Chapter 1

Grammar notes

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

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Saying what something is

X は Y です

Date _____

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** → わたし は **noun** です

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

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

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Mr. Tanaka is a teacher.

2. I am a student.

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

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

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

1. I am a student.

2. Mr. Tanaka is a teacher.

3. Nina is an international student.

UNIT 1 · PART 2

Asking questions

～ですか

Date _____

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

Mr. Tanaka is an office worker.

		↓	↓
			(question) ?
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?

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

What do you do?

2 Build the piece です → ですか

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

e.g.
たなかさん は かいしゃいん です → たなかさん は かいしゃいん ですか
tanakasan wa kaishain desu → tanakasan wa kaishain desu ka
Mr. Tanaka is an office worker. → Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?

1.
すずきさん は せんせい です →
suzukisan wa sensei desu →
Ms. Suzuki is a teacher. → Is Ms. Suzuki a teacher?

2.
たなかさん は にほんじん です →
tanakasan wa nihonjin desu →
Mr. Tanaka is Japanese. → Is Mr. Tanaka Japanese?

3.
すずきさん は いしゃ です →
suzukisan wa isha desu →
Ms. Suzuki is a doctor. → Is Ms. Suzuki a doctor?

4.
たなかさん は がくせい です →
tanakasan wa gakusei desu →
Mr. Tanaka is a student. → Is Mr. Tanaka a student?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Are you an engineer?

2. What is your job?

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

2. しごと は _____ ですか。
shigoto wa desu ka

3. なまえ は _____ ですか。
namae wa desu ka

1. Is Mr. Tanaka an office worker?

2. What do you do?

3. What is your name?

This, that, over there

これ・それ・あれ

Date _____

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

this / that / that over there

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

This is a book.

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

That is a notebook.

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

That over there is a watch.

2 Build the piece これ → この + noun

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

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	→	_____ it is that book
2.	あれ です are desu it is that one over there	→	_____ it is that watch
3.	どれ ですか dore desu ka which one is it?	→	_____ which pen is it?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Is this a pen?

2. What is that?

3. Where is the company?

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

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

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

1. This is a book.

2. What is that?

3. Where is the company?

Also

も

Date _____

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

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

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

3 Say it in Japanese

1. This is a book too.

2. Is Mr. Tanaka Japanese too?

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

2. これ _____ ノート です。
kore nooto desu

3. あれ _____ とけい ですか。
are tokei desu ka

1. I am an office worker too.

2. Is Mr. Tanaka Japanese too?

Saying what it is not

じゃありません

Date _____

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 ja	ありません ari masen

It is not ~.

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

This is a notebook.

↓ is not

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

This is not a notebook.

2 Build the piece です → じゃ ありません

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

e.g.
これ は ほん です
kore wa hon desu
This is a book.
→
これ は ほん じゃ ありません
kore wa hon ja ari masen
This is not a book.

1.
たなかさん は がくせい です
tanakasan wa gakusei desu
Mr. Tanaka is a student.
→
Mr. Tanaka is not a student.

2.
それ は とけい です
sore wa tokei desu
That is a watch.
→
That is not a watch.

3.
わたし は にほんじん です
watashi wa nihonjin desu
I am Japanese.
→
I am not Japanese.

3 Say it in Japanese

1. I am not a teacher.

2. That is not a watch.

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

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

3. あれ は とけい _____ 。
are wa tokei

1. This is not a notebook.

2. I am not a student.

Joining nouns with の

の

Date _____

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	(of) の no	B

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	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	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

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

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

3 Say it in Japanese

1. This is my company.

2. My father is a doctor.

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

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

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

1. It is my bag.

2. She is a teacher of Japanese.

3. This is my company.

UNIT 3 · PART 2

Whose is it?

だれの

Date _____

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

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

e.g.	わたし の かばん です watashi no kaban desu 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	→	it is Mr. Tanaka's
2.	ちち の とけい です chichi no tokei desu it is my father's watch	→	it is my father's
3.	だれ の ペン ですか dare no pen desu ka whose pen is it?	→	whose is it?

3 Say it in Japanese

1. Whose watch is this?

2. It is my older brother's.

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

2. それ は わたし _____ です。
   sore wa watashi desu

3. この ペン は たなかさん _____ です。
   kono pen wa tanakasan desu

1. Whose bag is this?

2. That one is mine.

3. It is my father's.

Softening and asserting

～ね ・ ～よ

Date _____

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. Leaving both off is neutral, not rude — and よ on every sentence starts to sound pushy.

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

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

e.g.	わたし の です watashi no desu 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	→	...isn't it
2.	あそこ です asoko desu it is over there	→	it is over there, you know
3.	にほんじん です nihonjin desu is Japanese	→	is Japanese, isn't it

3 Say it in Japanese

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

2. This one is mine, you know.

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

2. かいしゃ は あそこ です _____ 。
kaisha wa asoko desu

3. あれ は わたし の かばん です _____ 。
are wa watashi no kaban desu

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

2. The company is over there, you know.

Telling the time

～じ～ふん ・ なんじ

Date _____

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	じ	すうじ	ふん
suuji	ji	suuji	fun

the time

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

It is half past two.

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

It is nine a.m.

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

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	→	four o'clock
2.	しち shichi seven	→	seven o'clock
3.	きゅう kyuu nine	→	nine o'clock
4.	なん nan what	→	what time

3 Say it in Japanese

1. It is one o'clock now.

2. What time is your work?

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

2. いま _____ ですか。
   ima desu ka

3. ごぜん いちじ _____ 。
   gozen ichiji

1. It is half past two now.

2. What time is it now?

From … until …

～から ～まで

Date _____

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	from から	とき	until まで
toki	kara	toki	made

from [time] until [time]

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

Work is from nine to five.

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

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	→	until five
2.	いま ima now	→	from now
3.	なんじ nanji what time	→	until what time

3 Say it in Japanese

1. It is until half past two.

2. Work is from 9 a.m.

SUMMARY — this part at a glance

Grammar 1

From ... until ...

<u>とき</u> から <u>とき</u> 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

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

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

1. My work is from nine to five.

2. Japanese is from four to five.
