Greetings

1.1 Aisatsu

ACTIVITY 1 is on the recording.

ACTIVITY 2

What is the weather for each time of day mentioned?

1. day          a. cold and horrible
2. evening      b. good weather
3. morning      c. hot

DIALOGUE 1

○ Shimada san, konnichiwa.
■ Itō san! Konnichiwa.
○ Ii tenki desu ne.
■ So desu ne. Ii tenki desu ne.

■ Yoshida san, konbanwa.
○ Konbanwa. Atsui desu ne.
■ E. Atsui desu ne.

○ Yamada san, ohayo gozaimasu.
■ Ohayo. Iya-na tenki desu ne.
○ So desu ne. Samui desu ne.

VOCABULARY

|hajime ni| first of all, at first |
|aisatsu| greetings |
|... san| Mr, Mrs, Ms ... |
|konnichiwa| hello, good afternoon |
|ii tenki| nice weather |
|desu| am, is, are |
|so desu| that's right; it's so |
|ne| isn't it! |
|konbanwa| good evening |
|atsui| hot |
|e| yes (informal) |
|ohayo| good morning |
|ohayo| morning! [informal] |
|iya-na tenki| horrible weather |
|samui| cold |

Answers to the activities are in the Answer section on page 213.
The word desu is very versatile. It can mean '(I) am', '(you) are', '(we) are', or '(he/she/it) is'. The words for 'you' or 'I', etc., are often omitted when it's obvious from the context who or what you're talking about. Like all Japanese verbs, desu generally comes at the end of the sentence.


You can add ne to the end of a sentence to make a tag question ('isn't it?', 'aren't they?', etc.).

Atsui desu ne. It's hot, isn't it?
Ii desu ne. It's nice, isn't it?
Sō desu ne. It is, isn't it? / That's right, isn't it?

Talking about the weather

Japanese people do not often use the equivalent of 'How are you?' when they meet, except when they haven't seen each other for a while, or are genuinely enquiring after someone's health. Instead, they tend to comment on the weather when greeting each other.

ACTIVITY 3

Which of these comments on the weather would you make where you are today?

1. Ii tenki desu ne.
2. Iya-na tenki desu ne.
3. Samui desu ne.
4. Atsui desu ne.
5. Ne - isn't it?

Now do [activities 4 and 5] on the recording.