

# Summary

## Level 1-1-05

2020 ねん 3 がつ 14 か どようび

### ●How to read the phone number

Normally '0s' (zeros) are pronounced as 「ゼロ」 (zero), not 「れい」 (rei) in phone numbers. Similarly, '4' or '7' or '9' are pronounced as 「よん」 (yon), 「なな」 (nana) or 「きゅう」 (kyu) respectively; not 'shi', 'shichi' or 'ku'. See the table below for your reference.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Preferred pronunciation for telephone numbers	zero	ichi	ni	san	yon	go	roku	nana	hachi	kyu
Other pronunciation	rei				shi			shichi		ku

e.g.) 020-8331-7109 shall be read out as 'zero ni zero hachi san san ichi nana ichi zero kyu'.

**NOTE:** Japanese pronunciation for 'roku' does not sound like 'rock' as it may look like with the Romaji. It is more like 'loku', where tip of your tongue touches the pallet of your mouth (but not immediately behind your front teeth like when you pronounce an 'L'). Because of the Romaji notation system, it is written as 'roku', not 'loku'. You always need to be careful with what you are pronouncing, as Romaji could not be an exact representation of the Japanese pronunciation system. In order to pronounce words correctly, you need to learn Hiragana and Katakana!

### ●すみません。(Sumimasen.)

('Excuse me,' 'pardon me', 'thank you', or 'I'm sorry'.)

When you want to get somebody's attention, or when you want to apologize or thank to the person, use 「すみません」 (sumimasen). Meaning can be interpreted according to the situation.

●Place/Person の でんわばんごう は なんばん ですか。

(Place/person no denwa-bangō wa **nan-ban** desu ka).

(What is the phone number of the place/person?)

When you want to ask the telephone number of a place/person, use the sentence structure above. Remember, 「の」 (**no**) here is a particle, which modifies the phone number (denwa-bangō), adding a meaning that the phone number is of the place/person.

「なんばん」 (nan-ban) here can be broken down to 「なん」 (nan) + 「ばん」 (ban), where the former is an **interrogative word**, and the latter, 「ばん」 (ban), is called a **counter** or a **counter word**, which the English language does not have. However, similar words in English are called **measure words** such as **pieces**, **drops**, etc: i.e. one piece of paper, two drops of mud.

As well as telephone numbers, 「なんばん」 (nan-ban) can be used for asking numbers in general; you can ask the number of buses, hotel rooms, or house numbers or queuing ticket numbers, etc.

Q: きょうとえきいきのバスはなんばんですか。Kyoto-eki iki no basu wa nan-ban desu ka.

(What number bus goes to Kyoto Station?)

A: 5 ばん です。Go-ban desu.

((That is) no 5.)

**Hint:** Telephone numbers in olden days were said to be, let's say if the number was 65-0008, 「65-0008 ばん」 (roku go zero zero zero hachi '**ban**'). Nowadays it is common to omit 「ばん」 (**ban**) in saying the telephone number, so this number can simply be said as 'roku go zero zero zero hachi'.