

Basics 2: More Key Phrases

Basic Expressions 2

1 of 5

Wakarimasu *to understand*

Wakarimasu ka?

わかりますか。

Do you understand?

Hai, wakirimasu.

はい、わかります。

Yes, I understand.

Nihongo ga wakarimasu ka?

にほんごがわかりますか。

Do you understand Japanese?

Sukoshi wakarimasu.

すこしわかります。

I understand a little.

Wakarimasu ka?

わかりますか。

Do you understand?

Iie, wakarimasen.

いいえ、わかりません。

No, I don't understand.

Basic Expressions 2

2 of 5

Genki *well*

Ogenki desu ka?

おげんきですか。

Are you well? (How are you?)

Hai, genki desu.

はい、げんきです。

Yes, I am well.

Ogenki desu ka?

おげんきですか。

Are you well?

Hai, totemo genki desu.

はい、とてもげんきです。

Yes, I am very well.

Ogenki desu ka?

おげんきですか。

Are you well?

Maamaa genki desu.

まあまあげんきです。

I am so-so.

Ogenki desu ka?

おげんきですか。

Are you well?

Iie, genki ja arimasen.

いいえ、げんきじゃありません。

No, I am not well.

The 'o' in front of geki makes the expression more polite. Do not use it when referring to yourself.

Matte kudasai! *Please wait!*

Matte kudasai.

まってください。**Please wait!**

kudasai : please

Chotto matte kudasai.

ちょっとまってください。**One moment please.**

chotto : a little

Matte!

まって！**Wait!**

*Extremely casual. It would seem a little too abrupt or rude in most situations.

Onegaishimasu *(to request)*

Onegaishimasu.

おねがいします。**Please.**

Yukkuri onegaishimasu.

ゆっくりおねがいします。**Slowly please.**

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

よろしくおねがいします！**Please take care of me.**

There is no perfect translation of this phrase, but it is very useful for softening any requests. Think of it as saying please and thanks at the same time.

It is also used when meeting someone for the first time, meaning something like, "Please treat me kindly." or "I am indebted to you."

Daijōbu *all right, OK*

だいじょうぶですか。

Are you all right?

はい、だいじょうぶです。

Yes, I'm all right.

(formal)

だいじょうぶ。

Are you all right?

はい、だいじょうぶ。

Yes, I'm all right.

(informal)

Can be used for the following situations as well:

If a waiter asks if you need more water you can say no by replying, "Daijōbu desu."

"Is the soup too salty?" Answer "Daijōbu" to mean it is fine.