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# は ・ が の も

## Indicates Subjects / Objects

**Meanings:** “is, am, are”

\*As a particle, は is not pronounced “ha.” it is pronounced “wa.”

は emphasizes what comes after it  
が emphasizes what comes before it

Another way to explain it:

は talks about something  
が identifies something

For example:

1. わたしはこういちです。 I am **Koichi**
2. わたしがこういちです。 **I** am Koichi

\* The first example would be used when you're introducing yourself to someone, the second one would be more like one of those movies where one person has the gun pointed at two identical targets, where they are saying “I am Koichi” and “No, I'm Koichi!” The important (emphasized) part is the *I* portion, so you'd use が.

**Examples:**

わたし **は** がくせい です。

I am a student

すし **が** すき です。

I like sushi (you are identifying that sushi is the thing you like)

あの がくせい **は** ばか です。

That student is stupid.

# へ

## Emphasizing The Destination

**How It's used:** This is a lot like the particle “ni” but emphasizes the destination. It's more like saying “heading towards” than anything else.

**Example:**

にほん **へ** いきます

I am heading towards Japan

## The Possessive

**Meanings:** “Apostrophe S” / “of”

\*Makes something possessive, like saying “my monkey,” “Jenny's friend” or “Bobby of Sony” (i.e. Sony's Bobby).

**Examples:**

わたし の なまえ は こういち です

My name is Koichi

ボビーさん の いぬ です。

It's Bobby's dog.

# を

## The Direct Object

**How it's used:** This shows the direct object. It shows when you're *directly* doing something (the verb) to something else (the object).

**Examples:**

すし (object) **を** (particle) たべます (verb)

Eat sushi

わたし は Playstation **を** かります。

I will buy a Playstation.

Not used when you aren't directly involved or responsible. (i.e. “the radio is broken” vs. “I broke the radio” - the second one uses を)

# で

## Show Context

**Meaning:** “By way of” / “At”

Can show how and where an action takes place.

**Examples:**

くるま **で** いきます。

I will go by car.

わたし は レストラン **で** たべた。

I ate at the restaurant.

## Also / Too

**Meanings:** “Also” / “Too” - it can also emphasize “any”

**Examples:**

わたし **も**

Me too, Me also

ボビーさん **も** イケア に いきます。

Bobby will also go to Ikea.

なにも たべなかった。

I didn't eat anything.

# に

## Movement & Time

**How It's Used:** Shows what an action is directed to, and also shows destinations, directions, places, and time. If you move, whether it's through time or space, you use に.

**Examples:**

にほん **に** いきます

I will go to Japan

3時**に** すし を たべます。

At 3 o'clock I will eat sushi

\* Some common movement verbs: いきます、きます、かえります、のります、のぼります、はいきます。

# か、と、や、よ、ね

## Other Common Particles

か： Question marker - used on the end of a sentence, like a question mark!

と： Used to list nouns when you are listing *everything* and know everything on the list.

や： Used to list nouns when you aren't listing everything. Some things may not be on the list.

ね： Sentence ender that gives an “isn't it?” feeling. Used to ask for confirmation.

よ： Sentence ender that gives a “you know” feeling, often when relaying new info.