

He's early — she's not

The roll-down shutter outside this *pan-ya* (bread shop) is still not all the way up (indicating that they are not yet officially open for business), so Kōsuke politely gives his morning greetings and asks if it's OK to come in. The woman behind the counter is surprised because he's there so early.

Although the kanji for “early” (早) can be used to write *ohayō gozaimasu* (お早うございます), it's more often than not written in hiragana.



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Kōsuke: おはようございます。いい っすか?
Ohayō gozaimasu. It ssu ka?
 good morning good/OK is it?
 “Good morning. Is it OK [Can I come in]?”
 (PL2-3)

- *it ssu ka* is a contraction of *it desu ka*, used when asking permission. This is a “cheater” PL3, or an informal way of showing a degree of respect.

Woman: アラ、早い じゃない。
Ara, hayai ja nai.
 (exclam.) early aren't (you)
 “My, aren't (you) early,” (PL2)

- *ara* is a feminine expression of surprise.
- *ja nai* is a contraction of *de wa nai* (“is not”).
- the subject of *hayai* is not specified, but given the situation, she's saying “you are early” rather than “it (the hour) is early.”

How late is it morning?

A difference in perceptions: he has been up and about and feels like the day is well under way, so he greets her with *konnichi wa*. She is hanging out laundry — a task associated with the morning — so she greets him with *ohayō gozaimasu*. We would guess this scene to be around 10:30 AM. Generally 10:30 – 11:00 is considered the cut-off for *ohayō*, although there's obviously room for individual interpretation.



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Sasaki: こんにちは 奥さん!!
Konnichi wa, Okusan!!
 “Good day, ma'am (Mrs. Hamazaki)!!”
 (PL3)

Mrs. Hamazaki: あら 佐々木さん、おはよう ございます。
Ara, Sasaki-san, ohayō gozaimasu.
 “Oh, Mr. Sasaki, good morning.” (PL3-4)

- *okusan*, a word for “wife,” is also used to address married women. In Japanese a “title” is often used as the name would be used in English.

Note: the wet laundry is put on poles (at one time these were bamboo) which are placed on the rack in front of her.

Basic Japanese Through Comics

Mangajin



Basic Japanese Through Comics:

Mangajin's Basic Japanese Through Comics ,1998 What is Basic Japanese This book presents some very basic words and phrases along with some that are not usually considered basic at all In fact some of the material in this book is not typically presented until the student is well into his or her study of the Japanese language and even then it can be confusing without a skilled explanation The Mangajin method however makes even this advanced material basic and accessible to students at all levels Frames from Japanese manga comics are used to illustrate every point and English translations and notes allow even the basic beginner to understand material that might otherwise stump advanced students Basic Japanese through Comics is not intended as a textbook but rather as an entertaining supplement to a more formal study of Japanese The 24 lessons in this book do not build on each other they can be read or studied in any order Mangajin's Basic Japanese Through Comics Wayne Lammers,2001-09 Mangajin's Basic Japanese Through Comics a Compilation of the First 24 Basic Japanese Columns from Mangajin Magazine Vaughan P. Simmons,2001-09 Presents some very basic words phrases in Japanese along with some that are not usually considered basic at all but the Mangajin method can make even advanced material accessible to students at all levels Frames from authentic Japanese manga comics are used to illustrate every point with English translations allowing the beginner to understand material that might otherwise stump even advanced students This format also shows the linguistic logic of Japanese how words are strung together to present an idea Not a textbook but rather an entertaining supplement to a more structured study of Japanese The 24 lessons can be read or studied in any order

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Japanese Language in Use Toshiko Yamaguchi, 2007-10-13 Introduces pragmatics discourse language and culture in the Japanese context It covers Language in context Japanese in conversation Honorifics and politeness Language and gender and Young people's language

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Table of Contents Basic Japanese Through Comics

1. Understanding the eBook Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Basic Japanese Through Comics User Reviews and Ratings
 - Basic Japanese Through Comics and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Basic Japanese Through Comics Free and Paid eBooks
 - Basic Japanese Through Comics Public Domain eBooks
 - Basic Japanese Through Comics eBook Subscription Services
 - Basic Japanese Through Comics Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Basic Japanese Through Comics eBook Formats

- ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
- Basic Japanese Through Comics Compatibility with Devices
- Basic Japanese Through Comics Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Interactive Elements Basic Japanese Through Comics
- 8. Staying Engaged with Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Basic Japanese Through Comics
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Basic Japanese Through Comics
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Setting Reading Goals Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Basic Japanese Through Comics
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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