Genki Grammar Index

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です, は particle, Questions, の particle

1.1 X は Y です

$$\sim$$
です。 It is \sim .

Examples:

十二時半です。 がくせい学生です。

(I) am a student.

(It) is half past twelve.

日本語です。

(My major) is the Japanese language.

Note that none of the sentences have a subject. This is common in Japanese, where context is relied on instead.

To make what we are talking about explicit, we can use the a particle. When は is used as a particle it is pronounced as わ.

Examples:

<u>私は</u> スーキムです。 中ました 山下さんは 生たです。

I am Sue Kim.

Mr. Yamashita is a teacher.

<u>メアリーさんは</u> アメリカ人です。

Mary is an American.

In Japanese, there is nothing that corresponds to the english "a", nor the plural "-s". Without context, a sentence like " 学生です" is therefore ambiguous. It may mean "{We are/You are/They are} students" as well as "{I am/You are/She is} a student".

1.2Question Sentences

To form a question in Japanese you add \mathcal{D} to the end of the sentence.

留学生です。

(I am) an international student.

留学生ですか。

(Are you) an international student?

Questions can also be formed using a "question word" like "何" (what).

専攻は何 ですか。 What is your major? (My major) is English. 今何時 ですか。 What time is it now? It is nine o'clock. メアリーさんは何歳 ですか。 How old are you, Mary? 十九歳 です。 I'm nineteen years old. What year are you in college? 何年生 ですか。 二年生です。 I'm on my second year. でんわ ばんごう What is your telephone number? 電話番号は何 ですか。 186の7343です。 It is 186-7343.

Note that question marks are not used in Japanese.

1.3 $noun_1 \mathcal{O} noun_2$

の is a possessive particle that connects two nouns like "'s" in English (The cat's leg). The phrase " さくら大学の学生" means "a student at Sakura University". The second noun 学生 provides the main idea (being a student) and the first noun さくら大学 makes it more specific. $\mathcal O$ is more versatile than the English counterpart.

Examples:

大けしさんの電話番号

Takeshi's phone number

大学の先生
日本語の学生
日本の大学

A college professor
A student of the Japanese language
A college in Japan

Note how English changes word order, in Japanese the main idea always comes at the end. Generally speaking, it works as such:

 $noun_1 \mathcal{O} noun_2$ $noun_2 of noun_1$

The result of using \mathcal{O} between two nouns is also a noun.

2 This, here, whos', negation and other basics

2.1 これ、それ、あれ、どれ

To say "This" or "That", $\supset h$ and $\supset h$ are used in Japanese respectively. $\supset h$ refers to something close to the speaker and $\supset h$ refers to something close to the listener.

これはいくらですか。

How much is this?

されせん えん それは三千円です。

That is 3,000 yen.

In Japanese there is an additional word, δh , which refers to something that is neither closer to the speaker nor the listener.

これは私のペンです。

This is my pen. (Close to me)

それは私のペンです。

That is my pen. (Close to the listener)

あれは私のペンです。

That is my pen (over there). (Close to neither)

There is also the word どれ, which means "which".

どれですか。

Which one is it (that you are talking about)?

Question words like $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{E}}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{N}}}$ and $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}}\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}}$ cannot be followed by the $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{U}}}$ particle, instead $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{D}}}^{\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathcal{M}}}}$ must be used.

どれが あなたのぺんですか。

Which one is your pen?

2.2 この、その、あの、どの +noun

If you want to be more specific than $2\hbar$, $2\hbar$, etc you can use 20, 20, 30, 20.

この時計はいくらですか。

How much is this watch?

その時計は三千円です。

That watch is 3,000 yen.

あの時計は三千五百円です。

That watch (over there) is 3,500 yen.

<u>めの时間</u> (み<u></u> | 五 日 | J C 9 o

Which watch is 3,500 yen??

<u>どの時計</u> は三千五百円ですか。

これ (は \sim) / この noun(は \sim) close to the person speaking

それ (は \sim) / その noun(は \sim) close to the person listening

あれ (は \sim) / あの noun(は \sim) far from both people

どれ (は \sim) / どの noun(は \sim) distance not known

2.3 ここ、そこ、あそこ、どこ

ここ、そこ、etc are words for places.

ここ here, near me そこ there, near you あそこ over there どこ where

You can ask for directions:

すみません。郵便局はどこですか。

Excuse me. Where is the post office?

If the listener is close by, they can answer with:

(郵便局) はそこです。

(The post office is) right over there.

2.4 だれの noun

The question word for "who" is $\tilde{\mathbb{H}}$, and for "whose" we add the possessive particle \mathcal{O} : $\tilde{\mathbb{H}}$ \mathcal{O} .

これは誰の カバンですか。

Whose bag is this?

それはスーさんの カバンです。

That is Sue's bag.

2.5 noun &

The particle & can be used to say "Item A is this, and item B is this too."

たけしさんは日本人です。

Takeshi is a Japanese person.

みちこさんも 日本人です。

Michiko is Japanese, too.

AはXです。 A is X.

BもXです。 B is also X.

2.6 noun じゃないです

To negate a statement of the form X $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc i}}}\ Y$ $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc t}}}\ Y$ is a noun, you can replace $\mbox{\sc t}\ Y$ with $\mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc i}\mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc i}\mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc i}\ \mbox{\sc$

山田さんは学生じゃないです。

Mr. Yamada is not a student.

じゃないです is very colloquial, the formal correspondent is じゃありませ

ん, and an even more formal version is ではありません (for written language).

2.7 \sim ね/ \sim よ suffix

There are suffixes in Japanese that are used depending on how the speakers views the interaction. If the speaker is seeking confirmation or agreement they may use 1/2 ("right?") as a suffix.

Another suffix, \$\mathcal{L}\$, is used if the speaker wants to assure the listener of what

3 Verbs, word order, adverbs and the 1th particle

3.1 Verb Conjugation

There are two kinds of verbs that follow regular conjugation patterns, ru-verbs and u-verbs.

	ru-verb	u-verb
dictionary forms	食べる	行く
present, affirmative	食べます	行きます
present, negative	ぇ 食べません	、 行きません
stems	^た 食べ	行き

Examples of ru-verbs are 食べる (To eat)、寝る (To sleep)、起きる (To wake up)、見る (To see).

up)、兄る (To see). Examples of u-verbs are 飲む (To drink)、読む (To read)、話す (To speak)、聞く
(To hear)、行く (To go)、帰る (To return).

There are also two irregular verbs, $\sharp \Im$ (to do) and $\Im \Im$ (to come).

dictionary forms	する	くる
present, affirmative	します	きます
present, negative	しません	きません
stems	します	き

Note how ru-verbs conjugate by removing the \Im and adding for example $\sharp \Im$, u-verbs conjugate differently, the last hiragana-character in the verb goes to the \lor version of its group, and for example $\sharp \Im$ is then appended. In both cases, they conjugate by transforming to their stem form before the "conjugation-suffix" is appended.

If you see the vowels \mathfrak{D} , \mathfrak{D} , \mathfrak{D} before the \mathfrak{D} in the dictionary forms, you can be absolutely sure that the verb is an u-verb.

3.2 Verb Types and the "Present Tense"

If a verb is conjugated in the "present tense", it either means:

- 1. That a person habitually engages in these activities
- 2. That a person is planning to perform the activities in the future

Habitual examples:

私はよくテレビを読みます。 I often watch TV.
メアリーさんは時々朝ご飯を食べません。 Mary sometimes doesn't eat breakfast.

Future examples: 私は明日京都に行きます。

スーさんは今日うちに帰りません。

I will go to Kyoto tomorrow.

Sue will not return home today.

3.3 **Particles**

The particle & indicates "direct objects", the kind of things that are directly involved in, or affected by, the event. Note that this particle is pronounced "

コーヒー<u>を</u>飲みます。 ^{**Aがく} 音楽<u>を</u>聞きます。

I drink coffee.

I listen to music.

テレビを見ます。

I watch TV.

The particle ${\mathcal C}$ indicates where the event described by the verb takes place.

図書館で本を読みます。

I will read books in the library.

家でテレビを見ます。

I will watch TV at home.

The particle \mathcal{C} has many meanings, but here we will learn two:

- 1. The goal toward which things move.
- 2. The time at which an event takes place.
- (1) goal of movement examples:

私は今日学校に 行きません。

I will not go to school today.

私はうちに 帰ります。

I will return home.

(2) time examples:

日曜日に 京都に行きます。

I will go to Kyoto on Sunday.

ー _a 十一時に寝ます。

I will go to bed at eleven.

Approximate time references can be made by substiting ごろ or ごろに for に. Example:

十一時ごろに寝ます。

I will go to bed at about eleven.

The particle \wedge , too, indicates the goal of movement. The sentences following (1) above can therefore be rewritten using \wedge instead of &. Note that this particle is pronounced "え".

私は今日学校<u>へ</u> 行きません。

I will not go to school today.

私はうちへ 帰ります。

I will return home.

- 3.4 Time Reference
- **3.5** ∼ ませんか
- 3.6 Word Order
- 3.7 Frequency Adverbs
- 3.8 The Topic Particle は

- 4
- **4.1 X** があります/います
- 4.2 Describing Where Things Are
- 4.3 Past Tense of です
- 4.4 Past Tense of Verbs
- 4.5 \$
- 4.6 一時間
- 4.7 たくさん
- 4.8 と

- **5** •
- 5.1 Adjectives
- 5.2 好き (な)/きらい (な)
- **5.3** ~ ましょう/~ ましょうか
- 5.4 Counting

- 6 •
- 6.1 Te-form
- **6.2** ~ てください
- **6.3** ~ もいいます
- 6.4 ~ てはいけません
- 6.5 Describing Two Activities
- 6.6 ~ から
- **6.7** ∼ ましょうか

- 7 •
- 7.1 \sim ている
- 7.2 メアリーさんは髪が長いです
- 7.3 Te-forms for Joining Sentences
- 7.4 verb stem + にいく
- 7.5 Counting People

- 8 •
- 8.1 Short Forms
- 8.2 Informal Speech
- 8.3 \sim とおもいます/ \sim といっていました
- **8.4** ~ ないでください
- 8.5 verb のがすきです
- 8.6 が
- 8.7 何か and 何も

- 9
- 9.1 Past Tense Short Forms (verbs)
- 9.2 Qualifying Nouns with Verbs and Adjectives
- 9.3 まだ \sim ていません
- 9.4 ~から

- 10 •
- 10.1 Comparison between Two items
- 10.2 Comparison among Three or More Items
- 10.3 adjective/noun + \mathcal{O}
- 10.4 ~ つもりだ
- 10.5 adjective + なる
- 10.6 どこかに/どこにも
- 10.7 で

- 11 •
- 11.1 ~たい
- **11.2** ~ たり ~ たりする
- **11.3** ~ ことがある
- 11.4 noun A ⋄ noun B

- **12** •
- **12.1** ~ んです
- **12.2** ∼ すぎる
- **12.3** ~ ほうがいいです
- 12.4 \sim ので
- 12.5 \sim control(1)
- 12.6 \sim でしょう