



JLPT N5

Grammar Master

N5

かんぽう

80 GRAMMAR LESSONS YOU MUST KNOW TO PASS THE JLPT!

Complete Study Guide
By JLPTsensei.com

JLPT N5

Grammar Master



Complete Study Guide

By: Cruise Bogedin - JLPTsensei.com

This book includes all of the grammar points that you will need to know in order to pass the JLPT N5.

Each lesson includes the meaning, usage rules, grammar notes, as well as numerous example sentences from beginner to advanced.

Good luck!

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Table of Contents

#	JLPT N5 Grammar Lessons	Meaning	Page	
1	ちゃいけない・じゃない けない	cha ikenai / ja ikenai	must not do (spoken Japanese)	4
2	だ・です	da / desu	to be (am, is, are, were, used to)	7
3	だけ	dake	only; just; as much as	10
4	だろう	darou	I think; it seems; probably; right?	13
5	で	de	in; at; on; by; with; via	16
6	でも	demo	but; however	19
7	でしょう	deshou	I think; it seems; probably; right?	21
8	どんな	donna	what kind of; what sort of	24
9	どうして	doushite	why; for what reason; how	26
10	どうやって	douyatte	how; in what way; by what means	28
11	が	ga	subject marker; however; but	30
12	があります	ga arimasu	there is; is (non-living things)	33
13	がほしい	ga hoshii	to want something	36
14	がいます	ga imasu	there is; to be; is (living things)	38
15	ほうがいい	hou ga ii	had better; it'd be better to; should~	41
16	い-adjectives	i-adjectives	i-adjectives	43
17	一番	ichiban	the most; the best	46
18	一緒に	issho ni	together	48
19	いつも	itsumo	always; usually; habitually	50
20	じゃない・ではない	janai / dewa nai	to not be (am not; is not; are not)	52
21	か	ka	question particle	56
22	か~か	ka~ka	or	58
23	から	kara	because; since; from	60
24	方	kata	the way of doing something; how to do	64
25	けど	kedo	but; however; although	66

#	JLPT N5 Grammar Lessons		Meaning	Page
26	けれども	keredo mo	but; however; although	68
27	まだ	mada	still; not yet	70
28	まだ～ていません	mada ~te imasen	have not yet	72
29	まで	made	until ~; as far as ~; to (an extent); even ~	74
30	前に	mae ni	before ~; in front of ~	76
31	ませんか	masen ka	would you; do you want to; shall we~	78
32	ましょう	mashou	let's ~; shall we ~	80
33	ましょうか	mashouka	shall I ~; used to offer help to the listener	82
34	も	mo	too; also; as well	84
35	もう	mou	already; anymore; again; other	86
36	な-adjectives	na-adjectives	na-adjectives	89
37	なあ	naa	sentence ending particle; confirmation; admiration, etc	91
38	ないで	naide	without doing~ ; To do [B] without doing [A]	93
39	ないでください	naide kudasai	please don't do	95
40	なくてもいい	naku temo ii	don't have to	97
41	なくちゃ	nakucha	must do; need to; gotta do	99
42	なくてはいけない	nakute wa ikenai	must do; need to do	102
43	なくてはならない	nakute wa naranai	must do; need to do	104
44	なる	naru	to become	106
45	んです	ndesu	to explain something; show emphasis	109
46	ね	ne	isn't it? right? eh?	111
47	に	ni	destination particle; in; at; on; to	113
48	にいく	ni iku	go to do	116
49	にする	ni suru	to decide on	118
50	に/へ	ni/e	to (indicates direction / destination)	120
51	の	no	possessive particle	122
52	のです	no desu	to explain something; show emphasis	124
53	のが下手	no ga heta	to be bad at doing something	127

#	JLPT N5 Grammar Lessons		Meaning	Page
54	のが上手	no ga jouzu	to be good at	129
55	のが好き	no ga suki	to like doing something	131
56	の中で[A]が一番	no naka de [A] ga ichiban	out of this group, [A] is best	133
57	ので	node	because of; given that; since	135
58	を	o / wo	object marker particle	137
59	をください	o kudasai	please give me~	139
60	しかし	shikashi	but; however	141
61	すぎる	sugiru	too much	143
62	たことがある	ta koto ga aru	to have done something before	146
63	たい	tai	want to do something	148
64	たり~たり	tari~tari	do such things as A and B	151
65	てある	te aru	is/has been done (resulting state)	153
66	ている	te iru	ongoing action or current state	156
67	てから	te kara	after doing~	162
68	てください	te kudasai	please do	164
69	てはいけない	te wa ikenai	must not; may not; cannot	166
70	てもいいです	temo ii desu	is OK to..; is alright to..; may I..?	168
71	と	to	and; with; as; connecting particle	170
72	とき	toki	when; at this time	172
73	とても	totemo	very; awfully; exceedingly	174
74	つもり	tsumori	plan to ~; intend to ~	176
75	は	wa - topic marker	topic marker	178
76	は~より・・・です	wa ~yori... desu	[A] is more ~ than [B]	180
77	はどうですか	wa dou desu ka	how about; how is	182
78	や	ya	and; or; connecting particle	184
79	よ	yo	you know; emphasis (ending particle)	186
80	より~ほうが	yori ~hou ga	[A] is more than [B]	189

ちゃいけない・じゃいけない

Meaning

must not do (spoken Japanese)

How To Use

Verb ㇿ	ちゃだめ ちゃいけない ちゃいけません
Verb ㇿ	じゃダメ じゃいけない じゃいけません

Learn Japanese grammar: **ちゃいけない** (cha ikenai) / **ちゃダメ** (cha dame) / **じゃいけない** (ja ikenai) / **じゃダメ** (ja dame). Meaning: must not; may not; cannot (spoken Japanese).

This grammar is a more casual way to say we should not do / may not do something. To be more formal, you can use [てはいけない \(te wa ikenai\)](#).

Which to use: ちゃ VS じゃ

- Use the verb's て form, but then remove the て
 - たべる -> たべて -> たべ**ちゃ**
 - “taberu” -> “tabete” -> “tabe cha”
- If the て form is で, then ちゃ turns to じゃ
 - のむ -> のんで -> のん**じゃ**
 - “nomu” -> “nonde” -> “nonja”

3 Main Ending Patterns

- **ダメ** (dame) = standard, casual
- **いけない** (ikenai) = standard, casual
- **いけません** (ikemasen) = same, but more formal

Example Sentences

1. 寝る前にスマホを見**ちゃダメ**よ。
neru mae ni sumaho o micha dame yo.
You shouldn't look at your smartphone before going to bed.

2. ここはきけんなので、入**っちゃダメ**だよ。
koko wa kiken nano de, haiccha dame da yo.
This area is dangerous, so you're not allowed to enter.

3. や**っちゃいけない**ことをやっちゃった。
yaccha ikenai koto o yacchatta.
I did something I shouldn't have...

4. 自信をなくし**ちゃいけません**！
jishin o naku shicha ikemasen!
You mustn't lose confidence!

5. そんなに授業をさぼ**っちゃダメ**よ。
sonna ni jugyou o saboccha dame yo.
You shouldn't skip class so much.

6. 彼を信用し**ちゃいけない**。
kare o shinyou shicha ikenai.
We cannot trust him.

7. 赤信号をむし**ちゃいけません**！
aka shingou o mushi shicha ikemasen.
You must not ignore red lights!

8. 野菜を食べるまでデザートを食べちゃいけないよ。
yasai o taberu made dezaato o tabecha ikenai yo.
No eating dessert until you finish eating your vegetables.
9. 子どもの前に悪いことばを言っちゃいけません。
kodomo no mae ni warui kotoba o iccha ikemasen.
We must not say bad words in front of children.
10. 20歳未満の人はお酒を飲んじゃいけません。
hatachi miman no hito wa osake o nonja ikemasen.
People under the age of 20 cannot drink alcohol.

Practice writing your own sentences!

だ・です

Meaning

to be (am, is, are, were, used to)

How To Use

present affirmative	だ (casual) です (polite)
past affirmative	だった (casual) でした (polite)
present negative	じゃない ではない じゃありません ではないではありません
past negative	じゃなかった ではなかった じゃありませんでした ではありませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **だ** (da) & **です** (desu). Meaning: to be (am, is, are, were, used to).

Let's look at some of the different ways this grammar can be used.

Present affirmative form – だ・です

Example A) です

私はクリスです。

watashi wa kurisu desu.

I **am** Chris.

This literally translates to “I Chris am”. Remember that Japanese uses SOV (subject-object-verb), rather than SVO like English. This may be strange at first, but it will become natural after some practice.

Example B) だ

私はクリスだ。

watashi wa kurisu da.

I **am** Chris.

だ (da) and です (desu) have the exact same meaning, but です (desu) is more polite, so when in doubt it's best to always use です (desu).

Example C) to be: am, is, are

私の名前はクリスです。

watashi no namae wa kurisu desu.

My name **is** Chris.

だ (da) and です (desu) can mean am, is and are. There is no distinction like in English, so it works for everything. This is one of the easier points of Japanese grammar.

Example D) They are

彼らは3年生です。

karera wa san nensei desu.

They **are** 3rd year students.

だった・でした (datta / deshita) – used to be (past)

When you want to say something “used to be” (was, were, used to, etc), you’ll want to use this conjugation. Once again, there is a casual form **だった** (datta), and the more polite **でした** (deshita).

Example E) Was

昨日はとてもきれいな日**だった**。

kinou wa totemo kireina hi datta.

Yesterday **was** a very beautiful day.

Example F) Used to

子どものとき、甘いものが好きでした。

kodomo no toki, amai mono ga suki deshita.

When I was a child, I **used to** like sweets.

Extra Study Notes

- To say the opposite, “to not be” (is/are not) instead, you can use [じゃない・ではない \(janai / dewa nai\)](#), or any of the negative conjugations listed in the “how to use” chart.

Example Sentences

1. 今日は暑い**だね**。

kyou wa atsui da ne.

It's pretty hot today, right?

2. かれは私の友だち**です**。

kare wa watashi no tomodachi desu.

He is my friend.

3. 日本の文化が好き**です**。

nihon no bunka ga suki desu.

I like Japanese culture

4. 昔はサッカーが趣味**だったが**、今はやっていない。

mukashi wa sakka ga shumi datta ga, ima wa yatteinai.

Soccer used to be my hobby, but I don't play anymore.

Practice writing your own sentences!

だけ

Meaning

only; just; as much as

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)	だけ
Noun	
な-adjective + な	
い-adjective	

Learn Japanese grammar: **だけ** (dake). Meaning: only; just; as much as.

Meaning 1) only; just; alone

Example 1-A)

一人**だけ**。

hitori dake.

only one person.

Example 1-B)

ただ一つ**だけ**ある。

tada hitotsu dake aru.

There is **only** one.

Example 1-C)

ほしいものはこれ**だけ**。

hoshii mono wa kore dake.

This is the **only** thing I want.

Meaning 2 examples) as much as; at least

Example 2-A)

私はできる**だけ**金を借りないようにしている。

watashi wa dekiru dake kane o karinai youni shiteiru.

I try to borrow as little money **as I possibly can**.

Example 2-B)

いくら何でも15人**だけ**は来るだろう。

ikura nandemo juugo nin dake wa kuru darou.

Surely 15 people will come **at least**.

Example Sentences

1. 私の持っているお金はこれ**だけ**だ。
watashi no motteiru okane wa kore dake da.
This is all the money I have..
2. ちょっと見ている**だけ**です。
chotto mitteiru dake desu.
I'm just looking around.
3. 好きじゃない食べ物はトマト**だけ**だ。
suki janai tabemono wa tomato dake da.
The only food I dislike are tomatoes.
4. ただ話していた**だけ**です。
tada hanashiteita dake desu.
I was just speaking.

5. 問題はそれ**だけ**だと思ukai?
mondai wa sore dake da to omou?
You think that's all there is to this problem?

6. 私は一人**だけ**でできます。
watashi wa hitori dake de dekimasu.
I can do it (just) by myself.

7. 出来る**だけ**新しい漢字を勉強したい。
dekiru dake atarashii kanji o benkyou shitai.
I want to study as much new kanji as possible.

8. その女の子はただ泣く**だけ**だった。
sono onna no ko wa tada naku dake datta.
That little girl did nothing but cry.

9. 彼女が信頼できるのは彼**だけ**だ。
kanojo ga shinrai dekiru no wa kare dake da.
He is the only one that she can trust.

Practice writing your own sentences!

だろう

Meaning

I think; it seems; probably; right?

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)	だろう
Noun	
な-adjective	
い-adjective	

Learn Japanese grammar: **だろう** (darou). Meaning: I think; it seems; probably; right?

Although there are many different meanings, which may seem confusing, it is usually easy to understand from context. Let's look at some basic examples.

BTW, sometimes this grammar is shortened to just **だろ** (daro), but the meaning is the same.

Example A)

嘘**だろう**。

uso darou.

You're kidding (**surely** that's a lie)

That's a lie, **right?**

This method can express either confidence that it is likely a lie, or express that you are asking for confirmation, though it depends on the tone of the speaker and the situation.

Example 2)

雨が降る**だろう**。

ame ga furu darou.

It **seems like** it's going to rain.

I **think** it's going to rain.

Like the previous example, the meaning changes depending on the speaker's tone and the situation. When spoken in a questioning type of tone, it is asking for confirmation from whoever the speaker is talking to. Otherwise, it expresses what the speaker is thinking; in this case thinking that it is likely to rain.

Used with questions

Example C) showing speculation

それは何**だろう**。

sore wa nan darou?

I **wonder** what that is..

Example Sentences

1. 彼はもうすぐ来る**だろう**。
kare wa mou sugu kuru darou.
He should be coming any moment now.
2. そう**だろう**と思ったよ。
sou darou to omotta.
I thought (figured) as much.
3. 明日はたぶん雨が降る**だろう**。空に雲がたくさんあるから。
ashita wa tabun ame ga furu darou. sora ni kumo ga takusan aru kara.
It will likely rain tomorrow.. There's a lot of clouds in the sky now..
4. 間違い**ないだろう**。
machigai nai darou.
Surely there's no mistake.

5. たぶんこの雨は1時間ぐらいでやむ**だろう**。

tabun kono ame wa ichijikan gurai de yamu darou.

This rain will probably be over in about an hour or so.

6. あそこにいる人は誰**だろう**。

asoko ni iru hito wa dare darou.

I wonder who that person is over there.

7. この肉は、もう食べないほうが**いいだろう**。もう悪くなってしまった。

kono niku wa, mou tabenai hou ga ii darou. mou waruku natte shimatta.

It's probably best to not eat this meat. It's already gone bad..

8. どうして日本の夏はこんなに暑い**んだろう**。

doushite nihon no natsu wa konnani atsui n darou.

Why is Summer in Japan so hot..?

Practice writing your own sentences!

で

Meaning

in; at; on; by; with; via

How To Use

Noun	で
------	---

Learn Japanese grammar: **で** (de) has various meanings, including in; at; on; by; with; via; and even because.

The meaning changes based on the context of the sentence. Let's look at some basic examples.

Meaning 1) **で** – place of action

Indicates the place where an action occurs. In this pattern, the preceding noun must be a location.

- 学校**で**日本語を勉強する。
- がっこう**で**にほんごをべんきょうする。
- gakkou **de** nihongo wo benkyou suru.
- I study Japanese **at** school.

Meaning 2) **で** – a means or method

Indicates a means or method. Similar to “by”, “with”, or “via”

- 車**で**行く。
- くるま**で**いく。
- kuruma **de** iku.
- I will go **by/via** car.

Meaning 3) **で** – a total amount

Indicates a total amount of something (time, money, etc).

- 1時間**で**終わります。
- いちじかん**で**おわります。
- ichijikan **de** owarimasu.

- I'll finish (**in total**) **in** one hour.

Meaning 4) で – reason for action

- 病気で今日休みます。
- びょうきできょうやすみます。
- byouki **de** kyou yasumimasu.
- **Because** I'm sick, I'm taking today off..

This meaning is very similar to the grammar [ので \(node\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. じてんしゃで行きます。

jitensha de ikimasu.

I will go by bicycle.

2. みんなで行こう！

minna de ikou!

Let's go together with everyone!

3. たまに一人でカラオケに行きます。

tamani hitori de karaoke ni ikimasu.

I sometimes go to sing karaoke by myself.

4. なにかの理由で彼は虫が怖いんだ。

nanika no riyuu de kare wa mushi ga kowai n da.

For some reason, he is scared of bugs.

5. そのシャツどこで買いました？

sono shatsu doko de kaimashita?

Where did you buy that shirt?

6. 駅で会いましょうね。

eki de aimashou ne.

Let's meet at the station.

7. ここで電話しないでください。

koko de denwa shinai de kudasai.

Please don't use your phone here.

8. どこで日本語を学びましたか？

doko de nihongo wo manabimashita ka?

Where did you learn Japanese?

9. YouTubeで日本語を勉強します。

youtube de nihongo wo benkyou shimasu.

I study Japanese by watching YouTube.

Practice writing your own sentences!

でも

Meaning

but; however

How To Use

See details below..

Learn Japanese grammar: **でも** (demo). Meaning: but; however.

- Be careful to not confuse with [ても・でも \(temo / demo\)](#), which has a different meaning.
- The JLPT N5 grammar **でも** (demo) simply means but or however.
- It is often used to start a new sentence, or to connect two contradicting ideas.
- It is very similar to [しかし \(shikashi\)](#), which is a bit stronger.

Example Sentences

1. 私は魚が好きです。**でも**肉も好きです。
watashi wa sakana ga suki desu. demo niku mo suki desu.
I like fish. But I also like meat too.
2. パン屋に行きました。**でも**、何も買いませんでした。
panya ni ikimashita. demo, nanimo kaimasen deshita.
I went to the bakery, but didn't buy anything.
3. 動物が好きです。**でも**、犬が一番好きです。
doubutsu ga suki desu. demo, inu ga ichiban suki desu.
I like animals. But I love dogs the most.

4. 図書館に行きました。**でも**、集中できませんでした。
toshokan ni ikimashita. demo, shuuchuu dekimasen deshita.
I went to the library. But I wasn't able to concentrate.

5. スーパーに行きました。**でも**、財布を忘れました！
suupaa ni ikimashita. demo, saifu wo wasuremashita.
I went to the grocery store. But I forgot my wallet!

6. 今朝学校に行きました。**でも**、休みでした。
kesa gakkou ni ikimashita. demo, yasumi deshita.
I went to school this morning. but it was closed.

7. 日本人ともっと話したいです。**でも**、私の日本語はあまり上手ではありません。
nihonjin to motto hanashitai desu. demo, watashi no nihongo wa amari jouzu dewa arimasen.
I want to speak to Japanese people more. But my Japanese is not so good.

Practice writing your own sentences!

でしょう

Meaning

I think; it seems; probably; right?

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)	でしょう
Noun	
な-adjective	
い-adjective	

Learn Japanese grammar: **でしょう** (deshou). Meaning: I think; it seems; probably; right?

Although there are many different meanings, which may seem confusing, it is usually easy to understand from context.

Some important notes:

- Can be shortened to just **でしょ** (desho), but the meaning is the same.
- **でしょう** (deshou) is the more polite version of [だらう](#) (darou).

Example A)

明日は雨が降るでしょう。

ashita wa ame ga furu deshou.

It will **probably** rain tomorrow.

I **think** it will rain tomorrow.

Example B)

先生はまもなく来るでしょう。

sensei wa mamonaku kuru deshou.

Sensei (the teacher) will **probably** come soon.

Used with questions

Example C) showing speculation

それは何でしょう。

sore wa nan deshou?

I **wonder** what that is..

Example Sentences

1. あの人は誰でしょう？

ano hito wa dare deshou?

I wonder who that person is..

2. いいでしょう。

ii deshou.

That sounds/seems good.

3. この問題は簡単でしょう？

kono mondai wa kantan deshou?

This problem is easy, right?

4. 彼はもうすぐ来るでしょう。

kare wa mou sugu kuru deshou.

He should be here any second.

5. 頑張れば、いい大学に行けるでしょう。

ganbareba, ii daigaku ni ikeru deshou.

If you work hard, you should be able to get into a good university.

6. 今日の試合では、Aチームが勝つでしょう。

kyou no shiai de wa, A chiimu ga katsu deshou.

In today's match, surely team A will win.

7. この問題は、明日したの試験に出るでしょうか。

kono mondai wa, ashita no shiken ni deru deshou ka.

Will this question be on tomorrow's test?

Practice writing your own sentences!

どんな

Meaning

what kind of; what sort of

How To Use

どんな	Noun
-----	------

Learn Japanese grammar: **どんな** (donna). Meaning: what kind of; what sort of.

This sentence pattern is used to ask about the state or character of a person, thing, etc.

Example Sentences

1. ベトナムは**どんな**国ですか。
betonamu wa donna kuni desu ka.
What kind of country is Vietnam?

2. **どんな**仕事をするのですか。
donna shigoto o suru no desu ka?
What kind of work do you do?

3. **どんな**食べ物が好きですか。
donna tabemono ga suki desu ka.
What kind of food do you like?

4. **どんな**パソコンを持っていますか。
donna pasokon o motteimasu ka.
What kind of computer do you have?

5. **どんな**車に乗っていますか？

donna kuruma ni notteimasu ka?

What kind of car do you drive?

6. 今日は**どんな**天気ですか。

kyou wa donna tenki desu ka.

How is the weather today?

7. 新しい先生は**どんな**人ですか。

atarashii sensei wa donna hito desu ka.

What is the new teacher like?

8. 禁煙するために**どんな**方法を使いましたか。

kin'en suru tame ni donna houhou o tsukaimashita ka.

What method did you use to give up smoking?

Practice writing your own sentences!

どうして

Meaning

why; for what reason; how

How To Use

can be used mid-sentence or to start new sentence

Learn Japanese grammar: どうして (doushite). Meaning: why; for what reason; how.

- どうして (doushite) has two main meanings:
 1. To ask why or for what reason
 2. To ask how / method

Example A) why

どうして来なかった？

doushite konakatta

Why did you not come?

Example B) how / method

この字はどうして書くんですか？

kono ji wa doushite kaku n desuka?

How do you write this character?

Example Sentences

1. どうして来ないの？
doushite konai no?
Why aren't you coming?

2. どうしてそうなったの？

doushite sou natta no?

How/why did that happen?

3. どうしてそれを知っている？

doushite sore o shitteiru?

How/why do you know that?

4. どうして日本に来たんですか？

doushite nihon ni kitan desu ka?

Why did you come to Japan?

5. どうして日本の夏はこんなに暑いんだろう。

doushite nihon no natsu wa konnani atsui n darou.

Why is Summer in Japan so hot..?

6. 君はどうしてけがをしたか。

kimi wa doushite kega o shita ka.

How did you get hurt?

7. どうしてその事故が起こったのか。

doushite so no jiko ga okotta no ka.

How did that accident come about?

8. どうして彼女と知り合ったのですか。

doushite kanojo to shiriatta no desu ka?

How did you get acquainted with her?

Practice writing your own sentences!

どうやって

Meaning

how; in what way; by what means

How To Use

can be used at beginning or mid-sentence

Learn Japanese grammar: どうやって (douyatte). Meaning: how; in what way; by what means.

Example Sentences

1. 駅まで**どうやって**行きますか。

eki made douyatte ikimasu ka.

How can I get to the station?

2. これは**どうやって**使いますか。

kore wa douyatte tsukaimasu ka.

How do you use this?

3. これは**どうやって**食べますか。

kore wa douyatte tabemasu ka.

How do you eat this?

4. リサさんは毎日**どうやって**学校へ来ますか。

risa san wa mainichi douyatte gakkou e kimasu ka.

Lisa, how do you come to school every day?

5. どうやって彼女と出会ったのですか。

douyatte kanojo to deatta no desu ka.

How did you meet her?

6. あなたはどうやって漢字を覚えますか。

anata wa douyatte kanji o oboemasu ka.

How do you memorize kanji?

7. これはどうやって料理するのですか。

kore wa douyatte ryouri suru no desu ka.

How do you cook this?

8. 私は彼がどうやって一人でそれをやったのか知らない。

watashi wa kare ga douyatte hitori de sore o yatta no ka shiranai.

I don't know how he did that all alone.

Practice writing your own sentences!

が

Meaning

subject marker; however; but

How To Use

Usage 1: subject marker
subject + が

Usage 2: however; but
Sentence 1 + が + Sentence 2

Learn Japanese grammar: **が** (ga). Meaning: the particle が has two main meanings, one as a subject marker particle, and the other as however; but.

Meaning 1) が – Subject Marker

が is used to mark a subject in a sentence. It is very similar to the particle [は \(wa\) Topic Marker](#).

- 犬**が**好きです。
- inu **ga** suki desu.
- I like **dogs**. (subject is dogs)

See examples 1~5

Meaning 2) が – However; but

When placed in between two sentences, が can also mean “however” or “but”.

- 私は犬が好きですがお母さんは好きじゃな。
- watashi wa inu ga suki desu **ga** okaasan wa suki janai.
- I like dogs **but** my mom does not.

See examples 6~9

Example Sentences

1. 明日は雨**が**降る。
ashita wa ame ga furu.
It is going to rain tomorrow.
2. 仕方**が**ない。
shikata ga nai.
It cannot be helped. (a common expression in Japanese)
3. コンビニ**が**近くにあります。
konbini ga chikaku ni arimasu.
There is a convenience store nearby.
4. 彼は借金**が**ある。
kare wa shakkin ga aru.
He is in debt.
5. 今日は、やること**が**たくさんある。
kyou wa, yaru koto ga takusan aru.
There are a lot of things to do today.
6. 彼は金はある**が**、バカな男だ。
kare wa kane wa aru ga, baka na otoko da.
He has money, but he's a stupid man.
7. 私は日本語を話すことはできます**が**、読むことはできません。
watashi wa nihongo o hanasu koto wa dekimasu ga, yomu koto wa dekimasen.
I can speak Japanese, but I am not able to read it.

8. このカメラを買いたいです**が**お金**が**ない。

kono kamera o kaitai desu ga okane ga nai.

I want to buy this camera, but I have no money..

9. 恐れ入ります**が**、本日は満席です。

osore irimasu ga, honjitsu wa manseki desu.

I deeply apologize, but today we have no more seats available. (we are fully booked)

Practice writing your own sentences!

があります

Meaning

there is; is (non-living things)

How To Use

Noun	がある / があります
	があった / がありました
	がない / がありません
	がなかった / がありませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **があります** (ga arimasu) & **がある** (ga aru). Meaning: used to say there is or something is for NON-LIVING things.

- This form can only be used with non-living things.
- For living things, use [がいます \(ga imasu\)](#) instead.
- The が is changed to a に/は for places.
- Can also mean to have or not have.

Example A) basic **があります** (ga arimasu)

- たくさんの宿題**があります**。
- takusan no shukudai ga arimasu.
- I have (there is) a lot of homework.

Example B) place **にあります** (ni arimasu)

- カバンがテーブルの上**にあります**。
- kaban ga teeburu no ue ni aru.
- Your bag is on the table.

Example C) asking a question

- 言いたいこと**がありますか**？
- iitai koto ga arimasuka?
- Is there something you'd like to say?

Example D) Negative – is not / not have **がありません (ga arimasen) / がない (ga nai)**

- お金**がない**んだ。
- okane ga nai nda.
- I have no (there is no) money.

Example Sentences

1. 人気**がある**。

ninki ga aru.

to be popular.

2. 先月お金**がぜんぜんなかった**。

sengetsu okane ga zenzen nakatta.

Last month I had no money.

3. へやにテレビ**があります**。

heya ni terebi ga arimasu.

I have a TV in my room.

4. 日本の好き**じゃないところがあります**。

nihon no suki janai tokoro ha arimasu.

There are some things I don't like about Japan.

5. このマンションにはへや**が三つあります**。

kono manshon niwa heya ga mitsu arimasu.

There are three rooms in this apartment.

6. 彼は金**がある**から新車**が買える**。

kare wa kane ga aru kara shinsha ga kaeru.

He has money so he can buy a new car.

7. 今夜用事**がある**から行けない。

konya youji ga aru kara ikenai.

I have things to do tonight so I can't go.

Practice writing your own sentences!

がほしい

Meaning

to want something

How To Use

Noun	がほしい が欲しい
------	--------------

Learn Japanese grammar: **がほしい** / **が欲しい** (ga hoshii). Meaning: to want something. This grammar is used to show you want something.

Simply add **がほしい** after a noun.

これが**ほしい** -> kore ga hoshii -> I want this.

There is also a kanji version **が欲しい**, but it is commonly used with just hiragana:

Example Sentences

1. もっとお金**が欲しい**です。

motto okane ga hoshii desu.

I want more money.

2. 彼女**がほしい**。

kanojo ga hoshii.

I want a girlfriend.

3. お金**がたくさんほしい**。

okane ga takusan hoshii.

I want a lot of money. (it's OK to split **が** and **ほしい**)

4. 何人子ども**がほしい**ですか？
nan nin kodomo ga hoshii desu ka?
How many children do you want to have?

5. 新しいGoProカメラ**が欲しい**です！
atarashii gopuro kamera ga hoshii desu!
I want the new GoPro camera!

6. いつか自分の家**が欲しい**です。
itsuka jibun no ie ga hoshii desu.
I want to have my own house one day.

7. 私**が欲しい**ものは自由です。
watashi ga hoshii mono wa jiyuu desu.
What I want is freedom.

8. 日本で作られた車**が欲しい**。
nihon de tsukurareta kuruma ga hoshii.
I want a car made in Japan.

9. 最近、仕事が忙しすぎてリラックスする時間**が欲しい**。
saikin, shigoto ga isogashi sugite rirakkusu suru jikan ga hoshii.
Work is too busy lately, I want some time to relax.

10. 彼が持っているみたいなパソコン**が欲しい**。
kare ga motteiru mitai na pasokon ga hoshii.
I want a computer like the one he has.

Practice writing your own sentences!

がいます

Meaning

there is; to be; is (living things)

How To Use

Noun	がいる / がいます
	がいた / がいました
	がいない / がいません
	がいなかった / がいませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **がいます** (ga imasu) & **がいる** (ga iru). Meaning: used to say there is or something is for LIVING things.

The verb いる (iru) comes from 居る (iru), which is the verb for to be (for living things). However, when used in this grammar form, the hiragana form is used instead of the kanji form.

- This form can only be used with living things.
- For non-living things, use [があります](#) (ga arimasu) instead.
- The が is changed to a に/は for places.
- Can also mean to have or not have.

Let's look at some basic examples.

Example A) to be **がいます** (ga imasu)

- シャワーには誰か**がいます**。
- shawaa ni wa dareka ga imasu.
- Someone is in the shower.

Example B) place **にいます** (ni imasu)

- 今どこ**にいます**か？
- ima doko ni imasu ka?
- Where are you now?

Example C) to have **がいます** (ga imasu)

- 子ども**がいます**か？
- kodomo ga imasu ka?
- Do you have any children?

Example D) negative **がいません** (ga imasen)

- いいえ、子ども**がいません**。
- ie, kodomo ga imasen.
- No, I do not have any children.

Example Sentences

1. テーブルの下に猫**がいる**。

teeburu no shita ni neko ga iru.

There is a cat below the table.

2. あなたは彼氏**がいる**の？

anata wa kareshi ga iru no?

Do you have a boyfriend?

3. 私には兄弟**がいない**んだ。

watashi ni wa kyoudai ga inai nda.

I don't have any siblings.

4. 弟一人妹一人**がいます**。

otouto hitori imouto hitori ga imasu.

I have one younger brother and one younger sister.

5. その部屋に犬**がいる**。

sono heya ni inu ga iru.

There is a dog in that room.

6. 今学校にだれもいません。

ima gakkou ni daremo imasen.

There is no one at school right now.

7. 東京駅に観光者がいっぱいいる。

toukyou eki ni kankousha ga ippai iru.

There are a lot of tourists in Tokyo station.

Practice writing your own sentences!

ほうがいい

Meaning

had better; it'd be better to; should~

How To Use

Verb	方がいい ほうがいい
------	---------------

Learn Japanese grammar: **方がいい** / (ほうがいい) (hou ga ii). Meaning: had better; it'd be better to; should~

Both the kanji and hiragana version can be used: 方がいい / ほうがいい .

Example A) past-casual

行たほうがいい。

itta hou ga ii.

You had better go.

Example B) negative

行かないほうがいい。

ikanai hou ga ii.

You shouldn't go.

Example Sentences

1. 疲れたら、早く寝た**ほうがいい**。
tsukaretara, hayaku neta hou ga ii.
If you're tired, it's best to go to bed early.

2. 暑い日には、水をたくさん飲んだ**方がいい**。

atsui hi ni wa, mizu o takusan nonda hou ga ii.

It's best to drink a lot of water on hot days.

3. 寝る前に、スマホを使わない**方がいい**。

neru mae ni, sumaho o tsukawanai hou ga ii.

Before going to bed, it's best to not use your smartphone.

4. 毎日日本語を練習した**方がいい**ですよ。

mainichi nihongo o renshuu shita hou ga ii desu yo.

You should practice Japanese every day.

5. 分からないとき、先生に聞いた**方がいい**ですよ。

wakaranai toki, sensei ni kiita hou ga ii desu yo.

When you don't understand, you're best off asking your teacher.

6. 肉だけじゃなくて、野菜も食べた**ほうがいい**ですよ。

niku dake janakute, yasai mo tabeta hou ga ii desu yo.

It's better to not just eat meat, but some vegetables as well.

7. ご飯のあとで、歯を磨いた**方がいい**ですよ。

gohan no ato de, ha o migaita hou ga ii desu yo.

It's best to brush your teeth after eating.

8. 20歳になっても、お酒を飲まない**方がいい**と思います。

hatachi ni nattemo, osake o nomanai hou ga ii to omoimasu.

Even if you turn 20, I think it's best to not drink any alcohol.

Practice writing your own sentences!

い-adjectives

Meaning

i-adjectives

How To Use

present	い
present negative	くない ありません
past	かった
past negative	なかった ありませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **い-adjectives** (i-adjectives), also known as い形容詞 (i keiyoushi).

There are two kinds of adjectives in Japanese, [i-adjectives \(い形容詞\)](#) and [na-adjectives \(な形容詞\)](#).

Unlike na-adjectives, i-adjectives have unique conjugation rules that you must learn. Let's start with a basic example.

How to conjugate i-adjectives

い-adjective (present)

Let's start with a basic adjective, あつい (atsui) which means hot.

今日はあついです。

kyou wa atsui desu.

It is hot today.

い-adjective (present negative)

今日はあつくないです。

kyou wa atsukunai desu.

It isn't hot today.

い-adjective (past)

昨日はあつかった。

kinou wa atsukatta.

It was hot yesterday.

い-adjective (past negative)

昨日はあつくなかった。

kinou wa atsukunakatta.

It was not hot yesterday.

Other common i-adjectives

Temperature

- 熱い (atsui) hot (thing)
- 暑い (atsui) hot (weather)
- 温かい (atatakai) warm
- 温い (nurui) lukewarm, not hot enough
- 寒い (samui) cold (weather)
- 涼しい (suzushii) cool
- 冷たい (tsumetai) cold (to the touch)

Amount

- 多い (ooi) many, numerous, much
- 少ない (sukunai) few, little, limited, scarce

Cost

- 高い (takai) expensive, tall
- 安い (yasui) cheap

Size/Area

- 大きい (ookii) big
- 小さい (chiisai) small
- 長い (nagai) long
- 短い (mijikai) short
- 広い (hiroii) wide, broad, spacious
- 狭い (semai) narrow, small, restricted, cramped
- 遠い (tooi) far, distant
- 近い (chikai) close, near
- 太い (futoi) thick, broad
- 細い (hosoi) thin, fine, slender, narrow

See more [N5 adjectives](#) and more [N4 adjectives](#).

Also see lesson on [な-adjectives \(な形容詞\)](#).

Practice writing your own sentences!

一番

いちばん

Meaning

the most; the best

How To Use

[A] + が/は + 一番

一番 + [A]

Learn Japanese grammar: 一番 「いちばん」 (ichiban). Meaning: the most; the best.

- This grammar is used to say something is the best.
- Some common usage patterns include:
 - がいちばん (examples 1~3)
 - 一番 new sentence (examples 4~6)
 - のなかで～がいちばん

Example Sentences

1. 彼がいちばん働いた。

kare ga ichiban hataraita.

He worked the hardest.

2. 秋が一番好きな季節です。

aki ga ichiban suki na kisetsu desu.

Fall is my favorite season.

3. 私はブロッコリーが一番嫌いだ。

watashi wa burokkorii ga ichiban kirai da.

I hate broccoli the most.

4. 午前中が**一番**調子がいい。
gozen chuu ga ichiban choushi ga ii.
I feel best in the morning.

5. **一番**前に座っている人は誰ですか？
ichiban mae ni suwatteiru hito wa dare desu ka?
Who is that sitting in the very front?

6. **一番**早く予約できる日はいつですか？
ichiban hayaku yoyaku dekiru hi wa itsu desu ka?
When is the earliest day we can make a reservation?

7. **一番**美しい花が**一番**早くしおれる。
ichiban utsukushii hana ga ichiban hayaku shioreru.
The most beautiful flowers are the first to fade.

8. 兄弟で誰が**一番**背が高いですか。
kyoudai de dare ga ichiban se ga takai desu ka?
Who is the tallest among your siblings?

Practice writing your own sentences!

一緒に

いっしょに

Meaning

together

How To Use

often preceded with と

Learn Japanese grammar: 一緒に「いっしょに」(issho ni). Meaning: together.

This grammar can be used to talk about doing things together.

Example A) 一緒に

一緒に行きませんか？

issho ni ikimasen ka?

Shall we go **together**?

Example B) with と

Often, it is preceded with と to show with whom.

彼女と一緒にレストランへ行きます。

kanojo to issho ni resutoran e ikimasu.

I'm going **together** with my girlfriend to a restaurant.

Example Sentences

1. 一緒に日本語を勉強しましょう。

isshoni nihongo o benkyou shimashou.

Let's study Japanese together.

2. 今夜、カラオケに**一緒**に行こう。

konya, karaoke ni isshoni ikou.

Let's go to karaoke together tonight.

3. ずっと彼と**一緒**にいたい。

zutto kare to issho ni itai.

I want to be together with him forever.

4. 明日の朝、**一緒**にジムに行きませんか？

ashita no asa, issho ni jimu ni ikimasen ka?

Do you want to go to the gym together tomorrow morning?

5. 今朝、友だちと**一緒**に図書館に行きました。

kesa, tomodachi to issho ni toshokan ni ikimashita.

I went to the library together with my friend this morning.

6. うちの犬と**一緒**に散歩するのが好きです。

uchi no inu to issho ni sanpo suru no ga suki desu.

I like walking together with my family's dog.

7. 来週、家族と**一緒**に富士山を見に行くんだ。

raishuu, kazoku to issho ni fuji san o mi ni ikunda.

Next week I'm going together with my family to see Mt. Fuji.

Practice writing your own sentences!

いつも

Meaning

always; usually; habitually

How To Use

Can be used mid-sentence and also to start a new sentence

Learn Japanese grammar: **いつも** (itsumo). Meaning: always; usually; habitually.

- **いつも** (itsumo) is used to express:
 - something that always happens
 - something that usually happens
 - habitual behavior

Example Sentences

1. 彼は**いつも**元気ですね。

kare wa itsumo genki desu ne.

He is always energetic.

2. 妹は**いつも**寝ている。

imouto wa itsumo neteiru.

My younger sister is always sleeping.

3. **いつも**夜10時に寝ます。

itsumo yoru juuji ni nemasu.

I always go to bed at 10 o'clock.

4. 昼ご飯は**いつも**納豆を食べます。
hirugohan wa itsumo nattou o tabemasu.
I always have natto (fermented soybeans) for lunch.

5. 仕事に行く前に**いつも**ジムに行きます。
shigoto ni iku mae ni itsumo jimu ni ikimasu.
I always go to the gym before going to work.

6. **いつも**自転車で学校に来ますが今日は歩きました。
itsumo jitensha de gakkou ni kimasu ga kyou wa arukimashita.
I always go to school by bike, but today I walked.

7. 今日は**いつも**と同じ一日だった。
kyou wa itsumo to onaji ichinichi datta.
Today was a normal day as always.

8. 君と**いつも**一緒に居たい。
kimi to itsumo issho ni itai.
I want to be together with you always.

Practice writing your own sentences!

じゃない・ではない

Meaning

to not be (am not; is not; are not)

How To Use

present negative	casual じゃない ではない
	polite じゃありません ではありません
past negative	casual じゃなかった ではなかった
	polite じゃありませんでした ではありませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **じゃない** (janai) & **ではない** (dewa nai). Meaning: to not be (am not; is not; are not).

Make sure you review “to be” Part 1, before starting this lesson: [だ・です \(da / desu\)](#).

Both **じゃない** and **ではない** are at the casual level, and can be interchanged freely.

Example A)

私はともこ先生**ではない**。

watashi wa tomoko sensei dewanai.

I **am not** Tomoko-sensei.

This literally translates to “I Tomoko-sensei am not”. Remember that Japanese uses SOV (subject-object-verb), rather than SVO like English. This may be strange at first, but it will become natural after some practice.

Example B)

私は日本人**じゃない**よ。

watashi wa nihonjin janai yo.

I **am not** Japanese.

When speaking more politely

Using the more polite form is simple. Just drop the **ない** (nai) and change to **ありません** (arimasen):

- **じゃない**ありません (ja ~~nai~~ arimasen)
 - **ではない**ありません (dewa ~~nai~~ arimasen)
-

How to use past tense (was/were not, etc)

Casual Past Tense:

- **じゃなかった** (ja nakatta)
- **ではなかった** (dewa nakatta)

Polite Past Tense:

- **じゃありませんでした** (ja arimasen deshita)
- **ではありませんでした** (dewa arimasen deshita)
- **じゃなかったです** (ja nakatta desu)
- **ではなかったです** (dewa nakatta desu)

There are many different conjugations that can be used, but within the same politeness level, they can be interchanged freely. Let's look at some basic examples:

Past Tense Example A)

私はそれをやるべき**じゃなかった**。

watashi wa sore o yaru beki ja nakatta.

I should **not have** done that.

Past Tense Example B)

私は昨日、暇ではありませんでした。

watashi wa kinou, hima dewa arimasen deshita.

I **was not** free yesterday (had no free time).

Extra Study Notes

- This lesson is only for the negative part of “to be”. For part 1 of this lesson, check the [だ・です \(da / desu\) lesson](#)

Example Sentences

1. あなたは一人じゃない。

anata wa hitori janai.

You are not alone.

2. 危険じゃないの？

kiken janai no?

Isn't it dangerous?

3. そんなつもりじゃなかった。

sonna tsumori ja nakatta.

That wasn't my plan/intention.

4. ごめんなさい！わざとではありませんでした。

gomennasai! wazato dewa arimasen deshita.

I'm so sorry! It wasn't intentional.

5. 肉はあまり好き**じゃ**ないです。

niku wa amari suki janai desu.

I don't really like meat.

6. 若いころはやさいが**好きじゃ**なかった。

wakai koro wa yasai ga suki janakatta.

I didn't like vegetables when I was younger.

7. 私は日本語が**上手では**ない。

watashi wa nihongo ga jouzu dewa nai.

I am not good at Japanese (language).

Practice writing your own sentences!

か

Meaning

question particle

How To Use

end of sentence

か

Grammar Notes:

Learn Japanese grammar: **か** (ka). Meaning: か is a sentence-ending particle used to turn a sentence into a question. It's easy to think of it like a question mark (which often is not used in Japanese).

Let's start with a basic example sentence.

- 日本人です。
- nihonjin desu.
- I am Japanese.

Now by adding か we can turn this into a question:

- 日本人ですか。
- nihon jin desu **ka**.
- Are you Japanese?

か can also mean “or”, see lesson for [か〜か \(ka~ka\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 何ですか？
nan desu ka?
What?

2. すみません、あなたも学生ですか。
sumimasen, anata mo gakusei desu ka.
Excuse me, are you also a student?

3. あなたの名前は何ですか。
anata no namae wa nandesu ka.
What is your name?

4. 元気ですか。
genki desu ka.
How are you?

5. 彼は何才ですか。
kare wa nansai desu ka.
How old is he?

6. 大丈夫ですか？
daijoubu desu ka?
Are you alright?

7. 私とお昼ご飯を食べませんか？
watashi to ohiru gohan wo tabemasen ka?
Would you like to have lunch with me?

8. どうしてこのことを知らないのか？
doushite kono koto wo shiranai no ka?
Why don't you know about this?

Practice writing your own sentences!

か～か

Meaning

or

How To Use

Verb	か
い-adjective	
な-adjective	
Noun	

Grammar Notes:

Learn Japanese grammar: **か～か** (ka~ka). Meaning: the particle か is used to say “or”. It is used when trying to decide between 2 or more choices.

- よいか悪いかわかりません。
- yoi **ka** warui **ka** wakarimasen.
- I'm not sure if this is good **or** bad.

か can also be used as a question marker. See lesson [か \(ka\) - Question Particle](#)

Let's practice with some more example sentences!

Example Sentences

1. 明日は雨かどうかわからない。
ashita wa ame ka dou ka wakaranai.
I'm not sure if it will rain or not tomorrow.

2. お茶**か**コーヒーが飲みたい。

ocha ka koohii ga nomitai.

I would like to drink tea or coffee.

3. 当たる**か**はずれる**か**。

ataru ka hazureru ka.

Hit or miss.

4. やる**か**やらない**か**早く決めてください。

yaru ka yaranai ka hayaku kimete kudasai.

Please hurry up and decide if you are going to do it or not.

5. 来週の月曜日**か**火曜日に京都に行きます。

raishuu no getsuyoubi ka kayoubi ni kyouto ni ikimasu.

I'm going to Kyoto next Monday or Tuesday.

6. 死ぬ**か**生きる**か**。

shinu ka ikiru ka.

Live or die.

Practice writing your own sentences!

から

Meaning

because; since; from

How To Use

meaning 1: because; since	
Verb	から
Noun + だ	
な-adjective + だ	
い-adjective + い	
meaning 2: from; since	
Noun	から

Learn Japanese grammar: **から** (kara). Meaning: because; since; from.

This grammar can be used in two different ways to express two different meanings. Both forms are very commonly used in Japanese, so it is important to understand how to use both forms and to be able to comprehend them correctly.

Let's look at some specific examples below:

Meaning 1) because; since

The first meaning expresses a cause and effect type relationship. Because of [A], [B].

明日テストがある**から**、今夜勉強つもりだ。

ashita tesuto ga aru kara, konya benkyou tsumori da.

Since I have a test tomorrow, I plan to study tonight.

Verbs can also be used in past tense form

今朝テストがあった**から**、今はちょっとつかれた。

kesa tesuto ga atta kara, ima wa chotto tsukareta.

I had a test this morning, so I'm a bit tired now.

Nouns change to **だから** (dakara)

大事なしけん**だから**、がんばる！

daiji na shiken dakara, ganbaru!

This is a very important test, so I will do my best!

な-adjectives also use **だから** (dakara)

あの人はいつもとてもしずか**だから**、一度も話したことがない。

ano hito wa itsumo totemo shizuka dakara, ichido mo hanashita koto ga nai.

That person is always really quiet, so I haven't ever talked to them.

い-adjectives use the regular **から** (kara) form

暑い**から**、窓を開けてください。

atsui kara, mado o akete kudasai.

It's pretty hot, so could you please open the window?

Meaning 2) from; since

The second meaning does not imply a cause and effect relationship like meaning 1. Instead, it focuses on what comes before **から** (kara).

[A]**から** = From/since [A],... (note that the order is reversed compared to English)

It can be used to express something from a person

このシャツは彼女**から**もらった。

kono shatsu wa kanojo kara moratta.

I got this shirt from my girlfriend.

It can also express from/since a location/time

生まれた時**から**アメリカに住んでいる。

umareta toki kara amerika ni sundeiru.

I have been living in America since I was born.

Another example

17時**から**アルバイトがある。

juu nana ji kara arubaito ga aru.

I've got my part time job from 5pm.

Extra Study Notes

だから can be interchanged with **ですから** to be a bit more polite.

Example Sentences

1. 天気がいい**から**、外に行きたい。
tenki ga ii kara, soto ni ikitai.
Since the weather is nice, I want to go outside.
2. 私はすぐ戻る**から**、ここでちょっと待ってください。
watashi wa sugu modoru kara, koko de chotto matte kudasai.
I'll return shortly, so please wait here just a moment.
3. **これから**もよろしくお願いします。
kore kara mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.
From now on, let's have a good relationship (I'll be counting on you).
4. **ここから**あの駅まで歩いてどれぐらいかかりますか？
koko kara ano eki made aruite dore gurai kakarimasuka?
How long does it take to walk from here to that station?

5. お店は何時**から**何時まで開いていますか？

omise wa nanji kara nanji made aiteimasu ka?

What are the shop's opening hours?

Practice writing your own sentences!

方

かた

Meaning

the way of doing something; how to do

How To Use

Verb **ます** (stem form)

方
かた

Learn Japanese grammar: **方 [かた]** (kata). Meaning: the way of doing something; how to do.

- **方 [かた]** (kata) is used to express 2 similar meanings:
 1. the way of doing something
 - 食べ **かた** = (たべかた) = the way to eat
 2. how to do something
 - 食べ **かた** = (たべかた) = how to eat
- It is used at the end of a verb in **ます** form, by removing the **ます**.
 - 食べ**ます** **方** = (たべ**ます**かた)
- It is often written both in the kanji version and hiragana version:
 - 食べ **方**
 - 食べ **かた**

Example Sentences

1. パソコンの使い**かた**がわかりません。
pasokon no tsukai kata ga wakarimasen.
I don't know how to use a computer.

2. ケーキの作り**方**を知っていますか？

keeki no tsukuri kata o shitteimasu ka?

Do you know how to make a cake?

3. おはしの使い**方**が上手ですね。

ohashi no tsukai kata ga jouzu desu ne.

You're very good at using chopsticks (you will be told this all the time in Japan)

4. あの先生の教え**方**はとてもわかりやすいです。

ano sensei no oshie kata wa totemo wakari yasui desu.

That teacher's way of teaching is very easy to understand

5. 彼の生き**方**は、かっこいいです。

kare no iki kata wa, kakkoi desu.

His way of living is really cool.

6. この漢字の読み**方**を教えてください。

kono kanji no yomi kata o oshiete kudasai.

Please teach me how to read this kanji character.

7. ATMの使い**方**を教えてくださいませんか。

ATM no tsukai kata o oshiete itadakemasen ka?

Could you please teach me how to use an ATM?

Practice writing your own sentences!

けど

Meaning

but; however; although

How To Use

Use between 2 contradicting ideas

Learn Japanese grammar: **けど** (kedo). Meaning: but; however; although.

- This grammar is used to say:
 - but
 - however
 - although

To be more polite, use [けれども](#) ([keredo mo](#)) instead.

Example Sentences

1. 仕事は辛い**けど**楽しい。
shigoto wa tsurai kedo tanoshii.
Work is tough, but fun.
2. 金はない**けど**夢はある。
kane wa nai kedo yume wa aru.
I don't have money, but I have dreams.
3. スポーツは上手じゃない**けど**、好きです。
supootsu wa jouzu janai kedo, suki desu.
I'm not good at sports, but I like them.

4. 悪いけど、明日のパーティーに行けません。

warui kedo, ashita no paatii ni ikemasen.

Sorry, but I can't make it to tomorrow's party.

5. 眠いけど、まだ宿題があるから寝られません。

nemui kedo, mada shukudai ga aru kara neraremasen.

I'm sleepy, but I still have homework to do so I can't go to sleep yet.

6. たくさん勉強したけど、テストの点はよくないでした。

takusan benkyou shita kedo, tesuto no ten wa yokunai deshita.

Although I studied a lot, my test score wasn't very good.

7. 泣いたけど後悔はしていません。

naita kedo koukai wa shiteimasen.

I cried, but I don't regret it.

8. 家賃は高いけどこのマンションが大好きです。

yachin wa takai kedo kono manshon ga daisuki desu.

The rent is a bit expensive, but I love this apartment.

Practice writing your own sentences!

けれども

Meaning

but; however; although

How To Use

Use between 2 contradicting ideas

Learn Japanese grammar: **けれども** (keredo mo). Meaning: but; however; although.

- This grammar is used to say:
 - but
 - however
 - although
- The も is optional, but is more polite.
 - **けれど** (keredo)
 - **けれども** (keredo mo) more polite
- The less formal version is [けど](#) (kedo).

Example Sentences

1. このカメラは高かった**けれど**、すぐ壊れてしまいました。
kono kamera wa takaaktta keredo, sugu kowarete shimaimashita.
This camera was really expensive, but it broke right away.
2. 外は暑い**けれど**、家の中は暖かいです。
soto wa atsui keredo, ie no naka wa atatakai desu.
It's cold outside, but inside the house it is warm.

3. 眠い**けれど**、まだ宿題があるから寝られません。
nemui keredo, mada shukudai ga aru kara neraremasen.
I'm sleepy but still have homework to do so I can't go to bed yet.

4. 雪が降っている**けれども**、スーパーに行きます。
yuki ga futteiru keredo mo, suupaa ni ikimasu.
Although it is snowing outside, I'm going to the grocery store.

5. お金はあまり持っていません。**けれども**、毎日幸せです。
okane wa amari motteimasen. keredo mo, mainichi shiawase desu.
I don't have much money.. But every day I am happy.

6. 先生はクラスでは厳しい**けれど**、クラスの外ではやさしいです。
sensei wa kurasu de wa kibishii keredo, kurasu no soto de wa yasashii desu.
My teacher is really strict in class, but outside of class they are very kind.

7. 彼は若い**けれども**経験がある。
kare wa wakai keredo mo keiken ga aru.
Although he's young, he's got experience.

8. 列車が遅れた**けれども**、なんとか間に合った。
ressha ga okureta keredo mo, nanto ka mani atta.
Although our train was late we somehow still made it in time.

Practice writing your own sentences!

まだ

Meaning

still; not yet

How To Use

まだ	Verb (ている)
	Verb (ていない)
	Noun

Learn Japanese grammar: **まだ** (mada). Meaning: still; not yet.

- **まだ** (mada) is used to express “still” or “not yet”. It can be used with:
 1. a verb
 2. or a noun

Example A) Verb

まだ寝ているの？

mada neteiru no?

You're **still** sleeping?

Example B) Noun

まだ高校生です。

mada koukou sei desu.

I'm **still** a high school student.

まだまだ can also be used for extra emphasis.

Example Sentences

1. **まだ**ですか？

mada desu ka?

Is it ready yet? / are we there yet? / Still...?

2. **まだまだ**暑いだ。

mada mada atsui da.

It's still hot out. (mada can be used twice in a row for extra emphasis)

3. 先生は**まだ**来ていない。

sensei wa mada kiteinai.

Our teacher still hasn't come.

4. もう10時ですが弟が**まだ**寝ている。

mou juuji desu ga otou to ga mada neteiru.

It's already 10 am, but my younger brother is still sleeping.

5. **まだ**1時間もあるよ。

mada ichijikan mo aru yo.

We still have one hour.

6. あきらめるのは**まだ**早い！

akirameru no wa mada hayai!

It's still too early to give up!

7. 私は宿題が**まだ**終わっていません。

watashi wa shukudai ga mada owatteimasen.

I still haven't finished with my homework.

Practice writing your own sentences!

まだ～ていません

Meaning

have not yet

How To Use

まだ	Verb (てない) *spoken
	Verb (ていない)
	Verb (ていません)

Learn Japanese grammar: **まだ～ていません** (mada ~te imasen). Meaning: have not yet.

Also see the lesson for [まだ \(mada\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. バスは**まだ**来て**いません**。
basu wa mada kiteimasen.
The bus still hasn't come.
2. **まだ**、決ま**って**い**ません**。
mada, kimatteimasen.
It hasn't been decided yet.
3. 私は**まだ**朝ごはんを食**べ**てい**ません**。
watashi wa mada asagohan o tabete imasen.
I still haven't eaten breakfast yet.
4. 今週の新しい単語を**まだ**覚**え**てい**ません**。
konshuu no atarashii tango o mada oboete imasen.
I still haven't memorized this week's new vocabulary.

5. 父は**まだ**帰ってきて**いない**。
chichi wa mada kaette kiteinai.
My father still hasn't come home yet.

6. **まだ**宿題をやって**いない**。
mada shukudai o yatte inai.
I haven't done my homework yet.

7. **まだ**明日締め切りのレポートが**終わってない**ので、遊びに行け**ない**。
mada ashita shimekiri no repooto ga owattenai no de, asobi ni ikenai.
I haven't finished my report due tomorrow yet, so I can't go out today.

8. 俺は**まだ**あきらめて**ない**んだぞ。
ore wa mada akiramete nai n dazo.
I haven't given up yet!

9. 私の知っている限りでは、彼女は**まだ**結婚して**いません**。
watashi no shitteiru kagiri dewa, kanojo wa mada kekkon shiteimasen.
As far as I know she's still not married.

Practice writing your own sentences!

まで

Meaning

until ~; as far as ~; to (an extent); even ~

How To Use

Noun	まで
------	----

Learn Japanese grammar: **まで** (made). Meaning: until ~; as far as ~; to (an extent); even ~.

- **まで** (made) can be used to express a few different meanings:
 - Until [X]
 - As far as [X]
 - To [X]
 - To the point of [X]
 - Even [X]

Example Sentences

1. **昨日まで**お休みでした。

kinou made o yasumi deshita.

I was on vacation until yesterday.

2. ここから**そこまで**は遠いですよ。

koko kara soko made wa tooi desu yo.

That's really far from here!

3. **駅まで**行きたいんですが、どう行ったらいいですか。

eki made ikitai ndesu ga, dou ittara ii desu ka.

How can I get to the station?

4. **最後までがんばってね！**

saigo made ganbatte ne!

Do your best all the way until the end!

5. **家まで車で送ります。**

ie made kuruma de okurimasu.

I'll take you home by car.

6. **朝から夜までずっとかんじを勉強しました。**

asa kara yoru made zutto kanji o benkyou shimashita.

I studied kanji all day from morning until night.

7. **お店は何時から何時まで開いていますか？**

omise wa nanji kara nanji made aiteimasu ka?

What are the shop's opening hours?

8. **先生、何時まで学校にいらっしゃいますか。**

sensei, nanji made gakkou ni irasshaimasu ka.

Teacher, until what time will you be at school?

9. **昼ごはんまでにレポートを書いてしまいました。**

Hiru gohan made ni repooto o kaite shimai masu.

I kept writing my report until lunch.

10. **雨が降っているよ。駅まで送ってあげようか？**

ame ga futte iru yo. eki made okutte ageyou ka?

It's raining.. Shall I give you a lift to the station?

Practice writing your own sentences!

前に

まえに

Meaning

before ~; in front of ~

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)	前に
Noun + の	まえに

Learn Japanese grammar: **前に** 【まえに】 (mae ni). Meaning: before ~; in front of ~.

- This grammar can be used mainly for 2 situations.
 - To say something happened before [X]. (time)
 - To say something happened in front of [X]. (space / position)

To say something happens after instead, use [後で\(あとで\)](#) (ato de).

Example Sentences

1. ドアを開ける**前に**ノックぐらいしてください。
doa o akeru mae ni nokku gurai shite kudasai.
Before opening the door, please at least knock first.
2. コンビニ**の****前に**じてんしゃがたくさんあります。
konbini no mae ni jitensha ga takusan arimasu.
There are many bicycles in front of the convenience store.
3. 旅行**の****前に**切符を買っておきます。
ryokou no mae ni kippu o katte okimasu.
I will buy the tickets before the trip.

4. ご飯**の前に**手を洗いましょう。

gohan no mae ni te o araimashou.

let's make sure to wash our hands before eating.

5. テスト**の前に**一生懸命勉強しました。

tesuto no mae ni isshokenmei benkyou shimashita.

I studied like crazy before the test.

6. 大学を卒業する**前に**留学したいな。

daigaku o sotsugyou suru mae ni ryuugaku shitai na.

I really want to study abroad sometime before I graduate university.

7. 23時**前に**寝なければなりません。

23 ji mae ni nenakereba narimasen.

I need to go to bed before 11pm.

8. 寝る**前に**、歯みがきを忘すれないでね。

neru mae ni, hamigaki o wasurenai de ne.

Don't forget to brush your teeth before you go to bed.

9. 試合**の前に**まだ一週間があるのでもっと練習しよう。

shiai no mae ni mada isshukan ga aru node motto renshuu shiyou.

We still have a week to go before the game so let's practice some more.

10. 私たちの学校**の前**には美しい公園があります。

watashi tachi no gakkou no mae ni wa utsukushii kouen ga arimasu.

There is a beautiful park in front of our school.

Practice writing your own sentences!

ませんか

Meaning

would you; do you want to; shall we~

How To Use

Verb (polite negative) + か
ません + か

Learn Japanese grammar: **ませんか** (masen ka). Meaning: would you; do you want to; shall we~

- This grammar is used to ask someone if they would like to do something:
 - would you~
 - do you want to~
 - shall we~

Example A)

行きませんか。

iki masen ka.

Shall we go? / do you want to go? / etc..

Example Sentences

1. 今日一緒に食べませんか？

kyou isshoni tabemasen ka?

Do you want to eat together today?

2. うちで映画を見ませんか。

uchi de eiga o mimasen ka.

Do you want to watch a movie at my place?

3. お茶に**しませんか**？
ocha ni shimasen ka?
Would you care for some tea?

4. 日曜日にテニスをし**ませんか**。
nichiyoubi ni tenisu o shimasen ka.
Do you want to play tennis on Sunday?

5. 明日自転車で学校へ行き**ませんか**？
ashita jitensha de gakkou e ikimasen ka?
Do you want to go to school tomorrow by bike?

6. もう暗くなりました。家へ帰り**ませんか**。
mou kuraku narimashita. ie e kaerimasen ka?
It's gotten dark already.. Shall we head home?

7. 写真をとって**くれませんか**？
shashin o totte kuremasen ka?
Would you mind taking a photo?

8. 私の仕事を手伝って**くれませんか**。
watashi no shigoto o tetsu datte kuremasen ka.
Would you mind helping me with my work?

Practice writing your own sentences!

ましょう

Meaning

let's ~; shall we ~

How To Use

Verb ます (stem form)

ましょう

Learn Japanese grammar: **ましょう** (mashou). Meaning: let's ~; shall we ~.

This is used suggest doing something with someone. Ex) “let's eat”, “let's go bowling”, etc..

By adding か at the end, it becomes a suggestive question. See lesson for [ましょうか \(mashouka\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 行き**ましょう**！

iki mashou!

Let's go!

2. 駅で会い**ましょう**！

eki de ai mashou!

Let's meet at the station!

3. もうご飯の時間だよ、早く食べ**ましょう**！

mou gohan no jikan dayo, hayaku tabe mashou!

It's already dinner time, let's hurry up and eat!

4. 帰る前に教室をきれいに**しまし**よう。

kaeru mae ni kyoushitsu o kirei ni shi mashou.

Before we go home, let's clean up the classroom.

5. 一緒に日本語を勉強しましょう！

isshoni nihongo o benkyou shi mashou!

Let's study Japanese together!

6. もう暗くなったから、帰りましょう。

mou kurakunattakara, kaeri mashou.

It's gotten dark already, so let's head home.

7. 来週、すしを食べに行きましょうよ！

raishuu, sushi o tabe ni iki mashou yo!

Let's go out to eat some sushi next week!

8. 10時になったら、出かけましょう。

10 ji ni nattara, dekake mashou.

Let's head out at 10 o'clock.

9. 電気をつけて、部屋を明るくしましょう。

denki o tsukete, heya o akaruku shi mashou.

Let's turn on the lights and make the room brighter.

10. 決める前にもっとデータを収集しましょう。

kimeru mae ni motto deeta o shuushuu shi mashou.

Before we decide, let's gather some more data.

Practice writing your own sentences!

ましょうか

Meaning

shall I ~; used to offer help to the listener

How To Use

Verb ~~ます~~ (stem form)

ましょうか

Learn Japanese grammar: **ましょうか** (mashouka). Meaning: shall I ~; used to offer help to the listener.

By removing か at the end, the meaning changes to “let’s do ~”. See lesson for [ましょう \(mashou\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. マドを開け**ましょうか**。

mado o ake mashouka?

Shall I open the window?

2. 手伝い**ましょうか**。

tetsudai mashouka?

Do you want some help?

3. 荷物を持ち**ましょうか**。

nimotsu o mochi mashouka?

Shall I help carry your luggage?

4. タクシーを呼び**ましょうか**。

takushii o yobi mashouka?

Shall I call a taxi for you?

5. 私が皿を洗いましょうか？

watashi ga osara o arai mashouka?

Shall I wash the dishes?

6. 写真を取りましょうか。

shashin o tori mashouka?

Shall I take a picture for you?

7. サラダを作いましょうか？

sarada o tsukuri mashouka?

Shall I make a salad?

8. 次回の会合は来週にしましょうか？それとも再来週の方がいいですか？

jikai no kaigou wa raishuu ni shimashou ka? soretomo saraishuu no hou ga ii desu ka?

For the next meeting, shall we meet next week, or 2 weeks from now?

Practice writing your own sentences!

も

Meaning

too; also; as well

How To Use

Noun + も

Learn Japanese grammar: **も** (mo). Meaning: too; also; as well.

- **も** (mo) is used to say:
 - this also
 - this too
 - as well as..

There are many grammar points which branch off from **も**:

- [ても \(temo\)](#)
- [でも \(demo\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 私**も**できる。
watashi mo dekiru.
I can do that too.

2. 甘いもの**も**辛いもの**も**好きです。
amai mono mo karai mono mo suki desu.
I like sweets as well as spicy foods.

3. カラオケにはみんなが来ました。先生**も**来ました。
karaoke ni wa minna ga kimashita. sensei mo kimashita.
Everyone came to sing karaoke. Our teacher came too.

4. 私は日本語**も**英語**も**ベトナム語**も**話せます。
watashi wa nihongo mo eigo mo betonamugo mo hanasemasu.
I can speak English, Japanese, as well as Vietnamese.

5. あなた**も**お腹が空いたでしょう？
anata mo onaka ga suita deshou.
You are probably hungry too, aren't you?

6. 私**も**日本語を勉強していますよ！
watashi mo nihongo o benkyou shiteimasu yo!
I'm studying Japanese too!

7. 私の妻**も**子ども**も**来ます。
watashi no tsuma mo kodomo mo kimasu.
My wife and children will come too.

8. 私**も**日本で留学したことがあります。
watashi mo nihon de ryuugaku shita koto ga arimasu.
I've also studied abroad in Japan before.

9. 仕事に行くとき、自転車**も**電車**も**使っています。
shigoto ni iku toki, jitensha mo densha mo tsukatteimasu.
When I go to work I use both my bike and the train.

Practice writing your own sentences!

もう

Meaning

already; anymore; again; other

How To Use

See examples below

Learn Japanese grammar: **もう** (mou). Meaning: already; anymore; again; other.

もう (mou) can take on various different meanings:

1. already
2. anymore
3. other; again; more
4. express irritation

もう Meaning 1) already

Usually used with time or age.

もう9時だ。

mou ku ji da.

It's **already** 9 o'clock.

もう Meaning 2) (not) anymore

Used with a negative sentence.

もう行かない。

mou ikanai.

I'm **not** going to go **anymore**.

もう Meaning 3) other; again; more

This can be used for both positive and negative situations.

もう二度と行かない。

mou nidoto ikanai.

I'm **never** going to go **again**.

もう Meaning 4) express irritation

This form is usually at the beginning of a sentence to express the speaker's irritation as they criticize something/someone. (mostly used by women)

もうたくさんだ。

mou takusan da.

I can't take this **anymore**.

Example Sentences

1. **もう**昼ご飯の時間だ。早く食べましょう！

mou hiru gohan no jikan da. hayaku tabe mashou!

It's lunch time already, let's hurry up and eat.

2. 宿題は**もう**終わった？

shukudai wa mou owatta?

Did you already finish your homework?

3. ビール**もう**一杯ください！

biiru mou ippai kudasai!

One more beer please!

4. 飲み物は全部飲みました。**もう**ありません。
nomimono wa zenbu nomimashita. mou arimasen.
We drank all of the drinks. There aren't any left.

5. **もう**少し待ってください。
mou sukoshi matte kudasai.
Please wait a little while longer.

6. コーヒーは**もう**飲まないことにしました。
koohii wa mou nomanai koto ni shimashita.
I've decided to not drink coffee anymore.

7. **もう**この暑さには、耐えられない。
mou kono atsusa ni wa, taerarenai.
I can't handle this heat anymore.

8. **もう**我慢できない。
mou gaman dekinai.
I can't take it anymore.

9. **もう**10時ですが、彼はまだ寝ています。
mou juuji desu ga, kare wa mada neteimasu.
It's already 10 o'clock, but he's still sleeping.

10. 彼女と結婚してから、**もう**5年になります。
kanojo to kekkon shite kara, mou 5 nen ni narimasu.
It will already be 5 years since I married her.

Practice writing your own sentences!

な-adjectives

Meaning

na-adjectives

How To Use

present	な / だ
present negative	じゃない ではない
past	だった でした
past negative	じゃなかった ではありませんでした

Learn Japanese grammar: **な-adjectives** (na-adjectives), also known as な形容詞 (na keiyoushi).

There are two kinds of adjective in Japanese, [i-adjectives](#) (い形容詞) and [na-adjectives](#) (な形容詞).

The na-adjective is very simple to learn because it acts essentially like a noun and the form does not change much. Let's look at some basic examples.

How to conjugate na-adjectives

な-adjective (present)

Let's start with a basic adjective, 元気 【げんき】 (genki) which means energetic.

その子はげんきだ。

sono ko wa genki da.

That child is energetic.

When a na-adjective is placed before a noun, a な is added at the end of the adjective.

かれは**げんきな**子だね。

*kare wa **genki na** ko da ne.*

He is an energetic child.

な-adjective (present negative)

その子は**げんき**じゃないね。

*sono ko wa **genki janai** ne.*

That child is not very energetic.

な-adjective (past)

その子はとても**げんき**だったね。

*sono ko wa totemo **genki datta** ne.*

That child was really energetic.

な-adjective (past negative)

かれはあまり**げんき**じゃなかったね。

*kare wa amari **genki janakatta** ne.*

He wasn't very energetic.

Other common na-adjectives

- [上手](#) (jouzu) skill, proficiency
- [下手](#) (heta) unskilled
- [好き](#) (suki) like
- [有名](#) (yuumei) famous
- [きれい](#) (kirei) beautiful, clean, tidy

See more [N5 adjectives](#) and more [N4 adjectives](#).

Also see lesson on [い-adjectives \(い形容詞\)](#).

Practice writing your own sentences!

なあ

Meaning

sentence ending particle; confirmation;
admiration, etc

How To Use

end of sentence + な(あ)

Grammar Notes:

Learn Japanese grammar: **なあ** (naa). Meaning: a sentence-ending particle that can be used to express the following:

- ask for confirmation from listener (..right?)
- express hope (it'd be nice if..)
- express admiration (wow..)
- express uncertainty (I wonder..)
- add general emphasis to what is being said

なあ (naa) is often simply written as **な** (na) without the extra **あ**.

- There are some similarities with the other sentence ending particle [ね\(ne\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. **たくさんの方がいるなあ。**
takusan no hito ga iru naa.
Wow, there's a lot of people here.

2. **これ、美味しいなあ。**
kore, oishii naa.
This is really delicious.

3. 暑くなってきた**なあ**。

atsu ku natte kita naa.

It's starting to get hotter.

4. それは本当**かな**。

sore wa hontou kana.

I wonder if that's true..

5. 明日は晴れる**かなあ**。

ashita wa hareru kanaa.

I wonder if the weather will clear up tomorrow.

6. トイレはどこ**かな**。

toire wa doko kana.

I wonder where the restroom is..

7. 頭が痛い**な**。

atama ga itai na.

I've got a headache..

8. 新しい自転車が欲しい**なあ**～。

atarashii jitensha ga hoshii naa.

I really want a new bicycle..

9. あなたは全部一人で作りましたか？すごい**なあ**！

anata wa zenbu hitori de tsukuri mashita ka? Sugoi naa!

You made all of this by yourself? That's too awesome!

Practice writing your own sentences!

ないで

Meaning

without doing~ ; To do [B] without doing [A]

How To Use

Verb (ない form) + で	2nd action
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Learn Japanese grammar: **ないで** (naide). Meaning: without doing~ ; To do [B] without doing [A]

If no action follows **ないで**, it turns into a request. See lesson [ないでください \(naide kudasai\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. コーヒーには、いつもさとうを入れ**ないで**飲みます。

koohii ni wa, itsumo satou o irenaide nomimasu.

I always drink coffee without putting any sugar in it.

2. 彼女はカサを持た**ないで**出てしまった。

kanojo wa kasa o mota naide deteshimatta.

She left without bringing an umbrella.

3. 昨日は疲れていて、電気を消さ**ないで**寝てしまった。

kinou wa tsukarete ite, denki o kesanaide nete shimatta.

Yesterday I was so tired I fell asleep without turning off the lights.

4. 今朝、朝ごはんを食べ**ないで**仕事に来ました。

kesa, asa gohan o tabenaide shigoto ni kimashita.

I came to work today without eating any breakfast.

5. 昨日、お風呂に入ら**ない**で寝てしまった。

kinou, ofuro ni haira naide neteshimatta.

I went to bed yesterday without taking a bath/shower.

6. 明日は試験なので、今夜は寝**ない**で勉強します。

ashita wa shiken nanode, konya wa ne naide benkyou shimasu.

Tomorrow is test day, so I'm gonna stay up all night and study without sleep.

7. 最近、涼しいのでエアコンをつけ**ない**で寝ます。

saikin, suzushii no de, eakon o tsuke naide nemasu.

Lately it's pretty cool, so I go to sleep without using the AC.

8. 朝ごはんを食べ**ない**で学校に来たから、お腹がすいた。

asagohan o tabenaide gakkou ni kita kara, onaka ga suitea.

I came to school without eating breakfast, so I'm pretty hungry.

Practice writing your own sentences!

ないでください

Meaning

please don't do

How To Use

Verb (ない form) + で

ください

Learn Japanese grammar: **ないでください** (naide kudasai). Meaning: please don't do.

This is used after a verb to request to the listener to not do something.

You can remove the **ください** (kudasai), to just say **ないで** (naide), which is more casual.

Be careful to not confuse this with the other [ないで \(naide\)](#) meaning.

Example A) Please don't

行かないでください。

ika naide kudasai.

Please don't go!

Example B)

それを食べないでください。

sore o tabe naide kudasai.

Please don't eat that.

Other Notes

- To say the opposite, “please do”, use [てください \(te kudasai\)](#).
- See all [related grammar](#).

Example Sentences

1. 泣かないでください。

nakanaide kudasai

Please don't cry.

2. このパソコンを使わないでください。

kono pasokon o tsukawanaide kudasai.

Please don't use this computer.

3. 明日の予定を忘れないでください。

ashita no yotei o wasure naide kudasai.

Don't forget about our plans tomorrow!

4. 私のことを心配しないでください。

watashi no koto o shinpai shi naide kudasai.

Please don't worry about me.

5. 道の邪魔をしないでください。

michi no jama o shi naide kudasai

Please don't block the street.

6. 事務所で食べないでください。

jimusho de tabe naide kudasai.

Please don't eat in the office.

7. 一人にしたいからここに来ないでください。

hitori ni shitai kara koko ni ko naide kudasai.

I want to be alone, so please don't come over here.

Practice writing your own sentences!

なくてもいい

Meaning

don't have to

How To Use

Verb (ない form) ない

くてもいい

Learn Japanese grammar: **なくてもいい** (naku temo ii). Meaning: don't have to; it's OK to not do.

The も (mo) is optional and may be used as **なくていい** (nakute ii).

This grammar is an extension of [ても \(temo\)](#) and [てもいいです \(temo ii desu\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 明日は休みだから、学校に行か**なくてもいい**。

ashita wa yasumi dakara, gakkou ni ikanaku temoii.

Tomorrow is a day off, so I don't need to go to school.

2. 空港まで来**なくてもいい**よ。

kuukou made konaku temo ii yo.

You don't have to come all the way to the airport.

3. 好きじゃないなら、食べ**なくてもいい**ですよ。

suki janai nara, tabenaku temo ii desu yo.

If you don't like it, you don't need to eat it.

4. 来**なくてもいい**ですよ。私一人で行くから。

konaku temo ii desu yo. watashi hitori de iku kara.

You don't need to come. I'll go by myself.

5. 無理しなくてもいいですよ。
muri shinaku temo ii desu yo.
You don't need to push yourself too hard.
6. 明日は授業がないから大学に行かなくてもいいです。
ashita wa juugyou ga nai kara daigaku ni ikanaku temo ii desu.
I have no classes tomorrow so I don't need to go to university (campus).
7. 時間がまだいっぱいあるから、そんなに急がなくていいよ。
jikan ga mada ippai aru kara, sonna ni isoganakute ii yo.
There's still a bunch of time, so you don't need to rush.
8. 外食しなくていいよ。家で食べましょう。
gaishoku shinakute ii yo. ie de tabemashou.
We don't need to eat out. Let's eat something at home.
9. その本はあげるよ、返してくれなくてもいいからね。
sono hon wa ageru yo, kaeshite kurenaku temo ii kara ne.
I'll give you that book, you don't need to return it.
10. 小学生以下はお金を払わなくてもいいです。
shougakusei ika wa okane o harawanaku temo ii desu.
Elementary school kids and younger do not need to pay.

Practice writing your own sentences!

なくちゃ

Meaning

must do; need to; gotta do

How To Use

Verb (ない form) ない

くちゃ
くちゃダメ
くちゃいけない
くちゃいけません
くちゃならない
くちゃなりません

Learn Japanese grammar: **なくちゃ** (nakucha) / **なくちゃダメ** (nakucha dame). Meaning: must do; need to; gotta do.

This grammar is the casual spoken way to say that one must do something.

Use the verb's ない form, but then remove the い

- 食べない -> 食べ**なくちゃ**
- “tabenai” -> “tabe nakucha” = MUST EAT!

Multiple Ways To Use

You can also add **だめ** or **いけない** or **ならない** after the end to sound more serious.

- **なくちゃダメ (nakucha dame)**
 - 食べない -> 食べ**なくちゃダメ**
 - “tabenai” -> “tabe nakucha dame” = MUST EAT!
- **なくちゃいけない (nakucha ikenai)**
 - 食べない -> 食べ**なくちゃいけない**
 - “tabenai” -> “tabe nakucha ikenai” = MUST EAT!
- **なくちゃならない (nakucha naranai)**
 - 食べない -> 食べ**なくちゃならない**
 - “tabenai” -> “tabe nakucha naranai” = MUST EAT!

Similar Grammar

- Very similar to:
 - [なくてはいけない \(nakute wa ikenai\)](#).
 - [なくてはならない \(nakute wa naranai\)](#).
 - [べき \(beki\)](#).
- To say the opposite, “must not do”, you can use
 - [てはいけない \(te wa ikenai\)](#).
 - [ちゃいけない・じゃいけない \(cha ikenai / ja ikenai\)](#) (spoken Japanese)

Example Sentences

1. 行か**なく**ちゃ。

ika nakucha.

I gotta go.

2. もう寝**なく**ちゃ。

mou ne nakucha.

I have to go to bed already.

3. 新しい車を買わ**なく**ちゃね。

atarashii kuruma o kawa nakucha ne.

You need to buy a new car..

4. よく考え**なく**ちゃ**ダメ**だよ。

yoku kangae nakucha dame dayo.

You need to think carefully about this.

5. 君で**なく**ちゃ**ダメ**なんだ。

kimi de nakucha dame nanda.

It has to be you!

6. 彼は返さなくちゃいけない借金がある
kare wa kaesa nakucha ikenai shakkin ga aru.
He has loans that need to be paid back.
7. なんで僕がやらなくちゃいけないの。
nande boku ga yara nakucha ikenai no.
Why do I have to do this?
8. すぐに警察に連絡しなくちゃいけません。
sugu ni keisatsu ni renraku shi nakucha ikemasen.
We have to contact the police right away!
9. 世話しなくちゃならない子供がいる。
sewa shi nakucha naranai kodomo ga iru.
I've got kids I need to take care of.
10. ごめんなさい。早く帰らなくちゃなりません。
gomennasai. hayaku kaera nakucha narimasen.
I'm sorry, I have to head home right away.

Practice writing your own sentences!

なくてははいけない

Meaning

must do; need to do

How To Use

Verb (ない form) ない

なくてははいけない
くてはいけません

Learn Japanese grammar: **なくてははいけない** (nakute wa ikenai) / **なくてははいけません** (nakute wa ikemasen) . Meaning: must do; need to do.

Similar Grammar

- Very similar to:
 - [なくてはならない](#) (nakute wa naranai)
 - [べき](#) (beki)
- To say the opposite, “must not do”, you can use
 - [てはいけない](#) (te wa ikenai)
 - [ちゃいけない・じゃいけない](#) (cha ikenai / ja ikenai)

Example Sentences

1. 本当にすぐ行かなくてははいけない。

hontouni sugu ika nakute wa ikenai.

I really have to go now.

2. 急がなくてははいけない。

isoga nakute wa ikenai.

I have to hurry.

3. もう10時だ。寝なくてははいけない。

mou juu ji da. ne nakute wa ikenai.

It's already 10 o'clock. I must go to sleep.

4. 日本語をもっと勉強しなくてははいけない。

nihongo o motto benkyou shi nakute wa ikenai.

I really need to study Japanese more.

5. 花の水やりをしなくてははいけません。

hana no mizu yari o shi nakute wa ikemasen.

You must water the flowers.

6. 明日、早く起きなくてははいけません。

ashita, hayaku oki nakute wa ikemasen.

I have to get up early tomorrow.

7. 野菜を食べなくてははいけませんよ。

yasai o tabe nakute wa ikemasen yo.

You must eat your vegetables!

8. JLPTを受けなくてははいけません。

JLPT o uke nakute wa ikemasen.

I have to take the Japanese language proficiency test.

9. もう帰らなくてははいけません。

mou kaera nakute wa ikemasen.

I must be heading back now.

10. 日本語力を上達させなくてははいけません。

nihongoryoku o joutatsu sase nakute wa ikemasen.

I have to improve my Japanese language abilities.

なくてはならない

Meaning

must do; need to do

How To Use

Verb (ない form) ない

なくてはならない
くてもなりません

Learn Japanese grammar: **なくてはならない** (nakute wa naranai) / **くてもなりません** (nakute wa narimasen) . Meaning: must do; need to do.

Similar Grammar

- Very similar to:
 - [なくてははいけない](#) (nakute wa ikenai)
 - [べき](#) (beki)
- To say the opposite, “must not do”, you can use
 - [てはいけない](#) (te wa ikenai)
 - [ちゃいけない・じゃいけない](#) (cha ikenai / ja ikenai)

Example Sentences

1. 急がなくてはならない。

isoga nakute wa naranai.

I have to hurry.

2. 本当にすぐ行かなくてはならない。

hontouni sugu ika nakute wa naranai.

I really have to go now.

3. もう10時だ。寝なくてはならない。

mou juu ji da. ne nakute wa naranai.

It's already 10 o'clock. I must go to sleep.

4. 日本語をもっと勉強しなくてはいけない。

nihongo o motto benkyou shi nakute wa naranai.

I really need to study Japanese more.

5. 花の水やりをしなくてはなりません。

hana no mizu yari o shi nakute wa narimasen.

You must water the flowers.

6. 明日、早く起きなくてはなりません。

ashita, hayaku oki nakute wa narimasen.

I have to get up early tomorrow.

7. 野菜を食べなくてはなりませんよ。

yasai o tabe nakute wa narimasen yo.

You must eat your vegetables!

8. 日本語能力試験を受けなくてはなりません。

nihongo nouryoku shiken o uke nakute wa narimasen.

I have to take the Japanese language proficiency test.

9. もう帰らなくてはなりません。

mou kaera nakute wa narimasen.

I must be heading back now.

10. 日本語力を上達させなくてはなりません。

nihongoryoku o joutatsu sase nakute wa narimasen.

I have to improve my Japanese language abilities.

なる

Meaning

to become

How To Use

Noun	になる
な-adjective	
い-adjective + くなる	なる

Grammar Notes:

Learn Japanese grammar: **になる・くなる** (ni naru / ku naru). Meaning: to become.

- This grammar is used to express “to become”.
- It is usually written either as になる (ni naru) or くなる (ku naru) when followed by い-adjectives.

Various forms:

- Since it is a verb, it can be conjugated in current and past tense.
 - なる (naru)
 - なります (narimasu) more polite
 - なっている (natteiru) “becoming”
 - なっています (natteimasu) “becoming”
 - なった (natta) “became”
 - なりました (narimashita) “became”
- It can even be changed to express a desire to become (want to become).
 - **なりたい** (naritai)

Example Sentences

1. **大きくなっているね!**
ookiku natteiru ne!
You're getting bigger!

2. 今日は暑くなるようだ。

kyou wa atsuku naru you da.

It looks like it will get hot today.

3. 今年、私は20歳になります。

kotoshi, watashi wa hatachi ni narimasu.

This year I will turn 20 years old (become an adult in Japan).

4. 暗くなる前に家に帰りたい。

kuraku naru mae ni ie ni kaeritai.

I want to head home before it gets dark.

5. もっと強くなるために、毎日運動しています。

motto tsuyoku naru tame ni, mainichi undou shiteimasu.

I work out every day so I can get stronger.

6. 日本語が上手になっていますね。

nihongo ga jouzu ni natteimasu ne.

Your Japanese is improving.

7. 将来、何になりたいですか。

shourai, nani ni naritai desuka?

What do you want to be in the future?

8. 6月に入って、ちょっと暑くなったね。

roku gatsu ni haitte, chotto atsuku natta ne

It started to get a bit hot when since we entered June.

9. 暗くなってきましたね。そろそろ帰りましょうか。

kuraku natte kimashita ne. sorosoro kaerimashou ka.

It's starting to get dark, we should head back soon?

10. 今日のイベントは中止になりました。

kyou no ibento wa chuushi ni narimashita.

Today's event has been cancelled.

Practice writing your own sentences!

んです

Meaning

to explain something; show emphasis

How To Use

Verb (casual)	んです んだ
い-adjective + い	
な-adjective + な	
Noun + な (only with questions)	

Learn Japanese grammar: **んです** (ndesu) & **んだ** (nda). Meaning: to explain something; show emphasis.

んです (ndesu) has the same meaning as [です](#) (desu), but is different in that it feels a bit more personal since it is used to explain something, give reasoning, or to emphasize something.

It is exactly the same as [のです](#) (no desu), which is a bit more polite / formal.

For example, can you tell the difference between 1, 2 and 3?

1. あついです (atsui desu)
2. あつい**んです** (atsui ndesu)
3. あつい**んだ** (atsui nda)

1 is simply stating a fact. That it/something is hot.

2 is also stating a fact, but carries a bit more emphasis as the speaker may be answering/asking a question or explaining their feelings.

3 is the same as 2, but the more casual version.

Example Sentences

1. 何を飲みたい**んですか**。

nani o nomitai ndesu ka.

What would you like to drink?

2. お茶を飲みたい**んです**。

ocha o nomitai ndesu.

I'd like to drink some tea.

3. 眠くない**んですか**。

nemuku nai ndesu ka.

Aren't you sleepy?

4. 気分が良くない**ですよ**。

kibun ga yokunai ndesu yo.

I'm not feeling well.

5. 今からバイトに行く**んだ**。

ima kara baito ni iku nda.

I'm heading to my (part time) job now.

6. 朝に弱い**んだ**。

asa ni yowai nda.

I'm not a morning person.

7. いつか日本に行く**んだ!**

itsuka nihon ni iku nda!

One day I will go to Japan!

8. 買いたい**んですが**お金がない**んだ**。

kaitai ndesu ga okane ga nai nda.

I want to buy it, but I have no money.

ね

Meaning

isn't it? right? eh?

How To Use

end of sentence particle

Learn Japanese grammar: **ね** (ne). Meaning: the particle **ね** is a sentence ending particle that is used to confirm something to someone. Similar to “right?” or “don’t you think so?” or “eh?”.

Here’s a basic example that is very commonly used in Japanese summers.

今日はあついです**ね**。

kyou wa atsui desu ne.

It’s hot today (**don’t you agree?**)

Example Sentences

1. かわいい**ね**。
kawaii ne.
It's cute, isn't it? / You're cute, eh.

2. そうです**ね**。
sou desu ne.
Yeah, that's right. / Is that so?

3. 今日の天気はいいです**ね**。
kyou no tenki wa ii desu ne.
Today's weather is nice, isn't it?

4. またあとでね！

mata ato de ne!

See you later!

5. またメールするね。

mata meeru suru ne.

I'll message you later, ok?

6. それは大変ですね。

sore wa taihen desu ne.

That's too bad. (emphasizing with speaker)

7. あなたはとても疲れた声をしているね。

anata wa totemo tsukareta koe o shiteiru ne.

You sound very tired, (are you ok?)

8. 日本語がお上手ですね。

nihongo ga ojouzu desu ne.

You're Japanese is really good!

9. あなたはスポーツが下手ですね。

anata wa supootsu ga heta desu ne.

You're not very good at sports, are you?

10. 今日も一日、頑張りましょうね。

kyou mo ichinichi, ganbari mashou ne.

Let's do our best again today, OK?

Practice writing your own sentences!

に

Meaning

destination particle; in; at; on; to

How To Use

Noun	に
------	---

Learn Japanese grammar: に (ni). Meaning: destination particle; in; at; on; to.

The meaning changes based on the context of the sentence. Let's look at some basic examples.

Meaning 1) in

- 日本に住んでいる。
- nihon ni sundeiru.
- I'm living **in** Japan.

Meaning 2) at

- 7時に行く。
- shichi ji ni iku.
- I will go **at** 7 o'clock.

Meaning 3) on

- テーブルの上にある。
- teeburu no ue ni aru.
- It's **on** the table.

Meaning 4) to

- 日本に行く。
- nihon ni iku.
- I will go **to** Japan.

Meaning 4 can also be used with へ. See lesson for [に/へ \(ni/e\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 来月大学に入る。
raigetsu daigaku ni hairu.
I will go to (start) university next month.
2. どうやって学校に通っていますか？
douyatte gakkou ni kayottei masuka?
How do you go to school?
3. あなたは何時にスーパーに行きますか？
anata wa nanji ni suupaa ni ikimasu ka?
What time will you go to the supermarket?
4. 彼は、大学に入るための努力をしている。
kare wa, daigaku ni hairu tame no doryoku o shiteiru.
He's working hard so that he can get into university.
5. 日本に来たことはありますか？
nihon ni kita koto wa arimasu ka?
Have you ever been to Japan?
6. あの木の下に大きな犬がいます。
ano ki no shita ni ookina inu ga imasu.
There's a big dog under that tree.
7. 今家の中にいますよ。
ima ie no naka ni imasu yo.
I'm inside my home right now.

8. ここにお名前を書いてください。

koko ni onamae o kaite kudasai.

Please write your name here.

9. アメリカにはどのくらい滞在しますか？

amerika ni wa dono kurai taizai shimasu ka?

About how long will you stay in America?

Practice writing your own sentences!

にいく

Meaning

go to do

How To Use

Verb (ます stem)

にいく
に行く
に行った

Learn Japanese grammar: **に行く** 【にいく】 (ni iku). Meaning: to go in order to do something; to go for the purpose of~

Let's look at a simple example first:

食**べ**に**い**く。

tabe ni iku.

To go to eat.

Often the kanji form is used (に行く), but the hiragana version can be used as well (にいく).

Example Sentences

1. 友だちの家に遊び**に**行く。
tomodachi no ie ni asobi ni iku.
I'm going to go over to my friends house to hang out.
2. 日本に勉強**し**に行くつもりなのです。
nihon ni benkyou shini iku tsumori nano desu.
I'm planning to go to Japan to study!

3. 東京へなにしに行くの？
toukyou e nani shi ni iku no?
What are you going to Tokyo for?

4. 私たちは公園にサッカーをしに行くつもりだ。
watashi tachi wa kouen ni sakkaa o shini iku tsumori da.
We're planning to go to the park to play soccer.

5. メキシコへ友だちに会いに行きます。
mekishiko e tomodachi ni ai ni ikimasu.
I'm going to Mexico to visit my friend.

6. ちょっと走りに行ってきます。
chotto hashiri ni ittekimasu.
I'm going to go for a little run.

7. 明日、友人と一緒に日本食を食べに行きます。
ashita, yuujin to isshoni nihonshoku o tabe ni ikimasu.
I'm going out with my good friend tomorrow to eat Japanese food.

8. 私は今度はベトナムへ旅行しに行きます。
watashi wa kondo wa betonamu e ryokou shi ni ikimasu.
For my next trip, I am going to go travel to Vietnam.

9. ゴミを捨てに行きます。
gomi o sute ni ikimasu.
I'll go take out the garbage.

10. 今夜ラーメンを食べに行きましょう！
konya raamen o tabe ni ikimashou!
Let's go out to eat some ramen tonight!

にする

Meaning

to decide on

How To Use

Noun	にする にします
------	-------------

Learn Japanese grammar: **にする** (ni suru) / **にします** (ni shimasu). Meaning: to decide on.

Different ways to use:

- にする (ni suru) casual
 - see examples 1~4
- にします (ni shimasu) more polite
 - see examples 5~9

To use with a verb, add **ことにする**. See lesson [ことにする \(koto ni suru\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. **どれにする?**
dore ni suru?
Which will you have? / Which do you want?

2. **飲み物は何にする?**
nomimono wa nani ni suru?
What will you have to drink?

3. **お茶にする。**
ocha ni suru.
I'll have tea.

4. 私は明日と来週の火曜日を休みにする。
watashi wa ashita to raishuu no kayoubi o yasumi ni suru.
I'm taking work off tomorrow and next Tuesday.

5. これにします。
kore ni shimasu.
I want this / I've decided on this

6. 今日は部屋をきれいにします。
kyou wa heya o kirei ni shimasu.
I will clean my room today.

7. 君を幸せにします。
kimi o shiawase ni shimasu.
I'll make you happy.

8. 紅茶にしますかそれともコーヒーにしますか。
koucha ni shimasu ka sore tomo koohii ni shimasu ka.
Do you want black tea or coffee?

9. 今年は素晴らしい年にします！
kotoshi wa subarashii toshi ni shimasu.
I'm gonna make this year a great one!

Practice writing your own sentences!

に/へ

Meaning

to (indicates direction / destination)

How To Use

Noun	に へ
------	--------

Learn Japanese grammar: に (ni) & へ (e) . Meaning: to (indicates direction / destination).

Both are interchangeable.

Example A) に

学校にいく。

gakkou ni iku.

To go **to** school.

Example B) へ

学校へいく。

gakkou e iku.

To go **to** school.

Other Meanings

に can also be used to say in, at, on, etc.. See full lesson for [lesson for に \(ni\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 日本に帰りたい。
nihon ni modoritai.
I want to go back to Japan.

2. 日本に来たことはありますか？
nihon ni kita koto wa arimasu ka?
Have you ever been to Japan?

3. どうやって学校に通っていますか？
douyatte gakkou ni kayottei masuka?
How do you go to school?

4. 今日は仕事に行きたくない。
kyou wa shigoto ni ikitakunai.
I don't want to go to work today.

5. どこへ行ったんですか？
doko e ittan desu ka?
Where did you go? / Where were you?

6. 家へ向かっているところです。
ie e mukatteiru tokoro desu.
I'm heading home now.

7. そこへ行くには車で6時間かかる。
soko e iku ni wa kuruma de 6 jikan kakaru.
It takes 6 hours to drive there by car.

8. 毎年北海道へスキーに行く。
maitoshi hokkaidou e sukii ni iku.
Every year I go to Hokkaido to go skiing.

の

Meaning

possessive particle

How To Use

Noun	の + [B]
------	---------

Learn Japanese grammar: の (no). Meaning: の is a particle used to indicate possession. It is similar to [‘s].

For example, [A]の[B] would mean [B] belong’s to [A].

私のペン。

watashi no pen.

My pen.

Example Sentences

1. あなたの名前は何ですか？

anata no namae wa nan desu ka?

What is your name?

2. あなたの犬ですか？

anata no inu desu ka?

Is this your dog?

3. これはだれのカバンですか？

kore wa dare no kaban desu ka?

Who's bag is this?

4. 私の先生はとってもいい先生だ。
watashi no sensei wa totemo ii sensei da.
My teacher is a very good teacher.

5. 彼氏の好きな料理はカレーです。
kareshi no suki na ryori wa karee desu.
My boyfriend's favorite food is curry.

6. 彼女のお父さんはとても怖いです。
kanojo no otousan wa totemo kowai desu.
My girlfriend's father is really scary.

7. 私の一番好きな季節は秋だ。
watashi no ichiban suki na kisetsu wa aki da.
My favorite season is Fall.

8. このカメラは私ではなく、友だちのです。
kono kamera wa watashi no dewa naku, tomodachi no desu.
This camera is not mine, but a friend's.

9. 夏の暑さのせいで私は寝不足です。
natsu no atsusa no sei de watashi wa nebusoku desu.
I'm lacking sleep lately due to the summer heat.

Practice writing your own sentences!

のです

Meaning

to explain something; show emphasis

How To Use

Verb (casual)	のです のだ
い-adjective + い	
な-adjective + な	
Noun + な (only with questions)	

Learn Japanese grammar: **のです** (no desu) & **のだ** (noda). Meaning: to explain something; show emphasis.

のです (no desu) has the same meaning as [です \(desu\)](#), but is different in that it feels a bit more personal since it is used to explain something, give reasoning, or to emphasize something.

It is exactly the same as [んです \(ndesu\)](#), which is a bit more casual.

For example, can you tell the difference between 1, 2 and 3?

1. あつい**です** (atsui desu)
2. あつい**のです** (atsui no desu)
3. あつい**のだ** (atsui noda)

1 is simply stating a fact. That it/something is hot.

2 is also stating a fact, but carries a bit more emphasis as the speaker may be answering/asking a question or explaining their feelings.

3 is the same as 2, but the more casual version.

NOTE: This grammar is only used with Nouns when asking questions.

クルーズはいい先生**なの**ですか？

kuruuzu wa ii sensei nano desu ka?

Is Cruise a good teacher?

Example Sentences

1. どこへ行きたい**のですか**。

doko e ikitai no desu ka.

Where would you like to go?

2. どう違う**のだ**。

dou chigau no da.

What's the difference?

3. 何を言いたい**のですか**。

nani o iitai no desu ka.

What exactly do you want to say?

4. あなたは優しい**のですね**。

anata wa yasashii no desu ne.

You're a pretty nice person.

5. 昼ごはんを食べなかった**のですね**。

hiru gohan o tabenakatta no desu ne.

You didn't eat lunch, right?

6. 今日は学校に行く**のですね**。

kyou wa gakkou ni iku no desu ne.

You're going to school today, right?

7. あなたが悪い**のだ**。

anata ga warui no da.

You're the one to blame..

8. 食べるために生きるのではない。生きるために食べる**のだ**。
taberu tame ni ikiru no dewa nai. ikiru tame ni taberu no da.
Eat to live, not live to eat.

Practice writing your own sentences!

のが下手

のがへた

Meaning

to be bad at doing something

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)

のが下手
のがへた

Learn Japanese grammar: **のが下手** 【のがへた】 (no ga heta). Meaning: to be bad at doing something.

Example A)

Simply add **のが下手** (no ga heta) after a verb in its dictionary form to say you are good at that action.

スポーツをするのがへただ。

supootsu wo suru no ga heta da.

I am bad at playing sports.

This grammar is usually written with its kanji form.

To say the opposite “good at”, use [のが上手 \(no ga jouzu\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. 彼はおはしを使うのが下手だ。

kare wa ohashi o tsukau no ga heta da.

He is bad at using chopsticks.

2. 母は料理をするのが下手だ。

haha wa ryouri o suru no ga heta da.

My mother is bad at cooking.

3. 私は人としゃべる**のが下手**だ。
watashi wa hito to shaberu no ga heta da.
I'm not good at talking with people.

4. かんじを勉強する**のが下手**です。
kanji o benkyou suru no ga heta desu.
I'm not good at studying kanji.

5. 日本語の字を書く**のが下手**だ。
nihongo no ji o kaku no ga heta da.
I'm not good at writing Japanese characters.

6. 姉は歌う**のが下手**だと思います。
ane wa utau no ga heta da to omoimasu.
I think my older sister is bad at singing.

7. トライアスロンをやってみたいですが泳ぐ**のが下手**だ。
toraiasuron o yatte mitai desuga oyogu no ga heta da.
I want to try doing a triathlon, but I'm no good at swimming.

Practice writing your own sentences!

のが上手

のがじょうず

Meaning

to be good at

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)

のが上手
のがじょうず

Learn Japanese grammar: **のが上手 / のがじょうずです** (no ga jouzu desu). Meaning: to be good at doing something.

Example A)

Simply add **のが上手** (no ga jouzu) after a verb in its dictionary form to say you are good at that action.

スポーツをする**のが上手**ですね。

supootsu o suru no ga jouzu desu ne.

You are very good at sports.

This grammar is usually written with its kanji form.

To say the opposite “bad at”, use [のが下手 \(no ga heta\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. あなたは教える**のが上手**です。
anata wa oshieru no ga jouzu desu.
You're good at teaching.

2. 彼は歌う**のが上手**だ。

kare wa utau no ga jouzu da.

He's good at singing.

3. 彼女はピアノを弾く**のが上手**。

kanojo wa piano o hiku no ga jouzu.

She's good at playing piano.

4. あなたはお箸を使う**のが上手**ですね。

anata wa ohashi o tsukau no ga jouzu desu ne.

You're very good at using chopsticks.

5. 私はそんなに日本語を話す**のが上手**ではない。

watashi wa sonnnani nihongo o hanasu no ga jouzu dewa nai.

I'm not very good at speaking Japanese..

6. 高校のとき、運動をする**のが上手**だったが今は違う。

koukou no toki, undou o suru no ga jouzu datta ga ima wa chigau.

In high school, I was good at exercising, but things are different now..

7. 私は母ほど料理をする**のが上手**ではありません。

watashi wa haha hodo ryouri o suru no ga jouzu dewa arimasen.

I'm nowhere near as good at cooking as my mother.

8. 時間を管理する**のが上手**ではない。

jikan o kanri suru no ga jouzu dewa nai.

I'm not good at managing time..

Practice writing your own sentences!

のが好き

のがすき

Meaning

to like doing something

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)

のが好き
のがすき

Learn Japanese grammar: **のが好き** 【のがすきです】 (no ga suki desu). Meaning: to like doing something.

- Simply add **のが好き** after a verb in its dictionary form to say you like doing that action.
 - 食べる**のがすき** -> taberu no ga suki -> I like eating.
 - サッカーをする**のが好き** -> sakkkaa o suru no ga suki -> I like playing soccer.

Both the kanji and hiragana version can be used, but the kanji version is more common.

Example Sentences

1. 私は寝る**のが好き**です。
watashi neru no ga suki desu.
I like to sleep / I like sleeping
2. 漫画を読む**のが好き**だ。
manga o yomu no ga suki da.
I like reading manga.
3. 妹は料理をする**のが好き**です。
imouto wa ryouri o suru no ga suki desu.
My younger sister likes to cook.

4. 君、運動する**のが好き**だね。

kimi, undou suru no ga suki da ne.

You sure like working out don't you.

5. 彼女は野球の試合を見る**のが好き**です。

kanojo wa yakyuu no shiai o miru no ga suki desu.

She likes watching baseball games.

6. 私は何かを食べながら映画を観る**のが好き**です。

watashi wa nanika o tabe nagara eiga o miru no ga suki desu.

I love to eat something while watching a movie.

7. 電車とバスのどちらに**乗るのが好き**ですか？

densha to basu no dochira ni noru no ga suki desu ka?

Which do you like to ride more, trains or buses?

8. 私の夫は私が夜に外出する**のが好き**ではない。

watasho no otto wa watashi ga yoru ni gaishutsu suru no ga suki dewa nai.

My husband doesn't like me going out at night.

9. 多くの日本人は多くの人の前で自分の意見を表現する**のが好き**じゃない。

ooku no nihonjin wa ooku no hito no mae de jibun no iken o hyougen suru no ga suki janai.

Most Japanese people don't like expressing their opinions in front of a lot of people.

Practice writing your own sentences!

の中で[A]が一番

のなかで[A]がいちばん

Meaning

out of this group, [A] is best

How To Use

Noun + の中で + [A]が一番～

Learn Japanese grammar: **の中で[A]が一番** 【のなかで[A]がいちばん】 (no naka de [A] ga ichiban).

Meaning: out of this group, [A] is best.

Example Sentences

1. 家族のなかで父がいちばん背が高いです。
kazoku no naka de chichi ga ichiban se ga takai desu.
In my family, my father is the tallest.

2. チームの中で山田が一番強い！
chiimu no naka de yamada ga ichiban tsuyoi!
On our team, Yamada is the strongest!

3. 日本の食べ物の中でラーメンが一番好きだ。
nihon no tabemono no naka de raamen ga ichiban suki da.
Out of all the Japanese food, ramen is my favorite.

4. クラスの中でジェシカが一番頭いい。
kurasu no naka de jeshika ga ichiban atama ii.
In our class, Jessica is the smartest.

5. 世界**の中で**日本が**一番**安全な国です。
sekai no naka de nihon ga ichiban anzen na kuni desu.
Japan is the safest country in the world.

6. 彼女はクラス**の中で**字が**一番**きれいだ。
kanojo wa kurasu no naka de ji ga ichiban kirei da.
She has the most beautiful handwriting in our class.

7. 友達**の中では**、クリスが**一番**先輩。
tomodachi no naka de wa, kurisu ga ichiban senpai.
Chris is the oldest (most senior) one out of my friends.

8. 読んだ本**の中で**ハリーポッターが**一番**好きだ。
yonda hon no naka de harii pottaa ga ichiban suki.
Out of all the books I've read, Harry Potter is my favorite.

Practice writing your own sentences!

ので

Meaning

because of; given that; since

How To Use

Verb	ので
い-adjective	
な-adjective + な	
Noun + な	

Learn Japanese grammar: **ので** (node). Meaning: because of; given that; since (explains reason for action).

- This grammar is used explain a reason or reasoning for an action.
- The reason is given **before** **ので**, with the **new action after**.

Example A)

あつい**ので**水をたくさん飲んでね。

atsui no de mizu o takusan nonde ne.

It's hot out, so make sure to drink a lot of water.

Example B) past-tense

あつかった**ので**プールに行った。

atsukatta node puuru ni itta.

It was hot today, so I went to the pool.

Example Sentences

1. ちょっと寒い**ので**、窓を閉めてもいいですか。
chotto samui node, mado o shimetemo ii desu ka.
It's a bit cold, so is it OK to close the window?
2. ちょっと用事がある**ので**、先に帰ります。
chotto youji ga aru node, saki ni kaerimasu.
There's something I need to take care of, so I'm heading home early.
3. 台風が来る**ので**、明日のクラスに来なくていいです。
taifuu ga kuru node, ashita no kurasu ni konakute ii desu.
Since there's a typhoon coming, it's OK to not come to tomorrow's class.
4. おなかが痛い**ので**、薬をください。
onaka ga itai no de, kusuri o kudasai.
I have a stomachache, so please give me some medicine.
5. 彼女がとてもきれい**なので**、すぐ好きになりました。
kanojo ga totemo kirei na node, sugu suki ni narimashita.
She's very beautiful, so I quickly fell in love.
6. 今から行きます**ので**、少々お待ちください。
ima kara ikimasu node, shoushou omachi kudasai.
I'm heading over now, so please wait a moment.
7. 雨が降っていた**ので**、試合が中止になりました。
ame ga futteita node, shiai ga chuushi ni narimashita.
Because of the rain, the match was cancelled.
8. 左手で食べようとしたが、難しかった**ので**やめました。
hidari te de tabeyou to shita ga, muzukashikatta node yamemashita.
I tried eating with my left hand, but it was difficult so I gave up.

を

Meaning

object marker particle

How To Use

Noun	を	Verb
------	---	------

Learn Japanese grammar: **を** (o / wo). Meaning: object marker particle. The particle **を** is used to indicate the target of a verb, and is therefore called the “object marker”.

The standard pattern for use is:

- Noun**を**Verb
- 肉**を**食べる。
- niku **o** taberu.
- To eat meat

In this example, **を** is marking the preceding noun (meat) as the subject for the verb (to eat).

The romaji version is commonly written as just “o”, but is more of a “wo” sound.

Example Sentences

1. 日本語**を**べんきょうしています。
nihongo o benkyou shiteimasu.
I am studying Japanese.

2. 日本語**を**話します。
nihongo o hanashimasu.
I speak Japanese.

3. 今日は朝ごはんを**を**食べませんでした。
kyou wa asagohan o tabemasen deshita.
Today, I didn't eat breakfast.

4. もう宿題**を**しました。
mou shukudai o shimashita.
I already did my homework.

5. 毎日ランニング**を**します。
mainichi ranningu o shimasu.
I go running every day.

6. 魚**を**食べたことがない。
sakana o tabeta koto ga nai.
I've never eaten fish before.

7. 毎週新しいかんじ**を**学ぶ。
maishuu atarashii kanji o manabu.
I learn new kanji characters every week.

8. ピザ**を**食べるのが大好きだ。
piza o taberu no ga daisuki da.
I love to eat pizza.

Practice writing your own sentences!

をください

Meaning

please give me~

How To Use

Noun

をください

Learn Japanese grammar: **をください** (o kudasai). Meaning: please give me~ .

Example Sentences

1. すみません、お水をください。
sumimasen, omizu o kudasai.
Excuse me, could you please give me some water?
2. これをください。
kore o kudasai.
Please give me this (I'll have this).
3. コーヒーを二つください。
koohii o futatsu kudasai.
Please give me 2 cups of coffee.
4. 少し時間をください。
sukoshi jikan o kudasai.
Please give me some time.

5. すぐに返信をください。
sugu ni henshin o kudasai.
Please give me a response as soon as you can.

6. 私たちにアドバイスをください。
watashitachi ni adobaisu o kudasai.
Please give us some advice.

7. 駅に着いたら電話をください。
eki ni tsuitara denwa o kudasai.
Please give me a call when you arrive at the station.

8. おなかが痛いので、薬をください。
onaka ga itai no de, kusuri o kudasai.
I have a stomachache, so please give me some medicine.

Practice writing your own sentences!

しかし

Meaning

but; however

How To Use

しかし + phrase

Learn Japanese grammar: **しかし** (shikashi). Meaning: but; however.

This is often used to start a new sentence, but can be used mid sentence between 2 opposing ideas as well.

It is very similar to [でも \(demo\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. **しかしなぜ？**

shikashi naze?

But why? (expressing disagreement)

2. **日本は大好きです。しかし、日本の夏がとても暑いです。**

nihon wa daisuki desu. shikashi, nihon no natsu ga totemo atsui desu.

I love Japan. However, the summer is very hot!

3. **今日のクラスはむずかしかったです。しかし楽しかったです。**

kyou no kurasu wa muzukashikatta desu. shikashi, tanoshikatta desu!

Today's class was difficult.. But, it was a lot of fun!

4. **しかし**問題があるかもしれない。

shikashi mondai ga aru kamoshirenai.

However, there might be a problem.

5. 冬は寒い、**しかし**私は好きだ。

fuyu wa samui, shikashi watashi wa suki da.

Winter is cold, but I like it.

6. **しかし**、彼は日本語を話すことも書くこともできません。

shikashi, kare wa nihongo o hanasu koto mo kaku koto mo dekimasen.

However, he cannot speak or read Japanese.

7. 日本料理はもちろんおいしいです。**しかし**、アメリカ料理の方が好きです。

nihon ryouri wa mochiron oishii desu. shikashi, amerika ryouri no hou ga suki desu.

Japanese food is of course delicious. But I like American food more.

8. あなたはたぶん正しいでしょう。**しかし**、私は少し違った意見を持っています。

anata wa tabun tadashii deshou. shikashi, watashi wa sukoshi chigatta iken o motteimasu.

You are probably correct. However, I have a slightly different opinion.

Practice writing your own sentences!

すぎる

Meaning

too much

How To Use

Verb ます (stem form)	すぎる すぎます
い-adjective ⇨	すぎた すぎました
な-adjective	すぎて

Learn Japanese grammar: **すぎる** (sugiru). Meaning: it is used to say something is too much.

Example A) verb

- たべます -> たべ~~ます~~ + すぎる
- たべ**すぎる** (tabe sugiru)
- To eat too much

Example B) verb past-tense

- たべます -> たべ~~ます~~ + すぎる
- たべ**すぎた** (tabe sugita)
- I ate too much

Example C) verb connection

- たべます -> たべ~~ます~~ + すぎる
- たべ**すぎて**おなかが痛い (tabe sugite onaka ga itai)
- I ate too much and now my stomach hurts

Extra Notes:

This grammar comes from the verb 過ぎる (sugiru), which means to pass or to exceed. However, this grammar most often written in just hiragana.

Example Sentences

1. このシャツは大き**すぎる**。

kono shatsu wa ooki sugiru.

This shirt is too big.

2. 今年の夏は暑**すぎた**。

kotoshi no natsu wa atsu sugita.

This year's summer was too hot.

3. 冬の来るのが早**すぎた**。

fuyu no kuru no ga haya sugita.

Winter has come too soon.

4. この問題は簡単**すぎます**。

kono mondai wa kantan sugimasu.

This problem is too easy.

5. 幸せ**すぎて**死にそうだ。

shiawase sugite shini sou da.

I'm so happy I could die.

6. かんじを覚えるのが私には難し**すぎる**。

kanji o oboeru no ga watashi ni wa muzukashi sugiru.

Memorizing kanji is a bit too difficult for me.

7. このレストランはちょっと高**すぎる**。別のところにしましょう。

kono resutoran wa chotto taka sugiru. betsu no tokoro ni shimashou.

This restaurant is a bit too expensive. Let's try somewhere else.

8. この会社は給料が少な**すぎます**。

kono kaisha wa kyuuryou ga sukuna sugimasu.

This company's salary is too low.

9. ごめんなさい、少し言いすぎました。
gomennasai, sukoshi ii sugimashita.
I'm sorry, I said a bit too much. (I said more than I should have)

10. 昨夜ちょっと飲みすぎました。
sakuya chotto nomi sugimashita.
I drank a little bit too much yesterday.

Practice writing your own sentences!

たことがある

Meaning

to have done something before

How To Use

Verb (た form)

ことがある
ことがない
ことがあります
がありません

Learn Japanese grammar: **たことがある** (ta koto ga aru). Meaning: to have done something before.

When using a non-past verb, the grammar changes to [ことがある \(koto ga aru\)](#).

Example Sentences

1. これを見た**ことがある**。

kore o mita koto ga aru.

I've seen this before.

2. フランスに行っ**たことある**。

furansu ni itta koto ga aru.

I've been to France before.

3. それを聞い**たことがある**。

sore o kiita koto ga aru.

I've heard of that before.

4. 一度だけカラオケをやっ**たことがあります**。

ichido dake karaoke o yatta koto ga arimasu.

I've only tried karaoke once before.

5. 日本に行つた**ことがありますか？**

nihon ni itta koto arimasu ka?

Have you been to Japan before?

6. 日本は好きですが行つた**ことがない。**

nihon wa suki desuga itta koto ga nai.

I love Japan, but I've never been.

7. 本当に、車を運転した**ことがない**ですか？

hontouni, kuruma o unten shita koto ga nai desu ka?

You've really never driven a car before?

8. これは誰にも話した**ことはありません。**

kore wa dare ni mo hanashita koto ga arimsen.

I've never told this to anyone.

9. 私は一度しかすしを食べた**ことはありません。**

watashi wa ichido shika sushi o tabeta koto ga arimasen.

I've only had sushi one time..

Practice writing your own sentences!

たい

Meaning

want to do something

How To Use

Verb **ます** (stem form)

たい

たくない

たかった

Learn Japanese grammar: **たい** (tai). Meaning: want to do something.

To use this grammar point, add it at the end of the verb stem

たべます -> たべたい

I eat -> I want to eat

Basic example for ~たい (tai) – want to do~

すしを食べたい。

sushi o tabetai.

I **want** to eat sushi.

たい (tai) can be conjugated to be used in negative and past tense as well.

Negative form たくない (takunai) do not want to do~

すしを食べたくない。

sushi o tabetakunai

I **do not want** to eat sushi.

Past form たかった (takatta) – wanted to do~

すしを食べたかった。

sushi o tabetakatta.

I **wanted** to eat sushi.

Extra Study Notes

This is mostly ONLY for first person use, but there are some situations where it's OK to use for second person:

Example A) when quoting others

田中さんがすしを食べ**たい**んだって。

tanaka-san ga sushi o tabetai ndatte.

Tanaka-san said he **wants** to eat Sushi.

Example B) when asking a question

何を食べ**たい**ですか？

nani o tabetai desuka?

What do you **want** to eat?

To say someone wants to do something in 3rd person without quoting them, use [たがる \(tagaru\)](#) instead.

Example Sentences

1. 日本語をもっと勉強**したい**です。

nihongo o motto benkyou shitai desu.

I want to study more Japanese.

2. 先生、聞き**たい**ことがあります。

sensei, kikitai koto ga arimasu ga.

Sensei, there is something I'd like to ask you..

3. 早く結婚**したい**。

hayaku kekkon shitai.

I want to hurry up and get married.

4. 自転車がこわれたから、新しいのを買いたい。
jitensha ga kowareta kara, atarashii no o kaitai.
My bicycle broke, so I want to buy a new one.

5. 子どものころから、ずっと日本に行きたかった。
kodomo no koro kara, zutto nihon ni ikitakatta.
Ever since I was little, I always wanted to go to Japan.

6. つかれたから、もう勉強したくない。
tsukareta kara, mou benkyou shitakunai.
I'm tired and don't want to study anymore.

7. 将来は日本の会社で働きたいです。
shourai wa nihon no kaisha de hatarakitai desu.
In the future, I'd like to work for a Japanese company.

8. お金がたくさんあったら、何をしたいですか？
okane ga takusan attara, nani o shitai desu ka?
What would you want to do if you had a lot of money?

Practice writing your own sentences!

たり～たり

Meaning

do such things as A and B

How To Use

Verb-た + り ~ Verb-た + り + する
Noun + だったり ~ Noun + だったり
い-adj + かったり ~ い-adj + かったり
な-adj + だったり ~ な-adj + だったり

Learn Japanese grammar: **たり～たり** (tari~tari). Meaning: do such things as A and B.

You can use **たり～たり** when you want to list multiple examples. ex) “do such things as [A], [B], etc..”

It is possible to only use it once and list only one example. You're basically making a list of different activities / traits, so it's commonly used in situations like:

- saying multiple hobbies
- saying what you did over the weekend
- explaining what food you like
- etc..

Example Sentences

1. 休みの日は水曜日**だったり**、日曜日**だたり**です。

yasumi no hi wa suiyoubi dattari, nichiyoubi dattari desu.

We are closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

2. 日曜日は買い物**したり**、映画を**見たり**した。

nichiyoubi wa kaimono shitari, eiga o mitari shita.

On Sunday I went shopping and watched a movie.

3. 私の店は忙しかったり暇だったりです。
watashi no mise wa isogashi kattari hima dattari desu.
My shop is sometimes busy and sometimes slow.
4. 今日は宿題をしたり、部屋の掃除をしたり、忙しいです。
kyou wa shukudai o shitari, heya no souji o shitari, isogashii desu.
Today I'm busy with (things like) doing my homework and cleaning my room.
5. 冬休みは漢字を勉強したり、運動したりするつもりです。
fuyu yasumi wa kanji o benkyou shitari, undou shitari suru tsumori desu.
During winter break I plan to study kanji and exercise.
6. 暇なときは映画を見たり、音楽を聞いたりする。
hima na toki wa eiga o mitari, ongaku o kiitari suru.
In my free time I (do things like) watch movies and listen to music.
7. 図書館では本や雑誌を読んだり、勉強したりする人が多い。
toshokan de wa hon ya zasshi o yondari, benkyou shi tari suru hito ga ooi.
In the library, there's a lot of people (doing things like) reading books/magazines and studying.
8. 留学中に現地の料理を食べたり、旅行したりしました。
ryuugaku chuu ni genchi no ryouri o tabetari, ryokou shitari shimashita.
During my study abroad, I would (do things like) eat local foods and go traveling.
9. 誰でも間違いを犯したり、失敗したりします。
dare demo machigai o okashitari, shippai shitari shimasu.
Everyone makes mistakes and experiences failure.

Practice writing your own sentences!

てある

Meaning

is/has been done (resulting state)

How To Use

Verb (て form)	ある
	あった
	あります
	ありました

Learn Japanese grammar: **てある** (te aru). Meaning: is/has been done (resulting state).

This is used when something is intentionally done and you can see the resulting state of that action. It is similar to using past tense form, but different in that it places emphasis on the action being done intentionally and the end result still being visible.

Example 1) 作った VS 作ってある

This example will focus on the difference between using past form and **てある** (te aru) form.

1.1) Using 作った

明日の弁当はもう作った。

ashita no bentou wa mou tsukutta.

I (have) already **made** tomorrow's bento (lunch).

1.2) Using 作ってある

明日の弁当はもう作**ってある**。

ashita no bentou wa mou tsukutte aru.

Tomorrow's bento (lunch) **has been prepared** already.

At first glance, these sentences may seem very similar in meaning, but there are some key differences you should be aware of.

Example 1.1 simply says that the task was done. Example 1.2 does that as well, but also expresses that the task was done intentionally and focuses on the result of the action. In this case, that the bento lunch has been prepared and is ready.

Some more examples

Example 2)

ドアが開けてある。

doa ga akete aru.

The door **has been left open (intentionally)**.

In this case, it's a bit more clear that the focus is on the end result. Not on the action of opening the door, but that the door has been left open.

Example 3) てあった (te atta) past tense

保存してあったファイルが消えてしまった。

hizon shite atta fairu ga kiete shimatta.

The file I **had saved (prepared)** was deleted.

This case focuses on the preparation that was done; the file was already saved and prepared.

Extra Study Notes

In summary, **てある** (te aru) is used to show a task that was completed with focus on:

- The task was done intentionally (maybe for preparation)
- The resulting state from having done the action (e.g. the window was left open)

This grammar can **ONLY** be used with **transitive verbs**. The form will almost always look like this:

Subject + (が / は / を) + transitive verb + **てある**

Example Sentences

1. ここには私の名前が書いてあります。

koko ni wa watashi no namae ga kaite arimasu.

My name is written here.

2. ドアがわざと開けてある。

doa ga wazato akete aru.

The door has been left intentionally opened.

3. 宿題はもうやってあります。

shukudai wa mou yatte arimasu.

I have already finished my homework.

4. 夜には学校の入り口が閉めてある。

yoru ni wa gakkou no iriguchi ga shimete aru.

At night, the school entrance is closed.

5. ここに何て書いてあるの？

koko ni nante kaite aru no?

What is written here?

6. 料理が作ってあるから、今日は家で食べる。

ryouri ga tsukutte aru kara, kyou wa ie de taberu.

I've already made some food, so today I will eat at home.

7. テニスをしよう。10時30分にコートを予約してあるから。

tenisu o shiyou. juuji sanjuu pun ni kooto o yoyaku shite aru kara.

Let's play tennis. I've booked a court for 10:30.

8. すでに言っ**てある**ように、これもあなたの仕事のうちだ。

sudeni itte aru you ni, kore mo anata no shigoto no uchi da.

This is also part of your work, as I told you before.

ている

Meaning

ongoing action or current state

How To Use

Verb (て form)	いる
	いない
	います
	いません

Learn Japanese grammar: **ている** (te iru). Meaning: the progressive tense of a verb which shows that something is currently happening or ongoing.

There are a couple different ways it can be used, including:

1. [Progressive tense](#) – currently doing
2. [Continuous](#) – have been doing
3. [Present situation](#) – what do you do now?
4. [Habitual actions](#) – frequently happens
5. [The current state](#) / State / condition / appearance of subject

Progressive tense basic examples

Example a)

見る (*miru*) to look; to watch

見**ている** (*mite iru*) looking; watching; seeing

Example b)

読む (*yomu*) to read

読**んでいる** (*yonde iru*) reading

As you can see, each verb changes to a current/continuous state of doing.

However, as introduced in the beginning of this lesson, there are 5 different ways this grammar can be used. Let's dive into each one in more detail below..

Meaning 1) Progressive tense – currently doing ている (te iru)

This is the most basic meaning, which shows that you are currently doing something at this moment.

Example 1.1)

昼ご飯を食べている。

hiru gohan o tabe teiru.

currently eating lunch now.

Example 1.2) Negative form

宿題をやっていない。

shukudai o yatte inai.

currently not doing homework.

ていない is the negative version of ている.

Example 1.3) Polite form

お母さんと電話をしています。

okaasan to denwa o shite imasu.

I am **currently on the phone** with my mom.

ています is the more polite version of ている.

Meaning 2) Continuous – have been doing

This meaning shows that you are currently doing something and have been doing so up until now.

Example 2.1)

先生の話を聞いているの？

sensei no hanashi o kiite iru no?

Are you **listening** to what the teacher is saying?

Have you been listening to what the teacher is saying?

Example 2.2)

5年間日本語を勉強しています。

go nenkan nihongo o benkyou shite imasu.

I **have been studying** Japanese for 5 years.

Meaning 3) Present situation – what you do now

This meaning shows what you are doing now in general, not just this particular moment.

Example 3.1)

面白い本を読んでいる。

omoshiroi hon o yonde iru.

I am **reading (currently or in general)** an interesting book.

This example can either mean currently at this particular moment or currently as in “lately”. It depends on the context of the conversation.

Example 3.2)

日本で日本語を勉強しています。

nihon de nihongo o benkyou shite imasu.

I am **studying** Japanese in Japan.

This example is more obvious that it is not just in this particular moment, but rather describing one’s current situation.

Meaning 4) Habitual / frequent actions

This meaning shows habitual behavior or can be used when talking about something that frequently happens.

Example 4.1)

毎日、寝る前にマンガを読んでいる。

mainichi, neru mae ni manga o yonde iru.

I **read** manga every day before I sleep.

Example 4.2)

いつも自転車で通勤している。

itsumo jitensha de tsukin shite iru.

I always **commute** by bicycle.

Meaning 5) State / condition / appearance of subject

This can be used to describe the current state of something, what something looks like, or that something was left in a certain state.

Example 5.1)

彼はお父さんと似ている。

kare wa otou-san to nite iru.

He **looks (seems) like** his father.

Example 5.2)

ドアが開いている。

doa ga aite iru.

The door **has been left open**.

This translates to the door is open, but the focus is also on the fact that the door has been left open.

Example 5.3)

今日は食堂がとても混んでいる。

kyou wa shokudou ga totemo konde iru.

The cafeteria is very **crowded** today.

Note that this example (and others) may cross over multiple categories. This is the same as the progressive tense, that it is “currently” crowded, but at the same time this is also describing the state of something, so it applies to both meanings.

Extra Study Notes

In summary, ている (te iru) has numerous meanings, including:

1. [Progressive tense](#) – currently doing
2. [Continuous](#) – have been doing
3. [Present situation](#) – what do you do now?
4. [Habitual actions](#) – frequently happens
5. [The current state](#) / State / condition / appearance of subject

Often in conversation the い will be dropped to become てる. This is only for casual conversations.

Example Sentences

1. 昼ごはんは何を食べているの？

hirugohan wa nani o tabete iru no?

What do you eat for lunch?

2. 私もその本を読んでいる！

watashi mo sono hon o yonde iru!

I'm also reading that book!

3. いつからサッカーをやっているのですか。

itsu kara sakkaa o yatte iru no desu ka?

How long have you been playing soccer?

4. 今日の日本は雨が降っています。

kyou no nihon wa ame ga futteimasu.

It's raining in Japan today.

5. どれくらい日本に住んでいますか？

dorekurai nihon ni sunde imasu ka?

How long have you been living in Japan?

6. その店は何時までやっているのですか？

sono omise wa nanji made yatte iru no desu ka?

Until what time is that shop open?

7. 山田さんはまだ寝ていると思います。

yamada san wa mada nete iru to omoimasu.

I think Mr. Yamada is still sleeping.

8. 私もあなたを愛しています。

watashi mo anata o aishite imasu.

I love you too.

Practice writing your own sentences!

てから

Meaning

after doing~

How To Use

Verb (て form)

から

Learn Japanese grammar: **てから** (te kara). Meaning: after doing~.

Example Sentences

1. トイレを使って**てから**、手を洗わないといけません。

toire o tsukatte kara, te o arawanai to ikemasen.

We must wash our hands after using the restroom.

2. 買い物をして**てから**家に帰ります。

kaimono o shite kara ie ni kaerimasu.

I'll come home after I finish shopping.

3. ご飯を食べて**てから**散歩しました。

gohan o tabete kara sanpo shimashita.

After eating I went for a walk.

4. 今日は、起きて**てから**まだ何も食べていません。

kyou wa, okite kara mada nanimo tabeteimasen.

I haven't eaten anything today since waking up.

5. アメリカに帰国して**から**太りました。

amerika ni kikoku shite kara futorimashita.

I gained weight since coming back to America.

6. 彼が禁煙して**から**2ヶ月がたった。

kare ga kinen shite kara 2 kagetsu ga tatta.

It's been 2 months since he quit smoking.

7. 電話をして**から**来てください。

denwa o shite kara kite kudasai.

Please call me before you come.

8. 空き缶は潰して**から**ゴミとして出してください。

akikan wa tsubushite kara gomi toshite dashite kudasai.

Please crush your empty cans before putting them out as garbage.

Practice writing your own sentences!

てください

Meaning

please do

How To Use

Verb (てform)	ください
--------------	------

Learn Japanese grammar: **てください** (te kudasai). Meaning: to ask someone to please do ~

- It is used at the end of a verb in order to request that someone do that action.
- Sometimes the last ください (kudasai) part is just dropped, and て (te) form itself is used to make a request.

Example Sentences

1. ちょっと待ってください。

chotto matte kudasai
Please wait a moment.

2. やめてください！

yamete kudasai!
Please stop!

3. もっとゆっくり言ってください。

motto yukkuri itte kudasai.
Please speak more slowly.

4. 静かにしてください。

shizukani shite kudasai
Please quiet down.

5. やってみてください。

yatte mite kudasai.

Give it a try!

6. どうぞ座ってください。

douzo suwatte kudasai.

Please go ahead and sit down.

7. 先生、この問題分かりません。もう一回説明してください。

sensei, kono mondai wakarimasen. mou ikkai setsumei shite kudasai.

Teacher, I don't understand this question. Could you please explain one more time?

8. 日本語を教えてください。

nihongo o oshiete kudasai.

Please teach me Japanese.

9. 私に知らせてください。

watashi ni shirasete kudasai.

Please let me know.

Practice writing your own sentences!

てはいけない

Meaning

must not; may not; cannot

How To Use

Verb (て form)

はいけない
はいけません

Learn Japanese grammar: **てはいけない** (te wa ikenai) / **てはいけません** (te wa ikemasen). Meaning: must not; may not; cannot.

In spoken Japanese, the following may be used instead:

- [чайだめ・じゃだめ \(cha dame / ja dame\)](#)
- [чайいけない・じゃいけない \(cha ikenai / ja ikenai\)](#)

Example Sentences

1. 窓を開けてはいけない。

mado o akete wa ikenai.

Do not open up the window.

2. 嘘をついてはいけない。

uso o tsuite wa ikenai.

You must not tell lies.

3. ろうかを走ってはいけませんよ。

rouka o hashitte wa ikemasen yo.

No running in the halls.

4. 図書館でうるさくしてはいけません。

toshokan de urusaku shite wa ikenai.

We cannot be loud in the library.

5. 今日試験があるから、遅刻してはいけません。

kyou shiken ga aru kara, chikoku shite wa ikenai.

There's a test today, so you can't be late.

6. 室内でタバコを吸ってはいけませんよ。

shitsu nai de tabako o sutte wa ikemasen yo.

No smoking inside!

7. 笑ってはいけない冗談だった。

waratte wa ikenai joudan datta.

That was a joke that we shouldn't of laughed at.

8. 授業中に携帯電話を使ってはいけません。

jugyou chuu ni keitai denwa o tsukatte wa ikemasen.

No using cellphones during class.

9. 20歳未満の人はお酒を飲んではいけません。

hatachi miman no hito wa osake o nonde wa ikemasen.

You must not drink alcohol if you are under 20 years of age. (Japan's legal age)

10. 禁煙というのはタバコを吸ってはいけないということです。

kinen toiu nowa tabako wo suttewa ikenai toiu koto desu.

The word "kinen" means no smoking is allowed.

Practice writing your own sentences!

てもいいです

Meaning

is OK to..; is alright to..; may I..?

How To Use

Verb (て form)	もいい (です)
い-adjective くて	
な-adjective + で	
Noun + で	

Learn Japanese grammar: **てもいい** (temo ii) & **てもいいです (か)** (temo ii desu ka). Meaning: is OK to..; is alright to..; may I..?

Example Sentences

1. トイレに行つてもいいですか？

toire ni ittemo ii desu ka?

May I go to the restroom?

2. うん、行つてもいいですよ！

un, ittemo ii desu yo!

Sure, go a head!

3. それを食べてもいいですか。

sore o tabetemo ii desu ka?

Can I eat that?

4. 私も一緒に行つていい？

watashi mo isshoni itte ii?

Can I go with you?

5. ここに座つてもいいですか？

koko ni suwattemo ii desu ka?

Is it OK if I sit here?

6. 一つ質問を聞いてもいいですか？

hitotsu shitsumon o kiite ii desu ka?

Do you mind if I ask you a question?

7. あなたと一緒に行ってもいいですよ。

anata to isshoni ittemo ii desu yo.

I don't mind going with you.

8. 今話してもいいですか。

ima hanashi temo ii desu ka?

Can you talk now?

9. わざわざ家に来なくてもいいですよ。

wazawaza ie ni konaku temo ii desu yo.

You don't need to bother coming all the way to my home.

Practice writing your own sentences!

と

Meaning

and; with; as; connecting particle

How To Use

phrase	と
--------	---

Learn Japanese grammar: と (to). Meaning: the connecting particle と can be used to combine multiple things. Ex) and; together with.

Example A) と – and

- 日本語と英語を話します。
- nihongo**to** eigo o hanashimasu.
- I speak Japanese **and** English.

Example B) と – with

- 友だちと行く。
- tomodachi **to** iku.
- I will go **with** a friend.

Example Sentences

1. お母さんと買い物に行った。

okaasan to kaimono ni itta.

I went shopping with my mom.

2. 彼女と仲がいいです。

kanojo to naka ga ii desu.

She and I get along well.

3. あなたと話したくない。
anata to hanashi takunai.
I don't want to talk to you.

4. これとそれは違います。
kore to sore wa chigaimasu.
This and that are different.

5. 彼はベトナム人と結婚している。
kare wa betonamu jin to kekkon shiteiru.
He's married to a Vietnamese person.

6. 犬と遊ぶのが大好きです。
inu to asobu no ga daisuki desu.
I love playing with dogs.

7. 飲み物と食べ物禁止。
nomimono to tabemono kinshi.
No food or drink.

8. 私はいつもそこでハンバーガーとフライドポテトを食べます。
watashi wa itsumo soko de hanbaagaa to furaido poteto o tabemasu.
I always eat a burger and fries there.

9. 明日同僚と食事に行く予定です。
ashita douryou to shokuji ni iku yotei desu.
Tomorrow I plan on going out to eat with my coworkers.

10. 高校時代にクラスメイトと連絡をとっていますか。
koukou jidai no kurasumeito to renraku o totteimasu ka?
Are you staying in touch with your high school friends?

とき

Meaning

when; at this time

How To Use

Verb (casual form)	とき
Noun + の	
な-adjective + な	
い-adjective + い	

Learn Japanese grammar: 時【とき】(toki). Meaning: when; at this time.

It is mainly written in hiragana, but sometimes the kanji version 時 is also used.

It can be used in both present and past tense.

- 行く **とき** (iku toki) when I go.
- 行った **とき** (itta toki) when I went.

Example Sentences

1. 分からない**ときは**、早く先生に聞きましょうね。
wakaranai toki wa, hayaku sensei ni kikimashou ne.
Whenever you don't understand, hurry up and ask the teacher.
2. 道を渡る**とき**、車に気をつけてください。
michi o wataru toki, kuruma ni ki o tsukete kudasai.
When crossing the street, be careful with the cars.

3. 時間がない**とき**は、朝ごはんを食べません。
jikan ga nai toki wa, asagohan o tabemasen.
When I have no time, I don't eat breakfast.

4. 体の調子が悪い**とき**、温かいお茶を飲みます。
karada no choushi ga warui toki, atatakai ocha o nomimasu.
When I'm not feeling well, I drink warm tea.

5. 眠い**とき**、いつもチョコレートを食べます。
nemui toki, itsumo chokoreeto o tabemasu.
I always eat chocolate whenever I'm feeling sleepy.

6. 図書館で本を借りる**時**、カードがいります。
toshokan de hon wo kariru toki, kaado ga irimasu.
When you borrow a book from the library, you need a card.

7. 妻が病気の**とき**、会社を休みました。
tsuma ga byouki no toki, kaisha o yasumimashita.
I took work off when my wife was feeling sick

8. 暇な**とき**、ユーチューブを見ます。
hima na toki, yuuchuubu o mimasu.
I watch Youtube when I have free time.

9. 中学生の**とき**、初めて日本に来ました。
chuugakusei no toki, hajimete nihon ni kimashita.
I first came to Japan when I was a middle school student.

10. 晩ごはんを食べる**とき**、いつも牛乳を飲みます。
bangohan o taberu toki, itsumo gyuunyuu o nomimasu.
I always drink milk when I eat dinner.

とても

Meaning

very; awfully; exceedingly

How To Use

とても + Adjective / Verb

Learn Japanese grammar: **とても** (totemo). Meaning: very; awfully; exceedingly.

Example Sentences

1. 今日は**とても**暑いですね。
kyou wa totemo atsui desu ne.
Today is very hot, isn't it?
2. 1月と2月は**とても**寒いです。
ichigatsu to nigatsu wa totemo samui desu.
ichi gatsu to nigatsu wa totemo samui desu.
3. このカレーは**とても**辛いですね。
kono karee wa totemo karai desu ne.
This curry is very spicy!
4. 彼らは**とても**似ている。
karera wa totemo niteiru.
They look very alike.

5. 両親のことを**とても**愛している。

ryoushin no koto o totemo aishiteiru.

I really love my parents.

6. 昨日見た映画は**とても**面白かった。

kinou mita eiga wa totemo omoshirokatta.

The movie I watched yesterday was very interesting.

7. この本、**とても**面白いですよ。読んだ方がいい。

kono hon, totemo omoshiroi desu yo. yonda hou ga ii.

This book is very interesting. You should give it a read.

8. 彼は**とても**疲れているように見える。

kare wa totemo tsukareteiru you ni mieru.

He looks very tired.

Practice writing your own sentences!

つもり

Meaning

plan to ~; intend to ~

How To Use

Verb (dictionary form)	つもりだ つもりです
Verb (ない form)	つもりはない つもりはありません

Learn Japanese grammar: **つもり** (tsumori). Meaning: used to express that you are planning / intending to do something.

Let's look at a basic example:

今夜カラオケへ行く**つもり**だ。

konya karaoke e iku tsumori da.

I'm planning to go to karaoke tonight.

Example Sentences

1. 今日はラーメンを食べる**つもり**だ。

kyou wa raamen o taberu tsumori da.

Today, I plan to eat ramen.

2. あなたたちも行く**つもり**ですか？

anatatachi mo iku tsumori desu ka?

Are you guys also planning to go?

3. 大学に入って日本語を勉強する**つもり**です。
daigaku ni haitte nihongo o benkyou suru tsumori desu.
I plan on studying Japanese once I enter university
4. 何度聞かれても、あなたに教える**つもり**はありません。
nando kikaretemo, anata ni oshieru tsumori wa arimasen.
No matter how many times you ask, I have no plans to tell you.
5. いつ日本に留学する**つもり**なの？
itsu nihon ni ryuugaku suru tsumori nano?
When do you plan on studying abroad in Japan?
6. ばれたら、どうする**つもり**？
baretara, dou suru tsumori?
What are you planning to do if you get caught?
7. ごめんなさい！あなたを傷つける**つもり**はなかったんです。
gomennasai! anata o kizutsukeru tsumori wa nakatta desu.
I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to hurt you.
8. もしJLPTに受かったら日本の会社で働く**つもり**だ。
moshi JLPT ni ukattara nihon no kaisha de hataraku tsumori da.
I plan to work at a Japanese company if I pass the JLPT.

Practice writing your own sentences!

は

Meaning

topic marker

How To Use

See below

Learn Japanese grammar: **は** (wa). Meaning: the particle (は) follows the topic the speaker is talking about, thus is known as the “topic marker” particle.

The most common and easy-to-use pattern is:

- [A]**は**[B]です。
- A wa B desu.
- A **is** B.

There are many other patterns, so let's practice with some more example sentences!

Example Sentences

1. 私はジョンです。
watashi wa jon desu.
"I" am John.

2. それは面白い。
sore wa omoshiroi.
"that" is interesting.

3. 今日**は**電車で来ました。
kyou wa densha de kimashita.
"today" I came by train.

4. 金曜日は空いていますか？
kinyoubi wa aiteimasu ka?
How about "Friday", are you free?

5. 運動をするのは嫌です。
undou o suru no wa iya desu.
I hate "exercising".

6. 好きな食べ物は何ですか？
suki na tabemono wa nan desu ka?
What kind of "food" do you like?

7. 私の大学はその駅の近くにある。
watashi no daigaku wa sono eki no chikaku ni aru.
My university is near that station.

8. 彼を説得するのは不可能だった。
kare o settoku suru no wa fukanou datta.
We found it impossible to "persuade him".

Practice writing your own sentences!

は～より・・・です

Meaning

[A] is more ~ than [B]

How To Use

Noun-1 + は + Noun-2 + より + Adj + です

Learn Japanese grammar: **は～より・・・です** (wa ~yori... desu). Meaning: [A] is more ~ than [B]. Comparing 2 nouns. Emphasizes noun-1 [A] as being greater than noun-2 [B].

Example Sentences

1. **本は映画より面白いです。**
hon wa eiga yori omoshiroi desu.
Books are more interesting than movies.
2. **今日は昨日より忙しいです。**
kyou wa kinou yori isogashii desu.
Today is busier than yesterday.
3. **電車はバスより速いです。**
densha wa basu yori hayai desu.
Trains are faster than buses.
4. **アメリカ人は日本人より背が高いです。**
amerika jin wa nihon jin yori se ga takai.
American's are taller than Japanese.

5. 北海道は台湾より大きいです。

hokkaidou wa taiwan yori ookii desu.

Hokkaido is bigger than Taiwan.

6. エベレスト山は富士山より高いです。

eberesutosan wa fujisan yori takai desu.

Mt. Everest is taller than Mt. Fuji

7. 漢字はカタカナより難しいです。

kanji wa katakana yori muzukashii desu.

Kanji is more difficult than katakana.

Practice writing your own sentences!

は どう ですか

Meaning

how about; how is

How To Use

Noun	は どう ですか
------	----------

Learn Japanese grammar: **は どう ですか** (wa dou desu ka). Meaning: how about; how is.

This pattern is to ask about the listener's impression or opinion about something.

Example Sentences

1. 明日は どう ですか。

ashita wa dou desu ka?

How about tomorrow?

2. 日本は どう ですか？

nihon wa dou desu ka?

How do you like Japan?

3. 天気は どう ですか。

tenki wa dou desu ka.

How is the weather?

4. 買い物に行くのは どう ですか。

kaimono ni iku no wa dou desu ka.

What do you say to going shopping?

5. 日本語の勉強は**どうですか**。

nihongo no benkyou wa dou desu ka.

How are your Japanese studies going?

6. 私の日本語の発音は**どうですか**？

watashi no nihongo no hatsuon wa dou desu ka?

How is my Japanese pronunciation?

7. 新しい学校は**どうですか**。友だちができましたか？

atarashii gakkou wa dou desu ka. tomodachi ga dekimashita ka.

How is the new school? Have you made any friends?

8. 最近仕事のほうは**どうですか**？

saikin shigoto no hou wa dou desu ka?

How has work been going lately?

Practice writing your own sentences!

や

Meaning

and; or; connecting particle

How To Use

Noun + や + Noun

Learn Japanese grammar: **や** (ya). Meaning: and; or; connecting particle. The particle **や** is used to list multiple things and imply there are other items that could be included in the list.

It is very similar to the grammar [と \(to\)](#), which also means “and”. The main difference being **と** only lists the actual items listed, and **や** implies the listed items are not complete.

Example Sentences

1. 毎朝、パン**や**ベーコンなどを食べています。
mai asa, pan ya beekon nado wo tabeteimasu.
Every morning I eat bread and bacon and so on.
2. スーパーで肉**や**野菜を買いました。
suupaa de niku ya yasai wo kaimashita.
I bought some meat and vegetables (and so on) from the supermarket.
3. あなたのおすすめの音楽**や**本を私に教えてください。
anata no osusume no ongaku ya hon wo watashi ni oshiete kudasai.
Please tell me your recommended music or books.
4. 電車**や**バスでの旅は好きです。
densha ya basu de no tabi wa suki desu.
I like traveling by train and bus (and so on).

5. 私はアメリカやイギリスのテレビドラマを見るのが好きです。
watashi wa amerika ya igirisu no terebi dorama wo miru no ga suki desu.
I like watching American and British dramas (among others).
6. 冬休みは家族で長野や北海道へ行きます。
fuyu yasumi wa kazoku de nagano ya hokkaidou e ikimasu.
During winter vacation my family often goes to places like Nagano or Hokkaido.
7. 私は数学や化学などが好きです。
watashi wa suugaku ya kagaku nado ga suki desu.
I like subjects like math, chemistry and so on.
8. 秋には葉が赤や黄色に変わる。
aki niwa ha ga aka ya kiiri ni kawaru.
The leaves turn red and yellow in fall.

Practice writing your own sentences!

よ

Meaning

you know; emphasis (ending particle)

How To Use

end of sentence + よ

Learn Japanese grammar: よ (yo). Meaning: The particle よ is used at the end of a sentence to emphasize what you are saying. It is mostly used in spoken Japanese.

Example A) よ

- おいしいよ。
- oishii yo.
- This is really tasty! (you should try it)

Example B) よね

よ (yo) can be combined with [ね \(ne\)](#) to ask for confirmation or agreement.

- おいしいよね。
- oishii yone.
- This is really good, isn't it?

Example Sentences

1. 行くよ。
iku yo.
Let's go!

2. ちょっと、待ってよ！

chotto, matte yo!

Wait a second!

3. 元気を出せよ。

genki o dase yo.

Cheer up.

4. 愛してるよ。

aishiteiru yo.

I love you!

5. 頑張るよ。

ganbaru yo.

I'll do my best!

6. 寝る時間ですよ。

neru jikan desu yo.

It's time for bed.

7. 君にいい知らせがあるよ！

kimi ni ii shirase ga aru yo!

I have some good news for you!

8. 車で来る予定ですよ？

kuruma de kuru yotei desu yone?

You plan to come by car, right?

9. 家まで車で送るよ。

ie made kuruma de okuru yo.

I'll drive you home.

10. 燃えるゴミと燃えないゴミの区別もよく分からないよね。

moeru gomi to moenai gomi no kubetsu mo yoku wakaranai yone.

It's difficult to tell the difference between burnable and non-burnable garbage, isn't it?

Practice writing your own sentences!

より～ほうが

Meaning

[A] is more than [B]

How To Use

Verb-1 より	Verb-2 ほうが～
い-adj-1 より	い-adj-2 ほうが～
な-adj-1 より	な-adj-2 +なほうが～
noun-1 より	noun-2 + のほうが～

Learn Japanese grammar: **より～ほうが** (yori ~hou ga). Meaning: [A] is more than [B].

Example Sentences

1. 私は猫**より**、犬**のほうが**好きです。
watashi wa neko yori, inu no hou ga suki desu.
I like dogs more than cats.

2. 昨日**より**今日**の方が**暑いです。
kinou yori kyou no hou ga atsui desu.
It's hotter today than it was yesterday.

3. 彼女**より**、君**の方が**きれいだよ。
kanojo yori kimi no hou ga kirei da yo.
You're more beautiful than she is.

4. 日本語を読む**より**、話す**方が**上手だ。
nihongo o yomu yori, hanasu hou ga jouzu da.
I'm better at speaking Japanese than I am at reading it.

5. 遅く寝る**より**、早く寝た**方が**いいですよ。
osoku neru yori, hayaku neta hou ga ii desu yo.
It's better to go to bed early than to go to bed late.

6. 台湾**より**、北海道**の方が**大きいです。
taiwan yori, hokkaidou no hou ga ookii desu.
Hokkaido is bigger than Taiwan.

7. 日本語**より**英語**の方が**難しいと思う。
nihongo yori eigo no hou ga muzukashii to omou.
I think English is more difficult than Japanese.

8. 自転車**の方が**車**より**便利だと思います。
jitensha no hou ga kuruma yori benri da to omoimasu.
I think bicycles are more convenient than cars.

9. 家族**より**仕事**の方が**大切だと思う人と結婚したくない。
kazoku yori shigoto no hou ga taisetsu da to omou hito to kekkon shitakunai.
I don't want to marry someone who thinks work is more important than family.

Practice writing your own sentences!