Genki I Grammar Points

1. **(X は) Y です。**

It (X) is Y.

1. **~か。**

Question Marker

1. **N1 の N2**

N1 modifies N2

N2 of N1

1. **これ** -> **This** [near me] *(n.)*

**それ** -> **That** [near you] *(n.)*

**あれ** -> **That** [away from us] *(n.)*

**どれ(が)** -> **Which** [interrogative, unspecified] *(n.)*

1. **この** -> **This** *(adj.)*

**その** -> **That** *(adj.)*

**あの** -> **That** *(adj.)*

**どの(が)** -> **Which** *(adj.)*

1. **だれ　・　だれの (が)**

*Who Whose (adj.)*

1. **ここ** -> **Here**

**そこ** -> **There**  [near you]

**あそこ** -> **There** [away from us]

**どこ(が)** -> **Where**

8. **A は X です。** A is X.

**B も Y です。** B too is X.

*\* B is to be different (person/object/activity) than A.*

9. **~ね。　 ・ 　～よ。**

Seeking confirmation. Makes authoritative.

10. **Verb Conjugation**

See conjugation tables.

11. **Particles**

**で** The location in which an event takes place.

**に** The goal towards which things move.

The time at which an event takes place.

“**on** day” / “**in** month”

*\*****ごろ*** */* ***ごろに*** *make times approximate.*

**へ** Goal of movement (overlaps に usage).

**を** Direct object marker.

12. **～ませんか。**

Extends an invitation to do something.

13. **Frequency Adverbs**

Negative adverbs require negative verb conjugations.

14. **は Questions**

Ending a statement at は invites the listener to complete or respond to the

sentence. Also note, は marks the topic which is not necessarily the subject.

15. **来る vs. 行く**

***来る*** refers to movement **towards** the **speaker**.

***行く***　refers to movement **away from** the **speaker**.

16. **あります Particles**

***に***　replaces で for location.

***が***　replaces は for topic introduction.

17. **Locations**

When describing a location, the noun comes first and is attached to the

modifier with の. X の 前 means “in front of X.”

18. **Past Tense**

See conjugation tables.

19. **Placement of Quantity adjectives**

Words like たくさん may be placed before the noun they modify or following

the を direct object marker:

「たくさん写真**を**」 *vs.* 「写真**を**たくさん」

20. **Durations of Time: ～時間 (ぐらい)**

Terms (unit words) that indicate some duration of time do not take a particle,

and are usually placed directly before the verb. To make the duration

approximate, append with 「**ぐらい**].

21. **と**

「ＸとＹ」 means “X and Y.”

「X は Y と」 means “together with” or “with.”

22. **More on も**

As well as marking similarities, も may be used to indicated two people

performed similar activities. It may also mark subsequent direct objects

with the same action performed upon them (eat, buy, etc.).

23. **「X　の 前 / むかい」 and 「X の うら」**

「X の 前」 means “in front of X,” but it is also be used to say “opposite of X” or

“across (the street) from X.” Instead of「前」, the word**「X の むかい」**may be

used. If something is behind X, or if something is being obscured from view

by X, in addition to 「X の 後ろ」 the term **「X の うら」**may be used.

24. **えっ and あっ**

えっ　is analogous to an incredulous “What?”

あっ　is used when you suddenly notice or remember something.

25. **半 *(half)* Usage**

**半**　is used after a unit word like 時間.

二時間半 (O)　is correct whereas ~~二半時間~~ (X)　is not.

26. **もしもし**

A term used only in telephone conversation. It may be used when placing a

Call or when receiving a call.

27. **Adjective Conjugation**

See conjugation tables.

28. **Degree Expressions**

Degree adverbs *(とても [very] and ちょっと [a little])* are placed directly before

the adjective they modify. 好き and きらい use 大 as an intensifying prefix.

29. **Stem + ましょう**

Replacing a long form verb ending with ましょう suggests a plan of action –

“Let’s [verb].” You may add か, in which case it translates as “Shall we [verb]?”

*\*****ましょうか*** *is also used to offer assistance (“Let me… / Shall I… / I’ll do it.”)*

30. **Counters: 枚 (まい)**

枚 is a counter for sheets of paper or other flat objects. Ex: 三枚.

31. **忙しい vs. にぎやか(な)**

忙し(いそがしい) means busy and is used for people.

にぎやか(な) means busy or lively and is used for places.

32. **て Form**

A. ***Conjugation:*** See conjugation tables.

B. ***～てください:*** Creates a polite request.

C. ***～てもいいですか;*** Requests permission to do something.

D. ***～てもいいです(よ):*** Grants permission.

E. ***～てはいけません:*** Denies permission.

F. ***て Form + 2nd Verb:*** Acts as “and” to connect verb phrases.

33. **～から**

A sentence ending in から [because] explains circumstances regarding a

situation. Form: **Situation。Explanation *から*。**

34. **Adjective vs. Adverb Form**

Some terms have both adjective and adverb forms.

For example, late: **遅い** *(adj.)* vs. **遅く** *(adv.)*

35. **お**

This *optional* prefix is used to add smoothness and nuance of social refinement.

36. **～ている**

*\*Acceptable for both animate and inanimate objects.*

A. **Present Progressive** form of an activity verb: I *am eating*.

B. **～ています:** Use to state occupation. Meaning overlaps with Point A.

C. A **Continued State**: Location, has, fat/thin, marital, knowing a language,

awake/asleep, wears, etc.

*\*行く and 来る in this form indicate the current state of one’s location*

*due to prior movement, and do NOT indicate that one is currently in movement.*

37. **[Person] は [Subject] が [Adjective] です。**

This form is used to state an individual’s attributes, such as “Tom has long hair.”

This is the preferred form over the unnatural *[Person の Subject] は [Adj.] です。*

38. **て Form for Adjectives and Nouns**

Used to chain together adjectives. See conjugation tables.

39. **Verb Stem + に行く**

[Destination of Movement] {***に***, ***へ***} [Purpose of Movement] **に** {***行く***, ***来る***, ***帰る***}。

This form describes someone going somewhere in order to do something.

*\*Verbs fulfilling the purpose of the movement are in* ***stem*** *form.*

40. **～人**

To count people, add the suffix ～人 to the number.

*\*One and two are irregular: ひとり and ふたり respectively.*

41. **遊ぶ (あそぶ) Usage**

遊ぶ means “to play,” “to spend time pleasantly,” or “to pay a social call.”

It is **not** used for playing instruments (を弾く/をひく) or sports (をする).

42. **Short Form Conjugations**

See conjugation tables.

43. **Short Form Usage**

A. ***Quotes and Representation:*** Use a clause ending with a short form predicate followed by 「**と**」 and 「**言っていました**」 (“they said…”)

or 「**思います**」(“I think that…”), etc.

B. ***Casual Speech:*** Short form is used in casual speech. If a superior speaks

to you in short form it does not mean that you should respond

in short form.

*\*Casual question sentences use* ***rising intonation*** *instead of か.*

*\*The* ***だ*** *ending of な-adj and noun constructions is usually* ***dropped*** *in casual conversation.*

44. **～ないでください**

A negative short form + でください can be used to request that someone refrain

from doing something.

45. **Verbの**

A short form verb appended with **の**　expresses the idea of “doing [verb].”

To be good at something is 「[verb]のが上手(じょうず)です。」

To be bad at something is 「[verb]のが下手(へた)でせ。」

[verb]のが下手(へた)でせ

Should be:

[verb]のが下手(へた)です.

46. **Particle: が**

が takes the position of は. It indicates both the topic and the subject, and

emphasizes the topic more strongly than は:

1. Robert (は) went to Okinawa. (「ロバートは沖縄に行きました。」)
2. *Robert* (が) went to Okinawa. (「ロバートが沖縄に行きました。」)

が presents the subject in a way that it “fills-in-the-blank” of a question word:

“Who went to Okinawa?” (「だれが沖縄に行きました？」) | “Robert (が) did” (#2 above).

47. **何か and 何も (+Negative)**

These words are used to mean something/anything/nothing. か is used in positive

statements and questions, while も is used in negative statements in conjunction

with a negative verb. In this context, they act as particles and do not take an

additional particle.

48. **Particles and する Verbs**

Most irregular verbs are a pairing of a noun with the irregular verb する (i.e. 勉

強する). With many such verbs, the verb can be restructured so that the noun is

the direct object of する (勉強**を**する). Because verbs only take one direct object,

a sentence using this form may need to be phrased differently. For example:

1. 日本語を勉強します。 (I study Japanese).
2. 日本語の勉強をします。 (I study Japanese).

The above two sentences are correct, whereas ~~日本語~~**~~を~~**~~勉強~~**~~を~~**~~します~~ is incorrect.

49. **Past Tense Short Form Conjugation**

See conjugation Tables.

50. **Qualifying Nouns with Verbs and Adjectives**

Short form verbs may be used as qualifiers preceding the nouns that they modify.

Below is a chart of qualifying methods with examples.

1. い-Adj.: おもしろい 人 a person who is interesting
2. な-Adj.: 猫が好きな 人 a person who likes cats
3. Attributes: 髪が長い 人 a person who has long hair
4. Verb Based: めがねをかけている 人 a person who wears glasses

51. **まだ～ていません: Simple Past and Present Perfect**

***Affirmative***

In the affirmative, Japanese past tense verbs signify both the simple past and

present perfect meanings. Therefore, the simple past conjugation may be used

with both words that are disconnected from the present (きのう / yesterday), and

words that are connected to the present (もう / already). For example:

私はきのう宿題をしました。 I did the homework yesterday.

私はもう宿題をしました。 I have already done the homework.

***Negative***

In the negative, the Japanese past tense indicates a finished time period or

otherwise completed and disconnected event. A situation referring to an event as it still stands (present perfect) must use ～ている to express the tense.

私はきのう宿題をしませんでした。 I did not do the homework yesterday.

私はもう宿題をしていません。 I have not done the homework yet.

This ～ている form may be used both for activities and changes of state.

52. **～から as an Explanatory Clause Within a Statement**

An clause marked by 「から」may precede the clause it explains. Long and short

form verbs may be used in the explanation clause and modify the level of politeness,

but a long form verb is inappropriate when the final verb is in short form. 「から」 sentences may be interpreted as follows:

1. (Explanation) から、(Situation)。
2. (Situation), *because* (Explanation).
3. (Explanation), *therefore,* (Situation).

53. **Colors**

Color words may be either い-adjectives or nouns. The い-adjectives become

nouns by dropping their final い. Nouns require の to create noun phrases.

Adjectival: 黒い くろい Black 青い あおい Blue

白い しろい White 茶色い ちゃいろいBrown

赤い あかい Red 黄色い きいろい Yellow

Nominal: 緑 みどり グリーン 銀色 ぎんいろ 　シルバー

灰色 はいいろ Grey 紫 むらさき Purple

ピンク Pink 水色 みずいろ Light Blue

54. **Comparison**

「A**のほうが** B**より**(Property)。」

*A is more (property) than B.*

「AとBと**どっち**のほうが(Property)。」

*Between A and B, which is more (property)?*

*\*Alternatives to どっちのほう:* ***どちらのほう****,* ***どっち****, and* ***どちら****.*

「[(Class of Items)**の中で**] Aが**いちばん**(Property)。」

*A is the most (property) [among (class of items)].*

*\*Normal question words (i.e., だれ) are used in comparisons of 3 or more.*

*\*The phrase AのほうがBより often appear in reverse order –* ***BよりAのほうが****.*

55. **Adjective/Noun + の**

When a noun follows an adjective and it is clear what the noun is, it may be

replaced by「**の**」 meaning “the adj. one”. Likewise, 「の」may replace the final

noun of a「Noun1のNoun2」phrase. This may mean “the adj. one” or “noun’s.”

56. **～つもり + Copula**

A short form verb followed by つもり(+ だ / です) describes what a person is

planning to do in the future. A verb in negative short form followed by つもり

describes what someone plans on *not* doing.

57. **Adjective + なる**

The verb なる means “to become,” and it may be used with い-adjectives,

な-adjectives, and nouns.

い-Adjective: ~~い~~ -> **く**　+ なる

な-Adjective: ~~な~~　-> **に**　+　なる

Noun: Noun + **に**　+ なる

This structure indicates change, but not whether it is absolute (warm) or

relative (warmer). To specify that it is relative, you may use a comparison such

as 「前より」(“than before”):

**メアリーさんは前より日本語が上手になりました。**

***Mary has become more skilled at Japanese than before.***

*\*Note that なりました can be translated as present progressive because 前より indicates a connection to the present.*

58. **どこかに / どこにも: More Some / Any Expressions**

More question words follow the 何か (something) and 何も (not … anything) formulas.

As with the previous expressions, these take the place of particles such as は, が,

and を. However, these expressions interact differently with other particles.

The particles に, へ, and,で may appear in the blanks noted in the following list:

Something: 何か Not Anything: 何 も

Someone: だれか Not Anyone: だれ も

Somewhere: どこか Not anywhere. どこ も

59. **Particle: で**

The particle で can be used with nouns to describe a means of transportation or an

instrument used.

60. **が and けど**

By using these two terms at the end of a sentence, the statement is treated as common

ground between the speaker and the listener. They often indicate the speaker’s intention to

give the listener an opportunity to speak up or to react. This also contributes to politeness.

61. **～たい**

**「(Verb Stem) + たいです。」**  ***I*** *want to do…****\****

You can use a verb stem + たいです to describe **your** hopes or aspirations.

たい conjugates as an い-adjective, and the particle を may be replaced with が.

**「(Verb Stem) + たいと思っています。」 *I*** *have wanted to do…****\****

You may use this structure to express that **you** have wanted to do something for some time.

***\*****たい is usually only used to describe your own wishes, not those of others.*

*Others’ wishes are presented as quotations, observations, and guesses.*

*It may be used for questions, however.*

**「[Verb Stem+ たい] + と言っていました。」 *They*** *said that they wanted to…*

たいfollowed by と言っていました is used to quote somebody’s wishes.

**「[Verb Stem] + たがっている。」** *(It seems)* ***they*** *want to…*

The verb たがっている comes from the dictionary form たがる (u-verb) which indicates

that “I think that they want to, because of the way they are behaving.” Unlike たい based

expressions, を cannot be replaced by ~~が~~ when using たがる.

62. **～たり～たりする**

The て-form allows you to connect clauses, however it implies that the included

Activities　are the *only* activities to occur. If you want to mention activities as

examples but leave room for the possibility of unmentioned items, you may use the

predicate form ～たり～たりする. To create the たり form of a predicate, take the short

form past tense and add り. The helping verb する determines the tense of the sentence.

**「(Activity A) たり (Activity B) たりする。」**

“**…**do such things as A and B.”

63. **～ことがある**

A short form verb in past tense + ～ことがある indicates that something has been

done or experienced in the past. ある conjugates to present forms.

**「Verb (short, past) + ことがある。」**

“have the experience of…”

64. **Particle: や**

The particle や is similar to と, except that や infers that items in the list may

not be exhaustive.

**「A (noun)　や　B (noun)　...」**

　A and B, for example, …

65. **は Usage in Negative Sentences**

The particle は is often found in negative sentences where が or を might

otherwise be expected. The rule of thumb is that negative sentences should have

at least one phrase demarcated by は; if the particle already exists elsewhere in

the sentence it is less necessary to replace が / を. は me also follow the particles

で and に.

66. **だけ**

だけ can be added to a number (after the counter) to state that there are just that

number of items, etc. It indicates that something exists up to the amount needed,

but not in excess. だけ gives the impression that the number is sufficient but

could be (and would be desirable to be) higher. しか will be discussed later, and

means just or only in the sense that there is an insufficient number of items.

67. **More uses of に**

に can be used to indicate the occasion at which something happens. It can also

be used to express the role that something is to take (similar to “as [a]” in English).

68. **ドライブ　に行く・ドライブ　する vs. 運転（うんてん）する**

ドライブ means driving for pleasure. It can be used as ドライブに行く or

ドライブする. Otherwise (such as driving to get somewhere) 運転する is used.

67. **夢（ゆめ）**

**s**夢 means dream and has both usages as it does in English. A sleeping dream

takes the verb 見る（みる）while an ambition takes 持っている or ある.

68. **には**

The particle は after に is used in sentences that describe a place by what you

find there. This is in contrast to simply using に, which might answer where you

can find something. In other words, the は puts the emphasis on the location

rather than what is present at the location.