

Basics 1: Greetings and Key Phrases

Basic Expressions

1 of 7

おはようございます。

Ohayō gozaimasu.

Good morning.

For formal situations like a workplace, or with superiors or strangers.

※Be sure to extend the 'ō' sound. The final 'u' is almost silent.

おはよう。

Ohayō.

Good morning.

For informal situations; with friends.

こんにちは。

Konnichiwa.

Hello.

For formal or informal situations.

Basic Expressions

2 of 7

こんばんは。

Konbanwa.

Good evening.

For formal or informal situations

おやすみなさい。

Oyasumi nasai.

Good night.

For formal situations.

おやすみ。

Oyasumi.

Good night.

For informal situations.

さよなら。
Sayōnara.
Goodbye.

For formal or informal situations.

ではまた。
Dewa mata.
See you.

For formal situations.

またね。
Mata ne.
See you.

For informal situations.

ありがとうございます。
Arigatō gozaimasu.
Thank you.

For formal situations.

ありがとうございました。
Arigatō gozaimashita.
Thank you.

For formal situations. Used especially for situations where someone has already done something for you. The ending, 'mashita' is the past tense marker.

どうもありがとうございます。
Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu.
Thank you very much.

For formal situations.

どうも。

Dōmo.

Thanks.

(Informal) Used to thank someone for a small favor.

ありがとう。

Arigatō.

Thank you.

For informal situations.

いえいえ。

Ie ie.

You're welcome.

Basically translates as "Not at all." "Ie" is repeated twice, but because it's said very fast, the vowel "i" becomes short, so "ie" becomes "ie".

ちらこそ、ありがとうございます。
Kochirakoso arigatō gozaimasu.

You're welcome.

Roughly equal to saying "Thank YOU!"—emphasis on you.
For formal situations.

すみません。
はい。

Sumimasen.

Hai.

Excuse me.

It's OK.

'Sumimasen' can be used to catch a person's attention to talk to them or to say sorry for small things.

ごめんなさい。
いいえ。

Gomennasai.

lie.

Sorry.

It's OK.

'lie' literally means 'no'.

いただきます。

Itadakimasu.

Bon Appétit.

This literally means, "I receive (the food)." We say this to the person who is treating us to the meal or the person who prepared it.

ごちそうさまでした。

Gochisōsama deshita.

Thanks for the meal.

This means, "It was a wonderful meal." We say this to the person who has treated us or to the person who prepared it at the end of a meal.

どうぞ。

Dōzo.

Used to offer something.

For informal situations.