

00:00-01:35

Hello there everyone!

It's Richard again, with yet another GRAND LINE seminar!

We're gonna learn some new, useful phrases that you can use during daily conversation.

Today we're GONNA.... Travel!

when we go somewhere and we want to ask someone for help or to help other tourists.

As you know, Japan has just begun "GO TO Travel campaign", so

it's a perfect opportunity for us to brush up our English skills and learn how to:

1. Ask for directions
2. Ask which train to take
3. Ask where to change
4. How long does it take..?
5. Is some place easy or hard to find?

1:40-3:23

Me: Oh, hello. Do you need help?

Tourist: Yes, I'm trying to get to this hotel. (shows map)

Do you need help? Is a very useful phrase.

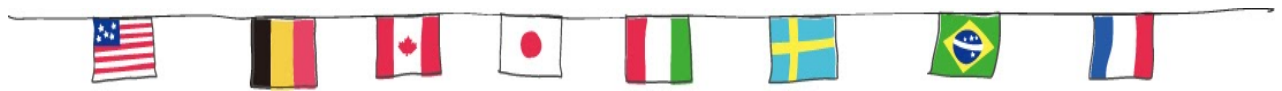
It's a very polite way to ask somebody if he or she needs help with something. Like giving directions, or helping them find something or perhaps even do a little favor for them!

Here, we use "need" which sounds a little bit similar to Japanese ニーズ, isn't it?

Well, actually "need" is a verb or a modal verb .

助動詞のneedは「～する必要がある」という意味です。





Therefore, "Do you need help?" or "Do you need any help?"
means なにか手伝うことはありますか。 but it can also mean 手伝いましょうか。

3:27-4:48

Let's practice with this situation:

You see someone with a big, big suitcase, a lot of luggage, struggling up the stairs on the station. Unfortunately, a lot of train stations in Japan don't have easily accessible elevators, so you could very often see people like that.

Oh, do you need any help?
Sure, if you wouldn't mind. Thank you very much!
Are you sure you can handle it? It's quite heavy.
No problem! Let me help you.

Let me help you is yet another useful phrase.
It translates to: 手伝わせてください which also a very polite expression.

5:11-8:00

Me: I see. So you wanna get to the Princess Hotel?
Tourist: Yeah, that's the hotel I'm staying at. It should be around here, right?
Me: Uhm, actually it's not here. You need to take the train to get there.
Tourist: Oh, really! Gosh, how can I get there?

Alright, so this time around, our troubled tourist wants to find a way to the Princess Hotel.

If we want to make sure and check with the other person that this is actually what they're looking for, we use the phrase:

So, you want ... So, you want some ice-cream, right?
So, you want to go... So, you want to go to Kyoto, am I right?
So, you want to get to... So, you want to get to Princess Hotel, am I correct?

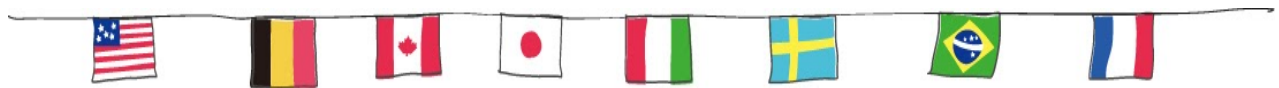
This is the type of question we would not usually ask first, but only as a way to confirm or reconfirm the purpose or plan of the other person.

You have probably noticed this little phrase in the end: "right"?
"Am I right"?

It means ですね？ ですよ in Japanese.
This is called 断言 (だんげん) in Japanese.

Then, I used "need" in the sentence: Uhm, actually it's not here.
You need to take the train to get there. ホテルに着くために、電車に乗る必要があります。
Or I could say: You have to take the train to get to this hotel.





Our next useful phrase is how can I get there?

How can I get there?

How means どのように or どうやって。

However, if we use it with CAN, just like here:

How can I...

it means that we're asking about the means to do something, to go somewhere and so on.

8:02-9:03

"GET" has a lot of meaning. In this particular case, it simply means "着く"

How can I get there? そこにどう行けますか? どうやってそこに行ける?

Alright! It's time to practice using this phrase in a conversation!

Please repeat after me:

Excuse me,

Yes?

How can I get to Shibuya Station?

It's simple. You need to take the Yamanote line from platform 3.

Oh, I see. Thank you!

9:07-11:00

Me: Take the Chuo Line from platform 3. After about 4 stations, get off at Shinjuku

Tourist: Okay.. So where is Chuo Line? Can you show me?

Me: Sure, follow me!

Okay, so that was the situation when we gave precise instructions for the other person.

Let's look at some of the useful questions we'd like to answer here:

Which line to take?

Where is the entrance to the station?

Which platform does the train depart from?

How many stations should I ride on the train?

What is the name of the station I should get off at?

Train systems and stations in Japan are very complicated for some of the tourists, especially if they come here to Japan for the first time.

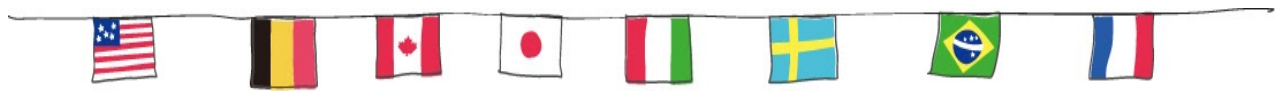
It's understandable, that's why we want to help those poor people!

First, let's look at some of the useful vocabulary I've just used:

Which line to take? -> "Line" means 線

For example 山の手線 is Yamanote line, 中央線 is Chuo Line, and so on.





11:03-15:00

Where is the entrance to the station?

“Entrance” is 入口 or 出入口 but for English speakers, 改札口 or 改札 is also an “entrance”.

Which platform does the train depart from?

The platform is a little tricky because it's the same word as for “Line” in Japanese - 線, but, this is what you can hear as an announcement in Japanese:

7 番線の電車、ドアが閉まります。

Well, actually, Platform translates to ホーム。

It's just not used the same way in Japan as in other English speaking countries.

Some, please remember that 7 番線 is 7 番ホーム in English, so that would be: “platform number 7”.

f.e. You can say 7 番線 as well as 山の手線. Platform means specifically the numbered place, train tracks from which the trains depart (leaves).

How many stations should I ride on the train?

This one is simple, as “how many” means 何個、何ヶ～、

How many stations = 駅はいくつですか？

What is the name of the station I should get off at?

What's the name of the station I should get off at?

Take the Chuo Line ->

We use ‘take’ not only to express 取る・撮る・受ける、

For example: take English classes, take the course, take a picture but also 乗る、like in “Take the train”, “take the stairs”, “take the elevator”, “take the escalator”, “take the taxi”, “take the bus” .

Take is a universal verb that is used for many different means of transportation.

So, here, “take the Chuo Line” means 中央線に乗ってください。

15:09-16:42

Me: Get out of the station at the West Gate. It's only a five-minute walk from there.

Get off the train at the Shinjuku station and get out of the station at the West Gate. It takes five minutes on foot from there.

Get off. 降りる Get off the train.

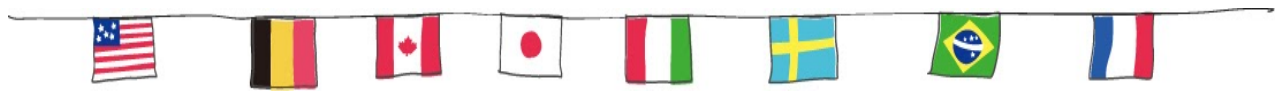
I'm getting off at the next station. Bye!

Get out. 出る Get out of the building. Get out of the station.

I need to get out of my room, my mom's calling me for dinner.

I just got out of my office. It's time to go home!





16:45-17:36

On foot. 歩いて Five-minute walk.
歩いて5分ほど It's only a five minute walk.
It takes 5 minutes on foot.

How do you go to your train station?
I go there on foot.

17:40-18:16

How long does it take in total to the hotel?
I guess it'll take about 20 minutes.

Let's practice!

How long does it take from here?
(ここからどれくらいかかりますか?)

How long does it take to get there?
(そこへ行くまでどのくらいかかりますか?)

18:17-18:41

Great! Alright, so that will be all for tonight! So how was it? Did you have fun?
I surely had fun tonight! Okay then, I'll see you all next time.

Take care of yourself. Bye!!!

