

## Asking for Personal Information

Here are some common ways of eliciting personal information. Note the use of the honorific prefix **o-** or **go-** when referring to someone else's name, residence, etc.; remember to drop these prefixes when talking to an out-group member about your own name, residence, and so on, or that of a member of your in-group (for example, a sister or a co-worker).

お名前 <sup>なまえ</sup> は (何 <sup>なん</sup> ですか)。	O-namae wa (nan desu ka).	(What is) your name?
ご出身 <sup>しゅっしん</sup> は (どちら <sup>どち</sup> らですか)。	Go-shusshin wa (dochira desu ka).	Where are you from?
お国 <sup>くに</sup> は (どちら <sup>どち</sup> らですか)。	O-kuni wa (dochira desu ka).	What country are you from?
おすまいは (どちら <sup>どち</sup> らですか)。	O-sumai wa (dochira desu ka).	Where do you live?
お年 <sup>とし</sup> は (おいくつ <sup>いくつ</sup> ですか)。	O-toshi wa (o-ikutsu desu ka).	How old are you?
お電話 <sup>でんわ</sup> 番 <sup>ばん</sup> 号 <sup>ごう</sup> は (何 <sup>なん</sup> 番 <sup>ばん</sup> ですか)。	O-denwa bangoo wa (nan-ban desu ka).	What is your telephone number?
お名 <sup>な</sup> 姓 <sup>せい</sup> 金 <sup>きん</sup> 村 <sup>むら</sup> (p. 98)		

In all of the above questions, you can omit the words in parentheses. Similarly, when answering these questions, you can say,

名前 <sup>なまえ</sup> はジョン・カワムラ <sup>カワムラ</sup> です。	Namae wa Jon Kawamura desu.	My name is John Kawamura.
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or simply

ジョン・カワムラ <sup>カワムラ</sup> です。	Jon Kawamura desu.	(My name) is John Kawamura.
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### Vocabulary: Age

The counter suffix **-sai** (*years old*) is used with the Sino-Japanese system of numerals to express a person's age. For ages 1 through 10, the Japanese system of numerals — 一つ、二つ、etc. — may also be used. You will study more about these two number systems in **Chapter 2**. *Twenty* has its own special word, 二十 (はたち).

	SINO-JAPANESE SYSTEM	JAPANESE SYSTEM
1 year old	is-sai 一歳	hitotsu 一つ
2 years old	ni-sai 二歳	hutatsu 二つ
3 years old	san-sai 三歳	mittsu 三つ

	SINO-JAPANESE SYSTEM	JAPANESE SYSTEM
4 years old	yon-sai 四歳	yottsu 四つ
5 years old	go-sai 五歳	itsutsu 五つ
6 years old	roku-sai 六歳	muttsu 六つ
7 years old	nana-sai 七歳	nanatsu 七つ
8 years old	has-sai 八歳	yattsu 八つ
9 years old	kyuu-sai 九歳	kokonotsu 九つ
10 years old	jus-sai 十歳 jis-sai 十歳	too 十
11 years old	juu-is-sai 十一歳	
12 years old	juu-ni-sai 十二歳	
20 years old	ni-jus-sai 二十歳 ni-jis-sai 二十歳	hatachi 二十
25 years old	ni-juu-go-sai 二十五歳	
46 years old	yon-juu-roku-sai 四十六歳	
99 years old	kyuu-juu-kyuu-sai 九十九歳	
100 years old	hyaku-sai 百歳*	

To ask someone's age, use one of these expressions:

お年<sup>とし</sup>は (おいくつですか)。

*How old are (you)?*

(山口<sup>やまぐち</sup>さんは) おいくつですか。

*How old are (you, Mr. Yamaguchi)?*

(カワムラ<sup>なんさい</sup>さんは) 何歳ですか。

*How old are (you, Mr. Kawamura)?*

—22<sup>さい</sup> 歳です。

—(I am) 22 years old.

The age of a baby under one year old is usually given with the counter  
〜ヶ月(months), which is read かげつ. (This counter is also written カ月  
or か月.)

—7<sup>かげつ</sup> ヶ月です。

— (He or she is) seven months old.

\* Japanese have the longest average lifespan of the people of any nation in the world: 76.4 years for men and 82.8 years for women (in 1995). (Keizai Koho Senta, *Japan: An International Comparison* [1998].)

## Vocabulary: Months

一月	<b>ichi-gatsu</b>	January	七月	<b>shichi-gatsu</b>	July
二月	<b>ni-gatsu</b>	February	八月	<b>hachi-gatsu</b>	August
三月	<b>san-gatsu</b>	March	九月	<b>ku-gatsu</b>	September
四月	<b>shi-gatsu</b>	April	十月	<b>juu-gatsu</b>	October
五月	<b>go-gatsu</b>	May	十一月	<b>juu-ichi-gatsu</b>	November
六月	<b>roku-gatsu</b>	June	十二月	<b>juu-ni-gatsu</b>	December

Examples of how speakers talk about months follow.

こんげつ なんがつ 今月は何月ですか。	Kongetsu wa nan-gatsu desu ka.	What month is it this month?
じゅうがつ —十月です。	—Juu-gatsu desu.	—It's October.
カワムラさんは何 月生まれですか。	Kawamura-san wa nan-gatsu umare desu ka.	What month were you born in, Mr. Kawamura?
しがつ —四月生まれて す。	—Shi-gatsu umare desu.	—I was born in April.

## ★ アクティビティー 9

ほんとう ちが  
本当ですか。違いますか。(True or False?)

Look at the table. Are the statements below true or false?

NAME	AGE	MONTH OF BIRTH	HOMETOWN	RESIDENCE	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Masao Hayashi	19	May	Aso	Itabashi	03-3682-0961
Hitomi Machida	20	December	Tokyo	Mitaka	0422-45-4986
Kunio Sano	67	March	Yamagata	Nakano	03-3497-1276
Satomi Yamaguchi	22	May	Tokyo	Setagaya	03-5782-0876
Yuriko Yamaguchi	51	February	Hukushima	Setagaya	03-5782-0876