

Task Name: “New York University Meet-and-Greet: Asking Questions to Classmates”

Required Materials: Genki textbook Chapter 1, whiteboard or projector for vocabulary display, handouts with scenario descriptions, pens/paper for notes.

Language Skills Practiced: Forming question sentences (e.g., using ～ですか), listening comprehension, basic conversational interaction.

Time Required: Approximately 35 minutes.

Background and Problem to Solve:

You are a student in a beginner Japanese class at a New York City college (e.g., City University of New York or New York University). The class has a diverse mix of international and local students, and it's the first week. To build connections and practice Japanese, you need to approach classmates and ask questions to learn about their backgrounds, such as nationality or student status. The challenge is to use only Chapter 1 vocabulary to form correct question sentences and engage in simple conversations, ensuring you can gather information like “Are you an American?” or “Are you a student?” in a natural, friendly setting.

Required Vocabulary (from Genki Ch.1):

- アメリカじん (American)
- にほんじん (Japanese)
- がくせい (student)
- せんせい (teacher)
- かいしゃいん (company employee)
- いしゃ (doctor)
- だいがく (university)
- ～さん (honorific suffix, e.g., メアリーさん)
- ですか (question marker, e.g., ～ですか)
- はい (yes)
- いいえ (no)
- そうですね (I see)
- Example question sentence: メアリーさんはアメリカじんですか。 (Is Mary American?)

Instructional Steps:

1. **Vocabulary Review (5 minutes):** Using the whiteboard, review the Chapter 1 vocabulary list above. Practice pronunciation and meaning, focusing on words related to nationality and occupations. Have students repeat key terms aloud.
2. **Model Question Formation (10 minutes):** Present example question sentences on the board, such as “メアリーさんはアメリカじんですか。” and “ジョンさんはがくせいですか。” Explain how to replace parts to form new questions (e.g., changing アメリカじん to にほんじん). Students practice writing 2-3 original questions using only Ch.1 vocabulary, incorporating New York-related elements (e.g., asking if someone is a student at a New York university).
3. **Pair Practice and Role-Play (15 minutes):** Pair students and distribute handouts with a scenario: “You are at a campus event in New York. Ask your partner questions to find out if they are American, a student, etc.” Students take turns asking and answering questions using the vocabulary, with prompts to use はい or いいえ in responses. Encourage them to note down their partner's answers.
4. **Class Sharing and Wrap-up (5 minutes):** Have a few volunteers share one interesting thing they

learned about their partner (e.g., “マイクさんはがくせいです”). Write key findings on the board to reinforce question-answer patterns. Conclude by reminding students to use these questions in real-life situations, like meeting new people in New York.