

Chapter 1

Grammar notes — answers

Introducing yourself · This and that · Whose it is · The clock

CONTENTS

UNIT 1 · PART 1	Saying what something is X は Y です	2
UNIT 1 · PART 2	Asking questions ～ですか	5
UNIT 2 · PART 1	This, that, over there これ · それ · あれ	8
UNIT 2 · PART 2	Also も	11
UNIT 2 · PART 3	Saying what it is not じゃありません	13
UNIT 3 · PART 1	Joining nouns with の の	15
UNIT 3 · PART 2	Whose is it? だれの	18
UNIT 3 · PART 3	Softening and asserting ～ね · ～よ	20
UNIT 4 · PART 1	Telling the time ～じ～ふん · なんじ	22

Saying what something is

X は Y です

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Say what you do: your job, or what you study
- ☐ Say what someone else does (～ は ～ です)
- ☐ Say where you work, and what country you are from

A conversation you can have in Japanese

Tanaka	I am Tanaka. I am an engineer.
You	Nice to meet you. I am an office worker.
Tanaka	Ms. Suzuki is a lawyer.
You	I see. I am Japanese.

GRAMMAR 1

Saying what something is

A Japanese sentence names the topic first and closes with です. は marks the topic — the thing the sentence is about — and です makes it polite. Nothing changes for I, you or she: the same です ends them all.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

A	(topic) は wa	B	(polite) です desu
---	--------------------	---	------------------------

A is B.

I わたし watashi	(topic) は wa	office worker かいしゃいん kaishain	(polite) です desu
---------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------

I am an office worker.

Mr. Tanaka たなかさん tanakasan	は wa	engineer エンジニア enjinia	です desu
----------------------------------	---------	------------------------------	------------

Mr. Tanaka is an engineer.

Ms. Suzuki すずきさん suzukisan	は wa	lawyer べんごし bengoshi	です desu
----------------------------------	---------	----------------------------	------------

Ms. Suzuki is a lawyer.

2 Build the piece noun → noun です

e.g.	かいしゃいん kaishain office worker	→	かいしゃいん です kaishain desu is an office worker
1.	いしゃ isha doctor	→	いしゃ です isha desu is a doctor
2.	エンジニア enjinia engineer	→	エンジニア です enjinia desu is an engineer
3.	こうむいん koumuin civil servant	→	こうむいん です koumuin desu is a civil servant
4.	にほんじん nihonjin Japanese	→	にほんじん です nihonjin desu is Japanese

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Mr. Tanaka is a teacher.

たなかさんはせんせい です。
tanakasan wa sensei desu

2. I am a student.

わたしはがくせい です。
watashi wa gakusei desu

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Saying what something is
AはBです
わたしはかいしゃいん です
watashi wa kaishain desu
I am an office worker.

Drills

1. わたし _____ がくせい です。
watashi _____ gakusei desu

は

2. たなかさんはせんせい _____ 。
tanakasan wa sensei _____

です

3. ニナさん _____ りゅうがくせい です。
ninasan _____ ryuugakusei desu

は

1. I am a student.

わたしはがくせい です。
watashi wa gakusei desu

2. Mr. Tanaka is a teacher.

たなかさん は せんせい です。

tanakasan wa sensei desu

3. Nina is an international student.

ニナさん は りゅうがくせい です。

ninasan wa ryuugakusei desu

Asking questions

～ですか

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Turn any sentence into a question (～ ですか)
- ☐ Ask what something is (なん ですか)
- ☐ Ask someone their name and what they do

A conversation you can have in Japanese

You Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?
 Friend No. He is an engineer.
 You What is your job?
 Friend I am a teacher. What is your name?

GRAMMAR 1

Asking questions

To ask, add か at the end. Nothing else moves — the word order of the statement stays as it is, and a question word simply sits where the answer would go.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

～ですか
 desu ka

Is it ~? / What is ~?

Mr. Tanaka たなかさん tanakasan	(topic) は wa	office worker かいしゃいん kaishain	(polite) です desu
----------------------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------

Mr. Tanaka is an office worker.

たなかさん tanakasan	は wa	かいしゃいん kaishain	(question) ? ですか desu ka
--------------------	---------	--------------------	--------------------------------

Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?

job しごと shigoto	は wa	what なん nan	ですか ? desu ka
-----------------------	---------	-------------------	------------------

What do you do?

2 Build the piece です → ですか

e.g.	かいしゃいん です kaishain desu is an office worker	→	かいしゃいん ですか kaishain desu ka is an office worker?
1.	せんせい です sensei desu is a teacher	→	せんせい ですか sensei desu ka is a teacher?
2.	にほんじん です nihonjin desu is Japanese	→	にほんじん ですか nihonjin desu ka is Japanese?
3.	いしゃ です isha desu is a doctor	→	いしゃ ですか isha desu ka is a doctor?
4.	がくせい です gakusei desu is a student	→	がくせい ですか gakusei desu ka is a student?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Are you an engineer?

エンジニア ですか。

enjinia desu ka

2. What is your job?

しごとは なん ですか。

shigoto wa nan desu ka

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Asking questions

～ですか

たなかさんは かいしゃいん ですか

tanakasan wa kaishain desu ka

Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?

Drills

1. たなかさんは かいしゃいん _____ 。

tanakasan wa kaishain

ですか

2. しごとは _____ ですか。

shigoto wa desu ka

なん

3. なまえは _____ ですか。

namae wa desu ka

なん

1. Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?

たなかさんは かいしゃいん ですか。

tanakasan wa kaishain desu ka

2. What do you do?

しごとはなんですか。

shigoto wa nan desu ka

3. What is your name?

なまえはなんですか。

namae wa nan desu ka

This, that, over there

これ・それ・あれ

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Point at something and say what it is
- ☐ Ask what something is (なんですか)
- ☐ Ask where something is (どこですか)

A conversation you can have in Japanese

You What is this?
 Tanaka That is a watch.
 You And that one over there?
 Tanaka That is a bag.

GRAMMAR 1

This, that, over there

これ, それ and あれ are the thing itself — this one, that one, that one over there. Before a noun they change shape: このほん, そのほん, あのほん. The distance is from the speaker: これ is by me, それ is by you, あれ is away from both of us.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

this one これ kore	/	that one それ sore	/	that one over there あれ are
------------------------	---	------------------------	---	----------------------------------

this / that / that over there

this one これ kore	(topic) は wa	book ほん hon	(polite) です desu
------------------------	--------------------	-------------------	------------------------

This is a book.

that one それ sore	は wa	notebook ノート nooto	です desu
------------------------	---------	--------------------------	------------

That is a notebook.

that one over there あれ are	は wa	watch とけい tokei	です desu
----------------------------------	---------	-----------------------	------------

That over there is a watch.

2 Build the piece これ → この + noun

e.g.	これです kore desu it is this one	→	この かばん です kono kaban desu it is this bag
1.	それです sore desu it is that one	→	その ほん です sono hon desu it is that book
2.	あれです are desu it is that one over there	→	あの とけい です ano tokei desu it is that watch
3.	どれですか dore desu ka which one is it?	→	どの ペン ですか dono pen desu ka which pen is it?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Is this a pen?

これは ペン ですか。
kore wa pen desu ka

2. What is that?

それは なん ですか。
sore wa nan desu ka

3. Where is the company?

かいしゃ は どこ ですか。
kaisha wa doko desu ka

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 This, that, over there
これ / それ / あれ
これは ほん です
kore wa hon desu
This is a book.

Drills

1. _____ は ほん です。
wa hon desu

これ

2. _____ かばん は かいしゃ の かばん です。
kaban wa kaisha no kaban desu

この

3. かいしゃ は _____ ですか。
kaisha wa _____ desu ka

どこ

1. This is a book.

これは ほん です。
kore wa hon desu

2. What is that?

それはなんですか。

sore wa nan desu ka

3. Where is the company?

かいしゃはどこですか。

kaisha wa doko desu ka

Also

も

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Say “me too”, “this one too” (も)
- ☐ Add someone or something to what was just said

A conversation you can have in Japanese

Tanaka I am an office worker.
 You I am an office worker too.
 Tanaka Ms. Suzuki is an engineer.
 You Is Mr. Sato an engineer too?

GRAMMAR 1

Also

も replaces は and means “too”. It says the same thing about one more person or one more thing, so you never repeat the whole sentence — わたしも、これも。

1 See how it works

PATTERN

noun	too も mo
------	----------------

~ too

I わたし watashi	(topic) は wa	office worker かいしゃいん kaishain	(polite) です desu
---------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------

I am an office worker.

Ms. Suzuki すずきさん suzukisan	↓ too も mo	かいしゃいん kaishain	です desu
----------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------	------------

Ms. Suzuki is an office worker too.

2 Build the piece は → も

わたし は watashi wa e.g. I	→	わたし も watashi mo me too
これは kore wa 1. this one	→	これも kore mo this one too
たなかさん は tanakasan wa 2. Mr. Tanaka	→	たなかさん も tanakasan mo Mr. Tanaka too
あれ は are wa 3. that one over there	→	あれ も are mo that one too

3 Say it in Japanese

1. This is a book too.

これ も ほん です。

kore mo hon desu

2. Is Mr. Tanaka Japanese too?

たなかさん も にほんじん ですか。

tanakasan mo nihonjin desu ka

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1

Also

noun も

すずきさん も かいしゃいん です

suzukisan mo kaishain desu

Ms. Suzuki is an office worker too.

Drills

1. わたし _____ かいしゃいん です。

watashi kaishain desu

も

2. これ _____ ノート です。

kore nooto desu

も

3. あれ _____ とけい ですか。

are tokei desu ka

も

1. I am an office worker too.

わたし も かいしゃいん です。

watashi mo kaishain desu

2. Is Mr. Tanaka Japanese too?

たなかさん も にほんじん ですか。

tanakasan mo nihonjin desu ka

Saying what it is not

じゃありません

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Say what something is not (じゃ ありません)
- ☐ Correct someone politely
- ☐ Say who you are not, when someone has you wrong

A conversation you can have in Japanese

Tanaka Are you a teacher?
 You No, I am not a teacher. I am an office worker.
 Tanaka Is this your bag?
 You No, that is not my bag.

GRAMMAR 1

Saying what it is not

To say what something is not, です becomes じゃ ありません. Nothing else moves. じゃ ありません is what people say; では ありません is the same thing in writing.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

noun	じゃ	ありません
	ja	ari masen

It is not ~.

this one	(topic)	notebook	(polite)
これ	は	ノート	です
kore	wa	nooto	desu

This is a notebook.

これ	は	ノート	じゃ ありません
kore	wa	nooto	ja ari masen

This is not a notebook.

2 Build the piece です → じゃ ありません

ほん です	ほん じゃ ありません
hon desu	hon ja ari masen
e.g. is a book	→ is not a book
がくせい です	がくせい じゃ ありません
gakusei desu	gakusei ja ari masen
1. is a student	→ is not a student
とけい です	とけい じゃ ありません
tokei desu	tokei ja ari masen
2. is a watch	→ is not a watch
にほんじん です	にほんじん じゃ ありません
nihonjin desu	nihonjin ja ari masen
3. is Japanese	→ is not Japanese

3 Say it in Japanese

1. I am not a teacher.

わたし は せんせい じゃ ありません。
watashi wa sensei ja ari masen

2. That is not a watch.

あれ は とけい じゃ ありません。
are wa tokei ja ari masen

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Saying what it is not
noun じゃ ありません
これは ノート じゃ ありません
kore wa nooto ja ari masen
This is not a notebook.

Drills

1. これは ノート _____ ありません。
kore wa nooto ari masen

じゃ

2. わたし は せんせい _____ ありません。
watashi wa sensei ari masen

じゃ

3. あれ は とけい _____ 。
are wa tokei

です

1. This is not a notebook.

これは ノート じゃ ありません。
kore wa nooto ja ari masen

2. I am not a student.

わたし は がくせい じゃ ありません。
watashi wa gakusei ja ari masen

Joining nouns with の

の

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Join two nouns with の: a Japanese teacher, my company
- ☐ Say which one you mean, without a long sentence

A conversation you can have in Japanese

Tanaka	Is that a Japanese book?
You	Yes, it is my Japanese book.
Tanaka	Is your father a company employee?
You	No, my father is a doctor.

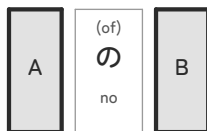
GRAMMAR 1

Joining nouns with の

の joins two nouns, and the one that owns or describes goes first: にほんご の せんせい is a teacher of Japanese, わたし の かいしゃ is my company. English runs the other way round, so read の backwards into English.

1 See how it works

PATTERN



A's B / B of A

I わたし watashi	(of) の no	bag かばん kaban	(polite) です desu
---------------------	-----------------	---------------------	------------------------

It is my bag.

Japanese にほんご nihongo	(of) の no	teacher せんせい sensei	です desu
-----------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------	------------

She is a teacher of Japanese.

Mr. Tanaka たなかさん tanakasan	(of) の no	watch とけい tokei	です desu
----------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------	------------

It is Mr. Tanaka's watch.

2 Build the piece two nouns → A の B

	わたし ・ かばん watashi • kaban		わたしの かばん watashi no kaban
e.g.	I, bag	→	my bag
	たなかさん ・ ほん tanakasan • hon		たなかさんの ほん tanakasan no hon
1.	Mr. Tanaka, book	→	Mr. Tanaka's book
	にほんご ・ ほん nihongo • hon		にほんごの ほん nihongo no hon
2.	Japanese, book	→	a Japanese book
	かいしゃ ・ ひと kaisha • hito		かいしゃの ひと kaisha no hito
3.	company, person	→	someone from the company

3 Say it in Japanese

1. This is my company.

これはわたしの かいしゃ です。
kore wa watashi no kaisha desu

2. My father is a doctor.

ちちは いしゃ です。
chichi wa isha desu

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Joining nouns with の
 A の B
 わたしの かばん です
 watashi no kaban desu
 It is my bag.

Drills

1. わたし _____ かばん です。
watashi kaban desu

の

2. にほんご _____ せんせい です。
nihongo sensei desu

の

3. たなかさん _____ とけい です。
tanakasan tokei desu

の

1. It is my bag.

わたしの かばん です。
watashi no kaban desu

2. She is a teacher of Japanese.

にほんごの せんせい です。
nihongo no sensei desu

3. This is my company.

これはわたしのかいしゃです。

kore wa watashi no kaisha desu

Whose is it?

だれの

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Ask whose something is (だれの ですか)
- ☐ Answer with just の: mine, Mr. Tanaka's
- ☐ Say it is not yours

A conversation you can have in Japanese

Tanaka Whose pen is this?
 You It is mine.
 Tanaka Is this watch yours too?
 You No, that one is my older brother's.

GRAMMAR 1

Whose is it?

だれの ですか asks whose something is. The answer drops the noun and stops at の — わたしの です, my one — because the thing is already on the table between you.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

noun	(topic) は wa	だれ dare	(mine) の no	(question) ? ですか desu ka
------	--------------------	------------	-------------------	--------------------------------

Whose ~ is this?

this この kono	bag かばん kaban	(topic) は wa	whose だれの dare no	(question) ? ですか desu ka
--------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------

Whose bag is this?

that one それ sore	は wa	I わたし watashi	(mine) の no	(polite) です desu
------------------------	---------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------

That one is mine.

2 Build the piece full noun → の on its own

わたしの かばん です watashi no kaban desu e.g. it is my bag	→	わたしの です watashi no desu it is mine
1. たなかさんの ほん です tanakasan no hon desu it is Mr. Tanaka's book	→	たなかさんの です tanakasan no desu it is Mr. Tanaka's
2. ちちの とけい です chichi no tokei desu it is my father's watch	→	ちちの です chichi no desu it is my father's
3. だれの ペン ですか dare no pen desu ka whose pen is it?	→	だれの ですか dare no desu ka whose is it?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Whose watch is this?

この とけい は だれ の ですか。

kono tokei wa dare no desu ka

2. It is my older brother's.

あに の です。

ani no desu

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Whose is it?

noun は だれ の ですか

この かばん は だれ の ですか

kono kaban wa dare no desu ka

Whose bag is this?

Drills

1. この かばん は _____ の ですか。

kono kaban wa no desu ka

だれ

2. それは わたし _____ です。

sore wa watashi desu

の

3. この ペン は たなかさん _____ です。

kono pen wa tanakasan desu

の

1. Whose bag is this?

この かばん は だれ の ですか。

kono kaban wa dare no desu ka

2. That one is mine.

それは わたし の です。

sore wa watashi no desu

3. It is my father's.

ちち の です。

chichi no desu

Softening and asserting

～ね ・ ～よ

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Soften what you say with ね, when you expect agreement
- ☐ Add よ, when you are telling someone something new

A conversation you can have in Japanese

You This is your bag, isn't it.
 Tanaka Yes, it is mine.
 You The company is over there, you know.
 Tanaka Oh, thank you.

GRAMMAR 1

Softening and asserting

ね and よ are how a sentence is aimed. ね expects the other person to agree — you both know it already. よ hands over something they did not know. Without either, a sentence can sound flat or blunt, so Japanese rarely goes without them.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

sentence	right? ね ne	/	(telling you) よ yo
----------	-------------------	---	--------------------------

isn't it? / you know

this one これ kore	(topic) は wa	Japanese にほんご nihongo	(of) の no	book ほん hon	(polite) です desu	right? ね ne
------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------

This is a Japanese book, isn't it.

the company かいしゃ kaisha	は wa	over there あそこ asoko	です desu	(telling you) よ yo
-------------------------------	---------	----------------------------	------------	--------------------------

The company is over there, you know.

2 Build the piece です → ですね / ですよ

わたしのです watashi no desu e.g. it is mine	→	わたしのですよ watashi no desu yo it is mine, you know
1. たなかさんのほんです tanakasan no hon desu it is Mr. Tanaka's book	→	たなかさんのほんですね tanakasan no hon desu ne ...isn't it
2. あそこです asoko desu it is over there	→	あそこですよ asoko desu yo it is over there, you know
3. にほんじんです nihonjin desu is Japanese	→	にほんじんですね nihonjin desu ne is Japanese, isn't it

3 Say it in Japanese

1. That is your bag, isn't it.

それはあなたのかばんですね。

sore wa anata no kaban desu ne

2. This one is mine, you know.

これはわたしのですよ。

kore wa watashi no desu yo

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Softening and asserting

sentence ね / よ

これはにほんごのほんですね

kore wa nihongo no hon desu ne

This is a Japanese book, isn't it.

Drills

1. これはにほんごのほんです _____。

kore wa nihongo no hon desu

ね

2. かいしゃはあそこです _____。

kaisha wa asoko desu

よ

3. あれはわたしのかばんです _____。

are wa watashi no kaban desu

よ

1. This is a Japanese book, isn't it?

これはにほんごのほんですね。

kore wa nihongo no hon desu ne

2. The company is over there, you know.

かいしゃはあそこですよ。

kaisha wa asoko desu yo

Telling the time

～じ～ふん ・ なんじ

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Say what time it is (～じ ・ ～ふん)
- ☐ Ask what time something is (なんじ ですか)
- ☐ Get the three odd hours right: よじ, しちじ, くじ

A conversation you can have in Japanese

You What time is it now?
 Tanaka It is half past two.
 You What time is your work?
 Tanaka Nine a.m.

GRAMMAR 1

Telling the time

The clock is the number plus じ for the hour and ふん for the minutes, with はん for half past. ごぜん and ごご come first, not last. Three hours break the pattern and they are the three everybody gets wrong: よじ, しちじ, くじ.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

すうじ suuji	じ ji	すうじ suuji	ふん fun
--------------	---------	--------------	-----------

the time

now いま ima	half past two にじはん nijihan	(polite) です desu
------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------

It is half past two.

a.m. ごぜん gozen	nine o'clock くじ kuji	です desu
----------------------	----------------------------	------------

It is nine a.m.

いま ima	what time なんじ nanji	(question) ? ですか desu ka
-----------	---------------------------	--------------------------------

What time is it now?

2 Build the piece number → 〜じ

e.g.	いち ichi one	→	いちじ ichiji one o'clock
1.	よん yon four	→	よじ yoji four o'clock
2.	しち shichi seven	→	しちじ shichiji seven o'clock
3.	きゅう kyuu nine	→	くじ kuji nine o'clock
4.	なん nan what	→	なんじ nanji what time

3 Say it in Japanese

1. It is one o'clock now.

いま いちじ です。

ima ichiji desu

2. What time is your work?

しごとは なんじ ですか。

shigoto wa nanji desu ka

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 Telling the time
すうじ じ すうじ ふん
いま にじはん です
ima nijihan desu
It is half past two.

Drills

1. いま _____ です。

ima desu

にじはん

2. いま _____ ですか。

ima desu ka

なんじ

3. ごぜん いちじ _____ 。

gozen ichiji

です

1. It is half past two now.

いま にじはん です。

ima nijihan desu

2. What time is it now?

いま なんじ ですか。

ima nanji desu ka
