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はい hai

Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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I had promised to have a dinner with my friend last night, and I called her at her office to decide what time to meet. Let me tell you what happened. When a receptionist picked up the phone, I asked her, "**Ueda-san irasshaimasu ka**" (May I speak with Ms. Ueda?). Then she said, "**hai, tadaima kaigi-chū desu ga**" (Yes, she's in a meeting right now, but...). I was waiting for her to come to the phone because the receptionist said "yes." But, several seconds later, the same woman said, "**moshi moshi?**" (hello?) I thought that she had not been able to come to the phone, so I just said, "**mata ato de odenwa itashimasu**" (I'll call her back later). "Well, I guess she can't have dinner with me tonight," I thought. Then suddenly I became hungry, and I went to a restaurant by myself. When I asked a waitress, "**aka-wine arimasu ka**" (Do you have red wine?), she said, "**hai, mōshiwake gozaimasen ga oite-orimasen**" (Yes, I'm sorry, but we don't carry it), and she was just waiting to take my order. I wasn't sure what she said, but I guessed there was no red wine. So, I ordered a glass of beer. Hmm...I thought that "**hai**" meant only "yes," but I suppose there are several different ways of using it. Ms. Hirayama, please tell me more about "**hai**."

■■■ "**hai! wakari mashita**" (Certainly! I'll tell you)." It is true that Japanese people like to say "**hai**" in their daily life. "**hai**" means much more than "yes," which is the antonym of "no." It is important to understand how it is used in different situations. Otherwise, you may find yourself completely misunderstanding what it being said. Note that No. 6 is easily misunderstood by foreigners.

Here!
Attention!
I understand (see).
Ah-huh.
Certainly!
Sure!
OK!
Yes. That's right.

はい
hai

1) Indicating one's presence

• At a business conference:

Organizer: **Nishizawa-san!** 西沢さん。
Participant: **Here!** はい。
• On a phone:
Aida-san: Is this **Ueda-san?** 上田さんですか。
Ueda-san: **Yes, speaking.** はい。

2) Getting attention

• Trying to get people's attention, asking people to pay attention before starting an event (e.g., a meeting):

Attention! はい それでは始めます。
It's time to start. **hai** **soredewa hajimemasu** (then) (will start)

3) Showing one's understanding of a speaker (**hai demo...**)

Manager: Please come by 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. 明日の朝 5時に **ashita no asa go-ji ni** (tomorrow)(morning)(5 o'clock)
Secretary: I'd like to, but I'm afraid I can't... はい でも... **hai demo** (but) 申し訳ありませんが ちょっと難しいです... **mōshiwake arimasenga chotto muzukashī desu**

4) Responding to a request/suggestion/invitation

• Request:
Manager: Could you do this, please? これ お願いします。 **kore onegaishimasu**
Secretary: **Certainly!** はい。
• Suggestion (command) :
Manager: It's getting late. You can go home now. 遅いので もう 帰りなさい。 **osoi node mō kaeri-nasai**
Secretary: **Thank you, sir.** はい。

• Invitation:
Manager: Let's have dinner tonight! 今晚 食事 でも **komban shokuji demo**

Secretary: **I'd love to.** はい。

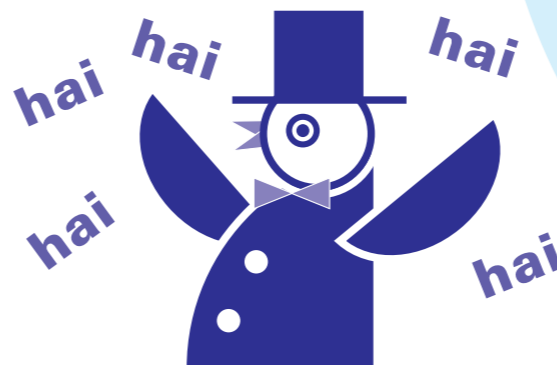
5) Answering a question

• Affirmative answer:

Manager: Are you Japanese? 日本人 ですか。 **Nihonjin desu ka**
Employee: **Yes, I am.** はい。

6) Confirming a positive/negative statement or question

Manager: Is Mr. Inaba there? 稲葉さん いますか。 **Inaba-san imasu ka**
Employee: **Yes, he is.** はい います。
or
Manager: Isn't Mr. Inaba there? 稲葉さん いませんか。 **Inaba-san imasen ka** ▲ this is a typical phrase on a phone.
Employee: **No, (That's right) he is not here.** はい いません。



conversation
会話
kai wa

Put はい or いいえ in the boxes.

on the phone

Mr. Ree: Hello.

もし もし
moshi moshi

Receptionist: **Hello.** This is Japanese Lunch.

Hello ジャパニーズランチでございます。
(1) **Japanese Lunch de gozaimasu** (humble form of "desu")

Mr. Ree: This is Ree of KBS. I'd like to talk with Ms. Ueda.

KBSの 李 ですが 上田さん お願いします。
KBS no Ree desu ga Ueda-san onegaishimasu

Receptionist: **Certainly!** Please hold on a minute.

Certainly 少々 お待ち下さい。
(2) **shō shō omachi-kudasai** (a little) (please wait)

Receptionist: Hello? I'm sorry to make you wait.

もしもし お待たせ致しました。
moshi moshi omatase-itashimashita (to make you wait)

I'm afraid that she is unable to come to the phone right now.

あいにく 席を はずしております。
ainiku seki o hazushite-orimasu (unfortunately)(seat)(humble form of "leave one's seat")

Mr. Ree: **I see.** She isn't there at this moment, is she?

そうですか。 いらっしゃいませんか。
sō desu ka irasshaimasen ka (I see) (honolific form of "not exist")

Receptionist: **That's right.**

That's right
(3)

Do you want her to call you when she gets back?

戻りましたら こちらから お電話致しましょうか。
modorimashitara kochira-kara odenwa itashimashō ka (when she back) (from us) (humble form of "call you")

Mr. Ree: **No,** I'm leaving right now.

No すぐに 出ます ので
(4) **suguni demasu node** (soon) (will leave) (because of)

I will call her back later.

私から また お電話致します。
watakushi kara mata odenwa itashimasu (from me) (again) (will call you)

Receptionist: **I understand!** Please do so.

I understand では よろしく お願い致します。
(5) **dewa yoroshiku onegai itashimasu** (then) (humble form of "please do so")

Mr. Ree: **Sure!** Goodbye!

Sure 失礼 致します。
(6) **shitsurē itashimasu** ("Goodbye" for telephone)

(1) ~ (6), except (4) はい hai

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga