# Japanese 101

## Particles

### は (wa)

The particle *wa* marks what the topic of a sentence is. *Wa* comes after the topic. Sometimes translated as ‘is’ or ‘am’.

**Examples:**

| Miss. Kimura is a student. | I am Matt. (my name is Matt) |
| Kimura-san wa gakusei desu. | Watashi wa mattō desu. |
| きむらさんはがくせいです. | わたしはマットです. |

### も (mo)

The particle *mo* indicates that something is the same or shares something in common with a topic already mentioned. *Mo* comes after the topic it is marking. *Mo* can replace particles *wa*, *ga*, or *o*.

Usually *mo* is translated as ‘too’ or ‘also’.

**Examples:**

| Mrs. Saka is a student too. | I am Matt also. (my name is also Matt) |
| Saka-san mo gakusei desu. | Watashi mo mattō desu. |
| さかさんががくせいです. | わたしもマットです. |

### が (ga)

The particle *ga* is similar to *wa*. *Ga* marks the subject of a sentence. The subject and topic are usually the same thing in English so it can be confusing to decide whether to use *wa* or *ga*. *Ga* usually puts emphasis on the topic. Basically saying “Out of all these things this is the one I’m talking about.”

**Examples:**

| The letter came. (Out of all the mail the letter came) | Robert likes Kyoto. (out of all cities Robert likes Kyoto) |
| Tegami ga kimagita. | Robaato-san wa Kyoto ga sukidesu. |
| てがみがきました. | ロバートさんはきょうとがすきです. |

### を (wo/o)

The particle (wo) is used with direct objects, usually verbs. Direct verbs are verbs that are used with tangible objects, i.e., you *eat* food, *drink* water, and *do* laundry. *Wo* is placed before the object/verb. *Wo* is pronounced as *o*, you can’t use お *o) in place of を *wo*.

*Note that the ‘I’ in these sentences is dropped in their Japanese counterparts.

**Examples:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(i) Drink coffee.</th>
<th>(i) Watch Television.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koorii o nomimasu.</td>
<td>Terebi o mimasu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>コーヒーを飲みます.</td>
<td>テレビをみます.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### de (de)

The particle de indicates where something takes place. De comes after the place it is marking. De is usually translated as ‘at’ or ‘in’.

**Examples:**

- I study in the library.
- Watashi wa toshokan de benkyoushimasu.
- I watch TV at home.
- Watashi wa uchi de terebi o mimasu.

### ni (ni)

The particle ni is used to show movement or time (or day). For the movement it means, you are moving towards or away from something and ni is placed before the movement verb. For time, ni is placed after the time (or day).

*Note that the ‘i’ in the English sentence is dropped in the Japanese ones.*

**Examples:**

- I have school on Monday.
- Uchi ni kaerimasu.
- I will return home.
- Sanji ni sushi o tabemasu.

### he (he)

The particle he is used for movement exactly the same way as ni. He is sometimes used instead of ni to emphasize the movement. He cannot be used for time.

**Example:**

- I will return home.
- Watashi wa uchi he kaerimasu.
- Watashi wa uchi he ekimasu.