

Task Name: “Lost and Found at Grand Central”

Target Learners: University/college students in New York using *Genki* (Ch.1–Ch.2)

Language Skills: Speaking, listening, using demonstratives (これ/あれ/それ/どれ) in Q&A

Time Required: 15–20 minutes

Materials Needed: Picture cards or digital images of common items (bag, book, phone, hat, water bottle, keys), a photo of Grand Central Terminal’s main concourse.

Background Context (in English):

You are at Grand Central Terminal with your friend Alex, who just realized they lost an item somewhere in the station. Alex points at different items near you or far away, asking what things are to see if any belong to them. You will help by answering questions and asking your own to identify the lost item.

Key Vocabulary (from Genki Ch.1–Ch.2 only):

Nouns: かばん (bag), ほん (book), でんしゃ (train), かぎ (keys), みず (water), けいたい/でんわ (phone), ぼうし (hat), てがみ (letter), ざっし (magazine), しんぶん (newspaper), つくえ (desk), いす (chair), ともだち (friend), がっこう (school), えき (station).

Grammar/Demonstratives: これ (this, near me), それ (that, near you), あれ (that over there, far from both), どれ (which one).

Q&A Patterns: これはなんですか。 (What is this?), それは～ですか。 (Is that ~?), あれはなんですか。 (What is that over there?), どれが～ですか。 (Which one is ~?).

Task Steps:

1. Set the Scene (in English):

Display the photo of Grand Central Terminal. Explain: “You and Alex are in the main concourse. Alex points to items nearby, far away, or items you are holding. Your goal is to identify what each item is and help find the lost thing.”

2. Vocabulary Warm-up (in English, but students use Japanese):

Show picture cards one by one. Students name each item in Japanese using: “これは [item] です。” (e.g., これはかばんです). Practice with それ and あれ by placing cards at different distances.

3. Role-play Q&A (students converse in Japanese):

- Partner A (Alex): Points to an item card near Partner B and asks: “それはなんですか。”
- Partner B: Answers: “これは [item] です。”
- Switch roles. Then practice with あれ (pointing to a distant card) and これ (pointing to own item).

4. Problem-solving Task (in Japanese):

Partner A says: “わたしのかぎがありません。どれがわたしのかぎですか。” (I lost my keys. Which ones are my keys?).

Partner B holds up two different key cards and asks: “これはあなたのかぎですか。” (Are these your keys?). Partner A responds: “はい、そうです。” or “いいえ、ちがいます。”

5. Extension (optional):

Use a mixed set of cards placed around the room. Partner A asks about 3 items using これ/あれ/それ, and Partner B answers. Then, Partner A asks: “どれがあなたのほんですか。” (Which one is your book?), and Partner B points and says: “あれがわたしのほんです。”