



Design: Masako Ban

# official receipt



## Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 2

When I was shopping and waiting in line at the cashier, I heard the clerk asking the customers "onamae wa?" (What's the name? or Who should it be addressed to?) I expected them to give their own names, but instead they answered "ue-sama." Since then, I've realized the same conversation is carried at other stores too, when customers are asking for official receipts. Do Japanese people have another name beside their own?

No, but you can be "ue-sama" too! In the past, the word "ue-sama" was used to address members of the upper classes, such as Shōgun (samurai general). "ue-sama" is now in use only when issuing official receipts, replacing the actual name/company name. It is said that this form of address will not disgrace the recipient, no matter who he/she is. So, if you need an official receipt and the clerk asks you "onamae wa?" you could answer "ue-sama."

### Official Receipt.....ryōshūsho

A receipt serves as a legal document. In Japanese companies, the accounting department often requires a "ryōshūsho" for reimbursement. A "ryōshūsho" does not itemize the details. (If you do not want your secretary or the accounting department to know exactly how many drinks you had, you could give them the "ryōshūsho" instead of the restaurant bill.) There are some places, however, which refuse to write "ue-sama" (e.g., department stores). In that case, have your name/company name ready.

### Quiz 佐藤 / 鈴木 / 田中

One of the three names on left is the most common last name in Japan. Now, which one is it?

The answer is "Suzuki." This last name is more common in east Japan, especially in Shizuoka Prefecture (approximately one out of every 65 people). Believe it or not, in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, approximately one out of every 20 is Suzuki-san! So if you are ever in Hamamatsu and shout the name at a train station, at least a few Suzuki-san will turn around and look at you.

Top 3 most common last names: 1. 鈴木 (Suzuki) 2. 佐藤 (Satō) 3. 田中 (Tanaka)

.....at a shop

Mr. Pole: Please give me an official receipt.

official receipt おねがいします。  
onegaishimasu

clerk: What's the name? Whoshoulditbeaddressedto?  
お名前は。 or お宛名は。  
onamae wa? oatena wa?

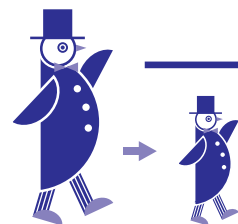
Mr. Pole: It's "company name." Write it to "name replacement."  
company name です。 or name replacement で。  
desu de (by means of)

clerk: How shall I fill out the items section?  
但書きは。  
tadashigaki wa?

Mr. Pole: .....

Even if you do not specify the items you purchased, the clerk will normally fill out the section on the receipt as below.  
e.g. oshokuji-dai.....meal expenses, oshina-dai.....merchandise expenses, shoseki-dai.....book expenses

Answers  
領収書 ryōshūsho 上様 ue-sama



### large to small rule

In other words, the "large" idea is expressed first with smaller ideas following. Remember, this rule applies to many situations in Japanese.

e.g.,  
fullname: Oda Masanori  
family name given name (last) (first)  
where youwork: Nihon Kabushiki gaisha Oda Masanori  
company name family name given name  
address: Tokyo to Minato ku Azabu 1-2-3 River Apt. Oda Masanori  
prefecture area in pref. town house # person's name (ward, city)  
date: sen kyūhyaku kyūjū kyū nen shi gatsu nijū roku nichi getsuyōbi  
year month date day of the week (year 1999) (April) (26th) (Monday)



ryō receive, dominion shū income, collect sho write, book, document

領 [横 おう ō usurpation] 領 りょう ryō receive] misappropriation, embezzlement

My business colleague embezzled company property (money).

同僚は会社の金を横領をしました。  
dōryō wa kaisha no kane o ōryō o shimashita

収 [年 ねん nen year] 収 しゅう shū income] annual income

Because of the recession, my annual income dropped drastically.

不景気で年収は大幅に減りました。  
fukēki de nenshū wa ōhaba ni herimashita

収 [収 しゅう shū collect] 賄 わい wai graft] graft, bribe

That person was arrested for bribery.  
あの人 は収賄で捕まりました。  
ano hito wa shūwai de tsukamarimashita

書 [請 せい se request] 求 きゅう kyū demand] bill, invoice

At the end of the month, I will pay the bill.  
月末に請求書の支払いをします。  
getsumatsu ni sēkyūsho no shiharai o shimasu

書 [書 しよ sho document] 類 るい rui sort] document

I left the document on a train.  
書類を電車に置き忘れました。  
shorui o densha ni oki-wasuremashita

書 [説 せつ setsu explanation] 明 めい mē clear] written explanation, instruction

I learned it by reading the instructions.  
説明書を見ながら覚えました。  
setsumesho o minagara oboemashita