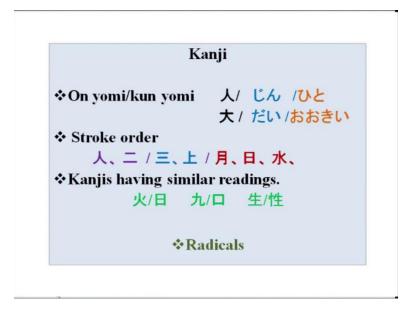
Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture Prof. Mrs. Vatsala Misra Foreign Language Program Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Lecture - 40 Basic Kanji

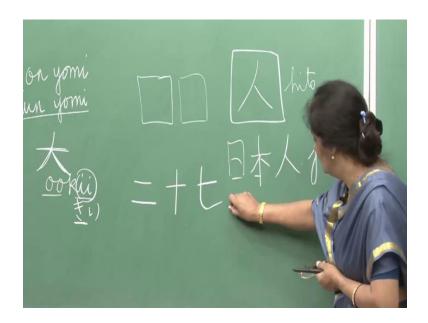
Well, hello everybody and welcome to the class once again. Last time in our class we were doing kanji. We were learning about kanji. How it has come in to beam, how it came into Japan and how it is used, what are the different ways you can understand kanji. You can look up a kanji dictionary and lot of other things. What are the readings, what is the stroke order of kanji? So, well we will continue with this in this lesson also because we were unable to complete what we were doing last time. A big chunk is still left. So, we will try to do that. I hope by going through this, by learning this and doing this class, your kanji concepts are a little clear. Though this class is not about kanji, this is not about learning kanji and writing kanji. It is just to explain to you what kanji is and how to look up a kanji dictionary.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:44)



So, well we were doing last time in our class, we did what is stroke order, what is on yomi, what is kun yomi as you can see over here on yomi and kun yomi. A quick recap on yomi and kun yomi.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:01)



Well, on yomi is what the reading is from china. The chinese reading and kun yomi is reading of the country that is the Japanese reading. Most of the time for characters as I told you last time as well, the kun yomi is used for single kanji characters and when you write two or three kanji characters, you join characters. Then, on yomi is used. There are a few characters here. You can see there is hito over here and hito if read like this as a single character is hito, and if it is read with another character for example, then it is read as jin as [FL] which you have already done. You know the word and now you can see how it is written. Then, there is another character which is given over here which is tell me what is this character. Can you tell me? We have done this a number of times. We have practiced it also. What is it? Well, this is oki oki e.

Please remember there is double o and there is a double i. Now, this double i over here when you write in roman, it looks like a double I, but it is actually ki over here and i like this. This ki is a syllable as you already know. Now, we also did stroke order last time. Kanji's can be categorized in groups by stroke order. For example, you have kanji's like ni, you have kanji's like ju, you have kanji characters like shichi also kyu. So, these are all two stroke characters and you can group them very nicely also.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:00)



You have done three stroke characters like do [FL], you have done kuchi and you have done ue. So, these are three stroke characters and again you can put them together in a group. You can see there are other characters as well over here. There is tsuki and if you count 2, 3 and 4, so it is a four stroke character. You have another character 1, 2, 3 and 4. You all know this is nichi. This is again a four stroke character. Then, you have this character which is mizu which is a four stroke character. Please remember this is one and this is a single stroke, 2, 3 and 4. So, it is a four stroke character. You can again group it in a single set.

So, well kanji's can also be grouped by stroke order and as I told you, there are about 23 strokes sometimes in a character. So, you can actually go up from 1 till 23. So, you can have these groups and you can look up the dictionary and see by stroke order. Then, you can also see by readings I had told you if you remember. For example, there are these two characters given over here hi and hi like this and this means fire, and this means day, but the reading is same. So, you can group it in one and there are so many others like this. These are once you have done. So, I am trying to cover all the simple kanji's that you have done. Then, there is another one similar sounding characters, similar reading kyu which you did just now. Then, you have kuchi which is also ku and also, you have se over here, and this means to be born or give birth to. This means gender. So, well these can be again grouped in a section. So, kanji's can be done by stroke order.

Kanji can be done by readings and also, the most important is that kanji's can be done by radicals. Now, this is something new for you. What are radicals? What is this word radical?

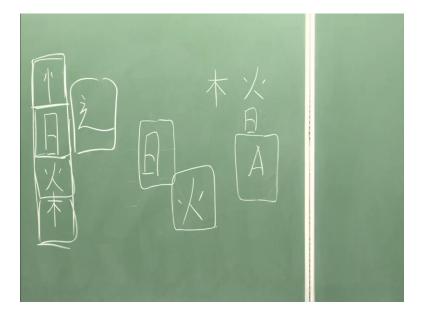
(Refer Slide Time: 08:00)

What are radicals

- · A radical is a sub-element found in kanji characters.
- · Every kanji has a radical
- · A radical itself can be a kanji

We have been doing these characters nichi.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:11)



We have done hi, we have done ki, we have also done this small character, we have done in of our kanji is we have done this character. So, when you look at these characters, what does it mean is, what does it show this. These are called radicals. Now, what does radical do? What is a radical? Well, a radical gives basic meaning to the character. For example, when you look at this character, this tells you that the kanji will have something to do with day, could be date, could be light or could be brightness. So, anything dealing with sun or with light will generally have this character in it. So, a kanji is formed with the help of radicals. Now, for example if you have, if you look at this character, this is fire. This means fire. We all know that now if there is something we want to say related to fire or heat or burning or roasting, frying, then this character will generally be there in the kanji in the pictogram. So, this is how radicals are and they tell you more about the kanji as is given over here.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:09)

Why are kanji characters important

- A radical tells about the origin of the character.
- Radicals give basic meaning and expresses the general nature of the kanji characters.
- Helps in understanding and locating the character in a dictionary.

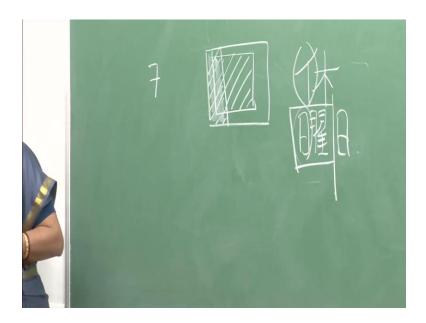
You can see via the important. Well, a radical is that part of a kanji character that tells about the origin of the character, where the character is coming from what is the basic meaning of the character. So, when you look at a character and you see the kanji, you see the radical in it. You automatically know that ok this is what the basic meaning is. This is the origin of this kanji character or pictogram. Now, radical give basic meaning and expresses the general nature of the kanji characters. They give a basic meaning, a meaning to the kanji character. Then, it also helps in understanding and locating the character in a dictionary. Now, when you look up a dictionary and you want to see a certain character, how do you go about looking a dictionary? So, either it

is by stroke order by the reading of the character or by the radical. So, these radicals are extremely important for kanji's and to understand kanji characters.

Now, either a radical is a kanji itself. For example, you can see over here these are all single kanji's. Also, these three over here, this is ki as you know, this is fire. We just did and this is nichi which is sun. So, this is a kanji itself and also a kanji will have a pictogram will have this any of these characters depending on what you want to say. Thus, radicals are important in the language in construction of kanji characters. Now, because we have so many kanji's as you know we have about approximately about 2000 kanji's in the language single kanji characters. Each kanji character will have minimum two readings because of yon yomi and kun yomi. Now, not just the two readings, but a kanji character can also have may be three or four readings. So, the combinations of these readings with each other make it really interesting also and also, a little difficult sometimes because you have to remember so many words with kanji's. So, how will you look up those characters? How will you remember those characters, with a help of these radicals. There are about 214 radicals and they are divided into seven groups.

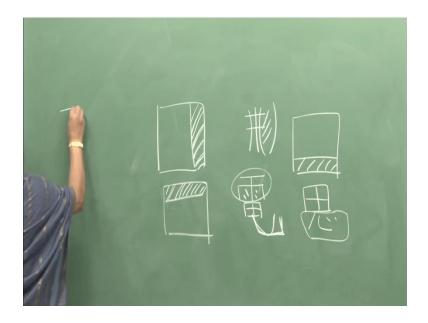
Well, they have meanings. The division is there. You do not have to learn of it. It is not that important because we are not doing kanji as such. This is just information. This is just for you to understand what kanji, what radicals are and how they are used in the language. So, now these radicals can be placed anywhere in the kanji character. Now, you would say what this is? How can you place the character anywhere you want well that is the division?

(Refer Slide Time: 14:08)



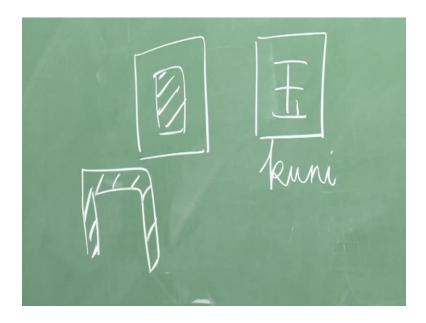
They are seven places you can put these kanji characters. For example, if you have this square, there you have to write a kanji. The kanji character can be on the left side of the character and the character could be here. This would be the radical and this would be the kanji. So, the whole kanji would look like this, something over here one. Now, you would say where is it that we have done this kind of a character? Well, you have done this. If you remember we have done this. So, this is the radical over here, this is the radical over here and this is how the whole character is made. Now, we could also have the radical somewhere else. Now, where could that be? Well, it could also be on this side of the kanji character. Now, which one would that be? You have done the word, but you have not done the character. Well, it is nigyo. So, this is the radical.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:26)



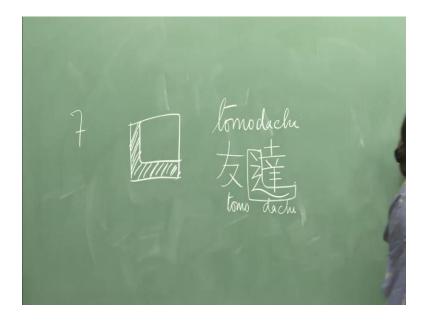
So, it could also be on the right side as well now it could also be on top of the character. Now, which character is that one can you tell me you have done this character and you know the word? Let me see if you can figure it out. Well, the character is densha. See over here 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 13 like this. So, well this is another on top, another radical on top. So, you can have the radical over here is. Well, now you can also have the radical here. I think we have done the verb. Let me see if you remember it. Do you well I will tell you it is [FL]. Do you remember doing this? This is a field [FL], and then floor. This is over here like this and incidentally though we have not done, you know the word this is kokoro meaning heart. This is a simple one. So, you can just remember it like that, and then also we said seven over here. So, we have done how many 1 2 3 and 4. We still need to do three more. Let us see what are those?

(Refer Slide Time: 17:54)



You could also have the character inside a box, something over here. What is the character that you have done? Well, this is kuni. Look at this one and this kuni meaning kuni. So, you could also have it like this. You could also have it like this over here. There are lots of such divisions. If you remember doing the word niku, well like this and like this. So, you need to make this first 1 2 and 3 niku. Niku means meet.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:52)



You could also have the radical here in a kanji character. Now, what would that be? Well, one two three and [FL] that is spacious. You can also have the character in this place. Now, what is the word that we have done with this? We have done [FL] and 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 oise tomo and da chi. This is the character that we would be talking about in the beginning. This is how it will come now. What is the meaning of this character? This means passing through, going through.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:57)

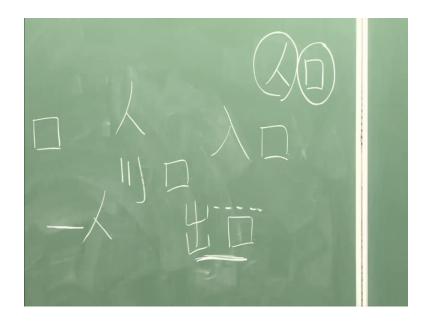


So, when you look at the kanji character, you are very sure that the meaning could be from this. Now, all these are listed over here for you to go over and revise. All the characters that we have done here have been covered in class, and there are more kanji characters which you can see for top which is hana for pun. Again over here which is minutes and for sen [FL] or [FL] or ahead. You can see these characters over here. So, well this is about radicals. This is about just to give you a small idea as to what radicals are. I am sure by now you are a little comfortable with radicals and what it means how it is written there are different names of course for these radicals, and as you can see there are about 214 radicals divided into seven sections, seven groups.

I just now told you where all the radicals can be in a kanji, why these are important that also you know. Simple kanji's can be shown very nicely. It can be understood, but when you start to show an idea when it becomes abstract, then joining kanji's is very important. You have to join a

number of characters and make one character out of it and that is when the radical is very helpful. That is where exactly it is coming from and what the meaning of the character is. Now, you would say why it is important to learn kanji, what is the big thing about kanji and why can't we sort of remove kanji completely and do just hiragana, why kanji, when it is so difficult and when some people may not find it very interesting?

(Refer Slide Time: 22:18)



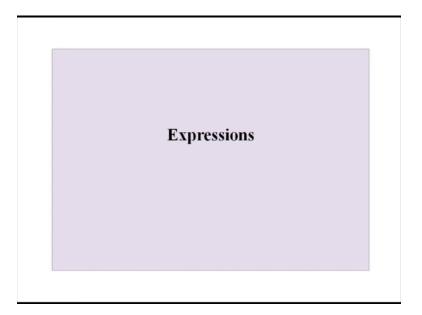
Well, if you understand kanji, then if you understand radicals, you understand kanji. You learn it properly, you study it properly, then it is not as difficult as it seems. You can talk to people; you can communicate with people easily if you know kanji's. For example, if you know that this is kuchi, it looks like a mouth. You understand what it is. So, the moment you see kuchi and if you know the meaning of this character which means to enter even if you do not know the word. That entrance is something in Japanese you see this written somewhere, you will automatically understand that this means entrance. In a similar way if you know the meaning of this character which is [FL] to go out and of course, we know the meaning of this one which is mouth or entrance or a hole or a cave, then you know that this means it is exit. So, in such cases it is very interesting how kanji's can be useful and helpful. You can also talk to the Chinese people. Knowing a few kanji's you can enquire about exit and you can enquire about these entrances, all these kind of the things and talk to them.

For example, if you know this character hito which is person and you know this is one. So, if you see something written like this for example only one person is allowed and something like this is written, then you know only one person can go in or can do this work. Such places kanji's are helpful. Now, you know the meaning of this. What does this mean can you tell me? All of you just think about it for few minutes and let me see what do you have to say about this? This is person and this is mouth kuchi. What could it be? Well, very simple people and mouth. So many mouths to feed that is jinko which is population. So, this is how kanji is helpful. It is interesting and nice to learn as well another character which is given over there also is kava which is a river. As you already know and again kuchi.

So, when you see this written, of course the reading is [FL] for a name, but when you see this written what comes to your mind? Well, you can easily say that this is mouth of a river, the source of the river where it is coming from. So, this way kanji's are quite interesting. Now, we have done enough kanji. I think we have learnt a lot of things in our 40 lectures. This is our last lecture and it has been a wonderful experience teaching all of you, communicating with all of you doing a lot of things that I had promised I will do, and I hope that all of you have really enjoyed the classes. You have learnt a lot and you have gained more confidence after doing these lectures, you can talk more freely with the Japanese, not only in a given situation, not only by learning just these dialogues, but also by learning the language you are able to talk, you are able to converse freely, you feel you can use expressions, you can use that all we have done in our classes and have enjoyed as much as I have.

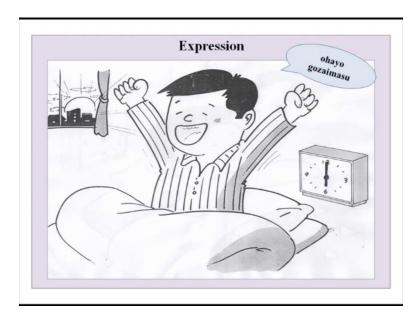
So, well before finishing there is something very small here for you. There is a small [FL] is greetings, [FL] is songs. There is a small song over here and with the help of the song we will do some expressions. You have covered some and we will do some over here. We will revise them once again. The [FL] is very sweet. You can just listen to it. It is on the net. It is [FL] and it is very interesting, done very nicely. You have enamel characters over there and with help of those characters, we learn expressions. So, well listen to this [FL] carefully, and then I will do all the expressions once again with you.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:20)



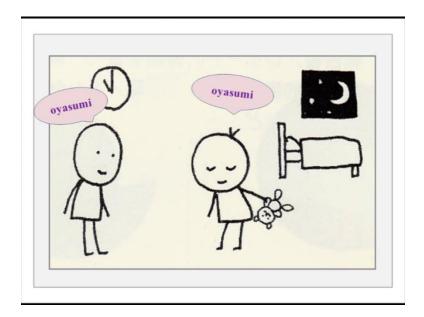
So, well how was the song? I hope you enjoyed it and you could catch a few phrases, a few expressions there.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:30)

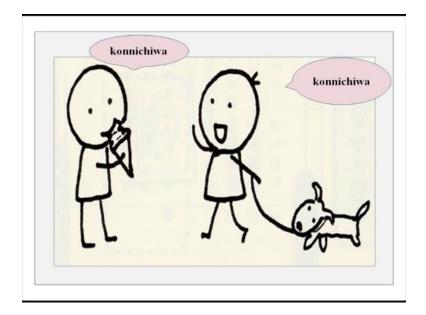


The first one that came up was tell me what it was? Well, what does it look like it is 6 o'clock [FL]. Well, [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 31:47)



[FL] before going to bed means good night. [FL] only [FL] is given which is informal. It is [FL]. (Refer Slide Time: 32:27)



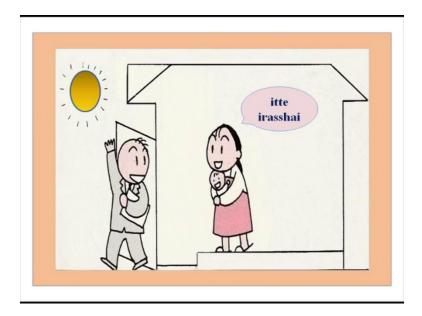
Then, the third one was [FL] is to be used during the day after 10 o'clock till probably 5 o'clock in the evening, [FL] or 6 o'clock in the evening depending on whether it is winter or summer. [FL] means good day and you can see both of them say [FL] Tanaka san as well as Mary ko san. She is having ice cream. So, well [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 33:02)



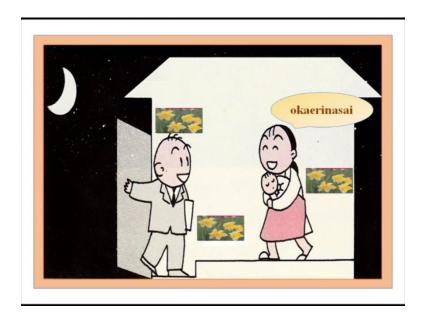
Then, in the evening as you can see there are stars over here. [FL] once it gets dark, then it is [FL] and please see the way you bend, the way you bow and you say [FL] to someone who is a little older to you or senior in rank and position. Not only for [FL], it is also for [FL] and [FL]. So, you bend like this, and then you do your [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 33:40)



Now, this is very cultural and everywhere in Japan anytime you leave house, well you will say [FL]. I will go and come and the person who is in the house generally the wife says [FL]. Please go quickly and come back. So, this is all over Japan. Of course, we do say a lot of things in English, but it is not a single phrase. So, well this is a single phrase over here [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 34:21)



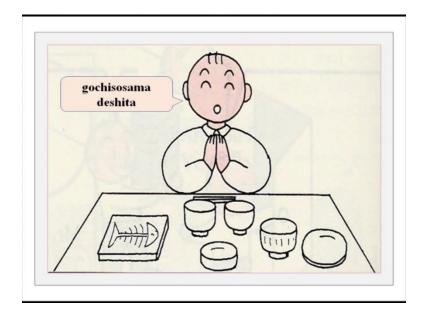
Then, when you return in the night, your wife is at home waiting for you or your mother is at home waiting for you. You would say I am back which is [FL] and it is a little high [FL], and then the person who is in that home says [FL] as we have already done in our class.

(Refer Slide Time: 34:54)



Then, again when you start to eat something, when you have your food, before eating food you would say [FL] is thank you god for all the food that you are giving me or have given me. All these phrases please are used all over Japan by everybody. So, it is not that one person is using and the other person is using something else in a similar situation. No, all the time same phrases are used in this situation. So, try to remember them and use them as much as you can [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 35:39)



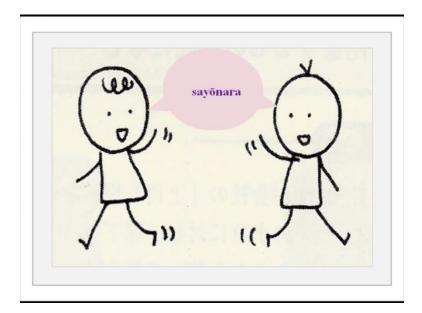
Then, once you have eaten, you are through with your meals, well what you say thank you god again for having given me this good food and the phrase is [FL]. Thank you very much for the good food. So, these are very important expressions and you must use them, you must revise them. They are interesting and they are very easy to learn, easy to use in all situations.

(Refer Slide Time: 36:21)



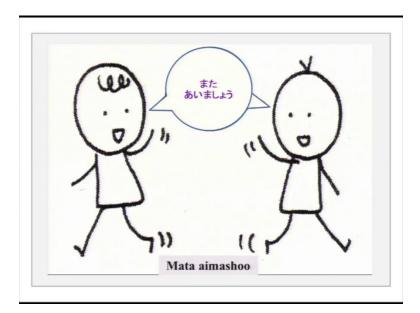
Then, a simple expression like thank you which is [FL] Arigato, and then you also have [FL]. Now, this is a little polite, this is informal, and then the most polite of them all is [FL]. So, well when you are with your friends, you could just say [FL] also. You could say [FL], then if you are in a formal situation, you have not met the person well [FL] and in a very formal situation to people who are very senior to you [FL] and because it is raining and he has a [FL] already. Thus, [FL] is please take, and actually dozo means given a permission, granted from the action that a person is performing. You can understand very clearly what the permission is about over here. Dozo means please take the umbrella and [FL] is thank you for giving me this umbrella.

(Refer Slide Time: 38:06)



Then, we have [FL] of course which all of you know and [FL] is a formal final good bye. So, people generally avoid using [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 38:25)



They generally say [FL] or [FL] which we have been doing in our lessons or [FL]. See you again tomorrow [FL] means again and [FL] means tomorrow. So, see you again tomorrow.

Kinō no yūmei no tsuzuki o mi ni ikō

Then, the [FL] says is yesterday, [FL] is dream. Let us continue our dream. Let us go and see what is there for us in the dream.

(Refer Slide Time: 39:11)



So, well then again there is more in the [FL] in the song and what is this. This is something new and we just did it very recently in one of our recent lessons. [FL] hi sashi buri ne means seeing

you after a very long time shiba raku ne [FL]. So, well please remember these both. These mean exactly the same [FL] or [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 40:11)



Then, we have one more over here which is [FL]. Are you in good health? I am seeing you after a long time. We are meeting after a long time and this gentlemen over here is asking over here Tanaka san is asking or Rao san is asking Tanaka san [FL] are you in good health. So, please remember about [FL] something very interesting. You do not ask people whom you meet every day [FL] are you in good health. Why? Because you know that they are doing well, they are fine and they are keeping alright. So, when you meet someone after a long time, when you meet people after a long gap, then that is when you ask [FL]. Please do not do this that asking people everyday [FL] it is not considered very nice.

(Refer Slide Time: 41:11)



Then, how do you introduce yourself in Japanese? Well, this method of introduction is all over Japan. This is all that you say when you meet someone for the first time, not after a gap, but you meet someone after a month again you start introducing yourself. No you only introduce yourself in this particular manner first time when you meet someone and what is that [FL], and then [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 41:49)



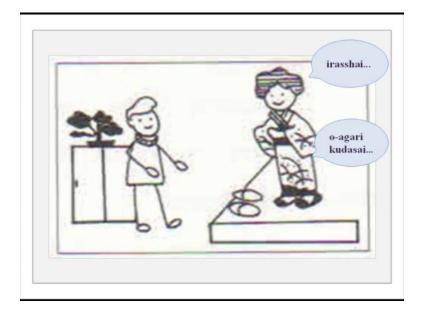
Ha jime ma shite yoro shku [FL]. So, this is only done first time when you meet someone informally. You can say [FL] and just [FL]. You do not have to repeat the whole phrase [FL] and both parties have to say exactly this [FL] over here and [FL]. So, that is how you would introduce yourself. Then, what do you do when you go to a Japanese house?

(Refer Slide Time: 43:04)



What do you do as you can see over here in this picture this is the main entrance of the house. There is a small bonsai plant over here. Lady of the house is here and this gentleman just entered and there are slippers, and this is a small elevated portion where you have to step up and enter the house. So, what do you say and what do you do? Well, the first thing that you have to do is you will say [FL] when you are entering the house that I am intruding on your privacy, and then you remove your sandals. That is the first thing that you do over here. You remove your sandals over here, wear these sandals, and then enter the house. That is extremely important. Why? Because the Japanese sit on floors, they sit on the floor, they eat on the floor or they sleep on the floor, and if you get dirty sandals or shoes inside, then it dirty the floor and it is not clean. So, the best thing to do is to remove your shoes outside, wear separate sandals of the house, and then walk in. So, what do you say over here? [FL] as I just told you. That is the first expression; that is the first phrase that you will say when you enter someone's house or about to enter someone's house. [FL] means to be in the way to disturb someone [FL] and o is onreffic, [FL] I am intruding on your privacy, and then what does the lady of the house say.

(Refer Slide Time: 45:00)



You have done this expression. You have practiced. It says [FL] is also used meaning please dozo. Please come inside. [FL] step up and come inside is also used [FL] is a normal expression for welcome.

(Refer Slide Time: 45:28)



In the [FL] you have [FL], and [FL]. So, well the girl is coming and the two lines over there say nice to see. You welcome to our house and [FL] after having visited them, after having stayed

with them instead of saying [FL] which is again I am sorry I have troubled you, now I am about to leave [FL] verb in past tense. You say [FL] meaning [FL] means I am leaving now very polite. So, this is the song which has a lot of expressions. There are lots of things, lot of expressions that we were unable to do. Lot of things we were unable to do, but well if you are able to manage this much, then that is pretty good and you will feel very comfortable.

(Refer Slide Time: 46:38)

Go aiatsu no uta

Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa, Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa,

Itte kimasu, Itte rasshai, Tadaima, Okaeri nasai, Itadaki masu, Gochisou sama, "lala lala, "Arigatō......

Sayōnara, Oyasumi, Mata ashita, Kinō no yūmei no tsuzuki o mini ikō.

This is the [FL] you can see [FL] is given [FL].

(Refer Slide Time: 47:00)

Go aiatsu no uta

Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa

Gobusata, Hisashiburi, Ogenki desu ka? Hajimemashite, Yoroshiku, Ojamashimasu, Irasshai, Youkoso, Shitsurei shimashita. Dō itashi mashite, Oitoma shimasu.

Sayōnara, Oyasumi, Mata ashita, Kinō no yūmei no tsuzuki o mini ikō.

> Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa Ohayō, Oyasumi, Konnichiwa, Konbanwa

Then, we have again repetition of the chorus. [FL] I have not met you for a long time [FL] and [FL]. You have done [FL] meaning I will excuse myself now and again you have the chorus over here. You can go over the [FL] again and again, and memorize this one. It is interesting and cute. So, with this I will end our lectures today. It has been a wonderful experience being with you, telling you about Japan, about Japanese people, about how they live, how they interact. I have promised a lot of things and we have done number of them. We were unable to cover a few as it is not possible to do all in this short span of 40 minutes and 40 lectures. There is lot more to learn. We did how to tell name, how to tell time, date and day. If you go to a post-office, how do you ask for stamps, if you go to a bank what would you say, if you want to know what day is or date it is what would you say, and then if you want to enquire about someone's date of birth, someone's birthday how to give presents.

Also, we have done a lot of verb forms, we have covered a number of verb forms and what to say in a situation we have done all of that. For example, we have done the past form, the present form, the negative form, the past-negative forms; we have done how to say collectively. Let us do a certain thing, and then we have learnt how to say, how to request, how to tell about present continuous, how to tell the time, not sure about a certain thing how to tell about I think about a certain thing in this manner, how to tell about your doubts, we have how to tell that I have the ability I can perform a certain activity. So, all those things we have done. I have also told you

about proverbs as how to use these proverbs in these kotowaza in the language, what is the meaning of these kotowaza, then we have also done expressions, we did a lot of expressions just now in this class as well. Then, we have also done culture where you have learnt about different festivals, about different things the Japanese do, interesting things the Japanese do. I hope that you will benefit from this class and you have enjoyed this journey, and you will feel more comfortable in talking with the Japanese people.

One thing before I part, I would like to tell you do not hesitate to talk in Japanese even if you make a mistake. It does not matter as you are learning a language. You are doing something new and you are trying to speak a language which you are not comfortable in. So, please do not hesitate even when you are talking to native speakers. Just go ahead and speak and once you do that, that confidence is immense and it helps you speak better. So, all the best to all of you and I hope you enjoyed and hope that sometime in the future we might meet once again.

Well, good bye and thank you very much.