

Japanese For Gringos Lesson 5 Ordering Food Drink 2026 10 06

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Maya: Konnichiwa and welcome back to Japanese for Gringos. I'm Maya, and today's lesson is my favorite kind, the delicious kind.

Devon: And I'm Devon. Lesson five, and we're ordering food and drink in Japan. The single most fun sentence you'll ever say in another language is, I'll have this one.

Maya: And by the end of this lesson, you'll say it like a local. Here we go, first phrase. Menyu onegaishimasu. Menu, please. Say it with me, meh-nyoo oh-neh-gah-ee-mahss. That oh-neh-gah-ee-mahss is the same please from lesson two, so it should feel familiar.

Devon: Phrase two, and this is the money phrase. Kore o kudasai. It means this one, please, or I'll have this. Pronounce it koh-reh oh koo-dah-sah-ee. Tip, hold that oh a little longer than you think, koh-reh, then a nice long oh. And you point at the thing you want. Pointing is not rude here, it is the whole strategy.

Maya: Phrase three, for when the thing looks amazing but you have no idea what it is. Kore wa nan desu ka. What is this. Say koh-reh wah nahn dess kah. Tip, hold that ahn in nahn a little longer than you think. This is the question that saves you from accidentally ordering cow tongue.

Devon: Phrase four is pure joy. Oishisou desu. It means it looks delicious. Pronounce it oh-ee-shee-soh dess. Tip, three even syllables, oh, ee, shee, then soh. Flat and even, no stressing the shee. Say it when the food arrives and your server will melt.

Maya: Phrase five, because one plate is never enough. Mo hitotsu onegaishimasu. One more, please. Say moh hee-toh-tsoo oh-neh-gah-ee-mahss. Tip, that tsoo is like the start of tsunami, just tss with a tiny o at the end. And hitotsu, from your numbers toolbox, means one thing.

Devon: Two closing phrases. When you finish eating, say gochisousama deshita. Thank you for the meal, it was delicious. Pronounce it goh-chee-soh-sah-mah desh-tah. And if you want to tell the chef directly, oishikatta desu. It was delicious. Say oh-ee-shee-kah-tah dess. Tip, the tah has a tiny pause before it. Go-chee-soh, pause, sah-mah. Use these and watch what happens.

Maya: Demo time, Devon. We walk into a little noodle shop in Osaka. The menu is all pictures and I can't read a thing.

Devon: Sumimasen. Menyu onegaishimasu.

Maya: Hai. The server hands us the menu and points at a photo of something steaming and gorgeous.

Devon: Oishisou desu. Kore wa nan desu ka.

Maya: That is ramen. The classic.

Devon: Kore o kudasai. And after I finish, gochisousama deshita.

Devon: You want the menu.

Maya: Menyu onegaishimasu. Meh-nyoo oh-neh-gah-ee-mahss.

Devon: You want that gorgeous thing in the photo.

Maya: Kore o kudasai. Koh-reh oh koo-dah-sah-ee.

Devon: You just finished, and it was amazing.

Maya: Gochisousama deshita. Goh-chee-soh-sah-mah desh-tah.

Devon: Seven new phrases today, and you can already walk into any restaurant in Japan and eat like a champion.

Maya: Next lesson, we stay at the table for the full restaurant experience. Practice pointing at your lunch today and saying kore o kudasai. Sah-yoh-nah-rah, friends.

Devon: Sah-yoh-nah-rah. Go eat something good.