

Lesson 1 - です

~です。 It is...
じゅうじはんです。 (It) is half past twelve.
がくせいです。 (I) am a student.

Lesson 1 - Xは Yです

Xは Yです。 X is Y. As for X, it is Y.
わたしはすうきむです。
I am Sue Kim.
やましたさんはせんせい
です。 Mr. Yamashita is a
teacher.

Use the pattern Xは Yです to identify a person or a thing X as item Y.

Lesson 1 - Question Sentences

りゅうがくせいですか。 (Are you) an international student?
せんもんはなんですか。 What is your major?
なんじ (what time)
なんさい (how old)
なんねんせい (what year in school)

*To form a question, add か to the end of a statement.

*Question sentences may also contain a "question word" like なん (what).

Lesson 1 - noun1の noun2

noun1の noun2
noun2 is the main idea and noun1 is a further restriction to noun2.
たけしさんのでんわばんごう
Takeshi's phone number
だいがくのせんせい a college professor
にほんごのがくせい a student of the Japanese language
A phrase of the form "noun1の noun2" acts like on big noun. You can put it wherever you can put a noun, as in the following example:
たけしさんのおかあさんはこうこうのせんせいです。
Takeshi's mother is a high school teacher.

の is a particle that connects two nouns.

Lesson 2 - これ それ あれ どれ

When we want to talk about things that we do not know the names of, we use これ、それ、 and あれ。
これはいくらですか。
How much is this?
それはさんぜんえんです。
That is 3,000 yen.
There is also どれ for "which."
どれですか。
Which one is it?

これ refers to a thing that is close.

それ refers to a thing that is close to the person you are talking to.

あれ refers to a thing that is neither close to the speaker nor the listener.

Lesson 2 - この / その / あの / どの + noun

If you want to be slightly more specific than これ、 それ、 and あれ、 you can use この、 その、 and あの together with a noun.

If you are holding a watch:
このとけいはいくらですか。
How much is this watch?

If talking about a watch held by the person you are talking to:

そのとけいはさんぜんえんです。

That watch is 3,000 yen.

If the watch is far from both speaker and listener:

あのとけいはさんぜんごひゃくえんです。

That watch over there is 3,500 yen.

If you already know that one of several watches is 3,500 yen but do not know which, you can say:

どのとけいがさんぜんごひゃくえんですか。

Which watch is 3,500 yen?

Since dono is a question word, just like dore discussed above, we cannot use the particle wa with it; we must use ga.

これ (は～) この noun (は～)
close to the person speaking

それ (は～) その noun (は～)
close to the person listening

あれ (は～) あの noun (は～)
far from both people

どれ (が～) どの noun (が～)
unknown



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Lesson 2 - ここ そこ あそこ どこ

To ask for directions:

すみません。 ゆうびんきょく
はどこですか。

Excuse me. Where is the post office?

If close by, you can point toward the post office
and say:

あそこです。

(The post office is) right over there.

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

Lesson 2-だれの noun

これはだれのかばんですか。

Whose bag is this?

それはすさんのかばんです。

That is Sue's bag.

*The question for "who" is dare, and for
"whose," we add the no particle.

Lesson 2 - nounも

たけしさんはにほんじんです。

Takeshi is a Japanese person.

みちこさんにもにほんじんです。

Michiko is Japanese, too.

*A	は	X	です。	A is X.
*B	も	X	です。	B too is X.

Lesson 2 - じゃないです

やまださんはがくせいじゃない
です。

Mr. Yamada is not a student.

*To negate a statement of the form X wa Y
desu, where Y is a noun, replace desu with
janai desu.

affirmative: (Xは)Yです。 X is Y.

negative: (Xは)Y(じゃないで
す ; じゃありません ; ではあ
りません) X is not Y.

Lesson 2 - ~ね / ~よ

ね

= =

りいさんのせんこうはぶんがく
ですね。

Ms. Lee, your major is literature, right?

これはにくじゃないですね。

This is not meat, is it?

よ

= =

とんかつはさかなじゃないです
よ。

Let me assure you. "Tonkatsu" is not fish.

*If a speaker is seeking the listener's
confirmation or agreement to what has been
said, then ne("right?") could be added.

*Another particle, yo("I tell you"), is added to a
statement if the speaker wants to assure the
listener of what has been said.

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