



# Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

## Podcast 24: Booking a table at a restaurant

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In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ How to book a table at a restaurant by phone in Japanese
- ✓ Learn commonly used polite (Keigo) Japanese vocabulary and phrases used by restaurant and general service staff

LEVEL: Upper Beginner

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## Introduction

In this podcast you will learn how to book a table at a restaurant by phone in natural Japanese. These days it is easy to make bookings online and with mobiles apps. However, there are still many restaurants in Japan which don't have online booking facilities. Also, in crowded cities like Osaka and Tokyo, it can be hard to get a seat, especially during Fridays and weekends. Therefore being able to book seats in Japanese by phone is a useful skill.

Another thing you will learn is the polite language commonly used by restaurant and service staff. This is called *Keigo* and is a very polite way of speaking in Japanese. It's also quite tricky to master as it uses different phrases and vocabulary compared with casual speech. However, I would recommend learning just enough to be able to understand it so you can interact with hotel, restaurant or department store staff. You don't need to learn to speak it perfectly, just understanding a little is enough. Most Japanese people have difficulty speaking proper Keigo!





## Lesson Dialog (Japanese)

### Making a restaurant reservation by phone

A: 居酒屋忍者でございます。

B: 今晚の予約をしたいんですが。

A: はい、かしこまりました。何名様でいらっしゃいますか？

B: 4名でお願いしたいんですが。

A: 何時からご希望ですか？

B: 7時でお願いします。

A: 少々お待ちください。お待たせいたしました。  
お席ご用意できます。お名前お伺いしてもよろしでしょうか？

B: アレックスです。

A: アレックス様ですね。  
では本日7時から4名様でご予約させていただきます。  
お待ちしております。



## Lesson Dialog (Pronunciation + English) Making a restaurant reservation by phone

- A: *Izakaya Ninja de gozaimasu.*  
This is Izakaya Ninja
- B: *Konban no yoyaku o shitain desu ga.*  
I'd like to make a booking for tonight.
- A: *Hai, kashikomarimashita. Nanmei sama de irasshimasu ka ?*  
Yes, certainly. How many people are there in your party?
- B: *Yonmei de onegai shitain desu ga.*  
I'd like (to book for) 4 people.
- A: *Nanji kara gokibō desu ka.*  
What time would you like (to book)?
- B: *Shichiji de onegai shimasu.*  
Seven o'clock please.
- A: *Shōshō omachi kudasi. Omatasei itashimashita.*  
*Oseki go yōi dekimasu. Onamae oukagai shitemo yoroshi deshou ka.*  
One moment please. Thank you for waiting  
I have prepared your seats. May I have your name please?
- B: *Arekkusu desu.*  
It's Alex
- A: *Arekkusu sama desu ne.*  
*Dewa honjitsu shichiji kara yonmei sama de goyoyaku sasete itadakimasu.*  
*Omachi shite orimasu.*  
OK, so that is Alex.  
So, I have prepared your booking for 7pm for 4 people today.  
We shall be waiting for you.



## Grammar Breakdown 1 - I'd like to make a booking

The key phrase featured in this podcast is:

こんばん

よやく

今晚 の 予約 を したいんですが

Tonight of booking would like to

I'd like to make a booking for tonight

Here are some useful tips about this phrase

- 1) You can just shorten this to 予約をしたいんですが *Yoyaku wo shitain desu ga* - I'd like to make a booking.
- 2) If you want to be more specific about when you want to make the reservation you add when plus の for example:
  - a) **Ashita no** yoyaku wo shitain desu ga - I'd like to make a booking **for tomorrow**
  - b) **Kinyōbi no** yoyaku wo shitain desu ga - I'd like to make a booking **for Friday**
  - c) **Raishū no** yoyaku wo shitain desu ga - I'd like to make a booking **for next week**
- 3) したいんですが *Shitain desu ga* - is a very common pattern of speech which you can use to politely say you would like to do something. This comes from the verb *Shitai* which means you want to do something. This is derived from *Shitai + no + desu ga* and is shortened to *Shitain desu ga*. Use that phrase to sound more natural in Japanese.

## Grammar Breakdown 2 - A quick crash course in Keigo

Here is an explanation of the Keigo or polite Japanese phrases used in this lesson. These are phrases you will commonly hear from staff working in hotels, restaurants and shops.

### 1) ...でございます ...*De gozaimasu* - It is / This is

Although there are various uses for this phrase it is commonly used when taking calls and stating the name of the place being called. So for example:

居酒屋忍者でございます *Izakaya Ninja de gozaimasu* - This is Izakaya Ninja.

A slightly less formal way of saying *De gozaimasu* is *Desu*.



## 2) かしこまりました *Kashikomarimashita* - Certainly

It's common for people taking orders to say *Kashikomarimashita*. It loosely translates as "certainly" or "Sure".

## 3) 何名様でいらっしゃいますか *Nanmei sama de irasshaimasu ka* - For how many people?

When studying Japanese it is common to learn 何人がいますか *Nannin ga imasu ka* - How many people are there? However when booking a table at a restaurant the counter 名 *Mei* is often used. So *Nannin desu ka* can be made more polite by saying *Nanmei desu ka*. It can be made even more polite by saying *Nanmei de irasshaimasu ka*.

## 4) Different levels of politeness with the verb 待つ *Matsu* to wait

Here are some examples of casual and polite ways to use the verb *Matsu* - To wait  
You'll more commonly hear the polite phrases when visiting a restaurant (in the table below)

Casual	Polite (Keigo)
ちょっと待ってね <i>Chotto matte ne</i> Just a second	少々お待ちください <i>Shōshō omachi kudasai</i> Please wait a moment
待たせてごめんね <i>Matasete gomen ne</i> Sorry for the wait	お待たせいたしました <i>Omatase itashimashita</i> I'm sorry to have kept you waiting

## 5) 様 *Sama* - Polite phrase when referring to a customer.

Here are some levels of you would use when addressing someone:

- あきらくん Akira Kun (Friendly for males and young boys)
- 明子ちゃん Akiko Chan (Friendly for females and young girls)
- 田中さん Tanaka San (Polite, both male and female)
- 田中様 Tanaka Sama (Very polite, used by service industry staff)



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](mailto:info@learnjapanesepod.com)

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Enjoy!

Alex