

# Japanese Particles Cheat Sheet

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## は (wa)

Marks the topic of the sentence, showing what the sentence is about.

Often used to contrast or set a framework for the discussion.

私は学生です Watashi wa gakusei desu  
I am a student.

## が (ga)

Marks the subject of the sentence, emphasizing or introducing it, often highlighting new or important information.

猫が好きです Neko ga suki desu  
I like cats.

## を (o)

Marks the direct object of a verb, indicating what the action is affecting.

Essential for transitive verbs.

本を読みます Hon o yomimasu  
I read a book.

## に (ni)

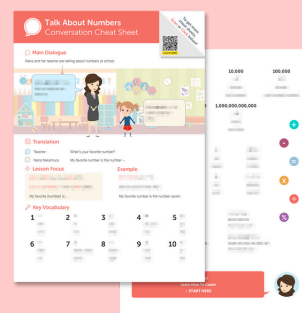
Indicates the destination of movement, specific time, or purpose. It is also used to mark indirect objects.

学校に行きます Gakkou ni ikimasu  
I go to school.

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## で (de)

Marks the place where an action occurs or the means/instrument used to perform it.

バスで行きます Basu de ikimasu  
I go by bus.

## へ (e)

Indicates direction or destination, similar to "toward." Often interchangeable with へ for destinations.

日本へ行きます Nihon e ikimasu  
I go to Japan.

## と (to)

Used to connect nouns ("and") or indicate a companion. Can also show quotation when used with verbs.

友達と遊びます Tomodachi to asobimasu - I play with a friend.

## や (ya)

Lists multiple nouns in a non-exhaustive way, similar to "and so on."

りんごやバナナを買いました Ringo ya banana o kaimashita - I bought apples, bananas, and so on.

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## から (kara)

Indicates the starting point in time or space or shows a reason for something.

東京から来ました

Tokyo kara kimashita

I came from Tokyo.

## まで (made)

Shows the endpoint in time or space, like "until" or "to." Often paired with から.

5時まで Go-ji made - Until 5 o'clock.

駅まで歩きます Eki made arukimasu - I walk to the station.

## も (mo)

Means "also" or "too," adding additional items or information to the sentence.

私も学生です Watashi mo gakusei desu

I am also a student.

## の (no)

Shows possession or attribution, like "s" in English. It connects two nouns.

私の本です Watashi no hon desu

It's my book.

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## より (yori)

Indicates comparison, meaning "than" in English.

猫より犬が好きです Neko yori inu ga suki desu - I like dogs more than cats.

## ね (ne)

Seeks confirmation or agreement, similar to "isn't it?" or "right?" in English.

いい天気ですね Ii tenki desu ne  
It's nice weather, isn't it?

## よ (yo)

Adds emphasis or certainty to a statement, often used to provide new information.

これは美味しいですよ Kore wa oishii desu yo - This is delicious, you know.

## か (ka)

Marks a question, acting as a spoken question mark.

これは何ですか Kore wa nan desu ka  
What is this?

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## ぞ (zo)

Adds a strong, assertive tone to the sentence, often used by men informally.

行くぞ Iku zo - Let's go!

## な (na)

Expresses mild emphasis, often used for self-reflection or softening commands.

いいな Ii na - That's nice.

## わ (wa)

Adds a soft, feminine tone to a sentence, often used by women in informal speech.

綺麗だわ Kirei da wa - It's beautiful.

## って (tte)

Indicates quoted speech or highlights a topic informally. Like the "to" particle.

彼が行くって Kare ga iku tte - He said he's going.

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## に (ni) vs へ (e)

**に (ni):** Indicates a specific destination, purpose, or point in time. It's used for precise expressions of movement or existence.

- 学校に行きます Gakkou ni ikimasu - I go to school.

**へ (e):** Indicates direction or general movement toward something. It's more about the idea of heading "toward" a place.

- 学校へ行きます Gakkou e ikimasu - I head toward school.

## で (de) vs に (ni)

**で (de):** Indicates the location where an action takes place or the means by which an action is performed.

- 学校で勉強します Gakkou de benkyou shimasu - I study at school.

**に (ni):** Indicates a destination, point in time, or purpose. It shows where something exists or where something moves toward.

- 学校に行きます Gakkou ni ikimasu - I go to school.

## は (wa) vs が (ga)

**は (wa):** Marks the topic, emphasizing what the sentence is about. It sets the context and is often used to contrast or introduce known information.

- 犬は可愛いです Inu wa kawaii desu - Dogs are cute (in general).

**が (ga):** Marks the subject, emphasizing what comes before it, often introducing new information or highlighting the focus.

- 犬が可愛いです Inu ga kawaii desu - The dog is cute (specific dog).

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## と (to) vs や (ya)

と (**to**): Lists items exhaustively (like "and") or shows a companion.

- りんごとバナナを買いました Ringo to banana o kaimashita - I bought apples and bananas.

や (**ya**): Lists items non-exhaustively (like "and so on").

- りんごやバナナを買いました Ringo ya banana o kaimashita - I bought apples, bananas, and so on.

## から (kara) vs まで (made)

から (**kara**): Indicates the starting point in time, space, or reason.

- 東京から来ました Tokyo kara kimashita - I came from Tokyo.

まで (**made**): Indicates the endpoint in time, space, or quantity.

- 東京まで行きます Tokyo made ikimasu - I go to Tokyo.

## は (wa) vs も (mo)

は (**wa**): Marks the topic, focusing on what the sentence is about.

- 私は学生です Watashi wa gakusei desu - I am a student.

も (**mo**): Means "also" or "too," adding information to the context.

- 私も学生です Watashi mo gakusei desu - I am also a student.



## まで (made) vs に (ni) vs へ (e)

**まで (made):** Indicates an endpoint in time, space, or quantity, emphasizing "until" or "up to." It highlights the limit or boundary of an action or event.

- 学校まで歩きます - Gakkou made arukimasu - I walk to (as far as) the school.

**に (ni):** Indicates a specific destination, point in time, or purpose, marking where something happens or is directed toward.

- 学校に行きます Gakkou ni ikimasu - I go to school (specific destination).

**へ (e)** Indicates general direction, meaning "toward," often interchangeable with に for destinations but less precise.

- 駅へ向かいます Eki e mukaimasu - I head toward the station.
- 日本へ行きます Nihon e ikimasu - I go to Japan.

### Key Differences:

- まで is about the endpoint.
- に is specific and often denotes arrival or purpose.
- へ is more general and directional.

## で (location of action) vs で (method by which)

**で (where action takes place):** Indicates the location where an action occurs, answering "where?" in the context of an activity or event.

- 学校で勉強します Gakkou de benkyou shimasu - I study at school.

**で (method by which):** Indicates the means, tool, or method used to perform an action, answering "how?" or "with what?"

- バスで行きます Basu de ikimasu - I go by bus (method of travel).

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Particle	Quick Explanation
は (wa)	Marks the topic, indicating what the sentence is about.
が (ga)	Marks the subject, emphasizing or introducing it.
を (o)	Marks the direct object affected by the verb.
に (ni)	Indicates destination, time, or purpose.
で (de)	Indicates location of action or method/instrument used.
へ (e)	Indicates direction or movement toward a place.
と (to)	Connects nouns ("and") or shows a companion.
や (ya)	Lists nouns in a non-exhaustive way ("and so on").
も (mo)	Adds "also" or "too" to the sentence.
から (kara)	Indicates the starting point in time or space.
まで (made)	Indicates the endpoint in time, space, or quantity.
の (no)	Indicates possession or attribution.
より (yori)	Indicates comparison, meaning "than."
ね (ne)	Seeks confirmation or agreement ("isn't it?").
よ (yo)	Adds emphasis or certainty to a statement.
か (ka)	Marks a question, like a spoken question mark.
ぞ (zo)	Adds a strong, assertive tone (informal, often masculine).
な (na)	Expresses mild emphasis or softens commands.
わ (wa)	Adds a soft, feminine tone (informal).
って (tte)	Indicates quoted speech or highlights a topic informally.

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