



# Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

## Podcast 20: Talking about your hobbies

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In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ How to ask people about their hobbies
- ✓ How to talk about what you do in your free time
- ✓ Talk in depth about your free time pursuits

LEVEL: Upper Beginner

SITUATION: You are at a party and a new acquaintance asks you about your hobbies.

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## Introduction

In this lesson Ami and I teach about how to ask and answer questions about your hobbies in natural casual Japanese. When getting to know people for the first time talking about your free time is a great topic. The following vocabulary and dialogs should help you to hold a basic conversation in Japanese on this topic.

## Vocabulary

Here is a full vocabulary list taken from the podcast

Japanese	Pronunciation	English
趣味	<i>Shumi</i>	Hobby
ギター	<i>Gitaa</i>	Guitar
ジョギング	<i>Jogingu</i>	Jogging
運動	<i>Undō</i>	Exercise
読書	<i>Dokusho</i>	Reading
本を読む	<i>Hon o yomu</i>	Reading books
カメラ	<i>Kamera</i>	Cameras / Photography
写真を撮る	<i>Shashin o toru</i>	Taking photos
最初	<i>Saisho</i>	The first
きっかけ	<i>Kikkake</i>	Chance / Opportunity
やってみよう	<i>Yatte miyō</i>	Try something new
どのくらいやってる？	<i>Dono gurai yatteru?</i>	How long have you been...?
すごい	<i>Sugoi</i>	Wow!
しょっちゅうやってる？	<i>Shocchū yatteru?</i>	Do you do it regularly?



## Dialog 1

A:	趣味は何？	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i>	What's your hobby?
B:	そうだね、ギターかな。	<i>Sō da ne. Gitaa kana.</i>	Well...guitar I guess.
A:	そっか。最初のきっかけは？	<i>Sokka. Saisho no kikkake wa?</i>	Really? How did you get in to it?
B:	ロックを聴くことが好きだからやってみようかなと思って。	<i>Rokku wo kiku koto ga suki dakara yatte miyō kana to omotte.</i>	I like listening to rock so I thought I would give it a go.
A:	どのぐらいやってる？	<i>Dono gurai yatteru?</i>	How long have you been doing it?
B:	20年。	<i>Ni jū nen.</i>	20 years.
A:	すごいね。しょっちゅうやってるの？	<i>Sugoi ne. Shocchū yatteru no?</i>	Wow, do you do it often?
B:	毎日。	<i>Mai nichi.</i>	Every day.
A:	へえ～。	<i>Heh.</i>	Really?.



## Dialog 2

A:	趣味は何？	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i>	What's your hobby?
B:	そうだね、ジョギングかな。	<i>Sō da ne. Jogingu kana.</i>	Well...jogging I guess.
A:	そっか。最初のきっかけは？	<i>Sokka. Saisho no kikkake wa?</i>	Really? How did you get in to it?
B:	運動することが好きだからやってみようかなと思って。	<i>Undō suru koto ga suki da kara yatte miyō kana to omotte.</i>	I like exercising so I thought I would give it a go.
A:	どのぐらいやってる？	<i>Dono gurai yatteru?</i>	How long have you been doing it?
B:	1年。	<i>Ichi nen.</i>	1 year.
A:	すごいね。しょっちゅうやってるの？	<i>Sugoi ne. Shocchū yatteru no?</i>	Wow, do you do it often?
B:	週に2回。	<i>Shū ni ni kai.</i>	Two times a week.
A:	へえ～。	<i>Heh.</i>	Really?



## Dialog 3

A:	趣味は何？	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i>	What's your hobby?
B:	そうだね、読書かな。	<i>Sō da ne. Dokusho kana.</i>	Well...reading I guess.
A:	そっか。最初のきっかけは？	<i>Sokka. Saisho no kikkake wa?</i>	Really? How did you get in to it?
B:	本を読むことが好きだからやってみようかなと思って。	<i>Hon o yomu koto ga suki da kara yatte miyō kana to omotte.</i>	I like reading books so I thought I would give it a go.
A:	どのぐらいやってる？	<i>Dono gurai yatteru?</i>	How long have you been doing it?
B:	6ヶ月。	<i>Rokka getsu.</i>	6 months.
A:	すごいね。しょっちゅうやってるの？	<i>Sugoi ne. Shocchū yatteru no?</i>	Wow, do you do it often?
B:	時間がある時に。	<i>Jikan ga aru toki ni.</i>	When I have time.
A:	へえ～。	<i>Heh.</i>	Really?



## Dialog 4

A:	趣味は何？	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i>	What's your hobby?
B:	そうだね、カメラかな。	<i>Sō da ne. Kamera kana.</i>	Well...photography I guess.
A:	そっか。最初のきっかけは？	<i>Sokka. Saisho no kikkake wa?</i>	Really? How did you get in to it?
B:	写真を撮ることが好きだからやってみようかなと思って。	<i>Shashin o toru koto ga suki da kara yatte miyō kana to omotte.</i>	I like taking photos so I thought I would give it a go.
A:	どのぐらいやってる？	<i>Dono gurai yatteru?</i>	How long have you been doing it?
B:	一ヶ月。	<i>Ikka getsu.</i>	1 month.
A:	すごいね。しょっちゅうやってるの？	<i>Sugoi ne. Shocchū yatteru no?</i>	Wow, do you do it often?
B:	毎週末。	<i>Mai shūmatsu</i>	Every weekend.
A:	へえ～。	<i>Heh.</i>	Really?



## Grammar Notes

Here are some examples of how to ask what someone's hobby is in casual Japanese.

趣味はなに？ 空手。	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i> <i>Karate</i>	What's your hobby? Karate.
趣味はなに？ ジョギング。	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i> <i>Jogingu</i>	What's your hobby? Jogging.
趣味はなに？ テニス。	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i> <i>Tenisu</i>	What's your hobby? Tennis
趣味はなに？ サッカー。	<i>Shumi wa nani?</i> <i>Sakkaa</i>	What's your hobby? Football (soccer)

If you want to say it more politely you would say:

趣味はなんですか。	<i>Shumi wa nan desu ka?</i>	What is your hobby?
趣味は空手です。	<i>Shumi wa Karate desu.</i>	My hobby is Karate.

Another way to describe your hobbies is:

Your hobby + **SUKI DESU** which means you like doing something. For example:

ジョギングが好きです	<i>Jogingu ga suki desu.</i>	I like jogging.
ハイキングが好きです	<i>Haikingi ga suki desu.</i>	I like hiking.
テニスが大好きです	<i>Tenisu ga suki desu.</i>	I like tennis.
サッカーが好きです	<i>Sakkaa ga suki desu</i>	I like football (soccer)

More ways to ask about people's hobbies are:

趣味あるの？	<i>Shumi aru no?</i>	Do you have a hobby?
暇な時に何をの？	<i>Hima na toki ni nani o suru?</i>	What do you do in your free time?
何をの？が好き？	<i>Nani o suru no ga suki?</i>	What do you like doing?
最近ハマってることある？	<i>Saikin hamatteru koto wa?</i>	Recently what are you into?



Another useful pattern you can use to talk about hobbies is:

趣味は + 映画 + を + 見る + ことです。  
SHUMI WA + EIGA + O + MIRU + KOTO DESU.  
(noun) (verb)

My hobby is watching movies.

For example, 趣味は本を読むことです - *Hon o yomu koto desu* - My hobby is reading books. Hon is “book” and yomu is the verb “to read”. If you put KOTO after the verb it’s a little like an -ING verb in English. So 本を読む means “to read books” but 本を読むこと is a little like “reading books”.

Here are some more examples:

趣味は映画を見ることです。 My hobby is watching movies.  
*Shumi wa eiga o miru koto desu.*

趣味は音楽を聴くことです。 My hobby is listening to music.  
*Shumi wa ongaku o kiku koto desu*

趣味は料理をすることです。 My hobby is cooking.  
*Shumi wa ryōri o suru koto desu*

趣味はスキューバダイビングをすることです。 My hobby is scuba diving.  
*Shumi wa sukuuba daibingu wo suru koto desu.*

趣味は絵を描くことです。 My hobby is painting pictures.  
*Shumi wa e o kaku koto desu.*

Instead of 趣味は映画を見ることです you can say 映画を見るのが好きです。 I like watching movies.

So for example:  
音楽を聴くのが好きです。 I like listening to music.  
*Ongaku o kiku koto ga suki desu.*

料理をすることが好きです。 I like cooking.  
*Ryōri o suru koto ga suki desu.*

スキューバダイビングをすることが好きです。 I like scuba diving.  
*Sukuuba daibingu o suru koto ga suki desu.*





絵を描くことが好きです。  
*E o kaku koto ga suki desu.*

I like painting pictures.

So this means when talking about hobbies you have two options, one being a noun phrase and the other using a verb linked to the hobby, for example:

趣味は映画鑑賞です。  
*Shumi wa eigakanshō desu*  
 My hobby is moviegoing.

or

趣味は映画を見ることです。  
*Shumi wa eigo o miru koto desu*  
 I like watching movies.

趣味は水泳です。  
*Shumi wa suiei desu*  
 My hobby is swimming. (noun)

or

趣味は泳ぐことです。  
*Shumi wa oyogu koto desu.*  
 My hobby is to go swimming. (verb)

趣味は読書です。  
*Shumi wa dokusho desu*  
 My hobby is reading.

or

趣味は本を読むことです。  
*Shumi wa hon o yomu koto desu.*  
 My hobby is reading books.

**This is a list of some very traditional Japanese hobbies:**

生け花	<i>Ikebana</i>	Traditional Japanese flower arranging
書道	<i>Shodō</i>	Japanese calligraphy
茶道	<i>Sadō</i>	The tea ceremony
弓道	<i>Kyūdō</i>	Japanese archery

**Sports are usually written in Katakana:**

ジョギング	<i>Jogingu</i>	Jogging
テニス	<i>Tenisu</i>	Tennis
サッカー	<i>Sakkaa</i>	Football (Soccer)
ハイキング	<i>Haikingu</i>	Haikingu



Other hobbies written in Katakana include the following:

ヨガ	<i>Yoga</i>	Yoga
ダンス	<i>Dansu</i>	Dancing
カラオケ	<i>Karaoke</i>	Karaoke
スマホゲーム	<i>Sumaho geemu</i>	Playing games on your smartphone.
ビデオゲーム	<i>Bideo geemu</i>	Video games
ドライブ	<i>Doraibu</i>	Going for a drive

Japanese martial arts are written with Kanji:

柔道	<i>Jūdō</i>	Judo
合気道	<i>Aikidō</i>	Aikido
空手	<i>Karate</i>	Karate

Here are some other hobbies that are written using Kanji:

水泳	<i>Suiei</i>	Swimming
山登り	<i>Yamanobori</i>	Mountain climbing
音楽	<i>Ongaku</i>	Music
映画鑑賞	<i>Eigakanshō</i>	Watching movies
買い物	<i>Kaimono</i>	Shopping
魚釣り	<i>Sakana tsuri</i>	Fishing
園芸	<i>Engei</i>	Gardening
一人旅	<i>Hitori tabi</i>	Solo trip / Traveling by yourself

Here is a list of some of the most popular pastimes in Japan now:

1 写真	<i>Shashin</i>	Photography
2 自転車	<i>Jitensha</i>	Cycling
3 読書	<i>Dokusho</i>	Reading books
4 ランニング	<i>Ranningu</i>	Running
5 英会話	<i>Eikaiwa</i>	Studying English conversation
6 ヨガ	<i>Yoga</i>	Yoga
7 登山	<i>Tōzan</i>	Mountain climbing
8 株・FX取引	<i>Kabu / FX torihiki</i>	Day trading / Buying and selling stocks
9 瞑想	<i>Meisō</i>	Meditation
10 筋トレ	<i>Kintore</i>	Weight lifting



## Random Phrase of the Week

半端ない *Hanpa nai* Super mega cool

Example sentences:

マジ半端ないあいつ

*Maji hanpa nai aitsu*

That guy sure is cool.

あの店のハンバーグはんぱない

*Ano mise no hanbaagu wa hanpa nai*

The hamburger steaks in that restaurant are super delicious.



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