

Japanese is Possible!
Week 11

Part 11

- Particle List
- The Conditional "-ba"
- A Note on Adjectives
- Useful Words
- Example Sentences
- Commonly Heard Phrases

Particle List

Here is a more or less complete list of particles used in Japanese. Needless to say, it's ok if you don't know how to use some of these. As you listen to Japanese, and read hundreds of sentences, you'll get a feel for how they are used.

I put some "Conjunctions" in this list as well, because they are almost as popular as actual "Particles".

- **wa** - Subject marker - means "this is the subject"
- **ga** - Subject marker - means "instead of something/someone else"
- **no** - Possessive - works like 's
- **na** - Use with a certain category of adjectives
- **o** - The preceding word answers WHAT or WHO (direct object)
- **e** - Towards, to
- **ka** - A spoken question mark.
- **ne** - Used at the end of sentences, kind of like "huh?" or "right?"
- **yo** - A spoken exclamation point
- **de** - Limits the sentence - means "Restricting ourselves to"
- **ni** - Used to tell "by who", and location (indirect objects)
- **mo** - "also"
- **to** - "and" - used for listing several items
- **ya** - Like the particle "to", but suggests an incomplete list.
- **da** - "is" (short for DESU, so it isn't a particle at all)

- **tte** - "...and that's what he said"
- **shi** - "and what's more", "not only", "but also"

- **kara** - from / because
- **made** - until
- **node** - because
- **demo** - but
- **kedo** - but
- **yori** - from
- **toka** - for example, things like
- **nado** - for example, things like

The Conditional "-eba"

This is a very powerful ending. Actually, all of the grammar (verb endings, etc) you learn will be well worth the effort! The grammar is used more frequently than any word, so it's very important that you learn it! It only makes sense.

-eba is used to say "if" something were to happen. You would use it in sentences like:

If you eat that, you will die!
If you look for him, you'll find him!
If you become human, it's good.

How to use the **-eba** ending

First, remove the last "u" from the verb.

Examples -

taberu - taber
nusumu - nusum
korosu - koros

Next, add **-eba** and you're done!

Now let's translate those 3 example sentences!
(about 15 lines up)

sore o tabereba, shinu yo.
aitsu o sagaseba, mitsukeru yo.
ningen ni nareba, ii no desu.

A Note on Adjectives

Just for quick review, an adjective modifies a noun (person, place, or thing). It gives a sentence more flavor.

Which sentence paints a more vivid picture?

- The crimson red car exploded into a searing ball of flame.
- The car exploded.

In Japanese there are 2 types of adjectives - "Normal" and "Quasi". Technically, there's no way to "know" what group an adjective is from just by looking at it. However, it isn't really hard to distinguish between the two after you become more accustomed to Japanese sentences.

Normal Adjectives

In Japanese, most adjectives end in **-i**. This makes it easy to recognize a word as an adjective. You can do some really cool things with these "normal" adjectives. For instance, by adding different endings to "shiroi", you can say something WAS white, WASN'T white, IS BECOMING white, etc.

Some Normal Adjectives:

kawaii - cute
kuroi - black

nagai - long
osoi - slow
samui - cold
shiroi - white
yasashii - gentle

To use these adjectives, you just plop down the adjective, then plop down a noun after it.

yasashii hito - gentle person
osoi kame - slow turtle
kuroi kame - black turtle
kawaii onna no ko - cute girl

Quasi Adjectives

This type of adjective MAY or MAY NOT end in **-i**. Some books name this group "Quasi Adjectives". Even if it happens to end in **-i**, You can't do the "cool things" that you can do with normal adjectives.

Some "Quasi" Adjectives:

benri - convenient
genki - energetic, healthy
kirai - disliked, hated
suki - liked

When using a Quasi adjective, you have to use the particle NA.

suki na hito - someone (you) like
kirai na yatsu - a person (you) dislike
benri na megami - a convenient goddess
genki na ko - a healthy child

After studying Japanese for a while, you'll find it's pretty easy to tell which "type" an adjective is. To give you an example, let's take the **-ku** ending. Without getting into too much detail, let's just say you add it to "normal" adjectives (after dropping the final 'i').

Note:

I'll teach this ending some time in the next month. I just want to use it here to illustrate a point.

You hear people say "shiroku", "kuroku", etc. all the time. However, when you hear "kireku" it doesn't sound right, because you never heard it before. You basically get a sense for whether it "sounds" right or not.

Useful Words

Nouns

kachi - (a) victory
onna no ko - girl
otoko no ko - boy
ko - child
tsumori - intention
kou - like this

kurai - about, around

nante - thing such as

Adjectives

kawaii - cute

yasashii - gentle

benri (na) - convenient

genki (na) - energetic, healthy

kirai (na) - disliked, hated

Verbs

michi ni mayou - to get lost (lit. "lose the road")

owaru - to end

Misc

sae - only

hodo - as much as

shikashi - however

Example Sentences

kore kurai ii desu yo

this (thereabouts) good is !

This much is good.

kore sae areba, ore no kachi desu.

this only (if exists), I 's win is.

If I only have this, it will be my win.

Or, to rephrase it, "Thanks to this, I'll be able to win".

omae wa genki na no da.

you (subject) energetic is.

You are very energetic.

omae wa shiroi da.

you (subject) white is.

You are white.

omae wa shiroi no da.

you are white.

nani o suru tsumori ka?

what (who or what) to do plan?

What do you plan to do?

hito o korosu nante, hidoi desu yo!

person (who) killing (thing such as) horrible is !

Killing a person - how horrible!

kou shite.

do it like this.

Commonly Heard Phrases

sore yori - "moving from that", "let's forget about that, and..."

kore de owari da - "With this, it's the end"

todome da! - "The final blow!"

machigai nai - make no mistake, "definitely"

...And that's all for this week!

Good luck with your studying -- hang in there! If you have any questions, please post them in the "Japanese Is POSSIBLE!" Forum. See you next week!

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