



Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

Podcast 21: Conversation starters

In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ Typical phrases and vocabulary Japanese people use to start conversations
- ✓ Some useful small talk dialogs which you can use with your Japanese friends.

LEVEL: Upper Beginner

SITUATION: You strike up a conversation with your friend whom you haven't seen in a while.



Introduction

This podcast episode is about various phrases you can use to start up a conversation in Japanese. It is important to remember that each conversation is unique and how you start one depends on who you are talking to and the situation. However, in this episode you will hear some of the most common phrases you are likely to hear used by Japanese people. One final thing to remember is that this episode focuses on casual conversations between friends.

Main Vocabulary

Here is a full vocabulary list taken from the podcast

Japanese	Pronunciation	English
久しぶり	<i>Hisashiburi</i>	Long time no see
元気？	<i>Genki?</i>	How you doing?
相変わらず	<i>Aikawarazu</i>	...as usual
バタバタしてる	<i>Batabata shiteru</i>	Really busy / hectic
夏バテ	<i>Natsubate</i>	Exhaustion from the summer
つらい	<i>Tsurai</i>	Tough
最近どう？	<i>Saikin dō?</i>	How've you been?
すごく暑い	<i>Sugoku Atsui</i>	Very hot
すごく寒い	<i>Sugoku Samui</i>	Very cold
熱中症	<i>Necchūshō</i>	Heat stroke
風邪をひいちゃった	<i>Kaze o hiichatta</i>	I caught a cold
インフルエンザ	<i>Infuruenza</i>	Influenza
気をつけてね	<i>Ki o tsukete ne</i>	Take care



Dialog 1

A:	久しぶり元気？	<i>Hisashiburi genki</i>	Long time no see, you good?
B:	元気だよ。あみは？	<i>Genki da yo. Ami wa?</i>	I'm good. And you Ami?
A:	相変わらずバタバタしているよ。最近どう？	<i>Aikawarazu batabata shiteru yo. Saikin dō?</i>	Busy as usual. How've you been?
B:	そうだね。ちょっと夏バテが辛い。	<i>Sō da ne. Chotto natsubate ga tsurai.</i>	Well, I've been suffering due to the summer heat.
A:	最近はすごく暑いよね。熱中症にならないように気をつけてね。	<i>Saikin wa sugoku atsui yo ne. Necchūshō ni naranai yō ni ki o tsukete ne.</i>	It's been really hot recently hasn't it? Be careful not to get heat stroke.
B:	はい！	<i>Haai</i>	Sure.



Dialog 2

A:	久しぶり元気？	<i>Hisashiburi genki</i>	Long time no see, you good?
B:	元気だよ。あみは？	<i>Genki da yo. Ami wa?</i>	I'm good. And you Ami?
A:	相変わらずバタバタしているよ。最近どう？	<i>Aikawarazu batabata shiteru yo. Saikin dō?</i>	Busy as usual. How've you been?
B:	そうだね。ちょっと風邪をひいちゃったよ。	<i>Sō da ne. Chotto kaze o hiichatta yo.</i>	Well, I caught a cold.
A:	最近はすごく寒いよね。インフルエンザにならないように気をつけてね。	<i>Saikin wa sugoku samui yo ne. Infuruenza ni naranai yō ni ki o tsukete ne.</i>	It's been really cold recently hasn't it? Be careful not to get influenza.
B:	はい！	<i>Haai</i>	Sure.



More conversation starters

1. Basic casual conversation starters

Ex.1		
A: 元気？	<i>Genki?</i>	You good?
B: 元気だよ	<i>Genki da yo</i>	I'm good.
Ex.2		
A: 久しぶり元気？	<i>Hisashiburi genki?</i>	Long time no see. You good?
B: 元気だよ。	<i>Genki da yo.</i>	I'm good.
Ex.3		
A: 最近どう？	<i>Saikin dō?</i>	How've you been?
B: 最近忙しい	<i>Saikin isogashii</i>	I've been busy.
Ex.4		
A: 最近いいことあった？	<i>Saikin ii koto atta?</i>	Anything good happen to you recently?
B: そうだね。彼氏が出来た！	<i>Sō da ne. Kareshi ga dekita yo.</i>	Well, I got a new boyfriend.
Ex. 5		
A: 相変わらず仕事忙しい？	<i>Aikawarazu shigoto isogashii?</i>	Is work busy as usual?
B: まあね。	<i>Maa ne.</i>	I guess so.



2. Talking about the weather

(Good for people you don't know 天気、気候、季節の話題から入るのは、知らない人でも使えますよ。)

Ex.6		
A: 暑いですね / 寒いですね / いい天気ですね	<i>Atsui desu ne / Samui desu ne / Ii tenki desu ne</i>	It's hot isn't it? / It's cold isn't it? / It's nice weather isn't it?
B: そうですね。	<i>Sō da ne.</i>	Yeah it is.

You can add 最近 Saikin - recently - or 今日 Kyō wa - today - before any of those.

3. At work

Ex.7		
A: おつかれさま。	<i>Otsukaresama</i>	Thanks for your hard work.
B: おつかれさま。	<i>Otsukaresama</i>	(And you too)



4. At a party

Ex.7		
A: はじめまして、アレックスです。	<i>Hajimemashite Arekkusu desu.</i>	Nice to meet you I'm Alex.
B: はじめまして、あみです。	<i>Hajimemashite Ami desu.</i>	Nice to meet you I'm Ami.
Ex.8		
A: お仕事は？	<i>Oshigoto wa?</i>	What do you do for work?
B: 忍者です。	<i>Ninja desu.</i>	I'm a ninja.
Ex.9		
A: ここ初めてですか？	<i>Koko hajimete desu ka?</i>	Is this your first time here?
B: そうですね。	<i>Sō desu ne.</i>	Yes it is.
Ex.10		
A: なんで日本に来たんですか？	<i>Nande nihon ni kitan desu ka.</i>	Why did you come to Japan?
B: 仕事のためです。	<i>Shigoto no tame desu.</i>	For work.



5. Other casual conversation starters between good friends

ね、聞いて	Ne kiite	Hey, listen
ねー、ねー	Nee nee	Hey, hey
どーもどーも	Dōmo dōmo	Hey what's up (Usually older men)
そういえばさー	Sō ieba sa	So about that thing...
てかさー	Te ka saa	So you know what...
聞いてよー	Kiite yo	Listen!

6. Kansai dialect

まいど	Maido	Hi (Literally means "everytime")
-----	-------	----------------------------------

Random Phrase of the week

Random Phrase of the week

A: もうかりまっか?	Mōkarimakka	How's business?
B: ボチボチでんな	Bochi bochi denna	Can't complain.

This phrase is from Kansai but to be honest people don't really use this anymore. However, it is worth learning to say to your Japanese friends as they'll probably find it pretty funny you know this phrase.



Hi, this is Alex, the creator of Learn Japanese Pod. Thanks for downloading these show notes, I hope you find them useful. If you need any help with your Japanese or have any questions or comments please drop me a line at info@learnjapanesepod.com

You can also get the latest info on our social networky thingies below:

Learn Japanese Pod

<https://dojo.learnjapanesepod.com>

My personal website:

<http://alexbrooke.com>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/japanesepodcast>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LearnJapanesePod/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/learnjapanesepod/>

Enjoy!

Alex