Months and dates

Today we learned how to say the months and how to count the days in a month. Doing this is not too difficult if you know how to count in Japanese! There are a few exceptions and these are on the worksheet that we gave out today in class (thank you, Miss Karen for creating it for us!).

To say the months of the year, you add the word for month, “gatsu” to the end of the number. You have to remember to say “shi” for April (not “yon”), “shichi” for July (not “nana”) and “kuu” for September (not “kyuu”).

This is the kanji for “gatsu”, meaning “month” 月

Month Kanji Hiragana Roomaji

January 一月 いちがつ ichigatsu

February 二月 にがつ nigatsu

March 三月 さんがつ sangatsu

April 四月 しがつ shigatsu

May 五月 ごがつ gogatsu

June 六月 六月 rokugatsu

July 七月 しちがつ shichigatsu

August 八月 はちがつ hachigatsu

September 九月 くうがつ kuugatsu

October 十月 じゅうがつ juugatsu

November 十一月 じゅういちがつ juuichigatsu

December 十二月 じゅうにがつ juunigatsu

To say the dates in a months, you also need to know how to count but the dates from the first through the tenth of the month, the 14th, the 20th and the 24th day of the month are a stated a little differently from the other days.

First day of the month 一日 ついたち tsuitachi (NOT “ichi nichi”)

Second “ 二日 ふつか futsuka (NOT “ni nichi”)

Third “ 三日 みっか mikka (NOT “san nichi”)

Fourth “ 四日 よっか yokka (NOT “shi/yon nichi”)

Fifth “ 五日 いつか itsuka (NOT “go nichi”)

Sixth “ 六日 むいか muika (NOT “roku nichi”)

Seventh “ 七日 なのか nanoka (NOT “shichi/nana nichi”)

Eighth “ 八日 ようか youka (NOT “hachi nichi”)

Ninth “ 九日 ここのか kokonoka (NOT “kyuu/kuu nichi”)

Tenth “ 十日 とうか touka (NOT “juu nichi”)

Fourthteenth “ 十四日 じゅうよっか juuyokka (NOT “juu yon/shi nichi”)

Twentieth “ 二十日 はつか hatsuka (NOT “ni juu nichi”)

Twenty fourth “ 二十四日 にじゅうよっか nijuu yokka (NOT “ni juu yon/shi nichi”)

FOR ALL THE OTHER DAYS, you count normally and add the word “nichi” to the end of the number.

Example: 11th day of the month 十一日 じゅういちにち juu ichi nichi

This is the kanji for “nichi”, meaning “day” 日

We also learned how to say, “When is your birthday?” and give the answer!

あなた　の　たんじょうび　は　いつ　ですか.

Anata no tanjoobi wa itsu desuka.

When is your birthday?

わたし　の　たんじょうび　は　一月　ついたち　です。

Watashi no tanjoubi wa ichigatsu tsuitchi desu.

My birthday is on January first.