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## です (desu) is a polite word used to finish a sentence in Japanese.

Desu often works like and can be translated as “is,” “am,” or “are,” but it isn’t exactly the English verb “to be.”

Desu makes statements sound complete and respectful, especially in beginner-level sentences like わたしは学生です (Watashi wa gakusei desu - I am a student). In casual speech, people sometimes drop it, but in polite conversation it’s very important.

If you leave out です (desu), the sentence becomes casual, less polite, and at times, sound weird/incomplete.

- For example:
- わたしは学生です。
- Watashi wa gakusei desu.
- I am a student. (polite)
- わたしは学生。
- Watashi wa gakusei.
- “I student.”

In English, it can feel like you dropped the word “am.” It sounds blunt or incomplete – not wrong, just informal. In real life, friends often talk like this. But in polite situations, you should keep です.

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## です (desu) vs だ (da)

だ (da) is the casual version of です. It's also used to make statements, but it's plain and direct instead of polite.

Example:

- わたしは学生です。
- Watashi wa gakusei desu.
- I am a student. (polite)
- わたしは学生だ。
- Watashi wa gakusei da.
- I am a student. (plain / firm)
- In everyday conversation, people often drop both です and だ:
  - わたしは学生。
  - Watashi wa gakusei.
  - “I student.” (very casual)

So the difference is tone:

- です = polite
- だ = plain / direct
- nothing = very casual / conversational

**Important note:** You usually don't use だ when talking politely, and you don't usually use it after i-adjectives (like たかい).

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## When You Can Drop です / だ

Rule: You can drop です / だ in casual conversation after nouns and na-adjectives.

### Polite:

わたしは学生です。

Watashi wa gakusei desu.

I am a student.

### Plain:

わたしは学生だ。

Watashi wa gakusei da.

### Casual (dropped):

わたしは学生。

Watashi wa gakusei.

Sounds like: "I student." (blunt but natural in conversation)

### Another example:

これは便利です。

Kore wa benri desu.

This is convenient.

### Casual:

これは便利。

Kore wa benri.

"This convenient."

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## When You Can't (or Shouldn't) Use / Drop です・だ

**1) In Polite Speech:** If you're speaking politely, you must use です.

✗ わたしは学生。(job interview)  
Too casual.

✓ わたしは学生です。

**2) After Verbs:** You do NOT use です or だ after plain verbs. Verbs already finish the sentence.

✓ 食べる。(I eat.)

✓ 食べます。(polite)

✗ 食べるだ。

✗ 食べるです。

**3) After i-Adjectives (No だ)**

i-adjectives already end like verbs. You cannot add だ.

✓ 高い。

✓ 高いです。

✗ 高いだ。

**4) With Na-Adjectives (Important)**

Na-adjectives follow the noun rule. Neutral / complete form:

- 静かだ
- 静かです

Casual spoken Japanese often drops だ:

- 静か。

But this is only acceptable in casual conversation... not in polite speech.

**Dropping desu from na- adjectives in polite interactions sounds oddly abrupt and impolite.**

**5) To Avoid Sounding Too Strong**

Using だ can sound firm or declarative. Like you're forceful or are arguing.

これは事実だ。

“This is a fact.” (strong, assertive)

これは事実。

A more casual, softer tone sounds more natural and is used more in 99% of all cases... unless you're actually arguing to make a point.

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