

Unit 4

Grammar notes — answers

Telling the time, from and until

CONTENTS

UNIT 4 · PART 1	Telling the time ～じ～ふん ・ なんじ	2
UNIT 4 · PART 2	From ... until ... ～から ～まで	5

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
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the time

now いま ima	half past two にじはん nijihan	(polite) です desu
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It is half past two.

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

いま ima	what time なんじ nanji	(question) ? ですか desu ka
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What time is it now?

2 Build the piece number → 〜じ

Do each one the same way as the example. Write your answer on the line.

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

From ... until ...

～から ～まで

By the end of this part, you can:

- ☐ Say when something starts and ends (～から ～まで)
- ☐ Ask what time something starts (なんじ から ですか)
- ☐ Put から and まで after the time, not before

A conversation you can have in Japanese

You What time is your work?
 Tanaka From nine to five.
 You And Japanese?
 Tanaka From seven. Until eight.

GRAMMAR 1

From ... until ...

から is “from” and まで is “until”. Both go after the time they belong to — くじ から, ごじ まで — the opposite of English. Either one can stand on its own: ごじ までです.

1 See how it works

PATTERN

とき toki	from から kara	とき toki	until まで made
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from [time] until [time]

work しごと shigoto	(topic) は wa	nine くじ kuji	from から kara	five ごじ goji	until まで made	(polite) です desu
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Work is from nine to five.

Japanese にほんご nihongo	は wa	what time なんじ nanji	from から kara	(question) ? ですか desu ka
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What time does Japanese start?

2 Build the piece time + から / まで

Do each one the same way as the example. Write your answer on the line.

e.g.	くじ kuji nine o'clock	→	くじ から kuji kara from nine
1.	ごじ goji five o'clock	→	ごじ まで goji made until five
2.	いま ima now	→	いま から ima kara from now
3.	なんじ nanji what time	→	なんじ まで nanji made until what time

3 Say it in Japanese

1. It is until half past two.

にじはん まで です。
nijihan made desu

2. Work is from 9 a.m.

しごとは ごぜん くじ から です。
shigoto wa gozen kuji kara desu

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1 From ... until ...
とき から とき まで
しごとは くじ から ごじ まで です
shigoto wa kuji kara goji made desu
Work is from nine to five.

Drills

1. しごとは くじ _____ ごじ まで です。
shigoto wa kuji goji made desu

から

2. ごご いちじ から にじ _____ です。
gogo ichiji kara niji desu

まで

3. にほんご は なんじ _____ ですか。
nihongo wa nanji desu ka

から

1. My work is from nine to five.

しごとは くじ から ごじ まで です。
shigoto wa kuji kara goji made desu

2. Japanese is from four to five.

にほんご は よじ から ごじ まで です。

nihongo wa yoji kara goji made desu
