

# ❖ Lesson 1

## Making Small Talk

---

「話題作り」

# Challenge!

**Work in pairs.**

**It's your first time to meet each other.  
Introduce yourselves and have small talk  
to continue the conversation.**

## Small Talk 「話題作り」

For Japanese people, silence between conversations is acceptable. However, for many foreign people, silence is uncomfortable. Small talk is a good way to fill the silence.

英語の会話では、できるだけ沈黙を作らないのが礼儀のひとつです。沈黙によって、その場に緊張感がうまれたり、居心地が悪くなるのを避けるためです。スモールトークでは、深刻な話や難しい問題を話題にしないほうがいいでしょう。

- *The following are some examples of small talk topics.*

## ■ Hobbies (趣味の話)

1. **Do you like** golfing?

## ■ Holidays and Vacations (休日休暇の話)

2. **What are you doing for** Golden Week?
3. **Do you have plans for** your summer vacation?

## ■ Customs (異文化習慣の話)

4. **What do people in the States usually do** on New Year's Day?

\* **Note: Topics on politics, history and religion should be avoided.**

政治問題や歴史問題、宗教問題は避けるのが賢明です。

*Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

## ■ Dialog 1:

A: Mr. Benhoff, **do you like** golfing?

B: Yes. I like it very much.

A: How often do you play?

B: Once or twice a week.

*Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

## ■ Dialog 2:

A: **Do you have plans for** Golden Week?

B: Yes. I'm going to stay with my wife's family in Kagoshima.

How about you?

*Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

## ■ Dialog 3:

A: **What do people in** the States **usually do** on New Year's Day?

B: We usually stay home with family.  
What about people in Japan?

## Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation. Then, use the words and phrases to practice small talk with your partner.*

### ■ Hobbies

- going to concerts
- watching baseball
- viewing traditional art
- to be really into it
- not to like it so much
- not so often / never

### ■ Holidays and Vacations

- to play with my children
- to go to a hot spring
- to stay home and watch DVDs
- to visit my relatives
- to go on a trip to Hawaii
- to work throughout the week

## Words & Phrases

- *Go through the words and phrases with your instructor.*
- *Pay attention to pronunciation and intonation. Then, use the words and phrases to practice small talk with your partner.*

### ■ Customs

- to have a special dinner
- to see family and friends
- to give presents
- to buy a special thing
- to visit a temple or a shrine
- to take a memorial picture

### ■ Other Topics

- I hear you are a good singer / swimmer / golfer.
- Have you tried Japanese fast food / sake / rotating sushi?
- You have a nice watch / bag / cell phone. Who makes it?

# ★ Practice

- *Fill in the blanks with the phrases in the blue box. Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

1. A: **Do you like \_\_\_\_\_ing?**

B: \_\_\_\_\_.

A: **How often do you \_\_\_\_\_?**

B: \_\_\_\_\_.

A: **(Extra Questions).**

B: **(Respond to the Questions).**

## ■ Hobbies

- going to concerts
- watching baseball
- viewing traditional art
- to be really into it
- not to like it so much
- not so often / never

# ★ Practice

- *Fill in the blanks with the phrases in the blue box. Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

2. A: **Do you have plans for  
(Golden Week)?**

B: **Yes. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.  
How about you?**

A: **I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_.**

B: **(Ask Questions).**

A: **(Respond to the Questions).**

## ■ Holidays & Vacations

- to play with my children
- to go to a hot spring
- to stay home and watch  
DVDs
- to visit my relatives
- to go on a trip to Hawaii
- to work throughout the  
week

# ★ Practice

- *Fill in the blanks with the phrases in the blue box. Practice the dialogs with your partner.*

3. A: **What do people in the State usually do on \_\_\_\_\_?**

B: We usually \_\_\_\_\_.

**What about people in Japan?**

A: We usually \_\_\_\_\_.

B: (Ask Questions).

A: (Respond to the Questions).

## ■ Customs

- to have a special dinner
- to see family and friends
- to give presents
- to buy a special thing
- to visit a temple or a shrine
- to take a memorial picture

# ★ Practice

- *Use the following patterns to practice. Change the underlined parts to the phrases in the blue box or your own ideas.*

4a. A: I hear you are a good singer.

B: I don't know about that, but I do like singing.

A: (Ask questions).

B: (Respond to the Questions).

## ■ Other Topics

- I hear you are a good singer / swimmer / golfer.
- Have you tried Japanese fast food / sake / rotating sushi?
- You have a nice watch / bag / cell phone.  
Who makes it?

# ★ Practice

- *Use the following patterns to practice. Change the underlined parts to the phrases in the blue box or your own ideas.*

4b. A: **Have you tried Japanese fast food?**

B: **Yes. I've tried tachigui-soba.  
I liked it very much.**

A: **(Ask Questions).**

B: **(Respond to the Questions).**

## ■ Other Topics

- I hear you are a good singer / swimmer / golfer.
- Have you tried Japanese fast food / sake / rotating sushi?
- You have a nice watch / bag / cell phone.  
Who makes it?

# ★ Practice

- *Use the following patterns to practice. Change the underlined parts to the phrases in the blue box or your own ideas.*

4c. A: **You have a nice watch.**

**Who makes it?**

B: **Thank you. It's a Seiko.**

A: **(Ask Questions).**

B: **(Respond to the Questions).**

## ■ Other Topics

- I hear you are a good singer / swimmer / golfer.
- Have you tried Japanese fast food / sake / rotating sushi?
- You have a nice watch / bag / cell phone.  
Who makes it?

# ★ Pair Work

- *Work with your partner. Practice introducing yourselves as the following people. Use small talk to keep the conversation going.*
- 

1. **Person A:** Bill Gates, Chairman of the Microsoft Corporation.  
Leader of the computer software industry.  
Likes tennis and reading.

**Person B:** Yourself

---

2. **Person A:** Tadashi Yanai, CEO of Fast Retailing, also known as Uniqlo. Very good at golf and has made a hole in one.

**Person B:** Yourself

# ★ Pair Work

- *Work with your partner. Practice introducing yourselves as the following people. Use small talk to keep the conversation going.*
- 

3. **Person A:** Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman of Facebook.

Likes reading and travelling.

**Person B:** Yourself

---

4. **Person A:** Shohei Ohtani, a professional baseball player.

Likes reading books and watching sports.

**Person B:** Yourself



## Japanese Terms in English 英語で言うと？

The following are some Japanese words that may be difficult to explain in English. Each translation is just an example of how to say the Japanese word in English. Work with your partner and think of other words and expressions and translate them into English.

### ■ Annual Events

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • 新年会 (shinenkai)    | New Year's party             |
| • 忘年会 (bonenkai)     | year-end party               |
| • お花見 (hanami)       | cherry blossom viewing party |
| • 社員旅行 (shainryokou) | company trip                 |
| • 納会 (noukai)        | closing session of the year  |



# Japanese Terms in English 英語で言うと？

## ■ At IZAKAYA

- 居酒屋 (izakaya) Japanese style pub
- 突き出し (tsukidashi) a small appetizer that comes with the first drink
- 熱燗 (atsukan) warmed sake
  
- 「とりあえず、それで」 (Toriaezu sorede) “That’s all for now.”
- 「ここは私が」 (Kokowa watashi ga) “It’s on me.”