



Introduction Lesson

First Impressions

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漢字版

かなばん

ちぐさ 初めまして。私は山口ちぐさです。宜しくお願いします。
よし 初めまして。私は渡辺好博です。宜しくお願いします。

ちぐさ はじめまして。わたしはやまぐちちぐさです。よろしくおねがいします。
よし はじめまして。わたしはわたなべよしひろです。よろしくおねがいします。

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Rōmaji

Translation

Chigusa Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Yamaguchi Chigusa desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
Yoshi Hajimemashite. Watashi wa Watanabe Yoshihiro desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

Chigusa Nice to meet you. I am Chigusa Yamaguchi. Please be kind to me.
Yoshi Nice to meet you. I am Yoshihiro Watanabe. Please be kind to me.



Vocabulary - 単語

Kanji	Kana	Rōmaji	English
初めまして	はじめまして	hajimemashite	How do you do?
私	わたし	watashi	I
宜しく	よろしく	yoroshiku	well
お願いします	おねがいします	onagai shimasu	please
山口	やまぐち	Yamaguchi	Yamaguchi (surname)
渡辺	わたなべ	Watanabe	Watanabe (surname)

Grammar Points

3 The expression “*Hajimemashite.*” is derived from the verb *hajimeru* - to begin. Literally translated, the expression means “for the first time.” As the phrase is used when you meet someone for the first time, however, an accurate English interpretation is “How do you do?” or “Nice to meet you./Good to meet you.” This phrase is the often the first thing said when introducing oneself, and appropriate for all politeness levels.

Watashi is the Japanese pronoun for both I/me. In Japanese, the same pronoun is used for both the subjective (I) and objective (me) case, and therefore, the intended pronoun is determined from sentence context. In today’s dialogue *watashi*, the subject, is marked by the topic particle *wa*.

Yoroshii is the polite form of the adjective *yoi* - good, nice. In today’s dialogue, *yoroshii* is it’s in adverbial form - *yoroshiku*. The expression that follows, *onagai shimasu*, is based on the verb *negau* - to wish. The expression is interpreted to mean please, and can be used as a stand alone expression when the speaker asks for something or for someone to do something. The expression *yoroshiku onagai shimasu*, can take on many different meanings depending on usage context. In today’s conversation, it is used in the context of meeting someone for the first time, and therefore, interpreted as “Please be kind to me.” as this nuance is conveyed when using this expression in this context.

Today’s lesson introduced the standard way of introducing oneself in Japanese*. When using this pattern of self introduction, the name is the only part that will differ; everything else will remain the same.

初めまして。私は_____です。宜しくお願いします。

Hajimemashite. Watashi wa _____ desu. Yoroshiku onagai shimasu.

*There are other, more polite, ways of introducing oneself in Japanese. They will be covered in later lessons.