

Japanese is Possible!
Week 30

Part 30

- How to say Goodbye
- Male Speech Patterns

How to Say Goodbye

1) sayounara

(with or without the long "u" in the middle)

This is standard for "goodbye" or "farewell." The connotation of this is a more permanent "farewell" where you won't see the person for a while, so don't confuse this with other expressions that mean more like "see you later."

2) sore dewa, mata ne

Literally, "Well, again!" This is a somewhat formal way of saying "See you later." This is kind of the "root" of a lot of "see you later" expressions, so, even though it is not used as often as the others, it provides a good starting point.

"sore dewa" by itself means "then; if so; if that is the case; well,...;" according to the dictionary. Add to that "mata" which means "again; once more; once again;"

and you get the equivalent of "Well, see you later."

I'm sure everyone is familiar with it, but the "ne" is "a sentence-final particle that indicates the speaker's request for confirmation or agreement..." (from A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar from the Japan Times), or in other

words, "you know?; is it?; isn't it?; don't you?;" Depending on its use, "ne" can be associated with feminine speech.

Contracting the "dewa" to "ja" makes the expression:

sore ja, mata ne

It carries the same meaning, and is only slightly less formal.

It is also possible to add "ashita" (tomorrow) or "raishuu" (next week) after the mata for expressions like:

sore dewa, mata ashita ne

Well, (I'll see you) again tomorrow!

sore dewa, mata raishuu ne

Well, (I'll see you) again next week!

These are "ne"-optional, as they are rather formal, and the "ne" can also be rather feminine at times.

However, the "ashita" and "raishuu" can be added to #3, "mata ne".

3) mata ne

"Later!" This is just the last part of #2, shortened and more "familiar." When compared to the following #4, "mata ne" can be seen as a little on the feminine side, with the strong 'ne' being a characteristic of female speech.

4) sore ja

Again, contracted from the "sore dewa, mata ne" and "sore ja, mata ne" in #2. This is a more masculine term than #3, "mata ne".

5) ja

Contracted down from #4, "ja" retains basically the same meaning but it takes a step down in formality. Situations this would most likely be used in are between close male friends.

6) baibai

This is just the Japanese integration of "bye-bye." This is very informal, and it is also on the feminine side. In general girls are the only ones who use this, or maybe even guys with their girlfriends.

These lists are by no means all-inclusive. They are meant to serve as a jumping off point for greetings and communication in Japanese, and we hope you hear and see more and pick them up along the way.

Written by **Brian Dunn**

Male Speech Patterns

Boku - This word is used by guys in informal situations it means 'I', it is not wholly informal but it is used a lot. It is especially common in most less serious anime and manga (Urusei Yatsura is a good example for anime, Keroro Gunso for manga)

Omae - This is an informal form of 'you'. This one lays on a thinner line than the others because females do use this word somewhat often in anime. But it is still distinctly male. For the most part, this is only used by very tough and aggressive women (think biker chick, kind of like Priss). Chances are though you will hear this used a lot by guys in anime and manga, but any girl with a shred of femininity avoids using 'omae'.

Ore - This word is a tougher form of 'I' although it can be used by girls, it usually isn't. This is much more common to male characters, especially villains. For example Darth Vader would say 'Ore'. 'Ore' is also frequently used among close male friends. 'Ore' is quite distinctly male.

Ze - This is a particle that means basically the same thing as 'yo', like a spoken exclamation mark. But it is more of a male thing to say. It's used at the end of the sentence, and is somewhat tough and cool. (Parn uses this frequently).

Kisama - This word is very rude form of 'You'. Male characters (especially

the
hero) use this word frequently when talking to the villain. It can be translated in such forms as 'damn you'. (While I have heard female characters use this word, but it's usually characters like Priss and Kushana, who are very tough or somewhat cocky characters.)

Temee - This word is more of 'joking around with the guys' form of 'you'. It's a pretty tough and rude also, but in a slightly different context. I've noticed drunk characters are rather fond of this word. I've seen this word frequently translated as 'why you', 'punk' and other exclamatory insults which aren't particularly harsh and sometimes used in a joking manner. It's not a word that is used very much in real world speech as it is rude and harsh. But you will hear it frequently in some anime.

Of course there are many more words, but these are a few of the most common. Generally the tougher a character is, the more he'll use strong words like these. And as mentioned above, females usually do not use these words.

Written by **Knight of Gold**

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