Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex
Podcast 36: Describing people’s appearances in Japanese

In this lesson you will learn the following:

✓ Learn phrases to describe people’s appearance
✓ Learn family related vocabulary

LEVEL: Lower intermediate
Introduction
In this lesson you'll learn some useful phrases and vocabulary to describe people's general appearance. You'll also learn some useful adjectives to describe body type and shape. Check out the main dialogue for examples.

How to study
This lesson includes the main podcast lesson, PDF show notes and an extra audio drill. You can find all of these resources by going to https://learnjapanesepod.com and clicking on the title for this lesson.

In the main podcast lesson Ami Sensei and Alex demonstrate the main dialogue, briefly explain the grammar and talk about other Japan related topics.

Then you can use these show notes to read through and study in more depth. We include grammar and vocabulary explanations to better understand the main lesson dialogue.

Finally, you can use the Japanese dialogue only audio file to practice your listening. You can listen to the audio phrase by phrase and then repeat afterwards to practice your speaking and listening skills.

To access the audio podcast for this lesson go to https://learnjapanesepod.com and navigate to this lesson.
Main Dialog 1 - Describing people’s appearance

A: ね、私の家族の写真見る？
B: 見る見る！
A: これはおじいちゃん。背が高いんだよね。
B: ほんと、スマートでかっこいいね！
A: そうだけど、反対におばあちゃんは私に似て背が低いんだよね。
B: へえー。彼女は誰？お姉さん？
A: そう！最近髪をショートにして金髪に染めたの！
B: 顔がそっくりだね！それに家族みんなお洒落だよね。
A: ありがとう！

Main Dialog 1 - Describing people’s appearance (Pronunciation)

A: Ne, watashi no kazoku no shashin miru?
B: Miru miru!
A: Kore wa ojii chan. Se ga takain da yo ne.
B: Honto, sumaato de kakkō ii ne.
A: Sō dakedo, hantai ni obaa chan wa watashi ni nite, se ga hikuin da yo ne.
B: Heh. Kanojo wa dare? Onee san?
A: Sō! Saikin kami wo shooto ni shite kinpatsu ni someta no!
B: Kao ga sokkuri da ne. Sore ni kazoku minna oshare da yo ne.
A: Arigatō.
Main Dialog 1 - Describing people’s appearance (English)

A: Hey, do you want to see photos of my family?
B: Yes!
A: This is my grandpa. He’s tall isn’t he?
B: That’s true. He’s tall and good looking.
A: That’s right but on the other hand my grandma looks like me and she’s short.
B: Ah. Who is she? Is she your older sister?
A: Yes. Recently she cut her hair short and dyed it blond.
B: Her face looks just like yours. Your family is very stylish.
A: Thank you.
### Extra Phrases to Describe People’s Appearance

#### Talking about someone’s height or body size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>背が高い</td>
<td>Tall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>背が低い</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>でかい</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>小さい</td>
<td>Small / Petite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Talking about body shape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>スマートな人</td>
<td>Slim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ポッチャリ</td>
<td>Chubby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>太っている</td>
<td>Fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>がっしり</td>
<td>Muscly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ムキムキ</td>
<td>Muscly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>瘦せてている</td>
<td>Slim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ガリガリ</td>
<td>Very thin / Skin and bones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Talking about hair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>髪の毛が短い/短髪</td>
<td>Short hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>髪の毛が長い/長髪</td>
<td>Long hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>髪の毛が茶色い</td>
<td>Brown hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>髪の毛が黒い</td>
<td>Black hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>金髪</td>
<td>Blond hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>白髪</td>
<td>Silver/gray hair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Talking about clothes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>おしゃれな人</td>
<td>Stylish person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>派手な服</td>
<td>Loud clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>シック</td>
<td>Chic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>モダン</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other words to describe people
かこういい Kakō ii Cool / Good looking
ダンディー Dandi Older stylish man
きれい Kirei Beautiful
かわいい Kawaii Cute

Random Phrase of the Week

Gachi - Really / Super / Mega / Big time
Gachi basically means “really” but is a very casual and a rough expression. It’s maybe best not to use this in a formal situation!

1) ガチで可愛 - Gachi de kawaii - Super cute
2) ガチで面白い - Gachi de omoshiroi - Crazy funny
3) ガチでお金貯めないと - Gachi de okane tamenai to - I've gotta save cash big time
4) ガチで頑張らないと - Gachi de gambaranai to - I've gotta really do my best
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

- A shout out to SupaaAuru and Conrat from our Discord server who proofread the show notes -