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# 1 Nouns

## 1.1 People

### Subjects

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 僕<br>boku                 | I (male, used to be servant/young person)   |
| 私<br>watashi              | I (polite)  |
| - 達<br>tachi              | we  |
| 俺<br>ore                  | I (rough?)  |
| あなた<br>anata              | you   |
| 男<br>otoko                | male  |
| 女<br>onna                 | female  |
| __の子<br>ko                | child   |
| __の人<br>hito              | adult   |
| __の達<br>tachi             | plural  |
| 彼<br>kare                 | male/person (can also be children)  |
| -ら<br>ra                  | men/people  |
| 彼女<br>kanojo              | female  |
| - 達<br>tachi              |   |
| 大人<br>otona               | adult (lit. big people)   |
| -tachi                    |   |
| 子供<br>kodomo              | children  |
| -tachi                    |   |
| 主人<br>shujin              | master  |
| 嬢<br>jou                  | lady (both usually “o-_-sama”)  |
| 少年 / 少女<br>shounen shoujo | boy/girl  |
| これ<br>kore                | this  |
| -ra                       | plural  |
| それ<br>sore                | it/that   |
| あれ<br>are                 | that (over there)   |
| 来店<br>raiten              | visitor   |
| 客<br>kyaku                | customer  |
| 彼氏<br>kareshi             | boyfriend   |
| 奴<br>yatsu                | “guy/thing,” used in times with no respect either friendly or not, kind of like a naughtier 人. Note: this also works with こ/そ/あ to form e.g. こいつ and あいつ. Think of it as somewhere between “this” and “this shit” |
| 大将<br>taishou             | general/boss (but also used for chef)   |
| 妻<br>tsuma                | wife  |

You can see a pattern with *kore*, *sore*, and *are*:

### Things that point

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| これ        | this (one) [out of many]   |
| それ        | it/that (one)  |
| あれ        | that (one) (over there)  |
| どれ        | which (one)  |
| この        | this ____ (e.g. “this book”)   |
| その        | that ____  |
| あの        | that ____  |
| どの        | which ____   |
| ここ        | here   |
| そこ        | there  |
| あこ        | over there   |
| どこ        | where  |
| 誰<br>dare | who  |
| こっち       | this (one) [out of two]  |
| そっち       | that (one)   |
| あっち       | that (one)   |
| どっち       | which one  |
| こっちら      | this (one) [polite, out of any]  |
| そっちら      | that (one)   |
| あっちら      | that (one)   |
| どっちら      | which one<br>(could also mean where, e.g.<br><i>kuruma o dochira desuka</i><br>= “where/which is your car?”)<br>(could also be <i>dono</i> (add <i>no</i> ))<br>(could also be <i>dare</i> (add <i>sama</i> )) |

### People

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Honorific<br>様<br>sama<br>-san   | Most honorific/master/God<br>Mr./Ms.   |
| Informal<br><br>-chan  | Usually used for girls,<br>children, friends, etc.<br>Sometimes used for men.<br>Kind of cutesy.   |
| 君<br>-kun  | Usually used for guys.<br>Also, kind of cutesy, so<br>often not used for men.  |
| -bo  | More cutesy than -chan and -kun<br>and more childish.<br>Do NOT use for adult male   |
| -tan   | Used between couples and only<br>in private  |
| 友達 / 友人<br>tomodachi yujin<br>友<br>tomo  | friend (uses 達<br>tachi)<br>friend   |
| Family<br>お母さん<br>okaasan<br>お父さん<br>otousan<br>お婆さん<br>obaasan<br>お爺さん<br>ojiisan<br>叔母さん<br>obasan<br>叔父さん<br>ojisan<br>お姉さん<br>oneesan<br>お兄さん<br>oniisan<br>妹<br>imouto<br>弟<br>otouto | Generally, follows “o- _ -san” format<br>mother<br>father<br>grandmother<br>grandfather<br>aunt<br>uncle<br>older sister<br>older brother<br>younger sister<br>younger brother |
| 親<br>oya<br>家族<br>kazoku   | parent(s)<br>family  |
| 息子さん<br>musuko-san<br>娘さん<br>musume-san  | son<br>daughter  |
| 恋人<br>koibito<br>元カノ<br>moto kano  | lover<br>ex-girlfriend ( 元彼女 )<br>moto kanojo  |
| 都合がいい女<br>tsugou ga ii onna<br>セフレ<br>sefure   | friend with benefits   |
| 日本<br>nihon  | Japan  |
| 語<br>-go<br>英語<br>eigo<br>日本語<br>nihongo   | language<br>English language<br>Japanese language  |
| 人<br>-jin<br>日本人<br>nihonjin   | people<br>Japanese people  |

## Occupations

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 仕事<br>shigoto                    | job/occupation   |
| 警察官 / 警官<br>keisatsukan / keikan | police officer   |
| 医者<br>isha                       | doctor   |
| 会社員<br>kaishain "kaishai-in"     | office worker  |
| 学生<br>gakusei                    | student  |
| 年生<br>-nensei                    | _ year student   |
| 二年生<br>ninensei                  | second year student  |
| 留学生<br>ryuugakusei               | international student  |
| 大学生<br>daigakusei                | college student  |
| 大学院生<br>daigakuinsei             | graduate student   |
| 高校生<br>koukousei                 | high school student  |
| 専攻<br>senkou                     | school major   |
| コンピュータ<br>konpyuutaa             | computer   |
| 科学<br>kagaku                     | science  |
| 文学<br>bungaku                    | literature   |
| 人類学<br>jinrui-gaku               | anthropology   |
| ビジネス<br>bijinesu                 | business   |
| アジア研究<br>ajia kenkyuu            | Asian studies  |
| 経済<br>keizai                     | economics  |
| 国際関係<br>kokusai kankei           | international relations  |
| 政治<br>seiji                      | politics   |
| 歴史<br>rekishi                    | history  |
| 弁護士<br>bengoshi                  | lawyer   |
| 先生<br>sensei                     | teacher or honorable master  |
| 教師<br>kyoushi                    | teacher (modest, such as<br>when describing one's own<br>occupation) |
| 主婦<br>shufu                      | housewife  |

## 1.2 Common objects

### Common items

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 物<br>mono               | stuff   |
| 持ち物<br>mochimono        | one's own belongings                                |
| 事<br>koto/-ji           | thing (e.g. 大事<br>daiji)                            |
| 円<br>en                 | yen   |
| 選択(肢)<br>sentaku(shi)   | option/choice                                       |
| 予定<br>yotei             | plans/schedule                                      |
| 用事<br>youji             | tasks/things to do                                  |
| 窓<br>mado               | window  |
| 箸<br>hashi              | chopsticks  |
| 本<br>hon                | book  |
| 写真<br>shashin           | photo   |
| 傘<br>kasa               | umbrella  |
| カバン<br>kaban            | bag   |
| 財布<br>saifu             | wallet  |
| 名刺<br>meishi            | business card                                       |
| お金<br>okane             | money   |
| お土産<br>omiyage          | souvenir  |
| 贈り物<br>okurimono        | gift  |
| 座席 / 席<br>zaseki / seki | seat  |
| 貸金庫<br>kashikinko       | safe-deposit box                                    |
| 料金<br>ryoukin           | price   |
| 障子<br>shouji            | paper sliding door (hash)                           |
| 畳<br>tatami             | Japanese straw floor mat                            |
| 言葉<br>kotoba            | word  |
| 携帯<br>keitai            | cell phone (lit. portable)                          |
| スマホ<br>sumaho           | smart phone   |
| ガラケ<br>garake           | dumb phone (contraction<br>of "Galapagos portable") |
| 写メ<br>shame             | picture message (contraction)                       |
| 明かり<br>akari            | light (general, e.g. "the lights")                  |
| 番組<br>bangumi           | program/show  |

## Common Kanji

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 入<br>iri/iru/-nyuu/juu           | enter/insert (入れる, 入る)<br>ireru hairu  |
| 口<br>guchi                       | opening/mouth  |
| 窓口<br>madoguchi                  | ticket window  |
| 南口<br>minami guchi               | south exit   |
| 入口<br>iriguchi                   | entrance   |
| 出口<br>deguchi                    | exit   |
| 笑<br>emi                         | Lol  |
| 立入禁止<br>tachiirikinshi           | keep out   |
| 注目<br>chuumoku                   | attention/notice   |
| お知らせ<br>oshirase                 | notice/announcement  |
| 電<br>-den                        | electricity (電話, 電気, 電車, 電灯, 電球)<br>phone electricity denwa denki electric train light/lamp light bulb densha dentou denkyuu |
| 明<br>aki, aka/ mei-, myou-, men- | bright, light  |
| 末<br>sue/-matsu                  | end/close (週末)<br>weekend shuumatsu  |
| 未<br>-mi                         | not yet  |
| 未来<br>mirai                      | future (lit. not yet come)   |
| 以<br>-i                          | by means of/compared with  |
| 以来<br>irai                       | since (“since then, ...”)  |
| 以内<br>inai                       | within/inside (n.)<br>less than (adv.)   |
| 以下<br>ika                        | less than/below  |
| 以上<br>ijou                       | more than/above  |
| 外<br>soto/-gai                   | outside  |
| 以外<br>igai                       | other than/except _  |
| 訳<br>wake/-yaku                  | translation/reason/meaning   |

## Food (high level)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 食べ物 /<br>tabemono<br>食物 / 飯<br>shokumotsu meshi | food   |
| 食事 / ミール /<br>shokuji miiru<br>ご飯/御飯<br>gohan   | meal   |
| 和食<br>washoku                                   | Japanese food  |
| メニュー<br>menyuu                                  | menu   |
| 献立<br>kondate                                   | menu/program/schedule                                    |
| 注文<br>chuumon                                   | order  |
| 朝ごはん<br>asagohan                                | breakfast  |
| 昼ごはん<br>hirugohan                               | lunch  |
| 晩ごはん<br>bangohan                                | dinner   |
| 焼き<br>yaki                                      | grilled  |
| 焼き鳥<br>yaki tori                                | grilled chicken<br>(lit. grilled bird)                   |
| たこ焼き<br>tako yaki                               | octopus dumplings<br>(lit. grilled octopus)              |
| 肉<br>niku                                       | meat   |
| 野菜<br>yasai                                     | vegetable  |
| 寿司<br>sushi                                     | sushi (both nigiri & maki)                               |
| 握り<br>nigiri                                    | fish on a bed of rice (握る)<br>nigiru                     |
| 巻<br>maki                                       | roll (sushi with nori on outside)                        |
| 手巻き<br>temaki                                   | “hand-rolled” (hand-roll maki)                           |
| 刺身<br>sashimi                                   | “sliced body” (fish with no rice)                        |
| つまみ   | snack/appetizer, also used to request sushi without rice |
| 海苔<br>nori                                      | dried seaweed  |
| 餡こ<br>anko                                      | red bean paste   |
| カレー   | curry  |
| 禁煙席<br>kin en seki                              | non-smoking section                                      |
| 喫煙席<br>kitsu en seki                            | smoking section  |
| お会計<br>okaikei                                  | bill   |
| 弁当<br>bentou                                    | bento box lunch  |
| 駅弁<br>ekiben                                    | train station bento<br>often has local specialties       |

### Food (items)

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ご飯/御飯 / お米<br>gohan okome | rice                                |
| そば<br>soba                | wheat noodle                        |
| 鳥<br>tori                 | bird/poultry                        |
| 鶏<br>niwa tori            | chicken                             |
| 雛 / ひよこ<br>hina           | chick                               |
| たこ<br>tako                | octopus                             |
| いか<br>ika                 | squid                               |
| 魚<br>sakana               | fish                                |
| 鯖<br>maguro               | tuna                                |
| 鮭 / サーモン<br>sake          | salmon                              |
| 鰹節<br>katsuobushi         | bonito flakes                       |
| 牛肉<br>gyuu niku           | beef (lit. cow meat)                |
| とろ / かた<br>toro kata      | soft/hard (boiled egg)              |
| 卵 / 玉子<br>tamago tamago   | egg                                 |
| 河豚<br>fugu                | blowfish                            |
| 唐揚げ<br>kara age           | fried chicken                       |
| パン<br>pan                 | bread                               |
| アイスクリーム<br>aisukuriiimu   | ice cream                           |
| ハンバーガー<br>hanbaagaa       | hamburger                           |
| チーズバーガー<br>chiizubaagaa   | cheeseburger                        |
| 林檎<br>ringo               | apple                               |
| 美味しい<br>oishii            | delicious                           |
| 盛り合わせ<br>moriawase        | assorted (if alone = combo platter) |
| 串<br>kushi                | skewers                             |

### Food adjectives

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 美味しい<br>oishii     | delicious |
| 甘い<br>amai         | sweet     |
| 辛い<br>tsurai/karai | spicy     |
| 抜き<br>nuki         | without   |

### Drinks

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 飲み物<br>nomimono             | drink     |
| 飲料<br>inryou                | beverage  |
| 乾杯<br>kanpai                | cheers    |
| 水<br>mizu                   | water     |
| お茶<br>ocha                  | tea       |
| コーヒー<br>koohii              | coffee    |
| ジュース<br>juusu               | juice     |
| ミルク / 牛乳<br>miruku gyuunyuu | milk      |
| 酒<br>sake                   | alcohol   |
| 日本酒<br>nihonshu             | sake      |
| 焼酎<br>shouchuu              | shochu    |
| 梅酒<br>umeshu                | plum wine |

### Food (toppings)

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 砂糖<br>satou       | sugar            |
| 塩<br>shio         | salt             |
| 味付け<br>ajitsuke   | seasoned         |
| 調味料<br>choumiryou | seasoning        |
| 煮<br>ni           | boiled           |
| とんかつ<br>tonkatsu  | pork cutlet      |
| ねぎ<br>negi        | leek/green onion |
| 唐辛子<br>tougarashi | chili (pepper)   |

### Office/room items

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 部屋<br>heya        | room         |
| 台所<br>daidokoro   | kitchen      |
| 道具<br>dougū       | utensil/tool |
| 椅子<br>isu         | chair        |
| 鉛筆<br>enpitsu     | pencil       |
| 消しゴム<br>keshigomu | eraser       |
| ゴム<br>gomu        | rubber       |
| ペン<br>pen         | pen          |
| ノート<br>nooto      | notebook     |
| 机<br>tsukue       | desk         |
| 新聞<br>shinbun     | newspaper    |
| 雑誌<br>zasshi      | magazine     |
| 時計<br>tokei       | watch/clock  |
| 手紙<br>tegami      | letter       |
| メール<br>meeru      | email        |
| ボール<br>booru      | ball         |
| 電話<br>denwa       | telephone    |
| テレビ<br>terebi     | TV           |
| 辞書<br>jisho       | dictionary   |
| 黒板<br>kokuban     | blackboard   |

### Plants

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 草<br>kusa                          | grass  |
| 花<br>hana                          | flower   |
| 花見<br>hanami                       | act of enjoying flowers<br>(lit. flower viewing) |
| 桜<br>sakura                        | cherry blossom                                   |
| 木<br>moku/ki                       | wood or tree                                     |
| 森 / 林 / 森林<br>mori hayashi shinrin | forest   |

### Colors

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| 色<br>iro    | color  |
| 黒<br>kuro   | black  |
| 白<br>shiro  | white  |
| 赤<br>aka    | red    |
| 青<br>ao     | blue   |
| 黄色<br>kiiro | yellow |
| 緑<br>midori | green  |

### Clothing

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 靴<br>kutsu     | shoes   |
| ジーンズ<br>jiinzu | jeans   |
| シャツ<br>shatsu  | shirt   |
| 帽子<br>boushi   | hat/cap |

### Animals

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| 犬<br>inu     | dog   |
| 猫<br>neko    | cat   |
| 馬<br>uma     | horse |
| 牛<br>ushi    | cow   |
| 梟<br>fukurou | owl   |
| 体<br>karada  | body  |

### 1.3 Locations and things to do

#### Buildings

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| トイレ / 便所<br>toire benjo         | toilet/restroom  |
| 喫茶店 / カフェ<br>kissaten kafe      | cafe   |
| 居酒屋<br>izakaya                  | bar/pub/tavern   |
| レストラン / 料亭<br>resutoran ryoutei | restaurant   |
| 店<br>mise                       | shop   |
| 売店<br>baiten                    | shop/stand   |
| 店舗<br>tenpo                     | store  |
| __屋<br>__-ya                    | __-store (e.g. bookstore restaurant<br>honya ryouriya) |
| 建物<br>tatemono                  | building   |
| 家<br>ie                         | house  |
| うち<br>uchi                      | home   |
| 大学<br>daigaku                   | college/university                                     |
| 高校<br>koukou                    | high school  |
| 学校<br>gakkou                    | school ( 学 )<br>manabu                                 |
| 銀行<br>ginkou                    | bank   |
| 図書館<br>toshokan                 | library  |
| 郵便局<br>yuubinkyoku              | post office  |
| 会社<br>kaisha                    | company/office   |
| 仕事 / 作業<br>shigoto sagyou       | work   |
| 病院<br>byouin                    | hospital/doctor's office                               |
| 教室<br>kyoushitsu                | classroom  |
| ホテル<br>hoteru                   | hotel  |
| スーパー<br>suupaa                  | supermarket  |
| デパート<br>depaato                 | department store                                       |
| 水族館<br>suizokukan               | aquarium (apparently, hot spot)                        |
| 博物館<br>hakubutsukan             | museum   |
| 出身<br>shusshin                  | home town, come-from,<br>place of origin/graduation    |
| お茶会<br>ochakai                  | tea party/ceremony                                     |
| 歓迎会<br>kangeikai                | welcome party  |

#### Transportation/Movement

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 鉄道駅<br>tetsudou eki    | train station   |
| 鉄道<br>tetsudou         | railway (lit. iron road)  |
| 駅<br>eki               | station   |
| 通り<br>touri            | street  |
| バス停<br>basu tei        | bus stop  |
| 道路<br>douro            | road/highway  |
| 道<br>michi             | road/street/way/path  |
| 国際空港<br>kokusai kuukou | international airport   |
| 線<br>sen               | line/wire/beam (e.g. train line)  |
| 地下鉄<br>chikatetsu      | subway  |
| 列車<br>ressha           | train   |
| 電車<br>densha           | electric train  |
| 新幹線<br>shinkansen      | bullet train  |
| 車<br>kuruma            | car   |
| 自転車<br>jitensha        | bike  |
| バス<br>basu             | bus   |
| 公共交通<br>koukyoukoutsuu | public transportation   |
| 乗車<br>jousha           | boarding/entering<br>to ride/board<br>Like 乗る (see List of verbs)<br>noru |
| 配達<br>haitatsu         | delivery  |

#### Nature

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 自然<br>shizen                | nature/natural                        |
| 温泉<br>onsen                 | hot springs                           |
| 公園<br>kouen                 | park                                  |
| 公<br>kou                    | public                                |
| お寺<br>otera                 | temple                                |
| 庭園 / 庭 / 園<br>teien niwa en | garden                                |
| __ 山<br>yama/san            | mountain (富士山)<br>Mt. Fuji<br>fujisan |



## Location Kanji

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 路<br>-ro<br>道路<br>douro<br>水路<br>suiro | Kanji for “road/way”<br>road/highway<br>waterway/channel/canal |
| 所<br>tokoro/-jo                        | place ( 便所 )<br>bathroom<br>benjo                              |
| 外<br>soto/-gai                         | outside  |

## Things to do

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 映画<br>eiga                      | movie                          |
| 音楽<br>ongaku                    | music                          |
| 祭<br>matsuri/-sai               | festival                       |
| 花火祭<br>hanabi sai               | Fireworks festival             |
| 花祭<br>hana matsuri              | Flower (-viewing) festival     |
| 高校祭もの夏<br>koukou sai mono natsu | High school summer vacation    |
| 買い物<br>kaimono                  | shopping ( 物 = stuff )<br>mono |
| 試合<br>shiai                     | game/match/contest             |
| クラス<br>kurasu                   | class                          |
| アルバイト<br>arubaito               | part-time job                  |
| スポーツ<br>supootsu                | sports                         |
| デート<br>deito                    | date (romantic)                |
| テニス<br>tenisu                   | tennis                         |

## 1.3.1 Directions

### Relative directions

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 右<br>migi                                       | right  |
| 左<br>hidari                                     | left   |
| 真っ直ぐ<br>massugu                                 | straight   |
| 前<br>mae  | front (see also: <u>Time</u> )<br>Also means “across (the street)”<br>or “opposite X”  |
| 向い<br>mukai                                     | opposite X<br>e.g. across the street   |
| 後ろ<br>ushiro                                    | back ( 後 )<br>later/behind<br>ato/ushi-,-go  |
| 裏<br>ura  | back (behind something else,<br>not visible)   |
| 中<br>naka                                       | inside   |
| 上<br>ue   | on   |
| 下<br>shita                                      | under  |
| 近く (n., adv.)<br>chikaku<br>近い (adj.)<br>chikai | near/nearby  |
| そば<br>soba                                      | beside/next to   |
| 横 / 隣<br>yoko / tonari                          | next to<br><i>Tonari</i> is used when the items<br>are of the same category, e.g.<br>“two people” or “two pens.”<br><i>Yoko</i> is used when they’re<br>different. |
| 間<br>aida                                       | between (A と B の 間)  |
| 反対側<br>hantaisoku                               | opposite side (反対側 に...)   |
| 方<br>hou/pou/kata                               | direction/way. Used for:<br>moving directions    cardinal directions<br>行き方 ; 南方<br>ikikata                      nanpou<br>conceptual directions<br>方法<br>houhou   |
| 住所<br>juusho                                    | street address   |

For the directions above, the direction word goes after の such that the noun before の is the descriptor and the direction after の is the main topic. Examples:

- カバンは机の下です = “The bag is under the desk.”  
kaban wa tsukue no shita desu
- 猫は椅子の上います = “The cat is on the chair.”  
neko wa isu no ue imasu

- 銀行は図書館と喫茶店の間にあります =  
ginkou wa toshokan to kissaten no aida ni arimasu  
“The bank is between the library and the coffee shop”

- First, turn right (from here).
- まずはそこまで右に曲がって  
mazu ha soko made migi ni magatte  
then go up the stairs at the end  
突き当たりの階段を上がれ  
tsukiatari no kaidan o agare

### Cardinal directions

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 北<br>kita/hop    | north   |
| 南<br>minami/nan  | south   |
| 東<br>higashi/tou | east  |
| 西<br>nishi/sei   | west  |
| 南方<br>nanpou     | southward/south side<br>(note use of on'yomi) |
| 東北<br>toughoku   | northeast                                     |

### High-level locations

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| __ の行き方<br>no ikikata | directions (to __) |
| 国<br>kuni             | country            |
| 都市<br>toshi           | city               |
| -区<br>-ku             | ward/district      |
| 地区<br>chiku           | district           |
| 街<br>machi            | town               |
| 東京<br>toukyou         | Tokyo              |
| 京都<br>kyouto          | Kyoto              |
| 大阪<br>ousaka          | Osaka              |
| アメリカ<br>Amerika       | USA                |
| イギリス<br>igirisu       | Britain            |
| 韓国<br>kankoku         | Korea              |
| 中国<br>chuugoku        | China              |
| 四川省<br>shisenshou     | Sichuan            |
| 日本国<br>nipponkoku     | Japan              |

### Other location-based words

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 階段<br>kaidan  | stairs                         |
| 曲がる<br>magaru | to turn (e.g. around a corner) |
| 上がる<br>agaru  | to go up (e.g. stairs)         |

Examples:

## 1.4 Time

### Qualifiers

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 時間<br>jikan                          | time  |
| 午前<br>gozen                          | AM (lit. before noon)   |
| 午後<br>gogo                           | PM  |
| 時<br>toki/ji                         | time/o'clock/hour   |
| 半<br>han                             | half  |
| 頃<br>- goro                          | around (see <u>Numbers</u> )                                  |
| 何時頃<br>nanji goro                    | around what time  |
| 三時頃<br>sanji goro                    | around 3 o'clock  |
| ほど                                   | approximately<br>e.g. about 15 minutes                        |
| —時間<br>— jikan                       | — hours   |
| 三時間<br>sanjikan                      | 3 hours   |
| 前<br>mae                             | before ( <i>mae ni</i> )                                      |
| 先<br>saki/-sen                       | before ( <i>osaki douzo</i> )                                 |
| まで                                   | until/by/before   |
| まだ                                   | still/yet<br>e.g. I'm still not done                          |
| 以降<br>ikou                           | thereafter/on and after<br>(like "I'll come after 5:00")      |
| 過ぎ<br>sugi                           | past/after<br>(like "I'll come after 5:00")                   |
| はじめ<br>hajime                        | begin (verb 始める)<br>hajimeru                                  |
| はじめ何をしますか<br>hajime nani o shimasuka | What do you want to do first?                                 |
| よく / しばしば<br>yoku shibashiba         | often (adverb)  |
| 時々<br>tokidoki                       | sometimes (adverb)  |
| しばらく<br>shibaraku                    | for a while (adverb)  |
| 珍しい<br>mezurashii                    | unusual/rare (adjective)                                      |
| 最近<br>saikin                         | recently  |
| 現在<br>genzai                         | currently   |
| 後で<br>atode                          | later ( <sup>later/rear/behind</sup> 後 )<br>ato/u,-go         |
| 前/今/次-回<br>zen/kon/ji-kai            | last/this/next time   |
| 今度<br>kondo                          | this/next time (context)                                      |
| 期間<br>kikan                          | length of time/period/term                                    |
| 遅刻<br>chikoku                        | late (noun, e.g. <sup>It's late</sup> 遅刻だよ )<br>chikoku da yo |

Note that durations of time, e.g. <sup>one hour</sup> 一時間, **aren't** followed by any particles. Examples:

- メアリーさんはあそこで彼を一時間待ちました  
Mary-san wa asoko de kare o ichijikan machimashita
- 私は昨日図書館で日本語を三時間勉強しました  
Watashi wa kinou toshokan de nihongo o sanjikan benkyoushimashita
- 治るのにどのくらいの期間がかかりますか  
naoru noni donokurai no kikan ga kakarimasuka

Finally is said multiple different ways depending on what they mean:

- ついに = finally (after working hard)  
tsuini
- ついに大学院を済みました  
tsuini daigakuin o sumimashita
- やっと = finally (gradually, slowly)  
yatto
- やっと彼女と話した  
yatto kanojo to hanashita

Later/after is said using <sup>later/rear/behind</sup> 後 . For example:

- うちに帰った後、何があったの = "What happened after I returned home?"  
uchi ni kaetta ato, nani ga atta no

### Relative time of the day

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 朝<br>asa               | morning                |
| 昼<br>hiru              | noon/daytime           |
| 明日<br>ashita           | tomorrow               |
| 昨日<br>kinou            | yesterday              |
| 週<br>shuu              | week                   |
| 週末<br>shuumatsu        | weekend                |
| 日<br>nichi             | day                    |
| 晩<br>ban               | night                  |
| 夜<br>yoru/-ya          | night                  |
| 毎<br>mai               | every ____             |
| 毎日<br>mainichi         | every day              |
| 毎晩<br>maiban           | every night            |
| 今<br>ima               | now (also “this ____”) |
| 今日<br>kyou             | today                  |
| 今晚<br>konban           | this evening           |
| 今夜<br>konya            | this evening/night     |
| 今週<br>konshuu          | this week              |
| 今朝<br>kesa             | this morning           |
| 来 ____<br>rai          | next ____              |
| 来土曜日<br>rai doyoubi    | next Saturday          |
| 来年二月<br>rainen nigatsu | February next year     |
| 先<br>sen/saki          | ahead/before/previous  |
| 先週<br>senshuu          | last week              |

### Days and such

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>nichiyoubi</i><br>日曜日 | Sunday<br>“Sun-weekday”  |
| <i>getsuyoubi</i><br>月曜日 | Monday<br>“Moon-weekday”   |
| <i>kayoubi</i><br>火曜日    | Tuesday<br>“Fire-weekday”  |
| <i>suiyoubi</i><br>水曜日   | Wednesday<br>“Water-weekday”   |
| <i>mokuyoubi</i><br>木曜日  | Thursday<br>“Wood-weekday”   |
| <i>kinyoubi</i><br>金曜日   | Friday<br>“Money-weekday”  |
| <i>doyoubi</i><br>土曜日    | Saturday<br>“Earth-weekday”  |
| __ 月<br>gatsu            | month of __<br><br>January      February<br>e.g. 1月 = 2月<br>ichigatsu      nigatsu |

### Other time-related words

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 誕生日<br>tanjoubi                  | birthday       |
| お誕生日 おめでとう<br>otanjoubi omedetou | happy birthday |

You will note that 間 has many different meanings (e.g. 間 between, hours, etc.). This is because 間 is a general kanji for time/space/while/interval/etc. Don't fret too hard about not understanding it completely.

## 1.5 Miscellaneous

### Weather

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 空<br>sora      | sky                            |
| 太陽<br>taiyou   | solar/sun                      |
| 月<br>tsuki     | moon                           |
| 世界<br>sekai    | world                          |
| 夕焼け<br>yuuyake | sunset (lit. scorched evening) |
| 雨<br>ame       | rain                           |
| 雪<br>yuki      | snow                           |
| 暑い<br>atsui    | hot/warm                       |

## Body parts

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 手<br>te   | hand     |
| 足<br>ashi | foot/leg |
| 声<br>koe  | voice    |

## Other

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| おかげ<br>okage        | thanks (as a noun)<br>e.g. "Thanks to my friend, ..."  |
| おめでとう<br>okage      | congratulations  |
| 発明<br>hatsumei      | invention  |
| 理由<br>riyuu         | reason   |
| 理解<br>rikai         | understanding/comprehension  |
| 会話<br>kaiwa         | conversation   |
| 重視<br>juushi        | focus/emphasis   |
| 方向<br>houkou        | direction(s)   |
| 休暇<br>kyuuka        | vacation   |
| 休<br>yasa/-kyuu     | rest   |
| 暇<br>hima/-ka       | spare time, leisure  |
| 学割<br>gakuwari      | student discount   |
| 準備<br>junbi         | preparation/provision/arrangements   |
| 上手<br>jouzu         | skill(ed/ful)  |
| 喧嘩<br>kenka         | fight  |
| 黙祷<br>mokutou       | silent prayer/moment of silence  |
| 喰種<br>guuru         | ghoul  |
| 秘密<br>himitsu       | secret   |
| 興味<br>kyoumi        | interest (興味 がある)<br>I am interested   |
| 賛成<br>sansei        | agree ( 彼に賛成だ )<br>I agree with him<br>kare ni sansei da   |
| 署名<br>shomei        | signature  |
| 自己紹介<br>jikoshoukai | self-introduction  |
| 嘘<br>uso            | lie  |
| 略<br>ryaku          | abbreviation/stands for<br>geisen means game center<br>ゲーセンはゲームセンターの略だ<br>geisen wa geimu sentaa no ryaku da |
| エッチ<br>ecchi        | lewd/immoral/sex   |
| イチャイチャ<br>ichaicha  | flirting (お前たちはイチャイチャしている)<br>you two are flirting   |
| 冗談<br>joudan        | joke   |
| 総集編<br>soushuuhen   | omnibus (series summary episode)   |
| 修行<br>shugyou       | training/discipline  |
| 研修<br>kenshuu       | training   |

## 1.6 Numbers

### Numbers (Numerals = on'yomi)

| 番号<br>bangou           | number (series of digits) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 零<br>rei/nuru          | zero                      |
| 一<br>ichi/hito-        | one                       |
| 二<br>ni/futa-          | two                       |
| 三<br>san/mi-           | three                     |
| 四<br>yon,shi/yo-       | four                      |
| 五<br>go/itsu-          | five                      |
| 六<br>roku/mu-          | six                       |
| 七<br>nana,shichi/nana- | seven                     |
| 八<br>hachi/ya-         | eight                     |
| 九<br>kyuu/kokono-      | nine                      |
| 十<br>juu/tou-          | ten                       |
| 百<br>hyaku             | hundred                   |
| 千<br>sen               | thousand                  |
| 万<br>man               | 10,000                    |
| 十万<br>juuman           | 100,000                   |
| 百万<br>hyakuman         | 1 million                 |

Numbers 1-100 are quite simple: you just append what number from 1-10 onto where it would be to say the number. For example, fifteen would be 10 + 5 = “juugo.” Likewise, putting a number before 10 makes it a multiple of ten: “ni juu go” = twenty five.

Example sentences:

- *nan sai desu ka* = how old are you?
- *ni juu yon sai desu* = I am twenty four
- *Otokono hito wa nijuuhassai desu* = He is 28 years old

### Counters/words dealing with numbers

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 時間<br>jikan              | hour  |
| 分<br>pun/bun             | minute  |
| 日<br>ka                  | day   |
| 週間<br>shuukan            | week  |
| ヶ月<br>kagetsu            | month(s) (duration)   |
| 年<br>nen                 | year  |
| 歳<br>sai                 | years old   |
| 番<br>ban                 | number (e.g. 一番 <sup>number 1</sup> ichiban)  |
| 第<br>dai                 | ordinal (e.g. 第二 <sup>second</sup> daini)   |
| 人<br>nin                 | people (e.g. 三人 <sup>3 people will come</sup> ga kimasu)<br>Exceptions: 一人 <sup>1 person</sup> hitori 二人 <sup>2 people</sup> futari   |
| 目<br>me                  | turns (almost) any number into a cardinal<br>number, e.g. 三人目 <sup>the third person will come later</sup> ga atode kimasu<br><sup>first/best</sup> 一番 vs <sup>first in a set</sup> 一番目<br>ichiban ichibanme |
| 回<br>kai                 | Occurrences, number of times  |
| 前/今/次回<br>zen/kon/ji-kai | ( <b>frequent word</b> )<br>last/this/next time   |
| 個<br>ko                  | Generic counter for item/article/thing/food   |
| 貫<br>kan                 | Counter for sushi (could also use 個 <sup>ko</sup> )   |
| つ                        | Counter for anything not in a category. Also used for <b>numerals</b> ( <i>hito-</i> , <i>futa-</i> , etc.)   |
| てん                       | Points (e.g. score), dots, pieces of a set  |
| 線<br>sen                 | line/wire/beam (e.g. train line)  |

Often, the pronunciation of the 3, 6, and 8 versions of items will change:

### Number changes

| Number | Hundreds        | Thousands     | Years old           |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| one    |                 |               |                     |
| two    |                 |               |                     |
| three  | <i>sanbyaku</i> | <i>sanzen</i> |                     |
| four   |                 |               |                     |
| five   |                 |               |                     |
| six    | <i>roppyaku</i> |               |                     |
| seven  |                 |               |                     |
| eight  | <i>happyaku</i> | <i>hassen</i> | <i>hassai</i>       |
| nine   |                 |               |                     |
| ten    |                 |               | 20 = <i>hatachi</i> |

### Number changes (time)

| Number | Hours           | Minutes                |
|--------|-----------------|------------------------|
| one    |                 | <i>ippun</i>           |
| two    |                 | <i>nifun</i>           |
| three  |                 | <i>sanpun</i>          |
| four   | <i>yoji</i>     | <i>yonpun</i>          |
| five   |                 | <i>gofun</i>           |
| six    |                 | <i>roppun</i>          |
| seven  | <i>shichiji</i> | <i>nanafun</i>         |
| eight  |                 | <i>hachifun/happun</i> |
| nine   |                 | <i>kyuufun</i>         |
| ten    |                 | <i>juupun/jipun</i>    |

### Other number words

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 数<br>kazu/-suu        | number (also means<br>a few days later<br>“few” 数日後 )<br>suu jitsu go  |
| 数学<br>suugaku         | mathematics  |
| 人数<br>ninzuu          | number of people   |
| 頃<br>goro             | about/approximately<br>Used for a specific time, but<br>not a period of time, e.g.<br>I'll come home around 3:00<br>三時頃 帰る<br>sanji goro kaeru   |
| 約<br>yaku<br>ほど / くらい | about/approximately<br>Used for periods of time or<br>quantity. 約 is put before the<br>quantity, the others after. e.g.<br>I waited for about an hour<br>(約) 一時間 (くらい) 待った<br>(yaku) ichijikan (gurai) matta |
| 最初<br>saisho          | first/beginning (time)   |
| 初めて<br>hajimete       | first (for the first time)   |
| 先ず<br>mazu            | first of all/to start with   |
| 次<br>tsugi            | next   |
| 最後<br>saigo           | last   |
| 共<br>tomo             | both (e.g. 二人共 )<br>futari tomo  |
| 度に<br>tabi ni         | every time   |
| お釣り<br>otsuri         | change (after payment)   |
| 小銭<br>kozeni          | small(er) change (than offered)  |

最初 is used to say “at first” whereas 初めて is used to say “for the very first time.” 先ず is used to say “first” in the case where there are steps. 先ず and 最初 can sometimes be interchangeable. Examples:

- 初めて 日本に行ったとき、帽子を買った  
hajimete nihon ni itta toki, boushi o katta  
= “When I went to Japan for the first time, I bought a hat”
- 最初 家に着いたとき、トイレに行った =  
saisho ie ni tsuita toki, toire ni itta  
“When I first arrived at home, I went to the bathroom”
- 先ず 肉を料理して、次に野菜を料理して  
mazu niku o ryourishite, tsugi ni yasai o ryourishite  
= “first cook the meat, next cook the veggies”

## 2 Phrases and sayings

### 2.1 Common sayings

#### Hellos/goodbyes

- Hello (getting attention, like on the phone)  
• もしもし  
moshi moshi
- Good morning (polite)  
• おはよう (ございます)  
Ohayou (gozaimasu)
- Thank you (polite)  
• ありがとう (ございます)  
Arigatou (gozaimasu)
- どういたしまして = “You’re welcome”
- こんにちは = “Good afternoon”  
konnichiwa
- こんにちは = “Good evening”  
konbanwa
- お休み (なさい) = “Good night”  
oyasumi (nasai)
- さようなら = “Good bye (long term, don’t use)”  
sayounara
- じゃあまた = “See you soon (friends)”  
jaa mata
- また = “Again”  
mata
- またね = “See you later (lit. again, right?)”  
mata ne
- また明日 = “See you tomorrow (lit. again, tomorrow)”  
mata ashita morrow)
- 失礼します = “Good bye (professional) (lit. shitsurei shimasu sorry for being rude)”
- 申し訳ありません = “I’m sorry” (formal, often moushiwake arimasen used in stores when the clerk can’t do something for you)
- お先に失礼します = “Good bye (professional, osaki ni shitsure shimasu when you’re leaving first)”
- 行ってきます = “See you (later) (Actually: I’m ittekimasu leaving but will be right back)”
- いってらっしゃい = “Take care (Actually: itterasshai please go and come back)”
- ただいま = “I’m home (e.g. family)”  
tadaima

- お帰りなさい = “Welcome home”  
okaerinasai
- 久しぶり = “Long time, no see”  
hisashiburi
- お邪魔します = “Sorry for the disturbance  
ojamashimasu  
(when entering a home)” ( <sup>disturbance/obstacle</sup> 邪魔 jama )

#### Meeting people

- お名前は 何 です か = “What is your name?”  
onamae wa nan desu ka
- はじめまして = “Nice to meet you” (for the first hajimemashite time)
- 元気 です か = “How are you (feeling)?”  
genki desu ka
- よろしく おねがいします = “Nice to meet yoroshiku onegaishimasu you/I look forward to working with you” (more formal, for introductions or asking favors)
- 暇 な 時 に 何 を する の = “What do you do in hima na toki ni nani o suri no your spare time?”
- 趣味 は 何 = “What is your hobby?”  
shumi wa nani
- どの くらい やってる の = “How long have you been doing it for?”
- 私達 は 5年前 に 会って、以来 付き合っている = “We met 5 years ago and have been dating watashitachi wa gonenmai ni atte, irai tsukiatte iru ever since”
- 君 に 会って 良かった = “I’m glad I met you”  
kimi ni atte yokatta
- 何 の 話 を してるん です か = “What are you nan no hanashi o shiterun desu ka talking about?” (curiosity, not spite)

#### Common sentences

- 何 を お勧め します か = “What would you rec- nani o osusumeshimasuka ommend?”
- 5番 を ください = “I’ll take number 5, please”  
goban o kudasai  
(like menu item)
- 焼酎 の 第二 の 選択肢 を ください = “Give shouchuu no daini no sentakushi o kudasai me the second option of shochu”



- お茶 を 売りますか = “Do you sell tea?”  
ocha o urimasuka
- いただきます = “Thank you for the meal” (before eating)  
itadakimasu
- ご馳走 様 でした = “Thank you for the meal”  
gochisou sama deshita  
(after eating)
- 聞いて いただき/くれて ありがとう = “Thank  
kiite itadaki/kurete arigatou  
you for listening” (lit. thank you for giving me  
your listening)
- タクシー 乗り場 は どこ ですか = “Where is  
takushii noriba wa doko desu ka  
the taxi (place for boarding vehicles)?”
- 私 を 手伝って くれますか = “Can you please  
watashi o tetsudatte kuremasuka  
help me?”
- この お金 を 円 に 変更して くれますか =  
kono okane o en ni henkoushite kuremasuka  
“Could you change this money to yen, please?”
- 滞在 期間 は = “How long will you be staying (in  
taizai kikan wa  
Japan)?” ( stay (noun) period/length of time  
滞在 and 期間 )  
taizai kikan
- 僕 の 日本語 の 先生 に なれませんか =  
boku no nihongo no sensei ni naremasenka  
“Won’t you become my Japanese teacher?”
- どっちかを 選ぶ っていう の は 難しい は ね  
docchika erabu tte iu no wa muzukashii ha ne  
= “It’s difficult to choose one or the other, huh?”
- 準備 できたか = “Are you ready?” (note use of  
junbi dekitaka  
できる)
- あなたの 電話 を 使って くれますか = “Can I  
anata no denwa o tsukatte kuremasuka  
use your phone?”
- 気を 付けて = “Be careful”  
ki o tsukete
- 仕方がない = “It cannot be helped”  
shikatanai
- おめでとう = “Congratulations”
- 色々 教えて いただいて ありがとう = “Thank  
iroiro oshiete itadaite arigatou  
you for teaching me all these (various) things.”  
Note the use of いただく to say “I’m receiving  
the teaching”
- これまでの 事、全部 ありがとう = “Thank  
kore made no koto, zenbu arigatou  
you for everything (up until now/so far)”
- あの 女 は 何 を 言っていた か = “What was  
ano onna wa nani o itte ita ka  
that woman saying?”
- 話す て どう いう 意味 ですか = What does  
hanasu te dou iu imi desu ka  
“話す” mean?
- 寿司 に 病み付き = “I am hooked on sushi”  
sushi ni yamitsuki
- 確り 食べて = “Eat well/eat your fill”  
shikkari tabete
- ウニ ちょっと □ に 合わない = “I don’t like sea  
uni chotto kuchi ni awanai  
urchin” (lit. it doesn’t quite fit in my mouth)
- 和食所 に 行く 度に、割り箸 を 家 へ 持って 帰ります  
washokusho ni iku tabi ni, waribashi o ie e motte kaerimasu  
= “Whenever I go to a Japanese restaurant, I  
bring the (disposable) chopsticks home”
- 頭 は 確か か = “Are you insane?” (lit. are  
atama wa tashika ka  
you sure of your head?)
- 頭 が 真白い = “Head went completely blank”  
atama ga masshiroi
- ある 意味 で = In a sense  
aru imi de  
In a sense, I have a question  
(ある 意味 で、質問 がある)  
aru imi de, shitsumon ga aru
- お腹 が 減って て = “I am hungry” (lit. my  
onaka ga hette (i)te  
stomach is decreasing/empty, could also use 腹 )  
hara  
お腹 空いた = “I am hungry” (lit. my stomach  
onaka suita  
is void)
- 水族館 に 連れて 行 っ て = “Take me to the  
suizokukan ni tsurete itte  
aquarium”
- お話 が あります = “We need to talk” (lit. there  
ohanashi ga arimasu  
is/I have a story/something to say)
- 余計な お世話 = “None of your concern” (lit. too  
yokeina osewa  
much help)
- あなたの 自身 を ファック = “Fuck yourself”  
anata no jishin o faku
- いらっ しゃ います = “Welcome (to our store)”  
irasshaimasu
- すみません = “Excuse me, I’m sorry”  
sumimasen
- ごめん (なさい) = “I’m sorry”  
gomen (nasai)

- 助けてください = “Please help me”  
tasukete kudasai
- 平気 = “no problem” (lit. unconcern)  
heiki
- どうでも いい = “I don’t care/whatever”  
dou demo ii
- 私は 現在 日本語 を 話す 方法 を 学んでいます  
watashi wa genzai hanasu houhou o manande imasu  
= “I’m currently learning how to speak Japanese”
- 日本 と 和食 が 好き だから 日本 に 住みたい  
nihon to washoku ga suki dakara nihon ni sumitai  
のですが、日本 に 住んだら 日本語 を 話さなきゃ  
no desu ga, nihon ni sundara nihongo o hanasanakya  
= “I like Japan and Japanese food so I want to  
live in Japan, but if I live in Japan, I need to  
speak Japanese”
- でも、熟練しません = “However, I am not  
demo, jukurenshimasen  
skilled (at it)”
- わかりました = “I understand”  
wakarimashita
- わかりましたか = “Do you understand?”  
wakarimashita ka
- わかりません = “I do not understand”  
wakarimasen
- ゆっくり 言って ください = “Please go/speak  
yukkuri itte kudasai  
more slowly”
- もう 一度 言って ください = “Please repeat  
mou ichido itte kudasai  
once more” (一度 / <sup>once</sup> / <sup>also/another/already/more</sup> もう )  
ichido mou
- ちょっと 待って ください = “Please wait a bit”  
chotto matte kudasai
- 最近 大学院 を 済みました = “I recently fin-  
saikin daigakuin o sumimashita  
ished graduate school”
- 休暇 に 日本 に 来ました = “I came to Japan on  
kyuuka ni nihon ni kimashita  
vacation”
- 東京 の 行き方 を 教えてください = “Could  
toukyou no ikikata o oshiete kudasai  
you tell me the directions to Tokyo, please?”
- 料金は いくら ですか = “How much will it  
ryoukin wa ikura desuka  
cost?” (as in fees)
- バス乗車まで約15分待ち = “Wait approx-  
basu jousha made yaku juugofun machi  
imately 15 minutes to get on the bus” (lit. min-  
utes until boarding the bus)
- 店は 開いて ありますか = “Is the shop open?”  
mise wa aite arimasuka
- どこまで 行く の = “How far must we go?”  
doko made iku no
- これで 時間 の 問題 だ = “It’s just a matter of  
sore de jikan no mondai da  
time now”
- なりゆきで = “It just happens” (not actually  
nariyukide  
100% certain of this)
- 既に 箸 を 持っています = “I already have  
suden hashi o motte imasu  
chopsticks”
- 聞いて ください = “Please listen”  
kiite kudasai
- 十 ページ を 見て ください = “Please look at  
juu peiji o mite kudasai  
page 10”
- あの テレビ 番組 超 ウケる = “That TV show  
ano terebi bangumi chou ukeru  
is super funny”
- いつも 5 時 に 仕事 が 終わります = “I always  
itsumo goji ni shigoto ga owarimasu  
finish working at 5”
- 何 て 言ったら いい が 分からない = “I don’t  
nan te ittara ii ga wakaranai  
know what to say” (lit. I don’t know that which  
would be good if I said it)
- やれやれ = “phew”
- 仕事 の こと で 頭 が いっぱい = “Work is con-  
shigoto no koto de atama ga ippai  
suming my thoughts/that’s all I can think about”
- アメリカ に 来て ください。案内しますよ  
amerika ni kite kudasai. annai shimasu yo  
= “You should visit America. I’ll show you  
around!”
- 暗い 所 ちょっと 怖い んですが、まだ 行きます  
kurai tokoro chotto kowai-n desu ga  
= “I’m a little scared of the dark, but I’m still  
going”
- キャップ の 切り口 で ケガ を する こと が あります  
kyappu no kirikuchi de kega o suru koto ga arimasu  
ので ご注意ください = “Please note that you  
node gochuui kudasai  
can hurt by the cut end of the cap”
- 部屋 が 汚い から 掃除 します = “My room is  
heya ga kitanai kara souji shinakya  
dirty so I have to clean it”
- あの、私、残念ながら 小用 が ございます ので、  
ano, watashi, zannen-nagara shouyou ga gozaimasu node,

このバーで失礼しますね = “Ah, unfortunately there’s a small matter I need to attend to, so I’ll take my leave from the bar”

- その悪い知らせは残念ながら本当だ =  
sono warui shirase wa zannen-nagara hontou da  
“Unfortunately, the bad news is true”
- 彼奴の事は気にしないよ = “Don’t worry  
aitsu no koto wa ki ni shinai yo  
about him”
- ふざけている暇はない = “We don’t have  
fuzakete iru hima wa nai  
time to fool around”
- 泣く時は胸を貸してよね = “(When I  
naku toki wa mune o kashite yo ne  
cry/When the time comes that I cry), please  
lend me your shoulder” (lit. chest, not shoulder)

### 2.1.1 Conversation examples

#### Seeing a movie

- Did you see Star Wars?  
スターウォーズを見たの  
sutaawoozu o mita no
- How was it? Was it interesting?  
どうだった? 面白かった?  
dou datta? omoshirokatta?
- It was boring. It would be good if you didn’t see it  
つまらない。やめた方がいいよ  
tsumaranai. yameta hou ga ii yo
- Maybe I’ll go see it, too?  
私もその映画を見ようかな?  
watashi mo sono eiga o miyou kana?
- 見に行ったら見ればいいよ = eh, you could  
mi ni itte mireba ii yo  
go see it if you want, but I don’t necessarily  
recommend it/you’ll have to take responsibility  
for seeing it (lit. It would be good if you tried  
to go and see it)

#### Going to a restaurant

- What do you think about that restaurant?  
あのレストランってどう思うの (って is  
ano resutoran tte dou omou no  
used to mean “about”)
- I think it’s meh  
イマイチだと思う  
imaichi da to omou
- Why do you think that?  
何でそう思う?  
nande sou omou?
- Because the food is good but the service is bad  
食べ物美味しいけどサービスは悪いからね  
tabemono wa oishii kedo saabisu wa warui kara ne

- Well, I’m treating you today  
じゃ、今日は俺おごる  
jya, kyou ha ore ogoru

- No, you really don’t need to do that  
無理しなくていいよ  
muri shinakute ii yo

- When do you think would be good to go?  
いつがいいと思うの  
itsu ga ii to omou no

- I’m free now  
今暇している  
ima hima shiteiru

- Thank you for taking care (of me)  
気にかけてくれてありがとう  
ki ni kakete kurete arigatou

- It’s the thought that counts  
その気持ちだけで十分  
sono kimochi dake de juupun

#### Making a bet over a game

Would you like to make a bet (over this game)?

- 何か賭けるか  
nanika kakeru ka
- I still don’t know what I will bet  
まだ何を賭けるが分かりません  
mada nani o kakeru ga wakarimasen

I will explain everything from the beginning  
最初から全て説明します  
saisho kara subete setsumeishi masu

「将棋王一度負ければ、普通の人になる」  
“shougi ou ichido makereba, futsuu no hito ni naru”

というがあります

- There is a saying, “If the Shogi champion loses  
even once, they become a normal person”

In other words, losing is unacceptable (lit. unforgivable)  
つまり一度も負けることは許せない  
tsumari, ichido mo makeru koto wa yurusenai

- Well, can you just tell me already?  
じゃもう教えてくれもいいんじゃないか  
ja mou oshiete kure mo ii n ja nee ka

- Can I just bet what I always bet?  
いつも賭けている物ではだめですか  
itsumo kakete iru mono dewa dame desuka

- More than that, (I’m more interested in learning) what you’d want if you win  
それよりそちが勝った時に欲しい物があるか  
sore yori sochi ga katta toki ni hoshii mono ga aru ka

- I haven’t really given much thought to anything other than Shogi  
将棋のこと以外あまり考えたことはありません  
Shogi no koto igai amari kangaeta koto ga arimasen

I will (try to) think of something after I win  
勝った後に考えてみます  
katta ato ni kangaete mimasu

## 2.2 Expressions

### Expressions

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>nanji</i>                               | what time  |
| <i>nanijin</i>                             | person of what nationality   |
| <i>ano, etto</i>                           | “um” (to show uncertainty or hesitation, e.g. wanting to avoid being rude or interrupting someone)   |
| <i>hai, ee, un</i>                         | yes (in decreasing formality)  |
| <i>iee, iya, uun</i>                       | no (in decreasing formality)<br><i>iee</i> could also be “don’t mention it”  |
| <i>sou</i>                                 | so   |
| <i>sou desu</i>                            | that is correct  |
| <i>sou desu ka</i>                         | is that so?  |
| <i>sou desu ne</i>                         | that’s right/let me see  |
| <i>dou</i>                                 | how  |
| <i>— dou desu ka</i>                       | how about ...?/how is ...?   |
| <i>いかが</i>                                 | how about ...?   |
| <i>demo</i>                                | but  |
| <i>本当</i><br><i>hontou</i>                 | true/truely  |
| <i>ため</i><br><i>tame</i>                   | for (as in for someone)  |
| <i>用</i><br><i>you</i>                     | for (as in for a purpose)  |
| <i>-sai</i>                                | years old  |
| <i>chigau</i>                              | that’s wrong (not polite)  |
| <i>chigaimasu</i>                          | that’s wrong (polite)  |
| <i>jaa</i>                                 | well.../then, in that case, ...  |
| <i>doumo</i>                               | indeed/very much (adverb)<br>put in front of <i>arigato</i> or <i>sumimasen</i> , it emphasizes the second word.<br>Alone, it means “thank you”                    |
| <i>— をください</i><br><i>o kudasai</i>         | please give me ____  |
| <i>— をお願いします</i><br><i>o onegaishimasu</i> | ____ please (for more abstract concepts, e.g. repairs)   |
| <i>douzo</i>                               | here it is (polite, e.g. menu);<br>Also, when waiting for someone else to give over something (e.g. a phone operator would ask for your name)<br>Also, “After you” |
| <i>お願いします</i><br><i>onegaishimasu</i>      | please   |
| <i>tokorode</i>                            | by the way   |

### Expressions continued

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>だから</i><br><i>dakara</i>         | so/therefore  |
| <i>つまり</i>                          | in other words  |
| <i>方法</i><br><i>houhou</i>          | method  |
| <i>まさか</i><br><i>masaka</i>         | __ 方法 = “how to __”   |
| <i>又は</i><br><i>matawa</i>          | no way  |
| <i>又</i><br><i>matawa</i>           | or  |
| <i>ついて</i><br><i>tsuite</i>         | about/regarding<br><small>discussion about politics</small><br>政治についての議論<br><small>seiji ni tsuite no giron</small><br>What are you talking about?<br>何について話していますか<br><small>nani ni tsuite hanashite imasuka</small>   |
| <i>半端ない</i><br><i>hanpanai</i>      | very good (lit. not half-assed)   |
| <i>相変わらず</i><br><i>aikawarazu</i>   | as usual (e.g. as usual, I’m busy)  |
| <i>面倒くさい</i><br><i>mendoukusai</i>  | omg/what a pain   |
| <i>気を付けて</i><br><i>ki o tsukete</i> | be careful/take care  |
| <i>良かった</i><br><i>yokatta</i>       | good/oh good  |
| <i>是非</i><br><i>zeshi</i>           | by all means/I’d love to/certainly  |
| <i>のみ</i><br><i>dake</i>            | only<br>only/just (e.g. お茶だけをください)<br>just tea, please  |
| <i>すら</i><br><i>sura</i>            | even<br>Won’t you tell me even your name?<br>e.g. 名すら教えていただけませんか<br><small>na sura oshiete itadakemasenka</small>   |
| <i>しか</i><br><i>shika</i>           | nothing but<br>(more intense version of “only”)<br>Used with negative tense, e.g.<br>You can only think about yourself<br>自分のことしか考えることができない<br><small>jibun no koto shika kangaeru koto ga dekinai</small><br>I only trust/believe in my friends<br>仲間しかを信じています<br><small>nakama shika o shinjite imasu</small> |
| <i>こうして</i>                         | thus (lit. in this way)   |
| <i>自業自得</i><br><i>jigoujitoku</i>   | What goes around comes around<br>You reap what you sow  |
| <i>とにかく</i>                         | anyway (とにかく 買った)<br><small>I bought it anyway</small><br><small>tonikaku kacchatta</small>   |
| <i>関係ない</i><br><i>kankeinai</i>     | none of your business (関係)<br><small>relation</small><br><small>kankei</small>  |

## 2.3 Saying “please”

Ways to say “please” from least to most formal:

### Casual

- *ください* = Can be used when asking for an item  
kudasai  
(e.g. at a restaurant). Translates to “[command], please.” Note how you’re not actually asking, your commanding politely.
- *くれます* = Same as *ください*, except a bit  
kuremasu

more respectful. Still quite casual. It would be better to use ください because it is more common and I don't completely understand くれます

### More Respectful

- くれますか = Translates to “Can you do \_\_\_, please?”  
kuremasuka
- もらえますか = More respectful. Also translates to “Can you do \_\_\_, please?”  
moraemasuka

### Most Respectful

- くださいますか = Translates to “Can you do \_\_\_, please?”  
kudasaimasuka
- いただけますか = The most respectful. Also translates to “Can you do \_\_\_, please?”  
itadakemasuka

See how this mimics that of the Want section, where ください < もらう < いただく. You can also see how, for example, いただけますか uses *e* instead of *i*, which is done when you are saying you can/can't do something (see Potential form).

## 3 Adjectives/Adverbs

### 3.1 Grammar

#### Adjectives

- Two types: *i* and *na* adjectives.

#### Adverbs

- Can be formed from adjectives by replacing い with く.

slow                  slowly  
 - 遅い -> 遅く  
   osoi                osoku  
   good               well  
 - いい -> よく both derived from 良  
   ii                    yoku                                  yo/i

## 3.2 Dictionary

### Adjectives

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 元気<br>genki                      | fine/healthy/good<br>(state of being)         |
| 大丈夫<br>daijoubu                  | alright                                       |
| いい<br>ii                         | good  |
| 良い<br>yo/i i                     | good (slightly<br>more formal)                |
| 悪い<br>warui                      | bad   |
| 大きい<br>ookii                     | big   |
| 小さい<br>chiisai                   | small   |
| 長い<br>nagai                      | long (長い時間, 長い間)<br>nagai jikan    nagai aida |
| 高い<br>takai                      | high/tall/expensive<br>(taka = “high”)        |
| 安い<br>yasui                      | cheap (yasu = “low”)                          |
| 低廉<br>teiren                     | inexpensive                                   |
| 早い<br>hayai                      | early (or fast,<br>depending on context)      |
| 遅い<br>osoi                       | late (as in arrival)                          |
| 沢山 / たくさん<br>takusan    takusan  | a lot (for nouns)<br>e.g. a lot of money      |
| 何分 / いくつか<br>nanibun    ikutsuka | some  |
| 凄い<br>sugoi                      | amazing/great/terrible                        |
| 難しい<br>muzukashii                | difficult                                     |
| 簡単<br>kantan                     | easy/simple                                   |
| 美味しい<br>oishii                   | delicious                                     |
| うまい<br>umai                      | good/top-notch/splendid                       |
| 最近<br>saikin                     | recently                                      |
| 約 / 頃<br>yaku    koro            | about/approximately<br>(see <u>Numbers</u> )  |
| ほど / くらい                         |   |
| 着々<br>chakuchaku                 | steadily (着)<br>arrive                        |
| 素晴らしい<br>subarashii              | wonderful                                     |
| 重要<br>juuyou                     | important                                     |
| 特別<br>tokubetsu                  | special                                       |
| 柔らかい<br>yawarakai                | soft  |
| 個人的<br>kojinteki                 | personal                                      |

## Comparisons/relativities

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| すぎ[る]<br>sugi[ru] | too (much of something)<br>あまり飲みすぎないでください<br>don't drink too much |
| 最高<br>saikou      | highest/maximum   |
| 最悪<br>saiaku      | worst ( 最 悪 )<br>bad<br>most waru                                 |
| 抜き<br>nuki        | without ( 麵 抜き で )<br>without noodles<br>men nuki de              |

## More adjectives

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 色々<br>iroiro            | various (also: various things)  |
| 忙しい<br>isogashii        | busy  |
| 公共<br>koukyou           | public  |
| 他<br>hoka/-ta           | other (e.g. 他の人 )<br>other people<br>ta no hito   |
| 別<br>betsu              | different/separate/distinction  |
| 十分<br>juubun            | sufficient/satisfactory/enough  |
| 確か<br>tashika           | sure/certain ( 確かに )<br>certainly<br>tashikani  |
| 大変<br>taihen            | hard, grueling, tiring  |
| イマイチ<br>imaichi         | meh   |
| 中級<br>chuukyuu          | intermediate (level)  |
| 超<br>chou               | super _   |
| ウケる<br>ukeru            | funny   |
| 無駄<br>muda              | useless/waste   |
| 無駄に<br>無駄にする            | wastefully<br>to waste  |
| 必要<br>hitsuyou          | necessary   |
| 無理<br>muri              | impossible  |
| 大体<br>daitai            | generally   |
| 実力者<br>jitsuryokusha    | talented person   |
| つまらない                   | boring  |
| わざと                     | intentional   |
| 残念<br>zannen            | unfortunate(ly)   |
| 残念ながら<br>zannen na gara |   |
| 微妙 (に)<br>bimyou        | subtle(ly)/slight(ly)<br>slight negative connotation<br>can be used as a response to<br>What do you think of these clothes?<br>e.g. この服はどう思う<br>kono fuku ha dou omou |

## People/qualities

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 美<br>bi                 | beauty (noun)   |
| 美しい<br>utsukushii       | beautiful _   |
| 美しい髪<br>utsukushii kami | beautiful hair  |
| 美しい目<br>utsukushii me   | beautiful eyes  |
| 美人<br>bijin             | beautiful person  |
| 可愛い<br>kawaii           | cute  |
| 楽しい<br>tanoshii         | fun   |
| 優しい<br>yasashii         | kind/friendly   |
| 格好いい<br>kakkouii        | cool (stylish, etc.)  |
| 社交的<br>shakou teki      | sociable  |
| 大人しい<br>otonashii       | shy/quite   |
| 健康的<br>kenkou teki      | healthy ( 健康的な食べ物 )<br>healthy food<br>kenkoutekina tabemono    |
| 見た目重視<br>mitame juushi  | focus on appearances  |
| 顔食い<br>menkui           | only dates hot people (lit. face eater)<br>mostly refers to men |
| 美け<br>bike              | pretty/pretty face<br>(mostly refers to girls)                  |
| 不細工<br>busaiku          | unsightly, homely, plain, ugly                                  |
| 人気<br>ninki             | popular ( 人気者 )<br>popular person<br>ninkimono                  |
| 性的<br>seiteki           | sexy (adj. Sometimes sexual)                                    |

### Emotions/states of being

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 気持ち<br>kimochi                  | feeling/mood (emotional)  |
| 気分<br>kibun                     | feeling/mood (physical)   |
| 気持ち悪い<br>komochi warui          | Feeling bad (physically)  |
| 感じ<br>kanji                     | (how one is) feeling<br>I feel happy<br>(嬉しいで感じ)<br>ureshii de kanji<br>from -ru verb 感じる                                     |
| 幸せ<br>shiawase                  | happiness/good fortune  |
| 嬉しい<br>ureshii                  | happy   |
| 悲しい<br>kanashii                 | sad   |
| 怖い<br>kowai                     | scared  |
| 寂しく<br>sabishiku                | lonely  |
| 忙しい<br>isogashii                | busy  |
| 酷い<br>hidoi                     | terrible  |
| キモい<br>kimoi                    | bad/creepy (not physically)<br>Made from an abbreviation of<br>気持ち悪い and is described as<br>the opposite of 格好いい<br>kakkouiii |
| 空気読めない<br>kuuki yomenai<br>ケイワイ | airheaded/cannot read<br>the situation  |
| 狂しい<br>kuruoshii                | crazy/insane/lunatic  |
| 金持ち<br>kanemochi                | rich  |
| 恥ずかしい<br>hazukashii             | embarrassed   |
| 懐かしい<br>natsukashii             | nostalgic   |
| うぶ<br>ubu                       | naive, innocent   |

The kanji 良 can be read as both *yo* and *i* and -yo/-i can be written both as kanji or as hiragana. However, both the kanji form and the *yo* form are more formal than the *i* form. There are also a few times when they can't be exchanged, such as in よかった (it was good/good (as a standalone statement)).

### Temperature/environment

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 暑い<br>atsui<br>adj                 | hot            |
| 冷たい / 寒い<br>tsumetai samui<br>noun | cold           |
| 暖かい<br>atatakai                    | warm           |
| 暗い<br>kurai                        | dark           |
| 自然<br>shizen                       | nature/natural |
| 汚い<br>kitanai                      | dirty          |
| 危ない<br>abunai                      | dangerous      |

Note that らしい can sometimes be added to the end of words to say “like \_”, e.g. それは君らしい  
That is (so) like you  
sore wa kimirashii

## Adverbs

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 大抵<br>taitei             | usually/almost/mostly  |
| 通常<br>tsuujou            | normally   |
| よく<br>yoku               | often  |
| 時々<br>tokidoki           | sometimes  |
| 度に<br>tabi ni            | every time   |
| 現在<br>genzai             | currently  |
| しばらく<br>shibaraku        | for a while  |
| かなり<br>kanari            | (is) quite/rather/pretty –<br>the pollen is pretty awful<br>e.g. 花粉がかなり酷い<br>kafun ga kanari hidoi |
| とても<br>totemo            | very [adverb]<br>e.g. very quickly   |
| すごく<br>sugoku            | very (interchangeable with<br>とても) Used when things<br>exceed expectations                         |
| ちょっと<br>chotto           | a little   |
| 少し<br>sukoshi            | a little/somewhat<br>(more formal)   |
| あまり + neg. verb<br>amari | not very much  |
| 全然 + neg. verb<br>zenzen | never/not at all   |
| 全<br>zen                 | all (part of word)   |
| 全部<br>zenbu              | all (of something)<br>e.g. 全部の猫<br>zenbu no neko<br>Not used with “people”                         |
| 全て<br>subete             | all (of something)<br>used with “people”<br>e.g. 全ての人  |
| ゆっくり<br>yukkuri          | slowly   |
| 一人で<br>hitori de         | alone  |
| 一緒<br>issho              | together   |
| マジ<br>maji               | seriously awesome<br>seriously (マジ 半端ない)<br>maji hanpanai  |
| 特に<br>toku ni            | especially (特別)<br>tokubetsu   |
| 突然<br>totsuzen           | suddenly/abruptly/all at once  |
| 確り<br>shikkari           | firm, steady, reliable   |
| 本来<br>honrai             | originally/essentially/primarily   |
| 既に<br>sude ni            | already  |
| 以来<br>irai               | since/henceforth   |
| 当たり前<br>atari mae        | obvious/natural<br>当たり前じゃない気がした<br>I felt like it wasn't natural                                   |

Note that 大抵 (‘in general/usually’) is used when talking about *concepts* in general whereas よく (‘often/usually’) is used when talking about *frequency*. They can be interchanged somewhat, and the usage isn’t all that strict, but you’ll notice 大抵 being used in cases such as “For the most part, blah blah blah.” Examples:

- 通常, 子供は英語と日本語を学びます  
tsuujou, kodomo wa eigo to nihongo o manabimasu  
= “Normally, children learn English and Japanese”
- 週末はたいてい何をしますか  
Shuumatsu wa taitei nani o shimasuka  
= “What do you usually do on weekends?”
- 私はよく週末に居酒屋に行きます  
watashi wa yoku shuumatsu ni izakaya ni ikimasu  
= “I often go to bars on weekends”

通常 is used in the same context as 大抵, but 通常 means “normally” as opposed to “usually/in general/for the most part.”

## 4 Grammar

### 4.1 Particles

A particle is a part of speech that connects parts of sentences. It doesn’t usually do anything other than link words. For example, “up” in “tidy up the room” is a particle because “up” doesn’t mean anything but helps convey the meaning of the sentence.

Note that sometimes particles are dropped in spoken language.

Sentence structure is quite flexible and can be formatted in multiple different ways. Usually, noun-particle combinations are followed by adjectives/verbs, which are followed by a sentence-final particle, such as *ka*, *yo*, or *ne*. A typical sentence is structured like:

**topic は time place で object を verb**

e.g. 私は今日図書館で日本語を勉強します  
I will study Japanese in the library today  
Watashi wa kyou toshokan de nihongo o benkyoushimasu  
Similarly,

**topic は frequency time に goal へ verb**

e.g. 私はよく七時頃うちへ帰ります  
I often return home at around seven o'clock  
Watashi wa yoku shichijigoro uchi e kaerimasu

#### 4.1.1 は (wa)

Serves as the topic of discussion. Can often be interchanged with が (see “wa” vs “ga”). Cannot



follow question words, like *dore* or *nani*.

Examples:

- 車は私が運転しました = “As for the  
kuruma wa watashi ga untenshimashita  
car, I was the one who drove it/I drove the car”
- たなかさんはお金を持っています =  
Tanaka-san wa okane o motte imasu  
“Tanaka has money (he is rich)”

#### 4.1.2 が (ga)

Used to show the subject of the sentence. A more in-depth discussion is shown in “wa” vs “ga”. Can also mean “but.”

Examples:

- あそこに図書館があります = “There is a li-  
asoko ni toshokan ga arimasu  
brary over there”
- たなかさんがお金を持っています =  
Tanaka-san ga okane o motte imasu  
“Tanaka has money (on his person right  
now)”
- 行きたくないですが、まだ行っています =  
ikitakunai desu ga, mada itte imasu  
“I don’t want to go, but I’m still going”

#### 4.1.3 の (no)

Used to connect two nouns. Very versatile because it can be used to describe attributes of objects, show ownership, and so on. *no* also separates parts of phone numbers. When using の, the main idea comes after the qualifier. Also used for informal questions, in which case it’s placed at the end of the sentence like か.

Examples:

- *New York daigaku no gakusei* = “A student at New York University”
- *Takeshi-san no denwa bangou* = “Takeshi’s phone number”
- *Daigaku no sensei* = “College professor”
- *Nihongo no gakusei* = “A student who studies the Japanese language”
- *Kaneki-kun no okaasan wa koukou no sensei desu* = “Kaneki-kun’s mother is a high school teacher”
- *Kyoushitsu no naka* = “Inside the classroom” (*no naka* = “in/inside of”)
- *Kono tatemono no naka ni wa ningen ga arimasen* = “There are no humans in this building”

#### 4.1.4 を (o)

Links verbs with direct objects. Placed after a direct object before the verb being done on it.

Examples:

- *watashi wa koohii o nomimasu* = “I drink coffee”
- *ongaku o kikimasu* = “I listen to music”
- *terebi o mimasu* = “I watch TV”

#### 4.1.5 も (mo)

Means “too”, such as “Bob, too, is hungry” or “She bought shoes, too.” も replaces は, が, and を but not other particles like に.

Examples:

- ボブは日本人です。スーザンも日本人です  
Bob wa nihonjin desu. Suusan mo nihonjin desu.  
= “Bob is Japanese. Susan is, too.”
- メアリさんは昨日シャツを買いました。  
Mary-san wa kinou shatsu o kaimashita.  
靴も買いました = “Mary bought a shirt  
Kutsu mo kaimashita  
yesterday. She also bought shoes”
- トミーさんと私は先週京都に行きました。  
Tommy-san to watashi wa senshuu ni ikimashita.  
大阪にも行きました。 = “Tommy and I went  
Osaka ni mo ikimashita.  
to Kyoto last week. We went to Osaka, too.”

#### 4.1.6 と (to)

Commonly used for “and” or “together with” e.g. “I took a book (together) with me” or “I bought a book and a pen”). It is also used to **quote** relative clauses, i.e. talk about what someone was saying or thinking. Note that って is used to mean “about.”

Examples:

##### With

- 私は本と鉛筆を買った = “I bought a book  
watashi wa hon to enpitsu o katta  
and a pen”
- 私はあなたと一緒にいきます = “I will go  
watashi wa anata to issho ni ikimasu  
(together) with you”

##### Quote

- 今日、僕は大学に行かないと思う = “I  
kyou, boku wa daigaku ni ikanai to omou  
think I will not go to college today”
- 彼はあなたに何と言ったか = “What did he  
kare wa anata ni nani to ittaka  
say to you?”  
What do you think about that restaurant?
- あのレストランってどう思うの  
ano resutoran tte dou omou no

#### 4.1.7 で (de)

Indicates:

- Where the event described by the verb takes place.
- Says what instruments are used for the verb (e.g. with chopsticks).
- Says how much something cost (e.g. I bought this for 500 yen).
- “In” or “within” when talking about time (e.g. we’ll arrive in 1 hour) or scope (e.g. more than anything in the world).
- Used to mean “because of” or “due to” (e.g. I was absent because I had a cold).
- Used to say “and” for [noun *and* verb] sentences (e.g. I am a student and I study Japanese).

Examples:

- *watashi wa toshokan de hon o yomimasu* = “I read books at the library” (location)
- *watashi wa uchi de terebi o mimasu* = “I will watch TV at home” (location)
- *箸でご飯を食べます* = “I eat my meals with chopsticks” (instrument)
- *日本語で話します* = “I talk in Japanese” (instrument)
- *私はバスで駅に行きました* = “I went to the station by bus” (instrument)
- *テレビで映画を見ました* = “I saw a movie on TV” (instrument)
- *私は学生で日本語を勉強します* = “I am a student and I study Japanese” (and)
- *私は二十分で着きます* = “I will arrive in 20 minutes”

#### 4.1.8 に (ni)

Multiple uses including:

- The goal towards which things move
- The time an event takes place
- The recipient of an action

Not used for:

In these cases, simply drop に and continue with sentence

- Regular intervals (e.g. sometimes, often, rarely)
- When using “when” (e.g. “When I go, ...”)
- Time relative to the present (e.g. today, tomorrow)

- When using <sup>approximately</sup> 頃 (頃 replaces に)  
goro

Optional for:

- Talking about parts of the day (e.g. this morning, at night, this weekend)

Note the difference between に and で: で shows where something *takes place* (e.g. “we will run at the park”) whereas に shows where something is *headed to* (e.g. “we will run to the park”).

Examples with に:

- *私は今日学校に行きません* = “I will not go to school today” (movement)
- *watashi wa uchi ni kaerimasu* = “I will return home” (movement)
- *gogo juuichiji ni nemasu* = “I will go to bed at 11 o’clock PM” (time)
- *私は毎日午前九時半に起きます*  
*わたし まいにちごぜんきゅうじはん お*  
= “I get up at 9:30 AM every day”
- *nichiyoubi ni Kyoto ni ikimasu* = “I will go to Kyoto on Sunday” (movement + time)
- *私は友人に贈り物を与えた* = “I gave my friend a gift” (recipient)
- *来月の末に京都へ行きます* = “I will go to Kyoto at the end of next month”

Examples without に:

- *明日来ます* = “I will come tomorrow”  
*ashita kimasu*
- *毎晩テレビを見ます* = “I watch TV every night/evening”  
*maiban terebi o mimasu*
- *いつ行きますか* = “When will you go?”  
*itsu ikimasu ka*
- *午後十一時頃寝ます* = “I will go to bed around 11 o’clock PM.”  
*gogo juuichiji goro nemasu*

Examples with optional に:

- *私は朝(に)新聞を読みます* = “I read the newspaper in the morning”  
*watashi wa asa (ni) shinbun o yomimasu*
- *あなたは週末(に)何をしますか* = “What do (or will) you do on weekends?”  
*anata wa shuumatsu (ni) nani o shimasu ka*

#### 4.1.9 へ (e)

Also indicates the goal of movement (like the first objective of *ni*). Note the pronunciation is “e,” not “he.”

Examples:

- *watashi wa kyou gakkou e ikimasen* = “I will not go to school today” (movement)
- *watashi wa uchi e kaerimasu* = “I will return home” (movement)

#### 4.1.10 か (ka)

Added at the end of a sentence, this makes the sentence a question. か can be thought of as the equivalent of a question mark. Example: どうですか = “How is it?”

#### 4.1.11 ね (ne)

Added at the end of a sentence, this means “right?” like “This is cooked, right?” Also used in expressions when you imply you want some recognition (e.g. そうですね = “Is that so?”).

Examples:

- *Kore wa niku ja nai desu ne* = “This is not meat, is it?”
- *Lee san no senkou wa bungakou desu ne* = “Ms. Lee, your major is literature, right?”

#### 4.1.12 よ (yo)

Added at the end of a sentence, this means “I tell you/let me assure you,” like “Mr. Smith is leaving, in case you were wondering.” Also, for exclamation (like “!”).

Examples:

- *Tonkatsu wa sakana ja nai desu yo* = “Let me assure you, ‘tonkatsu’ is not fish.”

#### 4.1.13 でも (demo)

The word でも usually means “but,” however it can also be used as a particle. Its meaning changes depending on what it’s placed after.

##### Noun/adjective/condition

- At (condition/adjective) (e.g. at least, at best)
  - I can read a book for at least an hour
  - 私は最低でも一時間本を読む  
watashi wa saitei demo ichijikan hon o yomu  
least/lowest  
 (最低)  
saitei
  - The meaning doesn't matter/it doesn't mean anything
  - どういうことでもない (lit.  
dou iu koto demo nai  
 not whatever the meaning)
- Even (if)/no matter how

He works even on Sundays

– 彼は日曜日でも働きます  
kare wa nichiyoubi demo hatarakimasu

I'm going to leave even if it's raining

– 雨でも出発します  
ame demo shuppatsushimasu

Mt. Fuji can be seen even from Tokyo

– 東京からでも富士山見えます  
toukyou kara demo fujisan miemasu

#### • Or something

I'd like to drink coffee or something

– コーヒーでも飲みたい  
koohee demo nomitai

#### • How about (when making an offer)

How about going to a movie?

– 映画でも見ますか  
eiga demo mimasu ka

#### Question/indefinite word

#### • ~ever (e.g. whatever, whenever)

Any time (whenever) is good

– いつでもいい  
itsu demo ii

I don't care/however is good

– どうでもいい  
dou demo ii

I will eat anything

– 何でも食べます  
nandemo tabemasu

## 4.2 “wa” vs “ga”

The particle は actually marks the topic of discussion, not the subject. The topic is a *non-grammatical* concept, so it doesn't technically have an equivalent in English. The particle が, on the other hand, is the subject of the sentence. You should think of it such that words marked with が stake their claim on a sentence and shows its ownership. While は and が can often be used interchangeably while still being grammatically correct, they have different meanings/implications.

The topic is essentially what is being discussed. For example, one could say *Kaneki kun, shuumatsu wa taitei nani o shimasuka* (“Kaneki, what do you usually do on weekends?”) or *Kyou wa Kyoto ni ikimasu* (“I’m going to Kyoto today”). In this way, we can see that は can *promote other expressions* (in these examples, both were time expressions) as the topic of each sentence. It’s sort of like saying, for example, “Let’s talk about weekends; what do you do on weekends?” or “Let me say what I will do today; I will go to Kyoto” respectively. This is an important distinction for は. Likewise, は can be used in order to direct the listener’s attention, thereby inviting a comment/completion of the sentence by the listener. For example, *Bangohan wa* (“How about dinner?”)

does not stand as a subject or time (in fact, it's a direct object), but its use before は means that it is inviting the listener to respond.

The subject, on the other hand, is what is doing the action. While は says what we're talking about, が will pull out a particular object as being the highlight of the sentence or to show emphasis. For example, consider the sentences below:

“Who are you?”

私はデボンです

watashi wa Devon desu

“Who is Devon?”

私がデボンです

watashi ga Devon desu

Note how the first sentence is a general question and requires no emphasis. The answer to the second question, however, points out that “I am Devon (not the other person)”. Likewise, we could ask:

“What do you think of Japan?”

日本は面白いです (Japan is interesting)

nihon wa omoshiroi desu

“Which country is interesting?”

日本が面白いです

nihon ga omoshiroi desu

See how the second answer is implying that “it is Japan that’s interesting (as opposed to elsewhere).”

This is why が is used for question words, like だれ が.

Further, は is often use when contrasting different things. For example, the sentence *watashi wa chikoku shita* would translate to “I was late” but it could have two different implications: (1) used in a discussion centered around the speaker, or (2) used when pointing out that some other person wasn’t late (or it wasn’t known if they were late). This seems confusing (and it is), but this is why topics are often left out of sentences if they can be. When they are included, sometimes the meaning of the speaker can be somewhat unclear.

A good example of this is to consider trying to give someone a compliment. If you were to say 目はきれいですね (your eyes are beautiful), that me wa kirei desu ne *could* imply that their other features were mediocre.

However, if you said 目がきれいですね instead, it me ga kirei desu ne

would just be a matter-of-fact statement and there would not be any room for confusion.

が is used when comparing different things. As opposed to は, which says “A has something, but B does not,” が instead says “A has something, and B may to a more/less degree.” This is why が is used in the common comparison phrase A B is more ... than A より B のほうが ....

A yori B no hou ga ...

This difference of contrasting (は) and comparing (が)

is specifically why は has that added implication of that the opposite is true of something not mentioned in the sentence (like “I was late [but he wasn’t]” or “Your eyes are beautiful [but the rest of you isn’t].”)

When in doubt, you can use an (imperfect) test, the removal/comma test. For example, if you can remove the noun-particle part of a sentence without losing meaning or if you can add a comma without it sounding weird, then は is probably the right particle. If removing the noun-particle part loses critical meaning or adding a comma makes it sound weird, you should probably use が. Again, this test isn’t perfect, but it helps you get an intuition for which to use.

For example, (*watashi wa/ga*) *kuruma o untenshimasu* could have the *watashi wa/ga* removed and would still convey the correct meaning; likewise, *watashi, kuruma o untenshimasu* still makes sense, so は would likely be acceptable. However, *asoko ni (toshokan wa/ga) arimasu* would lose all its meaning if the pair were removed; likewise, “there a library, is” doesn’t really make sense, so we use が.

## Summary

は

- Marks the topic of a sentence
- Contrasts one noun against others (that don’t have the first’s quality)
- Used when the noun-particle combo can be left out without losing meaning (e.g. when elaborating on things already known to the listener)
- Examples:

– 車は私が運転しました = “As for kuruma wa watashi ga untenshimashita the car, I was the one who drove it/I drove the car”

– たなかさんはお金を持っています = Tanaka-san wa okane o motte imasu “Tanaka has money (he is rich)”

– 予定はありますか = “Do you have any yotei wa arimasu ka plans?”

が

- Marks the subject of a sentence
- Compares multiple nouns that may or may not all have the same qualities
- Used to bring one noun in particular out from a group or add emphasis on the subject; separates/calls out one noun from others
- Used when the noun-particle combo cannot be left out without losing meaning (e.g. when answering “who drove the car?”)
- Used when adding new things/information to a

conversation about a topic or when making a series of unrelated statements

- Used when describing things with adjectives or when using question words
- Marks objects of *potential-form* verbs (such as “can [verb]” or “able to [verb]”)
- Connects clauses with a meaning of “but” or “despite”
- Examples:

There is a library over there  
 - あそこ に 図書館 が あります  
 asoko ni toshokan ga arimasu

Tanaka has money (on his person right now)  
 - たなかさん が お金 を 持っています  
 Tanaka-san ga okane o motte imasu

Do you have a plan?  
 - 予定 が ありますか  
 yotei ga arimasu ka

When I was a child, I liked tempura more than sushi  
 - 子供の 時、寿司 より 天ぷら の ほうが 好き だった  
 kodomo no toki, sushi yori tempura no hou ga suki datta

### 4.3 And

“And” is somewhat tricky in Japanese because there is no single word to use. Rather, it depends on sentence structure:

#### Particles for *and*

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Noun + noun                         | と   |
| Verb + verb                         | 〜-te form of first verb<br>Second verb's tense defines first verb's tense |
| Adjective + adjective               | 〜-te form of first adjective  |
| Noun + verb                         | で   |
| [Sentence].<br>And then, [sentence] | それから  |

Examples:

- 私は 本 と 鉛筆 を 買った = “I bought a book  
 watashi wa hon to enpitsu o katta  
 and a pen”
- 私は あなた と 一緒に 行きます = “I will go  
 watashi wa anata to issho ni ikimasu  
 (together) with you”
- 私は 晩御飯 を 食べて テレビ を 見ました =  
 watashi wa bangohan o tabete terebi o mimashita  
 “I ate dinner and watched TV”
- 私の 犬 は 可愛くて 小さい です = “My dog  
 watashi no inu wa kawaikute chiisai desu  
 is cute and small”
- 私は 学生 で 日本語 を 勉強します = “I am  
 watashi wa gakusei de nihongo o benkyoushimasu  
 a student and I am studying Japanese”
- 我々は 東京 に 行きました。  
 wareware wa Toukyou ni ikimashita.

Then, we went to Kyoto  
 それから、京都 に 行きました。  
 Sorekara, Kyouto ni ikimashita

### 4.4 Invitations

Invitations are formed using the negative present conjugation of a verb along with a question ending, i.e. *-masenka*. For example, to invite someone to lunch, you would say *Hirugohan o tabemasenka* = “Would you like to get lunch?” You would not use *-masuka* because that just becomes a question: *Hirugohan o tabemasuka* = “Do you eat lunch?”

### 4.5 Negations

There are many ways to do sentence negations, i.e. saying something is not the case. *ja nai desu* is the most colloquial. *Ja* is actually a contraction of *de wa*, and the phrase *nai desu* can be formally replaced with *imasen* or *arimasen*.

When negating a sentence of the form *X wa Y desu*, where *X* and *Y* are nouns, we can replace *desu* with *ja nai desu*. For example,  
*Yamada san wa gakusei ja nai desu* = “Mr. Yamada is not a student.”

The varying levels of formality mean that this sentence can also be written/spoken as:

*Yamada san wa gakusei ja arimasen* (more conservative speech style)

*Yamada san wa gakusei de wa arimasen* (formal, appropriate for writing)

Note that this does not work for adjectives, thus we cannot say *Oishii ja nai desu* when trying to say “That was not delicious.” Instead, we say *Oishii nai desu* (will be described in more detail later).

Examples:

- *Takeshi-san wa amari benkyoushimasen* = “Takeshi doesn’t study much”
- *Watashi wa zenzen terebi o mimasen* = “I never watch TV/I do not watch TV at all”

## 4.6 Questions

### Question Words

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 何<br>nan/nani    | what (e.g. <i>kore wa nan desuka</i> )<br>nan is used before desu or a “counter”, such as <i>ji</i> .<br>nani is used before a particle |
| どれ               | which (one)   |
| どの               | which ____  |
| どこ               | where   |
| だれ               | who   |
| だれの ____         | whose ____  |
| 何故 / なんで<br>naze | why (first is “what reason”)  |
| どう               | how/why/what (depends on context)   |
| どうですか            | how is it   |
| どうして             | what happened   |
| 何と               | how   |
| いつ               | when  |
| いくら              | how much  |
| いくつ              | how many  |
| どのくらい            | how long  |
| どんな              | what kind of  |

Adding a particle to the end of a question word converts it to a new word that answers the question with a particular amount. For the most part, the following particles have respective effects:

- も - all
- か - some
- でも - any

### Some question words with particles

|      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| いつ   | も  | always (cannot mean “never”)<br>To say never, use the past tense with こと (see examples) |
| いつ   | か  | someday/sometime  |
| いつ   | でも | whenever  |
| 何    | も  | nothing (isn’t used for “everything”)   |
| 何    | か  | something   |
| 何    | でも | anything  |
| 誰    | も  | everybody   |
| 誰    | か  | somebody  |
| 誰    | でも | anybody   |
| いくつ  | も  | several   |
| いくつ  | か  | some number of things   |
| いくつ  | でも | any number of things  |
| なんとか |    | somehow   |

Examples:

- How much is this?  
• これはいくらですか  
Kore wa ikura desu ka

- How much is this watch?  
• この時計はいくらですか  
Kono tokei wa ikura desu ka

That watch is 3,500 yen  
その時計は三千五百円です  
Sono tokei wa sanzengohyaku en desu

- Which one is your bag?  
• どれがあなたのカバンですか  
Dore ga anata no kaban desu ka

- Which bag is yours?  
• Dono kaban ga anata no desu ka

- Which bag is this?  
• これはどのカバンですか  
Kore wa dono kaban desu ka

- Whose bag is this?  
• これはだれのカバンですか  
Kore wa dare no kaban desu ka

That is Susan's bag.  
それはスーザンのカバンです  
Sore wa Suusan no kaban desu

- What is your phone number?  
• 電話番号は何ですか  
(Anata no) denwa bangou wa nan desu ka

- Excuse me. What time is it right now?  
• すみません、今何時ですか  
Sumimasen. Ima nanji desuka

It is 8:30 AM.  
午前八時半です  
gozen hachiji han desu

- Have you ever been to Japan?  
• 日本に行ったことがありますか  
nihon ni itta koto ga arimasuka

- I have never been to Japan  
• 日本に行ったことがない  
nihon ni itta koto ga nai

- どのくらいやってるの = “How long have you been doing it for?”

- どうですか = “How is it?”

- どうでしたか = “How was it?”

- どうやって = “How do you do it?”

- どうした = “What happened?”

- これでどうかな = “How about this/how is this?”

- 話すてどういう意味ですか = What does  
hanasu te dou iu imi desu ka  
“話す” mean?

“To speak” という意味です = “It means to  
“To speak” to iu imi desu  
speak”

- どういうこと = “What do you mean/what is this/what is going on?”  
dou iu koto
- 彼らの事をどうに思いましたか = “What did you think of them?”  
karera no koto o dou to omoimashitaka

Is there any way/anything I can do to help?

- 何か手伝い事がありますか  
nan(i)ka tetsudai koto ga arimasu ka

#### 4.6.1 When

There are multiple words for “when” depending on the situation, described below.

##### When

|             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>itsu</i> | Only for questions                   |
| <i>toki</i> | Specifying when something took place |

For *toki*, the format is “<clause 1> *toki*, <clause 2>.” The first clause should always be the *when* clause; this means that the following two sentences are equivalent: “I ate a lot when I was in Japan” == “When I was in Japan, I ate a lot”.

Also, you **cannot** use either *desu* or the *masu* conjugation of a verb in the first clause.

Finally, since *toki* is a noun, use *no* to connect it to other nouns.

You don’t have to change clause 1 to be in the past tense if you don’t want to, but if you want to, you can use *datta*. Doing so, you will need to drop the *no*.

Examples:

##### itsu

- いつ日本に来ますか = “When will you come to Japan?”  
Itsu nihon ni kimasuka
- いつ日本語を勉強し始めたの = “When did you start learning Japanese?”  
Itsu nihongo o benkyoushi hajimeta no
- じゃあ、いつがいい = “Then, when is good for you?”  
Jaa, itsu ga ii
- いつから働きますか = “When do/will you start work?”  
itsu kara hatarakimasu ka
- いつまで日本にいるの = “How long/until when will you be in Japan?”  
itsu made nihon ni iru no

##### toki

- 雨のとき、よく家で本を読みます = “When it rains, I often read books at home”  
Ame no toki, yoku uchi de hon o yomimasu
- 私はあまり映画を見ません = “I don’t see many movies.”  
Watashi wa amari eiga o mimasen

- 映画を見るのとき、よく午後頃見ます = “When I watch movies, I usually go around the afternoon.”  
Eiga o miru no toki yoku gogo goro mimasu
- 高いじゃありません。安いですよ = “It’s not expensive. It’s cheap!”  
Takai jaa nai desu. Yasui desu yo.

## 4.7 Comparisons

より means “more than” and is often used in comparisons. The position of the things being compared is opposite of that in English; e.g. “A is more \_ than B” → “B より A \_”.

Examples:

- It is better to leave than to stay  
• 滞在するよりも出発する方がマシだ  
taizai-suru yori mo shuppatsu-suru kata ga mashi da
- It was faster than I thought  
• それは思ったより早い  
sore wa omotta yori hayai
- You are more of a problem than that  
• それより問題は お前だよ  
sore yori mondai ha omae da yo

## 4.8 If

There are a few ways to say “if.” Essentially, they all follow the format:

“CONDITIONAL + *particle* + RESULT”

but the *particle* changes based on the context of the sentence and the *conditional*:

- たら - **Constant and hypothetical situations but not contextual**, and particularly good for making statements (e.g. if it’s not being talked about, you could say “if you drop the ball, it will fall” or “if you go to Japan, I will join you”). Is used for **requests, recommendations, prohibition, order, or when the result depends on the completion of the conditional**, and is kind of like saying **when** as well (“When it stops raining, let’s go jogging”). Has a sense of looking to the past (use of ~た), which is why it could possibly be translated to “when.”  
– たら uses the past tense of the verb,  
e.g. 食べたら
- なら - **Contextual hypothetical situations** (e.g. if someone is talking about going to Japan, you can say “If you go to Japan, I will join you”). Also, as たら is more past-looking, you could use なら to show **decisions, judgements, and opinions**. It *cannot* be used for requests, recommendations, etc. (the things that たら is used for).

- なら uses the plain tense of the verb,  
e.g. 食べるなら
- と - Can replace either たら or なら; used for **natural occurrences/constant results** (e.g. if you drop the ball, it will fall).
  - なら uses the plain tense of the verb,  
e.g. 食べると
- ば - Can replace either たら or なら, but can only be used in **hypothetical** situations, not constant situations since you'd use と instead. Tends to be used to **emphasize the conditional part** of the sentence instead of the resulting part (e.g. "IF my friend goes, then I will go, too") or to **make a suggestion** (e.g. "what if we tried it this way"). Technically, there are some other rules with ば but they get somewhat complicated (e.g. if the conditional and result both have the same subject, you can't use this).

#### ば verb conjugations

| Verbs   | Change the <i>u</i> to <i>e</i>                |
|---|--|
| 来る<br>kuru                                    | 来れば<br>kureba                                  |
| 見る<br>miru                                    | 見れば<br>mireba                                  |
| くれる<br>kureru                                 | Some Ru-verb exceptions apply<br>くれた<br>kureta |
| い-adjectives<br>ない negatives<br>楽しい<br>死にたくない | Replace final い with ければ<br>楽しければ<br>死にたくないければ |
| Nouns<br>な-adjectives<br>元気                   | Add であれば<br>元気であれば                             |

#### Summary

- たら and なら tend to be the anchors of *if* and can be replaced with ば or と depending on the specific situation
- たら has the fewest restrictions, followed by ば and なら
- ば is used for recommendations, so it may come across as you telling someone to do something
- As a simple base to use while learning initially, **try to use たら in all situations except contextual, in which case use なら**. However, it's clear that they overlap in a lot of areas, so you'll just have to listen a lot to find out the common usages.

#### Summary

|    | Constant | Hypoth. | One-time | Contextual |
|----|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| と  | X        |         |          |            |
| ば  |          | X       | X        | X          |
| たら | X        | X       | X        |            |
| なら | X        | X       |          | X          |

One last note: もし means "if by any chance" and is a supplementary addition to a sentence. It can't be used for constant expressions and is added to the very beginning of the sentence.

Examples:

#### たら

If it's ok/you don't mind, would you like to meet again?

- もしよかったらまた会いませんか (could moshi yokattara mata aimasen ka  
also be 会わない の)

When you go to Japan, would you please buy a souvenir

- 日本に行ったら、お土産を買ってください  
nihon ni ittara, odosan o katte kudasai
- Note: request, so use たら

I will be happy if I can go

- 行けたら、嬉しいになります - Note: use of  
iketara, ureshii ni narimasu  
can/able to

#### なら

If you drink alcohol, then please don't drive

- 酒を飲むなら、運転しないでください  
sake o nomunara, untenshinai de kudasai

If I were rich, I'd buy a car

- 私が金持ちなら、車を買います - Could be  
watashi ga kanemochi nara, kuruma o kaimasu  
either なら or たら using 金持ち だったら

If you drink this before drinking alcohol,

- 酒を飲む前にこれを飲むなら、  
sake o nomu mae ni kore o nomu nara,  
you'll feel better tomorrow

明日気分が良くなるです  
ashita kibun ga yoku naru desu

What are you if you aren't a tool?

- 道具じゃないなら何だというのだ  
doug ja nai nara nanda to iu da no

#### ば

If you go by taxi, you could make the 6 o'clock train

- タクシーで行けば、6時の電車に乗れるでしょう  
takushii de ikeba, rokuji no densha ni noreru deshou

I will go shopping \*if\* I can meet with my friend

- 友達に会えば、買い物に行きます - Note:  
tomodachi ni aereba, kaimono ni ikimasu  
could also use たら

How can I become stronger?

- どうすればより強くなれるか - Note how  
dou sureba yori tsuyoku nareru ka



this uses the comparison work より described in the previous section

- If you win,  
そちが勝てば、  
sochi ga kate ba,  
I will give you whatever you ask  
そちの望むもの何でも与えよう  
sochi no nozomu mono nandemo ataeyou
- If that is true, then the reason he went down below is  
本当であれば、奴が下へ降りた理由は  
hontou deareba, yatsu ga shita he orita riyuu wa  
so he could kill me down there  
下で俺に殺すためです  
shita de ore ni korosu tame desu
- Should I leave?  
今から行けばいいのか  
ima kara ikeba ii no ka
- If you don't want to die, then run  
死にたくなければ、逃げて  
shinitakuna-kereba, nigete

## 4.9 Word specifics

### 4.9.1 Movement: *iku* vs *kuru*

The Japanese words for “come” (*kuru*) and “go” (*iku*) function slightly differently than in English. In English, “come” and “go” are in reference to the topic at hand (e.g. person A might say “come here” and person B would say “I’m coming”). In Japanese, these words are always in reference to the speaker; this means that most of the time, these words function the same as in English (“Come to my party” uses *kuru* and “Go to John’s party” uses *iku*). However, they function differently when there is a conversation about coming to the person speaking: if A says “come here”, then B says “I’m going”. Thus, the words always function in reference to the speaker, not the listener. When A speaks, B is *going* to A; when B speaks, B is *going* to A. Thus,  
A: 来てください (*kite kudasai*) = “Please come”  
B: 行きます (*ikimasu*) = “I’m coming”

### 4.9.2 A little: *chotto*

The Japanese word *chotto* literally means “little/a bit/a small amount,” e.g. *chotto kudasai* (“please give me a little”) and *chotto matte kudasai* (“please wait for a moment”). *Chotto* is commonly used for a polite refusal, where it would translate to “inconvenient/impossible/whatever.” In Japanese, people don’t usually refuse with *iie* because it sounds too direct.

Examples:

- *doyoubi ni eiga o mimasenka* = “Do you want to

see a movie on Saturday?”

- *doyoubi, chotto* = “Saturday is not convenient for me”

### 4.9.3 Formality: *go*-/*o*- prefixes

It is common to add an extra お or ご before a word, e.g. *kaasan* would be mother, but *okaasan* is common to hear. The extra “go/o” is to make the word more formal. For example, お待って (*omatte*) would be said to make the request to “wait” more formal, as opposed to just saying まって (*matte*).

Depending on the word, “go” or “o” will be used. Examples:

- お名前は 何ですか = “What is your name? (po-onamae wa nan desu ka lite)”
- ご出身は どちらですか = “Where are you from?” (gosusshin wa dochira desu ka)

### 4.9.4 Until: *made*

まで is the word used when trying to say *until*, *by*, or *before*. It is used commonly to say “We are open until 5” or “Please come in before 3.”

Examples:

- 今日は 何時まで ですか =  
kyou wa nanji made desu ka  
“When do you close? (lit. Until when do you exist?)”
- 六時 まで です =  
rokuji made desu  
“We are open until 6 (lit. until 6)”
- でも、五時半 までに 来て ください =  
demo, goji han made ni kite kudasai  
“However, please come before 5:30 (lit. However, please come in until 5:30)”

### 4.9.5 For (the purpose of): *you*

ため is used to say something is for *someone*; use the tame particle の to say who/what the purpose is. There are other times ため is used outside of for people, but it is unclear what exactly at this time.

用 / よう is used to say phrases that point to the you purpose/reason for doing something. This includes things like “be careful (for the purpose of) that you don’t get sick” and “that (for this purpose) is how you use it” (see examples below)

Examples:

ため

- I bought this for you  
あなたのためにこれを買った  
anata no tame ni kore o katta
- I want time to prepare for that  
そのためには僕準備の時間がほしい  
sono tame ni wa, boku junbi no jikan ga hoshii
- Seat for two people, please  
よう  
二人用の席をください  
futa-ri you no seki o kudasai
- I try not to think about it  
僕は考えないようにしている - lit. I am doing for the purpose of not thinking  
boku wa kangaenai you ni shite iru
- You use it that way/that's how you use it  
そのように使うんですね - lit. you use it for that purpose  
sono you ni tsukau-n desu ne
- Be careful not to get heat stroke  
熱中症にならないように気を付けて  
netsuchuuoshou ni naranai you ni ki o tsukete
- The next day, she made breakfast as usual/every day  
次の日、彼女はいつもと同じように  
tsugi no hi, kanojo wa itsumo to onaji you ni
- 朝ご飯を作りました  
asagohan o tsukurimashita

#### 4.9.6 Thing/Concept: *koto*

事 is a generic noun that is an “abstract thing” and is often used to turn words before it into a substantive clause, i.e. nouns. For example, instead of saying you read books, you could instead talk about the action of reading books:

I read books 本を読みます → It is fun to read books 本を読む事は楽しいです。  
hon o yomimasu hon o yomu koto wa tanoshii desu

This is often used with “is able to” or “can.” For example, 本を読めます is equivalent to saying I can read books 本を読む事ができます (see [Potential form](#)).

hon o yomu koto ga dekimasu

Otherwise, 事 is used to mean a variety of words under the umbrella of “thing/concept.” Examples:

- There was something I wanted to ask  
一つ聞きたい事があった - Note how 事 is used in how they say “something” instead of 何か, lit. like saying “I wanted-to-ask thing existed” which may tie into the Japanese cultural way of being indirect with what you want  
hitotsu kikitai koto ga atta
- What do you mean/is the meaning of this  
どういうこと  
dou iu koto
- It seems like that's the case (lit. it is becoming such a thing)  
そういう事になっていきます  
sou iu koto ni natte imasu
- I don't care about the bread anymore  
パンのことはもういいんだ - here, it's used to mean “the (this particular one)” (without it, the sentence would say “I don't care about bread (in general)”) pan no koto wa mou iinda

- That's unheard of/never heard of it  
聞いたことがない  
kiita koto ga nai
- Have you ever been to Japan?  
日本に行ったことがありますか  
nihon ni itta koto ga arimasuka
- Did you come here just to say that?  
そんな事を言うためにここに来たのか  
sonna koto o iu tame ni koko ni kita no ka
- If so, it was a wasted/useless trip  
だとしたら無駄な旅だったよ  
datoshitara mudana tabi datta yo

#### 4.9.7 I wonder: *kana*

かな is used to show uncertainty, wondering, or otherwise not complete faith in what you're saying. It's used in cases where you say something like “(That sounds like a cool restaurant.) Maybe I should go there sometime.” It is used in casual settings, not really in formal situations. Examples:

- 明日雪が降るかな = “I wonder if it will snow tomorrow”  
ashita yuki ga furu kana
- これいくらかな = “I wonder how much this is”  
kore ikura kana
- 音楽をやってみろかな = “I guess I'll try out music”  
ongaku o yatte miro kana
- 音楽をやってみろかなと思って = “I thought that I should try out music”  
ongaku o yatte miro kana to omotte

#### 4.9.8 Because: *kara/node*

To say “because,” use the format: “CAUSE + {BECAUSE} + EFFECT” where BECAUSE = から/ので. Often, a comma is placed after the BECAUSE word to further show separation.

Generally, から focuses more on the cause and ので focuses more on the effect. Less importantly, ので is used for factual/non-opinion-based things, whereas から is used for concepts based on personal opinion/suggestion/intention/speculation/request.

Examples:

- 明日テストがあるので今夜勉強しなきゃ = “I have to study tonight because I have a test tomorrow”  
ashita testo ga aru node konya benkyoushinakya
- 明日仕事に行かなくちゃから、早く寝なくちゃ = “I have to go to sleep early because I have to go to work tomorrow”  
ashita shigoto ni ikanakucha kara, hayaku nenakucha
- 暑いので気を付けて = “Be careful/take care because it is hot”  
atsui node ki o tsukete
- この二人がいたから助けたんだ = “Because these two people were there, I was able to save you”  
kono futari ga ita kara tasuketta nda

#### 4.9.9 To do: *suru* vs *yaru*

Both **する** and **やる** mean “to do,” but they are used in different situations:

##### する

- ~する verbs
- Choosing items - **これをすると思う**  
I think I'll pick this one  
kore o suru to omou
- Wearing accessories
- Talking formally
- When talking about senses - **変な匂いがする**  
There is a weird smell  
henna nioi ga suru

##### やる

- Doing a physical action (in this case, **する** and **やる** are interchangeable) - **ゲームをやる**
- When describing feelings
- When expressing joy or pride - **やった!**
- When giving to someone/something you look down on (like an animal)

#### 4.9.10 Emphasis/Joking: **なんて**

The word **なんて** is used for two purposes: to emphasize the content of the sentence (usually the content placed before it) and to say just kidding. Emphasizing the content can be used to show a strengthened opinion, an exclamatory sentence, surprise, disappointment, excitement, etc. depending on the context. If used while quoting someone else, it's common to put **だ** before **なんて**.

Examples:

- **田中先生なんて聞いたことない**  
I've never heard of Tanaka sensei  
tanaka sensei nante kiita koto nai
- **田中先生なんて先生は聞いたことない**  
I've never heard of a teacher such as Tanaka sensei  
tanaka sensei nante sensei wa kiita koto nai
- **最初に会った時、なんてかわいい女の子なんだろうと思いました**  
When I first saw her/you, I thought “what a cute girl she was”  
saisho ni atta toki, nante kawaii onna no ko  
nandarou to omoimashita
- **彼のことを忘れるなんてことはできない**  
There is no way I can forget him  
kare no koto o wasureru nante koto wa dekinai  
vs **彼のことを忘れることはできない**  
I can't forget him  
kare no koto o wasureru koto wa dekinai
- **彼女は私のことなんて全然知らないよ**  
Too bad she doesn't know me at all  
kanojo wa watashi no koto nante zenzen shiranai yo
- **彼女が私のことを好きだなんて**  
I had no idea she liked me  
kanojo ga watashi no koto o suki da nante

- **こんなかわいい彼女ができたなんて**  
I can't believe I have such a cute girlfriend  
konna kawaii kanojo ga dekita nante

- **彼がそんなことをするなんて信じられない**  
I can't believe he did such a thing  
kare ga sonna koto o suru nante shinjirarenai

- **なんてつまらない本なんだよ**  
What a boring book  
nante tsumaranai hon nandayo

- **なんて素晴らしい先生だよ**  
What a great teacher!  
nante subarashii sensei da yo

- **今なんて言った?**  
What did you just say?  
ima nante itta

- **雨なんて嫌いだ**  
I hate rain!  
ame nante kirai da

- **友達なんて言葉じゃ収まらない**  
The word “friends” doesn't even come close to covering it  
tomodachi nante kotoba ja osamaranai  
They're more, something I can't explain  
もっと訳のわからないものだよ the word  
motto wake no wakaranai mono da yo  
'friends' doesn't even come close to covering  
it, they're something more, something i cant  
explain

- **なんてね**  
Just kidding  
nante ne

#### 4.9.11 Way/method: **通** vs **道**

Both **通** vs **道** mean “street, way” but they are used in different contexts. Both can be used interchangeably for the physical “street, road, etc.” but they differ when used for conceptual things.

**通** tends to be used for *way* or *as*, such as “as I thought” or “as I was saying.” **通** also seems to be a way of saying **こと** with verbs to say “that which” since **こと** would turn the verb into a gerund (e.g. **望む通り**). On the other hand, **道** tends to be more like *method* or *teachings* such as “the way of the samurai” or “the method of writing” or “the proper way to write.”

Examples:

- **その通りです**  
That's right/that way  
sono toori desu
- **私の思った通りだ**  
Just as I thought  
watashi no omotta toori da
- **私の言う通りにしてください**  
Please do as I say  
watashi no iu toori ni shite kudasai
- **人生は思い通りにいかないものだ**  
Life doesn't go as expected  
jinsei wa omoi toori ni ikanai mono da

- 先生が言った通り、試験は難しかった  
sensei ga itta toori, shiken wa muzukashikatta  
What Tommy is saying is right
- トミーの言う通りだ  
tomii no iu toori da  
normally/usually
- 通常 - Note: has to be common occurrence (as opposed to an occasional thing that usually happens a certain way)  
normal  
futsuu
- 普通 - As in, not abnormal  
as usual
- いつも通りだ  
itsumo toori da  
I will do whatever you want
- 私は君の望む通りにする  
watashi wa kimi no nozomu toori ni suru

## 道

tool, instrument, apparatus, device

- 道具  
doughu  
water supply, waterworks
- 水道  
suidou  
Calligraphy
- 書道  
shodou  
Tea ceremony
- 茶道  
sadou  
I usually take this route
- 通常はこの道を通ります  
tsuujou wa kono michi o toorimasu

## 5 Verbs

### 5.1 Overview

There are many types of verbs and conjugations in Japanese. There are “ru”-verbs, “u”-verbs, and irregular verbs. For every verb, there’s a base and a suffix. For example, *taberu* has the base *tabe* and suffix *ru* (it is a “ru” verb). Each verb base is used as a *stem* such that conjugations are appended after the base (e.g. *tabete* and *tabemasu*). **Note:** verb stems are often written using the tilde, “~” thought this isn’t the only use of the tilde.

Note that a **key difference** between “ru” and “u” verbs is that “ru” verb stems are just the base (verb - “ru”) whereas “u” verb stems are the base plus “i” (verb - “u” + “i”). i.e.

“verbru” → “verbmase”

“verbu” → “verbimasu”

#### Example verbs

|                       | ru-verb      | u-verb      |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| dictionary            | taberu (eat) | iku (to go) |
| base                  | tabe         | ik          |
| stems                 | tabe         | iki         |
| present (affirmative) | tabemasu     | ikimasu     |
| present (negative)    | tabemasen    | ikimasen    |

Conjugations depend on the tense in which the verb is used. For example, there is the dictionary form, which is used when talking about the word and occasionally in sentences (we can treat this like the unconjugated form of a verb). There is a *present tense (affirmative)*, which can also be used as the future tense. There is a *present tense (negative)*, to say you’re not doing something. The negative tense is often ended using *masen* but can sometimes be ended using *verb nai desu*. Most conjugations remain within the same letter category (e.g. *iku* only uses “k” syllables and never uses consonants other than “k”).

Note that just because a verb ends in “ru” or “u” doesn’t mean it is a “ru/u” verb; for example, *kaeru* is a “u”-verb whose base is *kaer* and present form is *kaerimasu*. Thus, you need to remember which are “ru” and “u” verbs.

**Trick:** with the exception of irregular verbs, if a verb has an “a”, “u”, or “o” right before the final *ru*, it’s definitely a “u”-verb. If a verb ends in “i” or “e” right before the final *ru*, it’s likely (though not guaranteed) to be a “ru”-verb. An example exception: *kaeru* is a “u”-verb.

There are also 2 irregular verbs that have odd effects, such as changing the vowel (e.g. in *kurru*, we replace the “u” in “ku” with “i”) upon conjugation (see

the table). Other words can be converted into a verb by adding **する** at the end (so technically more than 2 irregular verbs, but only 2 conjugations you need to remember).

#### Example irregular verbs

|                       | (to do)  | (to come) |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| dictionary            | suru     | kuru      |
| stems                 | shi      | ki        |
| present (affirmative) | shimasu  | kimasu    |
| present (negative)    | shimasen | kimasen   |

## 5.2 Tenses

### 5.2.1 Plain form/Simple present

The plain form (A.K.A. simple present) is used to mean either (1) a person regularly/habitually engages in the activity, or (2) a person will/plans to perform the activity in the future.

As briefly covered in [Overview](#), the formal conjugation of a plain form/simple present tense of a verb is **ます** or **います** for **る** and **う** verbs, respectively. The informal conjugation is simply the verb as-is, so no conjugation.

#### Simple Present Conjugations

|   | Formal | Informal |
|---|--------|----------|
| る | ます     | る        |
| う | います    | う        |

Examples include:

- 私はよくテレビをみます = “I often watch television”  
watashi wa yoku terebi o mimasu
- 私はときどき朝ご飯を食べません = “I sometimes don’t eat breakfast”  
watashi wa tokidoki asagohan o tabemasen
- 私はあした京都に行きます = “I will go to Kyoto tomorrow”  
watashi wa ashita Kyoto ni ikimasu
- 私は今日うちに帰りません = “I will not return home today”  
watashi wa kyou uchi ni kaerimasen

### 5.2.2 Past tense

The past tense says something did/didn’t happen in the past (e.g. I ate yesterday). Note that the -ta form requires the same verb-ending changes as the -te form (see [-te form](#)). This also works for adjectives (see the examples below).

#### desu

|               | Affirmative | Negative  |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| present tense | ~です         | ~じゃないです   |
| past tense    | ~でした        | ~じゃなかったです |

The past tense of verbs (as opposed to **です**) follow a similar pattern:

#### Verbs

|                   | Affirmative | Negative |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| present tense     | ~ます         | ~ません     |
| past tense        | ~ました        | ~ませんでした  |
| (colloquial past) | ~た          | ~なかったです  |

Examples:

- あれは日本の映画じゃなかったです = “That was not a Japanese movie”  
are wa nihon no eiga janakattadesu
- メアリーさんは午後九時頃うちに帰りました = “Mary came back home around 9 PM”  
Mearii-san wa gogo kyuuji goro uchi ni kaerimashita
- 私は昨日日本語を勉強しませんでした = “I did not study Japanese yesterday”  
Watashi wa kinou nihongo o benkyoushimasendeshita
- トミーさんと私は先週お寺に行きました = “Tommy and I went to a temple last week”  
Tomii-kun to watashi wa senshuu otera ni ikimashita
- 我々は十時に帰らなかったです = “We did not return at 10 (colloquial)”  
Wareware wa juuji ni kaeranakattadesu
- 忙しかった = “I have been busy”  
isogashikatta

### 5.2.3 -te form

The -te form of verbs are very common and used in multiple different situations. The -te form is *tenseless*, in that it isn’t present, past, or future, however, it can be used in all three situations. Cases where it is used include:

- Requests/commands:
  - ~て = command
  - ~てください = request (do this please)
  - ~てくれますか = more formal question for superiors (would you please do this)
- Connecting two verb phrases with “and” (see [And](#))
- For saying “after \_\_-ing, ...”  
To do so, use ~てから
- Expressing that something is happening currently
- Asking permission to do something
- Used with 見る to mean “to try”

- Lots of other expressions (too detailed for right now), often which include some type of variation of two verbs together (e.g.

I will take a bus  
バスに乗って行きます)  
basu ni notte ikimasu

The verb-ending changes are listed below. Note that -ru verbs are always easy and -u verbs with different consonant endings are the main ones that change. The past tense -ta form is also made with these verb-ending changes.

#### Verb-ending changes

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| suru verbs | shite  |
| kuru       | kite   |
| -ru verbs  | ~te    |
| vowel + u  |        |
| tsu        | ~tte   |
| ru         |        |
| mu         |        |
| nu         | ~nde   |
| bu         |        |
| ku         | ~ite   |
| gu         | ~ide   |
| su         | ~shite |
| 行く<br>iku  | 行つて    |

Examples:

- 助けてください = “Please help”  
tasukete kudasai
- 朝ごはんを食べて、家を出ました = “I ate  
asagohan o tabete, ie o demashita  
breakfast and left the house”
- 卵を食べてから、うちに帰りました = “Af-  
tamago o tabete kara, uchi ni kaerimashita  
ter eating eggs, I returned home.”
- 飲んでいます = “I am drinking”  
nonde imasu
- 本を読んでもいいですか = “Is it ok if I read  
hon o yonde mo ii desu ka  
a book?”
- 猫を助けてみます = “I will try to help the cat”  
neko o tasukete mimasu

In order to make the **negative -te form**, you just add *de* to the end of the *nai* form of the verb.

#### Being direct/slightly harsh

If trying to be direct/slightly harsh/rude (e.g. being mad at someone) when telling someone to do something, rather than use the *-te* form, you’d use a form that’s kind of a mix between *-te* and *should/let’s*.

#### Conjugations

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| ~ru        | ~ro         |
| ~u         | ~e          |
| 食べる        | 食べろ         |
| 行く         | 行け          |
| 待つ         | 待て          |
| 痛い (hurts) | 痛てえ (ouch!) |

#### 5.2.4 Casual negative form (nai)

While *ません* is the formal negative form of a verb, *ない* is the casual negative form. It follows the following format:

##### Nai form

| Verb     | Form      |
|----------|-----------|
| Ru-verbs | ~る→ない     |
| U-verbs  | ~(u→a)ない  |
| Vowel+u  | ~(u→wa)ない |
| する       | しない       |
| くる       | こない       |
| ある       | ない        |

#### 5.2.5 Potential form

The potential form says that someone “is able” or “can” do something, such as (e.g. I can eat). To do this, you simply change the verb a bit, you don’t have to conjugate it differently:

##### Potential form

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| ru-verbs | ~られる    |
| u-verbs  | ~(u→e)る |
| する       | ~できる    |
| 来る       | ~こられる   |

This means that **all verbs become ru-verbs**. Note that for u-verbs, the final *u* becomes an *e*, e.g. 書く becomes 書ける.

When using the potential form, you **don’t** use the direct object particle, *を*. Instead, use *は* or *が*.

Another way to use the potential form is to use *unconjugated verb* + *こと* + *ができる*. Note how *こと* is used instead of *事*. This means that there are two ways to say “can/can’t” (with example of eating):

食べる こと が できます and 食べられます。  
taberu koto ga dekimasu taberaremasu

Examples:

- 私は読めます = “I can read books”  
watashi wa yomemasu
- 今日は食べられません = “I can’t eat today”  
kyou wa taberaremasen

- 友達のおかげ、私は映画を見ることができた  
tomodachi no okage, watashi wa eiga o miru koto ga dekita  
= “Thanks to my friend, I was able to see the movie”
- 友達のおかげ、私は映画を見られます =  
tomodachi no okage, watashi wa eiga o miraremasu  
(same as above)
- 私は話すことができます、  
watashi wa hanasu koto ga dekimasu,  
でも聞くことができません = “I can speak  
demo kiku koto ga dekimasen  
but can’t listen”
- 私は話せます、でも聞けません = (same as  
watashi wa hanasemasu, demo kikemasen  
above)
- 自分にできることをやる = “Do what you  
jibun ni dekiru koto o yaru  
can do”

## 5.2.6 Want

When describing what someone wants or wants to do, there are a whole bunch of ways to express it and a whole bunch of small technicalities for how to express that.

### When wanting nouns

When talking about **yourself**, you say “<object> ga hoshii desu.” Note the usage of “ga” instead of “o.” Example: 私はお金が欲しいです = “I want money.” In informal settings, you can drop the *desu*.

### When wanting to do something (verb)

When talking about yourself, you use “~tai desu” where ~ = verb stem. Example: 私はその本を読みたいです = “I want to read that book.” Alternatively, you can use “ga” instead of “o” to emphasize the subject (object? not sure). Again, in informal settings, you can drop the *desu*.

### When to use ~tai

“~tai” is actually quite personal, so it can only be used for yourself and in question to a second person. **Do not** use it in question to a superior. Example: 何が食べたいですか = “What do you want to eat?”  
Nani ga tabetai desu ka

### Third person

When talking about what someone in the third person wants, we use a similar method as what was used for yourself. The difference is that you write “hoshiigatte imasu” for objects and “~tagatte imasu” for verbs. Unlike when talking about yourself, you **only** use “o” for objects, never “ga.” Examples:

私のお兄さんはこの映画を見たがっています  
watashi no oniisan wa kono eiga o mitagatte imasu  
= “My older brother wants to see this movie.”  
トミーくんはお金を欲しいがっています =  
Tommy-kun wa okane o hoshiigatte imasu  
“Tommy wants money”

When wanting someone to do something for you  
To express a desire for someone to do something, the verb will be “~te hoshii desu” and the other person is marked with “ni”. Example: これを彼に届けて欲しいですか = “Do you want me to deliver this to him?”  
kore o kare ni todokete hoshii desu ka  
In the same way, we could use the verb 貰う/もらう (to get) to ask to receive something. To do this, we use “~te moraitai desu.” Example: 洋子に運転してもらいたいです = “I want Yoko to drive.”  
Yoko ni untenshite moraitai desu

When wanting a superior to do something for you  
Same as “morau” except use “itadaku” in the form “itadakitai” Example: 田中先生に来ていただきたいです = “I want professor Tanaka to come.”  
Tanaka-sensei ni kite itadakitai desu

### Negative form of want

To say you/someone doesn’t want something, add くな after ほし. Examples:

I don’t want a dog  
犬が欲しいくないです  
inu ga hoshikunai desu  
Tommy didn’t want to drink beer  
トミーくんはビールを飲みたくなかった。  
Tommy-kun wa biiru o nomitakunakatta  
I don’t want to eat alone  
一人で食べたくない

### Past tense

The past tense is pretty much the same as standard past tense: use ~かった for past positive and ~なかった for past negative, e.g. I wanted to talk  
I wanted to talk  
話しかかった  
hanashitakatta

## Summary

### Self

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Object   | が欲しいです           |
| Verb     | ~たいです            |
| Negative | が欲しいくない (object) |

### Third person

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Object   | を 欲しいがっています  |
| Verb     | ～たがっています     |
| Negative | ～たくない (verb) |

### Favor

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| [[に] ～て {欲しい/もらいたい/いただきたい} です |
|-------------------------------|

### Tenses

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Present  | ～たい     |
| Negative | ～たくない   |
| Past     | ～たかった   |
| Negative | ～たくなかった |

## 5.2.7 Must

There are lots of ways to say you must/need to do something. They come from a round-about way of saying must: “it would be bad if I didn’t do it.” The base form is ～なくては いけません which is like saying “(neg. verb) は can not do it.” More specifically, it follows the form:

- ending = choice of だめ/いけない/ならない
- Negative te-form + は + ending
- Negative verb + と/ば + ending

However, this isn’t generally used except in really formal situations, so some kind of abbreviation is used more often. This abbreviation is made by dropping the い in the ない form and adding either きゃ or くちゃ. You may also mix the abbreviation with いけない to show emphasis. There is no abbreviation for the past tense.

Examples:

- 毎日 学校 <sup>I have to go to school every day</sup>に行かないとだめです =  
mainichi gakkou ni ikanai to dame desu  
毎日 学校 に いかなきゃ  
mainichi gakkou ni ikanakya
- 宿題 <sup>shukudai o shinakute wa ikenakatta</sup>をしなくては いけなかった = “I had to do my homework”
- 明日 仕事 <sup>ashita shigoto ni ikanakucha kara, hayaku nenakucha</sup>に行かなくちゃ から、早く 寝なくちゃ = “I have to go to sleep early because I have to go to work tomorrow”
- 色々 <sup>iroiro shinakya ikenai-ndayone</sup>しなきゃ いけないんだよね = “I have a lot of/various things to do”

## 5.2.8 Should/Let’s

In English, “should” and “must” are basically the same thing. In Japanese, however, “should” is weaker than

“must” and has slightly different meanings depending on how it’s used:

- Let’s
- Hedging your bets on if an action would be beneficial or not
- Would/probably/hopefully (when used with です/だ)
- To soften a question (in place of ね)

Examples:

- <sup>Let’s go</sup>  
行きましょう  
ikimashou
- <sup>Maybe I should go see that movie, too?</sup>  
私もその映画を見ようかな?  
watashi mo sono eiga o miyou kana?
- <sup>It would (probably) be more convenient if I rode with you</sup>  
あなたと一緒に乗って方が都合だろう  
anata to issho ni notte hou ga tsugou darou
- <sup>You’re going to the party, too, right?</sup>  
君もパーティーに行くだろう?  
kimi mo paatii ni iku darou?
- <sup>Is he nervous?</sup>  
彼は緊張しているのだろうか  
kare wa kinchou shite iru no darou ka

## 5.3 Imasu/Arimasu vs Desu

*Desu* is a form of “to be,” meaning that it is used when it is saying that “[something] is [something]”, like “the cat is black” or “I like cheese” or “I am happy.” *Imasu/arimasu* are meant to say something is in existence, like “the cat is there” or “there is plenty of cheese” or “do you have a green shirt?” Additionally, *arimasu* can be used to show ownership. For example, テレビがあります = “There is a TV/I have a TV” whereas テレビです = “It is a TV.”

Note the other subtle differences between *arimasu* and *desu*:

- When talking about a location, *あります* uses the particle に instead of で which is used for です.
- When talking about a location, the place description usually comes at the beginning of the sentence.
- When using *あります*, you use が instead of は for the subject/thing description. Example: あそこにテレビがあります = “There is a TV over there” (note the particle に to describe location).



## 5.4 *Imasu* vs *Arimasu*

*Imasu* is usually used for living things while *arimasu* is for non-living things. Exceptions/edge-cases include dead bodies (*arimasu*), robots (*imasu*), and plants (*arimasu*). Sometimes, *arimasu* also shows possession, e.g. *Shukudai ga arimasu* = “There is/I have homework.”

## 5.5 List of verbs

### Ru-verbs (1)

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| いる (います)<br>iru imasu | is/exists (animate)   |
| 食べる<br>taberu         | to eat  |
| 見る<br>miru            | to see/look at/watch<br>Also means “to try”   |
| 夢見る<br>yumemiru       | to dream  |
| 起きる<br>okiru          | to get up   |
| 寝る<br>neru            | to sleep/go to sleep  |
| 始める<br>hajimeru       | to begin/start  |
| 辞める<br>yameru         | to quit (doing something)   |
| 止める<br>tomeru         | to stop an object (e.g. stop a car)   |
| 止まる<br>tomaru         | to stop (doing something temporarily)   |
| 生きる<br>ikiru          | to live (exist/survive)<br>(Confusingly, this has the same conjugations as 行く)  |
| できる<br>dekiru         | can/to be able to   |
| 考える<br>kangaeru       | to think about  |
| 助ける<br>tasukeru       | to help (as in a rescue)  |
| 着る<br>kiru            | to wear (水着)<br>Swimsuit<br>mizugi  |
| 信じる<br>shinjiru       | to believe  |
| 出る<br>deru            | to exit/come out/leave<br>を = where you left from<br>に = leaving <i>for</i> something<br>I left the store<br>店を出ました<br>mise o demashita<br>I left for (to go to) class<br>クラスに出ました<br>kurasu ni demashita |
| 離れる<br>hanareru       | to leave<br>Used more for the case where you're separating from something, going away for a longer period of time, or when being a long way off   |
| 調べる<br>shiraberu      | to investigate  |
| 疲れる<br>tsukareru      | to fatigue/get tired  |
| 与える<br>ataeru         | to give   |
| くれる<br>kureru         | someone giving to me  |
| 教える<br>oshieru        | to teach  |
| 似る<br>niru            | to resemble/be similar<br>AはBに似ています<br>A is similar to B<br>好きは海と似ている<br>Love is like the sea   |
| 逃げる<br>nigeru         | to escape/run away  |
| 増える<br>fueru          | to increase   |

### Ru-verbs (2)

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 耐える<br>taeru        | to endure/bear   |
| 付ける<br>tsukeru      | to attach, apply, put on, wear                                 |
| 集める<br>atsumeru     | to collect/gather (猫集め)<br>neko atsume                         |
| 負ける<br>makeru       | to lose (a game)/to be defeated                                |
| 巫山戯る<br>fuzakeru    | to fool around   |
| 出かける<br>dekakeru    | to go out (non-romantic)                                       |
| 連れる<br>tsureru      | to lead/take (with)  |
| 連れて行く<br>tsureteiku | to bring/take along  |
| 入れる<br>ireru        | to put in/add  |
| 答える<br>kotaeru      | to answer  |
| 捕まえる<br>tsukamaeru  | to catch (e.g. catch a bug)                                    |
| 賭ける<br>kakeru       | to bet (e.g. money)  |
| 忘れる<br>wasureru     | to forget  |
| 見つける<br>mitsukeru   | to find/locate/discover  |
| 振られる<br>furareru    | to dump (dating)   |
| 別れる<br>wakareru     | to break up  |
| 借りる<br>kariru       | to borrow  |
| 任せる<br>makaseru     | to leave up to someone   |
| 告げる<br>tsugeru      | to tell/inform/reveal  |
| 遅れる<br>okureru      | to be late (バスに遅れる)<br>I'm late for the bus<br>basu ni okureru |
| 覚える<br>oboeru       | to remember  |
| 見覚える<br>mioboeru    | to recognize/recollect   |
| 感じる<br>kanjiru      | to feel (emotions, experience)                                 |
| 伝える<br>tsutaeru     | to convey/communicate/report                                   |
| 惚れる<br>horeru       | to fall in love  |
| 繋がる<br>tsunagiru    | to connect (e.g. 手を繋がる)<br>hold hands<br>te wo tsunagiru       |

## U-verbs (1)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| ある (あります)<br>aru arimasu | is/exists (inanimate)  |
| 行く<br>iku                | to go  |
| 帰る<br>kaeru              | to go back/return  |
| 聞く<br>kiku               | to listen/hear/ask   |
| 言う<br>iu                 | to say/tell  |
| 飲む<br>nomu               | to drink   |
| 読む<br>yomu               | to read  |
| 話す<br>hanasu             | to speak/talk (a language)   |
| 待つ<br>matsu              | to wait  |
| 歩く<br>aruku              | to walk  |
| 走る<br>hashiru            | to run   |
| 持つ<br>motsu              | to have/possess/carry  |
| 学ぶ<br>manabu             | to learn (in general)  |
| 習う<br>narau              | to learn (by study)  |
| 成る<br>naru               | to become  |
| 住む<br>sumu               | to live (inhabit/dwell, as in a house)   |
| 泳ぐ<br>oyogu              | swim   |
| 書く<br>kaku               | to write   |
| 知る<br>shiru              | to know  |
| 思う<br>omou               | to think   |
| 思い出す<br>omoidasu         | to remember  |
| 出す<br>dasu               | to put out/issue/produce/send  |
| 貰う<br>morau              | to receive/get   |
| いただく<br>itadaku          | to receive/get (polite)  |
| 貸す<br>kasu               | to lend  |
| 会う<br>au                 | to meet/to see (a person)  |
| 買う<br>kau                | to buy   |
| 払う<br>harau              | to pay   |
| 売る<br>uru                | to sell  |
| 取る<br>toru               | to take<br>(most general usage, so could be taking photos or taking a book with you. Not for stealing) |
| 分かる<br>wakaru            | to understand<br>(think <i>wakarimashita</i> )   |
| 手伝う<br>tetsudau          | to help (assist, be handy)   |
| 作る<br>tsukuru            | to create/make/prepare/build   |
| 遊ぶ<br>asobu              | to play  |
| 減る<br>heru               | to decrease  |

## U-verbs (2)

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 乗る<br>noru           | ride/get on/board  |
| 向かう<br>mukau         | to head (towards)  |
| 入る<br>hairu          | to enter   |
| 座る<br>suwaru         | to sit   |
| 立つ<br>tatsu          | to stand   |
| 変わる<br>kawaru        | to change  |
| 代わる<br>kawaru        | to change (substitute)   |
| 使う<br>tsukau         | to use   |
| 着く<br>tsuku          | to arrive  |
| 到着する<br>touchakusuru |  |
| 済む<br>sumu           | to finish/complete   |
| 終わる<br>owaru         | to finish/end/close/stop<br>(but not necessarily complete)   |
| 続く<br>tsuzuku        | to continue  |
| 勝つ<br>katsu          | to win   |
| 許す<br>yurusu         | to forgive   |
| 笑う<br>warau          | to laugh   |
| 開く<br>aku/hiraku     | to open<br>aku = from side (swing door)<br>hiraku = center (flower/book/elevator)<br>Ru-verb<br>開ける = alt. of aku<br>akeru |
| 置く<br>oku            | to put/place   |
| 返す<br>kaesu          | to return (an object)  |
| 動く<br>ugoku          | to move  |
| 選ぶ<br>erabu          | to choose/pick (an option) <sup>option</sup> 選択 <sup>sentaku</sup>   |
| 離す<br>hanasu         | to separate/let go of  |
| 降る<br>furu           | to fall (from the sky)   |
| 降りる<br>oriru         | to get off (e.g. bus)/to descend   |
| 消す<br>kesu           | to erase/delete/extinguish<br>turn off/neutralize  |
| 取り消す<br>torikesu     | to take back/cancel/revoke<br>Note 取る and 消す<br>toru kesu  |
| 働く<br>hataraku       | to work  |
| 驚く<br>odoroku        | to be surprised (objective/over time)  |
| 落ち着く<br>ochitsuku    | to calm down (uses <sup>to arrive</sup> 着く )<br>tsuku  |
| 通る<br>tooru          | to go through/pass through   |
| 経つ<br>tatsu          | to elapse/pass by (time)   |
| 死ぬ<br>shinu          | to die   |
| 殺す<br>korosu         | to kill  |
| 頑張る<br>ganbaru       | to do your best  |
| 泊まる<br>tomaru        | to stay at (e.g. for a trip, like a hotel)   |

### U-verbs (3)

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 呼ぶ<br>yobu                 | to call (e.g. name)/to invite          |
| 効く<br>kiku                 | to work (correctly)/be effective       |
| 合う<br>au                   | to fit (in a group/place)              |
| 付き合う<br>tsukiau            | often combined with other verbs        |
| 間に合う<br>ma ni au           | to date (romantic)                     |
| 曲がる<br>magaru              | to be in time                          |
| 上がる<br>agaru               | to turn (e.g. around a corner)         |
| 下がる<br>sagaru              | to go up (e.g. stairs)                 |
| 嗅ぐ<br>kagu                 | to go down                             |
| 貸す<br>kasu                 | to smell                               |
| 断る<br>kotowaru             | to lend                                |
| 脱ぐ<br>nugu                 | to refuse/decline                      |
| 失う / 失くす<br>ushinau nakusu | to take off (clothes)                  |
| 怒る<br>Okoru                | to lose (forget)                       |
| 残る<br>nokoru               | to be angry/upset                      |
| 吸う<br>suu                  | remain (be left over)                  |
| 触る<br>sawaru               | to suck/breathe in/smoke               |
| 泣く<br>naku                 | to touch/feel                          |
| 収まる<br>osamaru             | to cry                                 |
| ムカつく                       | to fit into (a category, box, etc.)    |
|                            | to settle into (position, place, etc.) |
|                            | to be settled (dispute)                |
|                            | to piss off                            |

### Irregular verbs (1)

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 来る<br>kuru                          | to come                           |
| する<br>suru                          | to do                             |
| 勉強する<br>benkyou suru                | to study                          |
| 料理する<br>ryouri suru                 | to cook                           |
| 運転する<br>untten suru                 | to drive                          |
| 出発する<br>shuppatsu suru              | to depart/leave                   |
| 留学する<br>ryuugaku suru               | study abroad                      |
| 練習する<br>renshuu suru                | to practice                       |
| 成功する<br>seikou suru                 | to succeed                        |
| お勧めする<br>osusume suru               | to recommend                      |
| 販売する<br>hanbai suru                 | to sell (販売)                      |
| 購入する<br>kounyuu suru                | to purchase (購入)                  |
| 変更する<br>henkou suru                 | to change                         |
| 熟練する<br>jukuren suru                | to be skilled                     |
| 指示する<br>shiji suru                  | to instruct                       |
| 注文する<br>chuumon suru                | to order (food)                   |
| 準備する / 用意する<br>junbi suru youi suru | to prepare                        |
| 信頼する<br>shinrai suru                | to trust/confide                  |
| 心配する<br>shinpai suru                | to worry                          |
| 安心する<br>anshin suru                 | to relax (安心)                     |
| 約束する<br>yakusoku suru               | to promise                        |
| 約束をやめる<br>yakusoku o yameru         | to break a promise (-ru verb)     |
| 要請すり<br>yousei suru                 | to request                        |
| 運動する<br>undou suru                  | to exercise                       |
| 掃除する<br>souji suru                  | to clean                          |
| 吃驚する<br>bikkuri suru                | to be surprised (instantaneously) |
| 説明する<br>setsume suru                | to explain                        |
| 連絡する<br>renraku suru                | to contact (communication)        |
| 観光する<br>kankou suru                 | to sightsee/travel/explore        |
| 再開する<br>saikai suru                 | to resume (再び)                    |
| 翻訳する<br>hon'yaku suru               | to translate                      |
| 感謝する<br>kansha suru                 | to thank someone                  |
| 期待する<br>kitai suru                  | to expect                         |
| 散歩する<br>sanpo suru                  | to take a walk                    |
| 公開する<br>koukai suru                 | to publish/release to public      |

## Irregular verbs (2)

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 招待する<br>shoutai suru        | to invite                |
| 外出する<br>gaishutsu suru      | to go out (on an outing) |
| 案内する<br>an'nai suru         | to guide/show around     |
| 楽しみにする<br>tanoshimi ni suru | to look forward to       |
| 出席する<br>shusseki suru       | to attend                |
| 参加する<br>sanka suru          | to participate           |
| 同居する<br>dousei suru         | to live together         |
| 無視する<br>mushi suru          | to ignore                |
| 緊張する<br>kinchou suru        | to get nervous           |

## 5.6 Verb Specifics

<sup>to leave</sup>  
**離れる** <sup>hanareru</sup> is typically used for longer term/greater distance separation. For example:

I will be very lonely if you leave Japan  
あなた が 日本 を 離れる と 私 は とても 寂しく なります  
anata ga nihon o hanareru to watashi ha totemo sabishiku narimasu

The policeman asked people to back off/leave  
その 警官 は 人々 に 後ろ に 下がって 離れる よう に 言った  
sono keikan ha hitobito ni ushiro ni sagatte hanareru you ni itta

Be sure to extinguish the fire before you leave (it)  
離れる 前に 必ず 火 を 消しなさい  
hanareru mae ni kanarazu hi o keshinasai

## 6 Kana

Japanese writing is termed *kana*, which is the combination of kanji, hiragana, and katakana.

*Hiragana* is used for native Japanese words and comprises all sounds in Japanese.

*Katakana* is used for new, non-native words (e.g. television) and also comprises all sounds in Japanese.

*Kanji* is the imported writing system from China, and is the bulk of what is written in Japanese.

*Furigana* is a combination of kanji and hiragana where the hiragana characters are shrunk and placed next to or above/below kanji. The purpose of the hiragana is to indicate pronunciation, e.g.

<sup>watashi</sup> 私 or <sup>iku</sup> 行く  
わたし い

### 6.1 Pronunciation

Japanese is actually quite easy to speak, in comparison to English, because every vowel and consonant has (almost) the same pronunciation, i.e. there are no two ways to pronounce the vowel “a,” there’s only the one. Each hiragana sound takes up one unit of pronunciation time, e.g. みんな would have the same amount of time to pronounce each letter.

#### 6.1.1 Vowels

Vowel pronunciations are as follows:

- “A” – Always the short “ah” sound, as made in “blah”
- “I” – Always the long “e” sound, as made in “bee”
- “U” – Always the long “u” sound, as made in “spoon” (except when preceded with an “o” sound)
- “E” – Always the short “eh” sound, as made in “Meh”
- “O” – Always the long “o” sound, as made in “oh”

Vowel sounds only change when two vowel sounds are put together, e.g. to make the long “A” sound, one must add an い after a letter that ends in the “e” sound. “OI” and “UI” sound as expected, like “oink” and “goey.”

- “AI” – Long “I” sound, as in “Plight”
- “EI” – Long “A” sound, as in “freight train”
- “OU” – A prolonged “O” sound, as in “ohhh”

Example: えいが (movie) sounds like “A-gah”. はい sounds like “Hi.”

If two vowels are next to each other (or if there is a う after an “o” sound), then the vowel is prolonged.

### 6.1.2 Dropped Vowels

The vowels “i” and “u” are sometimes dropped when placed between voiceless consonants {k, s, t, p, h} or when at the end of an utterance of a word. For example, 好きです would be pronounced “ski des” and

話して would be pronounced “hanashte.”  
suki desu  
hanashite

### 6.1.3 On’yomi and Kun’yomi

Now, each kanji character has two or more pronunciations: on’yomi (Chinese) and kun’yomi (native Japanese). These two pronunciations were the combination of a spoken (Japanese) language that was adopting a written (Chinese) language. Sometimes, there are multiple onyomi or kunyomi pronunciations depending on the sounds next to the kanji (e.g. 日 onyomi could be “hi” or “bi”).

音読み (lit. “sound reading”) is the Chinese pronunciation of a word and is usually the pronunciation of kanji when multiple kanji are together because the pronunciation originated from Chinese, e.g. 富士山.

訓読み is the native Japanese pronunciation of a word and is usually used when the kanji is alone or (always when) combined with hiragana, e.g. 山.

There are exceptions to these two general rules (e.g. kunyomi is used for 手紙), so it doesn’t always work this way. For example, kunyomi is usually used for Japanese names (both of people and locations), even though they’re often written with multiple kanji.

## 6.2 Hiragana

Essentially, hiragana is used for particles, conjunctions, and other parts of sentences that aren’t necessarily represented by kanji. Note that particles (which exist alone (not inside words) in order to connect words, not used to spell words) are spelled differently than are pronounced. For example, *wa* is written like わ when it is inside/part of words, e.g. *Watashi*. However, *wa* is written like は for particles, e.g. *Anata wa*. The transformations are: {*wa*→は(ha), *e/we*→へ, *o/wo*→を}. This means that, e.g., the sentence *watashi wa tabete imasu* (I am eating) becomes 私は食べています instead of using わ.

**Diacritic marks** - The basic syllables can be expanded upon by adding two short diagonal strokes (”) to convert the letters {k→g, s→z, t→d, h→b}. Also, the consonant *h* changes to *p* when you add a small circle.

**Diagraphs** - Contractions of sounds into one syllable can be represented by placing a *small* character for either *ya* (や), *yu* (ゆ), or *yo* (よ) after the original character for which you’re trying to overwrite the sound. For example, *chan* will be a combination of *chi* and *ya* to result in the *cha* sound: ちゃん.

### Double Consonants

Finally, there is another small letter that looks like *tsu* called the *sokuon*, っ. This is used to show repeated consonants. I’m pretty sure that, because all hiragana end in a vowel sound, that this only applies to the first consonant of the following hiragana character. This means that, for example, かった, which is *ka-つ-ta*, would come out to *katta* (won) as opposed to *kata* (shoulder). Note that this isn’t the case with double *n*’s, which use ん. Some examples include:

- かった - *katta* - won
- はっぱ - *happa* - leaf
- さっか - *sakka* - writer
- さんねん - *sannen* - three years

# Hiragana Chart

| •               | w       | r       | y       | m       | h       | n       | t               | s               | k       |        |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| ん<br><u>n/m</u> | わ<br>wa | ら<br>ra | や<br>ya | ま<br>ma | は<br>ha | な<br>na | た<br>ta         | さ<br>sa         | か<br>ka | あ<br>a |
|                 |         | り<br>ri |         | み<br>mi | ひ<br>hi | に<br>ni | ち<br><u>chi</u> | し<br><u>shi</u> | き<br>ki | い<br>i |
|                 |         | る<br>ru | ゆ<br>yu | む<br>mu | ふ<br>fu | ぬ<br>nu | つ<br><u>tsu</u> | す<br>su         | く<br>ku | う<br>u |
|                 |         | れ<br>re |         | め<br>me | へ<br>he | ね<br>ne | て<br>te         | せ<br>se         | け<br>ke | え<br>e |
|                 | を<br>o  | ろ<br>ro | よ<br>yo | も<br>mo | ほ<br>ho | の<br>no | と<br>to         | そ<br>so         | こ<br>ko | お<br>o |

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Figure 1: Basic hiragana syllables

|         |          |          |         |         |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| が<br>ga | ぎ<br>gi  | ぐ<br>gu  | げ<br>ge | ご<br>go |
| ざ<br>za | じ<br>ji  | ず<br>zu  | ぜ<br>ze | ぞ<br>zo |
| だ<br>da | *ぢ<br>ji | *づ<br>zu | で<br>de | ど<br>do |
| ば<br>ba | び<br>bi  | ぶ<br>bu  | べ<br>be | ぼ<br>bo |
| ぱ<br>pa | ぴ<br>pi  | ぷ<br>pu  | ぺ<br>pe | ぽ<br>po |

\*ぢ (ji) and づ (zu) are pronounced the same as じ (ji) and ず (zu), respectively, and have limited use.

Figure 2: Hiragana diacritics

| r | m | p | b | h | n | ch | j | sh | g | k |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|
| り | み | ぴ | び | ひ | に | ち  | じ | し  | ぎ | き | ya |
| り | ゆ | ぴ | び | ひ | に | ち  | じ | し  | ぎ | き | yu |
| り | よ | ぴ | び | ひ | に | ち  | じ | し  | ぎ | き | yo |

Figure 3: Hiragana contractions

## 6.3 Katakana

Katakana is used for new words that didn't exist in Japan previously, including company names, scientific terms, and technology. Often, if you don't know the Japanese version of a word, you can say an English version of the word (e.g. *ginkou* for bank could be understood with *banku* instead). While hiragana is more curvy, katakana is more angular in nature.

Katakana has diacritics and conjunctions, too. It also uses the sokuon letter, ッ, which is a small version of the letter for *tsu*, ツ.

Katakana also allows other small letter combinations (e.g. “halloween” → ハロウイーン where ウ is harowiin *u* and *イ* is *i*) in order to allow for sounds that aren't in the Japanese alphabet.

Long vowels are written with the ー symbol. When writing vertically, the ー symbol is rotated 90 degrees, too.

### Practice

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| てテ | ちチ | こコ | らラ | をヲ | りリ | くク |
| なナ | ふフ | もモ | せセ | ひヒ | よヨ |    |
| ぬヌ | るル | さサ | ゆユ | すス | みミ | ほホ |
| れレ | にニ | のノ | むム | とト | たタ | まマ |
| っツ | へヘ | わワ | めメ | しシ | ねネ | やヤ |
| はハ | きキ | そソ | けケ | かカ | じジ | ろロ |
| あア | いイ | うウ | えエ | おオ | んン |    |



## Katakana Chart

| •          | w  | r  | y  | m  | h  | n  | t          | s          | k  |   |   |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|------------|----|---|---|
| ン          | ワ  | ラ  | ヤ  | マ  | ハ  | ナ  | タ          | サ          | カ  | ア | a |
| <u>n/m</u> | wa | ra | ya | ma | ha | na | ta         | sa         | ka | a |   |
|            |    | リ  |    | ミ  | ヒ  | ニ  | チ          | シ          | キ  | イ | i |
|            |    | ri |    | mi | hi | ni | <u>chi</u> | <u>shi</u> | ki | i |   |
|            |    | ル  | ユ  | ム  | フ  | ヌ  | ツ          | ス          | ク  | ウ | u |
|            |    | ru | yu | mu | fu | nu | <u>tsu</u> | su         | ku | u |   |
|            |    | レ  |    | メ  | ヘ  | ネ  | テ          | セ          | ケ  | エ | e |
|            |    | re |    | me | he | ne | te         | se         | ke | e |   |
|            | ヲ  | ロ  | ヨ  | モ  | ホ  | ノ  | ト          | ソ          | コ  | オ | o |
|            | o  | ro | yo | mo | ho | no | to         | so         | ko | o |   |

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Figure 4: Basic katakana syllables

| r  | m  | p  | b  | h  | n  | ch | j  | sh | g  | k  |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| リャ | ミャ | ピャ | ビャ | ヒャ | ニャ | チャ | ジャ | シャ | ギャ | キャ | ya |
| リュ | ミュ | ピュ | ビュ | ヒュ | ニュ | チュ | ジュ | シュ | ギュ | キュ | yu |
| リョ | ミョ | ピョ | ビョ | ヒョ | ニョ | チョ | ジョ | ショ | ギョ | キョ | yo |

Figure 5: Katakana contractions