

の . んだ . んです Explanatory particle

Verb (Plain) + の / んだ / んですか
Noun + なん

- To explain a situation / urging someone to explain a situation and clarify things
- Surprise reaction
- Assumption. When you see something and you make your own conclusion
- Discovering (Oh, I see...)

の . んです . んですか . んだ

TO EXPLAIN A SITUATION
(THAT'S WHY)

URGING SOMEONE TO
EXPLAIN (TELL ME, I'M
CURIOUS)

INTRODUCE A TOPIC (BY THE WAY, THIS HAPPENED)

When you want to talk about it; you want to make a conversation out of that topic.

A. どうしておくれた(遅れた)の/
んだ? Why are you late?

A. 猫本当に可愛いな。
Cats are really cute.

When you suddenly change the topic or you want to talk about something new, it's best to use this grammar if you want to talk more about it.

B. じゅうたい【渋滞】にまきこ
まりた【巻き込まれた】んだ。
I got caught in traffic. (That's
why)

B. なんで猫かわない【飼わ
ない】の? Why don't you
get a cat? (Tell me, I'm
curious.)

そういえば、日本語のうりょく【能力】しけん【試験】にうかったんだ【試
験に受かったんだ】 / ごうかくしたんです【合格したんです】。By the way /
Speaking of which, I passed the JLPT Exam. (Guess what? Ask me about it!)



!□!□Note: This is an explanatory particle because it is used when you explain your situation or when you want explanation from someone. Usually used when you have a conversation with a specific person. Not for SNS.

V (plain) + んです
Noun + なんです

Verb (Plain) + の / んですか

Verb (Plain) + の / んだ / んですか
Noun + なん

- Discovering
(And asking the listener to clarify and explain it)
- Expressing Surprise "Really?"
(And asking someone to explain further)

**

の . んです . んですか . んだ

ASSUMPTION

DISCOVERING

DOUBTING

SURPRISE

桜ちゃんは目がはれている【晴れている】。。
。泣いてたんだ。 Sakura's eyes are puffy. (I
see) She was crying.

みさはピンクが好きなんだ。(I
see...) Misa likes pink. (Making
an assumption)

15さい【歳】なの? / 15さい
い【歳】なんですか。
(What?!) You're 15?

友達いたんだ? (Oh,
I'm surprised) You
have a friend?



の . んです . んですか . んだ (cont)



の . んですか . んだ ?

EXPRESSING SURPRISE

友達いたんだ ?

(Oh, I'm surprised) You have a friend?

DISCOVERING

15さい【歳】なの ? / 15さい【歳】なんですか。

(What?!) You're 15?



Common Mistakes: When using の (explanatory particle)

✗新しいアニメを見たの ? / 見たんですか。

Did you *really* watch it? (I'm surprised, can you explain further?)

-I thought you weren't gonna watch it but you did. I'm surprised you watched it, did you really watch it? Rather than just "Did you watch it? □□

新しいアニメを見た ? / 見ましたか ?

んですけど Introductory remark

Verb (Plain) + んですけど . んだけど

Noun + なん

-Setting the stage for the second clause

-To ask for direction / request

-Stating where you're going and stopping before actually saying your question

-To make a phone call and introduce yourself (ONLY to someone you know)

んですけど . んだけど

INTRODUCTORY REMARK (KANANG KANANG)

When you want to raise a topic

INTRODUCTORY REMARK (ASK IF IT'S OK / ASK FOR DIRECTIONS)

Stating where you're going and stopping before actually saying your question

INTRODUCTORY REMARK (REQUEST/- INVITE SOMEONE)

すいません さっき 注文したビール まだ来てないんですけど。Excuse me, we still haven't got the beer we ordered earlier. Please bring it quickly.

MAKING A PHONE CALL (SI KUAN DIAI NI)

When introducing your name ONLY to someone who recognize you.

もしもし、【謝らなきゃ】あやまらなきゃいけないんですけど、今時間大丈夫 ?
Hello, I need to apologize to you for something, do you have time now?

トイレに行きたいんですけど。。。 "I want to go to the toilet... (Can you tell me where is it?)"

A. もしもし、かなめだけ。今日暇 ?
Hello, it's Kaname. Are you free today?



んですけど . んですけど (cont)

ちょっと聞いて。先週 東京に旅行行ってたんですけど、その時、財布 盗まれたさー。 Hear me out. I went to Tokyo last week. That time, my wallet got stolen. 【盗む】ぬすむ : to steal	8時【頃】ごろ【出発】しゅっぱつする予定なんですけど大丈夫ですか？ I plan to leave around 8 o'clock. Is that okay?	チケットが2枚あるんですけど、一緒に行かない？ I have two tickets and... do you wanna come with me?	B. はい、今日は特に用事ないんですけど、どうしたか。 Yeah, I don't have anything to do in particular. What is it?
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!□!□Note: When requesting someone to do something or asking someone directions, Japanese normally explain where they are going and stopping before getting to the actual NEED/REQUEST as it is already obvious what you want to ask or request to avoid being too invasive and regarded as impolite.

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