

GRAMMAR & PARTICLE INFORMATION

The Particle O – を

O is an object marker. It indicates that the noun before the **o** is the direct object of the verb. In other words, it tells us who or what the action of the verb is aimed against.

For example:

さかなを たべます。

I will eat fish.

ともだち を しょうかい します。

I will introduce my friend.

Tomodachi **o** shookai shimasu.

にほんご を べんきょう しています。

I am studying Japanese.

Nihongo **o** benkyoo shiteimasu.

マンガ を よんでいます。

I am reading a manga.

Manga **o** yondeimasu.

The Particle Wa – は。 Not わ！

This particle **wa** (は) is the topic of the sentence. If the topic is obvious you don't have to mention it. When introducing yourself, it is usually obvious that you are the topic, except when you are in a group. This **wa** (は) means something like “speaking of” or “as far as is concerned” or “as for....”.

母のなまえは アンです。

As for My mother's name, it is Ann.

Haha no namae wa Ann desu.

私は アンです。

As for me, I am Ann.

Watashi wa Ann desu.

みわは 三ねんせい です。

Miwa wa sannensei desu.

Miwa is in the 3rd Grade.

The particle Ni (に)

The particle に indicates the location of an action. It can also be used to indicate where a person is. It can be used with certain “non-action” verbs, which imply that the subject is permanently located in the place of action. It means: in or at. The particle can also be used to indicate time.

シドニーに すんでいます。
Shidonii ni sunde imasu.

I live in Sydney.

ぎんこうに つとめています。
Ginkoo ni tsutometeimasu.

Works in a bank.

八じに きます。
Hachiji ni kimasu.

I will come at 8:00.

アンさんは へやに います。
Ansan wa heya ni imasu.

Ann is in the room.

The particle De (で)

The particle で follows the place where someone performs an activity. The verb is always a verb which tells of an activity, not a verb of movement. Don't confuse it with ni (に), as de (で) is used to indicate one-time or short-term action. It means in or at.

どこで べんきょう していますか。
Doko de benkyoo shiteimasuka.

Where do you study?

がっこうで べんきょう しています。
Gakkoo de benkyoo shiteimasu.

I study at school.

かいしゃで はたらいています。
Kaisha de hataraitte imasu.

(I am) working at a company.

レストランで すし をたべます。
Resutoran de sushi o tabemasu.

(I) eat sushi at a restaurant.

The particle mo も

The particle も means: as well as, both, also, too.

私も 十才です。 I am also 10 years old.
Watashi mo jyuusai desu.

私の クラスには アメリカ人も オーストラリア人も います。
Watashi no kurasu ni wa Amerikajin mo Oosutorariajin mo imasu.

There are both Americans and Australians in my class.

The particle To (と)

The particle と in these sentences means: and.

えいごと にほんごが 好きです。 I like English and Japanese.
Eigo to Nihongo ga suki desu.

母 と 父 が います。 I have a mother and a father.
Haha to Chichi ga imasu.

The particle と in this sentence means: with or accompanied by.

アンさんと いきます。

Ann to ikimasu. I will go with Ann.

The particle No (の)

This particle no (の) indicates possession (e.g. 's).

いもうと の なまえは マリです。 My younger sister's name is Mari.
Imooto no namae wa mari desu.

わたしの かぞくは よんにんです。 There are 4 children in my family.
Watashi no kazoku wa yonnin desu.

This particle no (の) indicates that the first noun is modifying the second in terms of a category or kind.

えいご の せんせいです。
Eigo no sensei desu.

He is an English Teacher.