

## Re: conversation partner

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"Curt Fischer" <crf3@po.cwru.edu> wrote in message  
news:2kt941F628cvU1@uni-berlin.de...

> *Adam Atkinson wrote:*

>

> > *When will I find out the Japanese for "to have"? After 1 year*

> > *at 2 hours per week we've yet to be told this: we've*

> > *been told that we can use "arimasu" if we're talking about*

> > *having appointments, things to do, work or money, but not*

> > *for other things. It feels quite surprising to know how*

> > *to say "I want X", "I want to do X", "I am good at X",*

> > *"I went to X by Y with Z yesterday" but not "I have X".*

> >

> > *Do Japanese people never say they have things? Is saying*

> > *you have something fraught with complications I'm not*

> > *currently equipped to deal with?*

>

> *A good question. I bet people with better Japanese than mine could make a*

> *decent case for translating every "have" below into different Japanese*

> *verbs, only one of which would be "aru".*

>

> *I'll have dessert.*

> *I have a disease.*

> *I have two dollars.*

> *I have red hair.*

I get zero arus:

\$B%G%5!<%H\$rD:\$-\$^\$9!# (B

\$BIB5\$\$G\$9!# (Bor \$BIB5\$\$KXm\$C\$F\$\$\$^\$9!# (B

2 \$B%I%k;}\$C\$F\$\$\$^\$9!# (B

\$B@V\$\$H1\$NLS\$7\$F\$\$\$^\$9!# (B

Note, the latter is actually an interesting example. Most Japanese of course wouldn't point out that their hair is black (although nowadays they might since it is becoming so unusual...) and *\*everything\** else is just kinpatsu. I'm actually a redhead myself (well, I used to be when I had hair...) and I always had the toughest time explaining to Japanese the distinction between

sci.lang.japan: Re: conversation partner

blonde and red hair. I've known Japanese who have lived in the states for years and who still have trouble making the distinction. If you don't have black hair you would just be \$B6bH1\$G\$9!# (BI eventually gave up and just referred to myself as \$B6bH1 (B (before the word \$BGm\$2 (B completely took over anyway...)) If anything I would explain that in the U.S./West we refer to my hair as being red (a completely different sentence from above of course.)

Jeff