

Hello and welcome to Naruhodo Japan, the podcast for learning about the language and culture of Japan from a Nikkei perspective. I am your host, Mariko.

ようこそ。 「なるほどJAPAN」が^{はじ}始まります。日系人の^{にっけいじん}観点から^{かんてん}日本語と日本の^{にほんご}文化を^{にほん}学ぶためのポッドキャストです。ホストのマリコです。

In the episodes thus far, I have been giving example sentences when introducing words or concepts, so that one could get a sense of how it is used in Japanese. Now that you know how to say “you” and “I” in Japanese, let’s explore 10 basic sentences that you can use to talk about yourself.

Here are 10 basic sentences to get you started:

1. My name is _____
2. I am __ (country of citizenship) __
3. I live in __ (place name) __
4. I am __ (#) __ years old.
5. I have __ (#) __ siblings.
6. I study __ (subject) __.
7. I work at __ (company name) __
8. I would like to visit __ (place name) __
9. I have been to __ (place name) __
10. I like to eat __ (food name) __

As an example, I am going to fill in the blanks and state the complete sentence in Japanese.

1. My name is Lisa. ^{わたし}私 ^{なまえ}の名前はリサです。
2. I am American. ^{わたし}私は^{じん}アメリカ人です。
3. I live in Canada. ^{わたし}私は^すカナダに住んでいます。
4. I am 25 years old. ^{わたし}私は^{にじゅうごさい}二十五歳です。
5. I have 2 siblings. ^{わたし}私は^{きょうだいふたり}兄弟二人います。
6. I study Japanese. ^{わたし}私は^{にほんご}日本語の^{べんきょう}勉強をしています。 / ^{わたし}私は^{にほんご}日本語を^{べんきょう}勉強しています。
7. I work at Molson. ^{わたし}私は^{しごと}モルソンで仕事をしています。 / ^{わたし}私は^{つと}モルソンで勤めています。
8. I would like to visit Hokkaido. ^{わたし}私は^{ほっかいどう}北海道に行きたいです。
9. I have been to Tokyo. ^{わたし}私は^{とうきょう}東京に行った^{こと}事があります。
10. I like to eat curry. ^{わたし}私は^たカレーを食べるの^す(が)好きです。

For 3 of the sentences, I gave a slight variation. Let me explain what the variation is.

For #6, I study Japanese, the first way in Japanese is more literally “I am doing the study of Japanese” whereas the second way is closer to “I study Japanese”.

For #7, I work at Molson, the first way is “I work at Molson” whereas the second way is closer to “I am employed at Molson”.

For #10, I like to eat curry, you may double up on the particles which is closer to “It is curry that I like to eat”. Particles will be covered in the next episode.

Now let’s take these 10 basic sentences apart, otherwise known as diagramming sentences, so that one can get some sense of what each word is and how they are arranged in Japanese.

This portion is easier to understand with the chart I have created for the episode transcript so please visit naruhodojapan.com to download it. This may not be the proper way to diagram sentences that is taught in school but I think that this will give you a sense of what is going on in Japanese. Most sentences follow this basic order: pronoun, particle, subject/object, particle, verb (related), particle, preposition/description, verb helper (modified for casual ending), (formal) sentence ending. Some portions may not be in the sentence if it is a shorter sentence or may not be required for casual speech.

	Pronoun	Particle	Subject/ Object	Particle	Verb (related)	Particle	Preposition/ Description	Verb Helper (modified for casual ending)	(formal) Sentence Ending
	(not required)				(shorter sentences may not contain this)		(shorter sentences may not contain this)		(may not be required for casual speech)
1	Watashi	no	namae	wa			risa		desu
2	Watashi	wa					amerika- jin		desu
3	Watashi	wa	kanada	ni	sunde			i	masu
4	Watashi	wa					nijuugo- sai		desu
5	Watashi	wa	kyoudai				futari	i	masu
6	Watashi	wa	nihongo	no / wo	benkyou	wo / (nothing)		shite i	masu
7	Watashi	wa	moruson	de	shigoto / tsutomete	wo / (nothing)		shite i / i	masu
8	Watashi	wa	hokkaidou	ni	iki		tai		desu
9	Watashi	wa	toukyou	ni	itta		koto	ari	masu
10	Watashi	wa	karee	wo	taberu	no (ga)	suki		desu

To turn the formal sentences into casual sentences, remove the formal sentence ending category and change the verb helper category words as follows:

- i ⇒ iru
- shite i ⇒ shiteru

● ari ⇒ aru

To sound even more like a native Japanese person, feel free to omit the pronoun and particle that follows it for sentences 3 and 5-10. Doing so creates the following casual sentences:

3. I live in Canada. カナダに住^すんでいる。
5. I have 2 siblings. 兄^{きょうだい}弟^{ふたり}二人いる。
6. I study Japanese. 日本^{にほんご}語^{べんきょう}の勉強^をしてる。 / 日本^{にほんご}語^{べんきょう}を勉強^をしてる。
7. I work at Molson. モルソンで仕^{しごと}事^をしてる。 / モルソンで勤^{つと}めてる。
8. I would like to visit Hokkaido. 北^{ほっかいどう}海^{かい}道^{どう}に行^いきたい。
9. I have been to Tokyo. 東^{とうきょう}京^{きょう}に行^いった事^{こと}ある。
10. I like to eat curry. カレーを食^たべるの(が)好^すき。

Now that you are able to talk about yourself, let's turn these into 10 basic questions to ask another person.

Here are the 10 basic sentences turned into questions:

1. What is your name? あなたの名^な前^{まえ}は何^{なん}ですか。
2. What is your nationality? あなたは何^{なに}人^{じん}ですか。
3. Where do you live? あなたはどこに住^すんでいますか。
4. How old are you? あなたは何^{なん}歳^{さい}ですか。
5. How many siblings do you have? あなたは兄^{きょうだい}弟^{なんめい}何^{なん}名^{なん}いますか。
6. What do you study? あなたは何^{なん}の勉強^{べんきょう}を^をして^{して}ますか。 / あなたは何^{なん}を^を勉強^{べんきょう}して^{して}ますか。
7. Where do you work? あなたはどこで仕^{しごと}事^をを^をして^{して}ますか。 / あなたはどこで勤^{つと}めて^{つと}いて^{いて}ますか。
8. Where would you like to visit? あなたはどこに行^いきたい^{たい}ですか。
9. Where have you been? あなたはどこに行^いった^{こと}事^{こと}あり^{あり}ますか。
10. What do you like to eat? あなたは何^{なん}を^を食^たべる^るの(が)好^すき^すですか。

With these 10 basic sentences and questions, you should be able to have a short conversation with someone, or at least pretend to. In future episodes we will cover other subjects such as particles, numbers, and countries so that your conversations are richer and comprehension fuller.

At this point I would like to move on to the next segment but Kaa-chan Corner will not be appearing for a few episodes as there has been a death in the family and my mother has gone back to Japan for a few weeks.

Thank you for listening to Naruhodo Japan and if you liked this episode or have any questions, please leave feedback on the website naruhodojapan.com. This podcast was created by your host Mariko. Please tune in again for the next episode. Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!