasu**, **irasshaimasu**, **nasaimasu**, **osshaimasu** and **kudasaimasu** are **de irassharu**, **irassharu**, **nasaru**, **ossharu** and **kudasaru**. For some reason, the 'r' drops out in all of the Polite forms.

In the case of common verbs such as 'be' and 'do', there tend to be separate verbs for the Humble and Honorific functions. For example, when the Polite style is being used, 'say' is usually **iimasu**, but the Humble verb 'say' is **mōshimasu** and the Honorific verb is **osshaimasu**.

Most verbs, however, form Humble and Honorific verbs using productive patterns.

Verbs not listed in Structures 29 and 30 can be turned into Humble and Honorific forms as follows. From now on, Humble and Honorific verbs in the Checklists will be marked 'Hum.' and 'Hon.'.

b) To make a Humble verb:
Remove the **-masu** ending. We will call the stem thus formed the **masu** stem. It is different from the verb stem (which always ends in a consonant in the case of a Consonant verb, and in a vowel in the case of a Vowel verb).

Put **o-** before, and the relevant form of **suru** after the **masu** stem. For example: **matsu** ('wait', Plain present) becomes **machimasu** (Polite present) and **o-machi shimasu** (Humble present).

c) To make an Honorific verb:
Put **o-** before, and the relevant form of **ni naru** after the **masu** stem. For example: **matsu** ('wait', Plain present) becomes **machimasu** (Polite present) and **o-machi ni narimasu** (Honorific present).

An alternative to this form of Honorific verb, particularly common among young people, is to use the passive. This is formed by adding **-areru** to the verb stem of a Consonant verb and **-rareru** to the verb stem of a Vowel verb. **Sareru** is the irregular form for **suru** ('do', 'make'). For example: **ikaremasu ka** ('Are you going?').

d) **OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH** The concepts of Polite, Humble and Honorific are applied not just to verbs, but also to nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs. The prefixes **o-** and **go-** often make nouns Honorific, for example: **shigoto** ('my work') but **o-shigoto** ('your work'); **benkyō** ('my studies') but **go-benkyō** ('your studies').

Checklist 29

benkyō suru
kureru
yuu

study
(somebody equal or superior) gives (me, etc.)
say; all other forms are as if the Plain
present were 'iu'; Polite present *imasu*, etc.

de mo
dochira
fuku-buchō
Makuhari Messe
o-kyaku-sama

or something (follows noun)
Pol. of *doko*, 'where?'
deputy manager
Makuhari Trade Fair ('Messe' from German)
Hon. of *o-kyaku-san*, 'guest', 'customer'
(no distinction in Japanese!)

-sama
Shitsurei desu ga,...
sō yuu

more polite than -san, 'Mr', 'Mrs', 'Miss'
Excuse me, but ...
say so

FLUENCY PRACTICE 29

Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1 Shitsurei desu ga, Igrisu no Pūritchādo-sama
(Miss Pritchard) de irasshaimasu ka.
- 2 Okazaki-sensei wa sō osshaimashita.
- 3 Dochira de Nihon-go o benkyō nasaimashita ka.
- 4 Yokohama Kikai no Takeuchi-sama ga irasshaimasu.
- 5 Suki-yaki de mo meshiagatimasen ka.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese, using Honorific forms where appropriate:

- 6 Are there any customers?
- 7 The deputy manager is in the conference room.
- 8 Are [you] going to the Makuhari Trade Fair?
- 9 Is the company president [in]?
- 10 Won't [you] watch the television?

Structure 30: Common Humble verbs

Kōkan-shu: **Fujisawa Kagaku de gozaimasu.**
Reception: This is Fujisawa Chemicals.
Deibido Sūmisu: **Sōmu-ka no Katō-san o-negai shimasu.**
David Smith: Mr Kato in the general affairs section, please.
Kōkan-shu: **Sōmu-ka no Katō de gozaimasu ne. Shōshō o-machi kudasai.**
Reception: Mr Kato in the general affairs section? Please wait a moment.

Sochira de gozaimasu.

It's there.

Yoroshiku o-negai itashimasu.

Pleased to meet you.

Kore kara mo yoroshiku o-negai shimasu.

I'll look forward to your helping me from now on.

CHECKNOTES 30

a) Here are some common Humble verbs:

da	de gozaimasu	be
aru	gozaimasu	exist
iru	orimasu	exist
iku	mairimasu	go
kuru	mairimasu	come
suru	itashimasu	do
miru	haiken shimasu	see
yomu	haiken shimasu	read
kariru	haishaku shimasu	borrow
yuu	mōshimasu	say
omou	zonjimasu	think
tazuneru	ukagaimasu	visit
kiku	ukagaimasu	hear; ask
ageru	sashi-agemasu	give
morau	itadakimasu	receive

- b) **Ne** at the end of a sentence, as in **Sōmu-ka no Katō de gozaimasu ne** ('[It]'s Mr Kato in the general affairs section [you want], isn't it?'), adds the sense of 'isn't it?', 'doesn't it?', etc., like 'n'est-ce pas?' in French. Sometimes it just indicates that the speaker is seeking the agreement of the person listening, in which case it is difficult to translate into English.
- c) **Shōsho o-machi kudasai** ('Please wait a moment') is more polite than **Chotto matte kudasai**. See Structure 34.
- d) **Sochira de gozaimasu** ('it's there') is more polite than **Soko desu**.
- e) **Yoroshiku o-negai itashimasu** ('Pleased to meet you') is the Humble form of **Yoroshiku o-negai shimasu**. The same expression is also used when asking a favour: for example, **Kore kara mo yoroshiku o-negai shimasu** ('I'll look forward to your helping me from now on'). This sounds presumptuous in English, but is normal in Japanese as it recognizes the superior position of the other person.

- f) Floors are counted in **-kai**, but there are several irregular forms.

nangai	what floor?	rokkai	sixth floor
ikkai	first floor	hakkai	eighth floor
sangai	third floor	jukkai (jikkai)	tenth floor

The Japanese refer to the ground floor as **ikkai**, the first floor as **ni-kai**, etc.

Checklist 30

ageru	give (to an equal or superior)
mairu	Consonant verb; Hum. of iku , 'go', and kuru , 'come'
oru	Hum. of iru , 'exist' (of living things)
sashi-ageru	Hum. of ageru
achira	Pol. of are , 'that (one over there)', or asoko , 'over there'
kochira	Pol. of kore , 'this (one)', or koko , 'here'
sochira	Pol. of sore , 'that (one) (already mentioned)', or soko , 'there'
isu	chair

kagaku	chemistry; in company names, 'Chemicals'
kyonen	last year
sōmu-ka	general affairs section
watakushi	Hum. of watashi , 'I', 'me'

FLUENCY PRACTICE 30

Translate the following sentences into English:

- Otearai wa achira de gozaimasu.
- Sore de wa, asatte ukagaimasu.
- Kaigi-shitsu wa ni-kai de gozaimasu.
- Sochira ni isu ga gozaimasu. Dōzo o-kake kudasai.
- Hakata ni shutchō itashimasu.

Translate the following sentences into Japanese, using Humble forms where appropriate:

- I am called Jones (**Jōnzu**).
- I'm going to Ōsaka tomorrow.
- There is a telephone over there.
- [Our] company president went to Japan last year.
- I read [your] (**Okazaki-san no**) report, Mr Okazaki.

CONVERSATION 6: Mōningu s̄abisu (‘Breakfast in a café’)

Wētōresu: Irasshaimase. Go-chūmon wa nan ni nasaimasū ka.

Deibiddo S̄ūmīsu: Mōningu s̄abisu o o-negai shimasū.

Wētōresu: Mōningu s̄abisu ni wa setto A (ē), setto B (bī), setto C (shī) to gozaimasū. Setto A wa piza tōsūto, kūrowassan, yoguruto, kōhī to orenji jūsu de, setto B wa tōsūto, sūkkurāburudo eggu, bēkon, kōhī to orenji jūsu de, setto C wa gohan, miso-shiru, medama-yaki, tsuke-mono to ni-mono de gozaimasū.

Deibiddo S̄ūmīsu: De wa setto A o o-negai shimasū.

Wētōresu: O-matase itashimashita. A setto de gozaimasū.

Deibiddo S̄ūmīsu: (When he has finished his meal) O-kanjō o o-negai shimasū.

Waitress: Hello. What would you like to order?

David Smith: I'd like a set breakfast please.

Waitress: There are Set A, Set B and Set C for set breakfast. Set A is pizza toast, croissant, yoghurt, coffee and orange juice. Set B is toast, scrambled egg, bacon, coffee and orange juice. Set C is rice, miso soup, fried egg, pickles and ni-mono.

David Smith: In that case, I'll have Set A, please.

Waitress: Sorry for keeping you waiting. Here's your Set A.

David Smith: Could I have the bill, please?

Notes on Conversation 6

- Mōningu s̄abisu** (literally, ‘morning service’) refers to a reasonably priced menu of breakfasts, available in cafés, etc.
- To (gozaimasū)** indicates that the last item in a series has been mentioned.
- O-matase itashimashita** is the Humble form of **O-matase shimashta** (‘I kept you waiting’).

d) New words:

bēkon bacon
de wa = sore de wa in that case
gohan rice
kūrowassan croissant
medama-yaki fried egg
miso-shiru miso soup
ni-mono Japanese-style boiled food
piza tōsūto pizza on a toast base
Tōsūto may be as much as an inch thick!
sūkkurāburudo eggu scrambled egg

CONVERSATION 7: Hōteru no resepushon nite: Tsūrisūto infomēshon wa doko desū ka
 (‘At the hotel reception: Where is the tourist information centre?’)

Deibiddo S̄ūmīsu: Sumimasen. Kono chikaku ni tsūrisūto infomēshon wa arimasū ka.

Ukēsuke no hito: Kono hōteru no robī ni, kaigai kara no o-kyakū-sama no tame no desūku ga gozaimasū.

Deibiddo S̄ūmīsu: Dōmo arigatō.

David Smith: Excuse me. Is there a tourist information centre near here?

Person at desk: There is a desk for visitors from abroad in the lobby of this hotel.

David Smith: Thank you.

Notes on Conversation 7

- Kaigai kara** means ‘from abroad’ and **o-kyakū-sama** means ‘guests’. **Kaigai kara** is describing **o-kyakū-sama**, so a **no** is needed to link the two. Similarly, **no** is needed to link **(o-kyakū-sama no) tame** and **desūku**. If two nouns stand together without **no**, they are nearly always a compound noun, for example: **denwa bangō** (‘phone number’).
- No tame no** means literally ‘for the purpose or benefit of ...’. It follows the noun.

c) New words:

desuku desk

dōmo arigatō thank you, more polite than **dōmo**

kaigai abroad

kono chikaku near here (literally, 'this neighbourhood')

tsūrisuto infomēshon tourist information (centre)

tsūrisuto infomēshon tourist information (centre)

CONVERSATION 8: **Kōhī de mo meshiagarimasen ka** (‘Would you like a coffee or something?’)

Toyoda: Kōhī de mo meshiagarimasen ka.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Ē, itadakimasu.

Toyoda: *Would you like a coffee or something?*

David Smith: Yes, please.

Notes on Conversation 8

a) **Ē, itadakimasu** (literally, ‘Yes, I will receive’, Hum.) is a politer way of accepting something than **o-negai shimasu**.

CONVERSATION 9: **Shinkansen no kippu o kau** (‘Buying a Bullet Train ticket’)

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Nagoya made kata-michi o ichi-mai o-negai shimasu.

Mado-guchi no hito: Shitei-seki desu ka, jiyū-seki desu ka.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Shitei-seki de o-negai shimasu.

Mado-guchi no hito: Tsugi no Nagoya-yuki wa 15(jū-go)-ji 25(ni-jū-go)-fun ni narimasu ga, yoroshii desu ka.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Hai.

Mado-guchi no hito: Kin'en-seki desu ka, kitsuen-seki desu ka.

Deibiddo Sūmisu: Kin'en-seki de o-negai shimasu.

David Smith: Single to Nagoya, please.

Person in booth: Do you want a reserved seat or a free seat?

David Smith: A reserved seat, please.

Person in booth: The next train to Nagoya is at 15:25. Is that all right?

David Smith: Yes.

Person in booth: Do you want a non-smoking seat or a smoking seat?

David Smith: Non-smoking, please.

Notes on Conversation 9

a) **Shitei-seki desu ka, jiyū-seki desu ka** means literally, ‘Is it a reserved seat, is it a free seat (that you want)?’ Note that, in Japanese, you ask two questions ‘Is it A? Is it B?’, rather than saying ‘Is it A or B?’ when offering an alternative.

b) In **Shitei-seki de o-negai shimasu** the **de** indicates that you will be travelling in a reserved seat (see Structure 26).

c) **-yuki** is a suffix meaning ‘train to ...’.

d) New words:

jiyū-seki free seat (from **jiyū da**, ‘free’, and **zaseki**, ‘seat’)

kata-michi one-way ticket

kin'en-seki non-smoking seat

kitsuen-seki smoking seat

naru (preceded by **ni**) is at (literally, ‘becomes’)

shitei-seki reserved seat

tsugi next (takes **no** if followed by noun)

yoroshii all right (Polite form of **ii**, ‘good’)