



by the Main Junkie

The Big Fat Master List of Japanese Particles



Free Guide on Japanese particles by linguajunkie.com

The Big Fat Master List of Japanese Particles

Ah, Japanese particles.

These little words and letters can instantly change the meaning of your sentence. The good news is, there aren't so many of them like there are vocabulary and kanji. Master yo' Japanese particles and you can start stringing coherent sentences instead of speaking like Tarzan. "Me, Go, Eat, Sushi, Love Japan Much, Please, Yes"

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So, let's get to the big fat master list of Japanese particles.

You're going to learn all you need with this eBook/PDF.

Ready?

The topic markers は and が. They drive everyone NUTS.

Both are topic markers. The basic rule you should remember for now is... は is general and が is specific. Very similar to "a" and "the" in terms of "this is a pen" and "this is the pen (that we were talking about)."

For example

- 私は大学生です meaning.. I am a college student. Just a general introduction of fact.
- 私が大学生です is you distinctly pointing out that you're the college student. Perhaps someone wants to know who's a college student in a room you're in. Or... maybe someone's mistaken you for a janitor at your community college and you must clarify that “*uhh, dude, actually, 私が大学生です.*”

の. The No Particle. There are 3 uses.

1. Possessive adjective (**person**) **no (object)**
 1. 私のコーヒー
 2. My coffee
2. Turning nouns into adjectives (**descriptive noun**) **no (noun)**
 1. えいごのせんせい
 2. English teacher
 3. アメリカのぶんか
 4. American Culture
3. Asking casual questions: It serves as a question marker because the question mark is not used in Japanese.
 1. どこ行くの.
 2. Where are you going?

の方が. No Hou Ga. 2 uses.

1. **Saying something is more/less than something. Noun1 の方が Noun2 より X.** Meaning noun1 is more X than noun2.
 1. 東京のが北海道より楽しいです
 2. Tokyo is more fun than Hokkaido.
2. **Pointing out that one noun, out of the implied others, is (adjective).** Nounの方が(adjective)です。
 1. お茶は薄い方がおいしいです。
 2. Weak tea is better. (Implying that you've already tasted the other tea.)
 3. これのほうがいいです。
 4. This is better.

ので (node) or Because.

1. ので is the most polite of the “because” particles (*yes, there are more of them*) and interchangeable with から (*kara*).

1. iPhoneは便利なので人気がある。
2. The iPhone is popular because it's useful.

か. The Ka Particle. There are 2 uses.

1. **<question>か**. Signifies a question since question marks aren't really used in Japanese. This is a more polite way to ask than using the particle の.
 1. どこ行きますか。
 2. Where are you going?
2. **Noun1かNoun2か. Used as “or” – Noun1 or Noun 2?**
 1. ジュースかお茶かどっちでも大丈夫です。
 2. Juice or tea, either is OK.
 3. ニューヨーク、4月には寒いか暑いか、全然わからない。
 4. I don't know if New York is cold or hot in April.

The particle も, Mo. There are 3 uses.

1. **も is used as “also” or “too.” (subject) or (object)も (verb)**
 1. **a.** 私はそこに行きたい。 **b.** 私も行きたい！
 2. **a.** I want to go there. **b.** I also want to go!
2. **Noun1も noun2も. Saying “both, Noun1 and noun2” or “neither noun1 nor noun2.”**
 1. 私は英語もロシア語も話せます。
 2. I can speak both Russian & English.
3. **Using も for emphasis. “I can't even...”**
 1. 私は漢字も読めない。
 2. I can't even read Kanji. (*implying that's how awful I am*)
 3. その人見たこともなかった。
 4. I didn't even see that person.
 5. 何も知らない。
 6. I don't know anything.
 7. 何も食べなかった。
 8. I didn't eat anything.

The Particle を (Wo). Only 1 use.

1. First of all it's pronounced as “O” and serves as an object marker. This means, it marks the object that is being affected by a verb. **(Object を Verb)**
 1. 私はチョコを食べます。

2. I eat chocolate. (*を points to the chocolate.*)
3. 私は宿題をしています。
4. I'm doing homework. (*Homework receives the action of the verb.*)

The Particle と (To). There are 5 uses.

1. と is used as “and” to connect pronouns, nouns, objects together. Like, I like pizza **and** coffee. When you use と to list nouns, it means that this list is set in stone. There will be no more.
 1. 私は友達と来ます。
 2. I will come with my friend.
 3. 私は魚と肉が好きです。
 4. I like fish and meat.
2. と is used as “when” or “if.” (**Verbと**)
 1. 私は食べると、いい気分になります。
 2. When I eat, my mood improves.
 3. 彼が来ると、電話して下さい。
 4. When he comes, please call me.
 5. アメリカが日本に比べると、もっと大きいです。
 6. If/When you compare America with Japan, it's a lot bigger.
 7. 行けると、教えます。
 8. If I can go, I'll let you know.
3. と is used to mark someone you will do something with.
 1. 私は友達と飲みに行きます。
 2. I will go drinking with my friend.
 3. 彼女と結婚したい。
 4. I want to get married with my girlfriend. (*I want to marry my girlfriend.*)
4. と is used as a quote marker. As in, quoting what someone said or pointing to your thoughts or beliefs.
 1. 彼が「宿題をしなかった」と言った。
 2. He said he didn't do the homework.
 3. これがおいしいと思います。
 4. I think this is delicious.
5. と is used to quote what something's thought as, called, believed or considered generally by most people.
 1. アメリカが英語を話している国と思われる。
 2. America is thought to be an English speaking country.
 3. パンは英語で「Bread」と呼ばれる。
 4. Bread is called “Bread” in English.

The Particle に (Ni).

1. に is used to specify the location, direction or time, where or when something is a verb will reach. It points to a location, direction or time. It mostly means “in” in terms of location or “at” in terms of time.

1. 6時に来ます。
2. I'll come at 6PM.
3. 学校に行きます。
4. I'll go to school.
5. 3時に会いましょう。
6. Let's meet at 3PM.
7. そのバーに入りたい。
8. I want to enter that bar.

The Particle で (De). There are 2 uses.

1. で is used to show the location where an action will be done, is being done, or has been done. It's used as “**at.**”

1. 学校で宿題をしました。
2. I did my homework at school.
3. 家で食べます。
4. I will eat at home.

2. で shows how something is done, or with what something is done. Basically a tool or a means that has allowed you to do something. It's translated as “**with, using, or by.**”

1. 飛行機で旅行した。
2. I traveled by plane.
3. ネットで調べた。
4. I looked it up on the internet (*meaning: by use of the internet.*)
5. 英語で話しましょう。
6. Let's speak in English. (*Using English as a means of communication.*)

The Particle まで (Made).

1. まで simply means “until” in terms of time or location.

1. 5時まで働いている。
2. I work until 5PM.
3. 眠くなるまで、勉強します。
4. I will study until I become sleepy.
5. 何時から何時までですか。
6. From what time until what time?

The Particle から (Kara). There are 2 uses.

1. から is used as “because” or “so.”
 1. もうよるから、寝ます。
 2. Because it's night, I'll sleep.
 3. おいしいだから、全部食べるよ。
 4. I will eat it all because it's delicious.
2. から is used as “from.” This includes space and time.
 1. 6時から始まります。
 2. I'll begin from 6PM.
 3. 何時から何時までですか。
 4. From what time until what time?
 5. 駅から有歩いたら、遠いです。
 6. If you walk from the station, it's far.

And that's it.

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