Unit 1

Grammar notes

Introducing yourself

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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
tanakasan wa kaishain desu
Mr. Tanaka is an office worker.
→ 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?

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?