



Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

Podcast 29: Talking about your job in Japanese

In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ Learn to have a conversation about someone's job
- ✓ Learn work related vocabulary and phrases
- ✓ Learn extra phrases to use at work

LEVEL: Upper Beginner



Introduction

One really common topic of conversation in Japanese is about work. When meeting people for the first time it is common to ask them about what they do for a living. In this lesson you'll learn how to ask and answer questions about work and some useful everyday phrases you can use in the office.

How to study

I would recommend listening to the podcast first. which can be found at:
<http://learnjapanesepod.com>

Then, you can download and listen to the extra audio podcast that has just the Japanese dialogues and related phrases as pronounced by a native Japanese speaker. You can use that to test your comprehension. You can also listen and repeat the phrases aloud to help you with fluency, pronunciation and memorizing vocabulary.

Finally, for more in depth explanations you can read these show notes. These include dialogue transcriptions as well as grammar and vocabulary notes.

Enjoy!



Main Dialog 1 - Talking about your job (Japanese)

- A: お仕事は何をしてるの？
B: ウェブデザインの仕事してるよ。
A: そうなんだ。楽しい？
B: そうだね。毎日大変だけど楽しいよ。
A: 楽しいのはよかったね。何年ぐらいやってるの？
B: 7年ぐらいかな。
A: ヘェ～、すごいな。俺はすぐ転職しちゃうからさ。
B: まじで？！

Main Dialog 1 - Talking about your job (Pronunciation)

- A: Oshigoto wa nani o shiteru no?
B: Uebu dezain no shigoto shiteru yo.
A: Sō nan da. Tanoshii?
B: Sō da ne. Mainichi taihen dakedo tanoshii yo.
A: Tanoshii no wa yokatta ne. Nan nen gurai yatteru no?
B: Nana nen gurai kana.
A: Hee, sugoi na. Ore wa sugu tenshoku shichau kara sa.
B: Maji de?!

Main Dialog 1 - Talking about your job (English)

- A: What do you do for work?
B: I do web design work.
A: Really? Is it enjoyable?
B: Well, everyday is tough but it's fun.
A: That's good it's enjoyable. How long have you been doing that?
B: About 7 years I guess.
A: Wow. I'm always changing jobs.
B: Seriously?!



Grammar Notes

Let's have a look at some of the grammar involved in this lesson's main dialogue.

お仕事は何をしてるの？ *Oshigoto wa nani o shiteru no?*

- 1) Oshigoto - *Shigoto* means work. Add *O* at the beginning to make it more polite and when you are talking about someone else's job.
- 2) No - Add this at the end of a sentence to form a casual question. *Nani o shiteru no?* Means what are you doing?

ウェブデザインの仕事してるよ。 *Uebu dezain shiteru yo.*

- 1) Yo - Add *yo* at the end of a sentence to emphasise the point you are making.

そうなんだ。 *Sō nan da.*

- 1) This means *Is that right? / Oh really? / Is that so?*

そうだね。 *Sō da ne.*

- 1) This phrase has two meanings. It can mean "*That's right*" when agreeing with a comment. However, in this conversation this means something like "*Well, let me see...*" when needing a little time to answer a question. *Sō da ne* is a casual phrase. The polite way to say this is *Sō desu ne*.

楽しいのはよかったね。 *Tanoshii no wa yokatta ne.*

- 1) *No wa* - *No wa* is a way of linking two ideas together in a sentence. You usually use this with verbs and adjectives. In this case we link *Tanoshii* (Enjoyable) with *Yokatta* (That's good). The meaning is therefore *It's good that it's enjoyable* or *I'm glad you find it enjoyable*. This is quite a subtle phrase so it is better to learn naturally through conversation practice in Japanese.



Extra work related phrases

Here is a list of extra work related structures we drilled during the podcast:

1) ...の仕事をしてるよ ...no shigoto o shiteru yo - I do ...work

マーケティングの仕事をしてるよ Maakingingu no shigoto o shiteru yo.
I do marketing work.

経理の仕事をしてるよ Keiri no shigoto o shiteru yo.
I do accounting work.

コンサルティングの仕事をしてるよ Consarutingu no shigoto o shiteru yo.
I do consulting work.

2) ...関係の仕事をしてるよ ...kankei no shigoto o shiteru yo - I do ... related work

音楽関係の仕事をしてるよ Ongaku kankei no shigoto o shiteru yo.
I do music related work.

3) ...会社で働いてるよ ...kaisha de hataraiteru yo - I work at a ... company.

ウェブデザイン会社で働いてるよ Uebu dezain gaisha de hataraiteru yo.
I work at a web design company.

マーケティング会社で働いてるよ Maakingingu gaisha de hataraiteru yo.
I work at a marketing company.

経理会社で働いてるよ Keiri gaisha de hataraiteru yo.
I work at an accounting company.

カフェで働いてるよ Kafe de hataraiteru yo.
I work at a cafe.



レストランで働いてるよ
I work at a restaurant.

[Resutoran](#) de hataraiteru yo.

[Learn Japanese Pod](#)で働いてるよ
I work at Learn Japanese Pod.

[Learn Japanese Pod](#) de hataraiteru yo.

ウェブデザイン会社の人事部で働いてるよ
[Uebu dezain gaisha no jinjibu](#) de hataraiteru yo
I work in a web design company in HR.

マーケティング会社の営業部で働いてるよ
[Uebu dezain gaisha no jinjibu](#) de hataraiteru yo
I work marketing firm in the sales department.

The most common phrase used at work everyday

An absolute must-know phrase for working in a Japanese office is as below:

A: お先に失礼します
B: お疲れ様です

Osaki ni shitsurei shimasu.
Otsukaresama desu.

When you leave work before other people in your office it is polite to say *Osaki ni shitsurei shimasu* which literally means “Excuse me for leaving before you”. The people who are still at work will reply *Otsukaresama desu* which means something like *thanks for your hard work or good job* or more naturally *good bye!*



Random Phrase of the Week

This week's random phrase is...

右も左も分らない **Migi mo hidari mo wakaranai**

Lit. I don't know my right from my left

This phrase is used to mean that you don't know anything or you are lost and you have no clue what you are doing.

Example 1:

右も左も分らなかったけど優しい先輩が全部教えてくれた

Migi mo hidari mo wakaranakatta kedo yasashii senpai zenbu oshiete kureta.

I didn't have a clue what I was doing but my kind teacher* taught me everything.

**Senpai actually means someone who is senior, older or more experienced than you, not necessarily a teacher.*

Example 2:

右も左も分らないから自分で頑張って色々覚えた。

Migi mo hidari mo wakaranai kara jibun de ganbatte iroiro oboeta.

I didn't know what I was doing so I just tried my best and learned everything myself.



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

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Enjoy!

Alex