

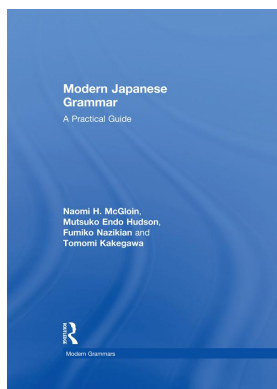
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 03 Oct 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG, UK



Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa, Sarah Butler

Asking and giving personal information

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch34>

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa

Published online on: 04 Oct 2013

How to cite :- Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa. 04 Oct 2013, *Asking and giving personal information from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 03 Oct 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch34>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms>

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

34

Asking and giving personal information

In this chapter, we will talk about different ways of asking and giving personal information. It should be noted that, in asking about others' personal information, the honorific prefix **o** or **go** is used.

▶ 29

34.1 Name

In Japan, people generally use their last (family) names. First (given) names are usually reserved for very close friends and family members. In giving your name, you can use the family name followed by the given name.

▶ 30.3

田中 (昭) です。

Tanaka (Akira) desu.

I am (Akira) Tanaka.

田中 (昭) と言います。

Tanaka (Akira) to iimasu.

I am (Akira) Tanaka.

田中 (昭) と申します。(VF)

Tanaka (Akira) to mooshimasu.

I am (Akira) Tanaka.

Mooshimasu is the humble form of **iimasu**, and hence **Tanaka (Akira) to mooshimasu** is the most polite way of giving your name among these three choices. In asking another person's name, the following expressions can be used.

失礼ですが、お名前は？ (F)

Shitsuree desu ga, o-namae wa?

Excuse me, but your name?

どちら様でしょうか。(VF)

Dochira-sama deshoo ka.

Your name, please?

お名前を伺ってもよろしいでしょうか。(VF)

O-namae o ukagatte mo yoroshii deshoo ka.

May I ask your name?

名前なんだっけ？ (I)

Namae nan da kke?

What's your name (I don't seem to remember)?

34.2 Place of origin

To give one's place of origin or ask someone else's, the noun **shusshin** 'place of origin' can be used.

京都 (の) 出身です。

Kyoto (no) shusshin desu.

I am from Kyoto.

出身は京都です。

Shusshin wa Kyoto desu.

I am from Kyoto.

ご出身はどちらですか。

Go-shusshin wa dochira desu ka.

Where are you from?

If you are talking about the country, however, **kuni** 'country' should be used.

お国はどちらですか。

O-kuni wa dochira desu ka.

What is your country?

国はアメリカです。

Kuni wa Amerika desu.

(My) country is America.

The expression 'come from' can also be used.

私は京都から来ました。

Watashi wa Kyoto kara kimashita.

I come from Kyoto.

34.3 Age or year at school

You can ask someone's age and give your own using either Japanese or Chinese numbers. Chinese numbers are followed by **-sai** 'age.' In telling age, **-sai** is generally used. Twenty years old, moreover, can be either **nijussai** or **hatachi**.

▶ 16

何歳ですか。

Nansai desu ka.

How old are you?

おいくつですか。

O-ikutsu desu ka.

How old are you?

息子は五歳です。

Musuko wa gosai desu.

My son is five years old.

34.4 Occupation or schooling level, and the area of specialization

34.4.1 Occupation

Words for occupation are **shigoto** 'work' or **shokugyoo** 'occupation.' The most common ways to ask someone's occupation include:

どんなお仕事ですか。(F)

Donna o-shigoto desu ka.

What kind of job (do you have)?

お仕事は何をしていらっしゃるんですか。(F)

O-shigoto wa nani o shite irassharu n desu ka.

What kind of work do you do?

ご職業は？(F)

Go-shokugyoo wa?

Your occupation?

どんな仕事してるの？(I)

Donna shigoto shite ru no?

What kind of work do you do?

To give your occupation, you can simply say ‘occupation + **desu**’ or ‘occupation **o shite imasu**.’ The noun **kankee no shigoto** ‘work related to’ can also be used.

弁護士です。

Bengoshi desu.

I am a lawyer.

教師をしています。

Kyooshi o shite imasu.

I am a teacher.

IT関係の仕事をしています。

IT kankee no shigoto o shite imasu.

I am in an IT-related job.

▶ 19.2.1

34.4.2

Schooling level

To give one’s schooling level or ask someone else’s, use **-nensee**. There are no special words like freshman, etc., so regular numbers **ichi**, **ni**, **san**, and **yo** are used. A college senior is **yonensee**.

(大学) 何年生ですか。

(Daigaku) nannensee desu ka.

Which year of college are you?

二年生です。

Ninensee desu.

I am a sophomore.

高校三年生です。

Kookoo sannensee desu.

I am a senior in high school.

34.4.3

Area of specialization

The word for specialization is **senmon**. For a major in school, **senkoo** can also be used. To refer to someone else’s specialization in a formal situation, the polite prefix **go-** is attached. For asking and stating a major, the verb **senkoo suru** can also be used.

ご専門は何ですか。

Go-senmon wa nan desu ka.

What is your area of specialization?

専門は外科です。

Senmon wa geka desu.

My specialty is surgery.

専攻は工学です。

Senkoo wa koogaku desu.

My major is engineering.

工学を専攻しています。

Koogaku o senkoo shite imasu.

I am majoring in engineering.

34.5 Marital status

To state your marital status, words like **kekkon shite iru** ‘be married’ or **dokushin** ‘be single’ are used.

結婚しています。

Kekkon shite imasu.

I am married.

独身です。

Dokushin desu.

I am single.

一人です。

Hitori desu.

I am single.

It is generally not polite to inquire about someone else’s marital status, but if you must, you can ask by saying **Kekkon shite irasshaimasu ka** or **Dokushin desu ka** or **O-hitori desu ka**. To refer to a person who is married or single, words such as **kikon** ‘married,’ or **mikon** ‘unmarried’ can be used.

未婚の男性
既婚者

mikon no dansee
kikonsha

unmarried male
married person

34.6 Pastimes

To ask or say what one does during one’s free time, the following expressions can be used.

暇な時には何をしますか。

Hima na toki ni wa nani o shimasu ka.

What do you do in your free time?

暇な時にはテニスをします。

Hima na toki ni wa tennisu o shimasu.

I play tennis when I have free time.

趣味は何ですか。

Shumi wa nan desu ka.

What is your hobby?

趣味は読書です。

Shumi wa dokusho desu.

My hobby is reading.

趣味は音楽を聞くことです。

Shumi wa ongaku o kiku koto desu.

My hobby is listening to music.

In the **shumi wa X desu** structure, X is a nominal. Hence, a verbal phrase has to be nominalized by **koto**, as in **kiku koto**.

▶ 18.1

34.7 Family

The word for one's family is **kazoku** and someone else's family is **go-kazoku**. To ask about someone's family, you can say,

何人家族ですか。

Nannin kazoku desu ka.

How many are in your family?

お子さんがいらっしゃいますか。

O-kosan ga irasshaimasu ka,

Do you have children?

Answers might be:

五人家族です。

Gonin kazoku desu.

There are five of us in my family.

二人子供がいます。

Futari kodomo ga imasu.

I have two children.

In Japanese, one has to distinguish between talking about one's own family and someone else's family. The following are some representative terms for each category.

	<i>Own family</i>	<i>Other's family</i>
Mother	母 haha	お母さん okaasan
Father	父 chichi	お父さん otoosan
Wife	妻 tsuma (or 家内 kanai)	奥さん okusan
Husband	夫 otto (or 主人 shujin)	ご主人 go-shujin
Daughter	娘 musume	お嬢さん ojoosan (or 娘さん musumesan)
Son	息子 musuko	息子さん musukosan (or 坊ちゃん botchan)
Older brother	兄 ani	お兄さん oniisan
Younger brother	弟 otooto	弟さん otootosan
Older sister	姉 ane	お姉さん oneesan
Younger sister	妹 imooto	妹さん imootosan
Grandmother	祖母 sobo	おばあさん obaasan
Grandfather	祖父 sofu	おじいさん ojiisan
Aunt	おば oba	おばさん obasan
Uncle	おじ oji	おじさん ojisan
Parents	両親 ryooshin	ご両親 go-ryooshin