

## LESSON NOTES

# Particles #11

## What Do Football, Baseball, and the Japanese Particle Wa Have in Common?

---

### CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar

# 11

## KANJI

1. 佐藤（夫）：                    へー。田中さんはフットサルをするんですか。
2. 田中明：                        ええ。練習は大変ですが、試合は楽しいです。  
今度、練習に来ませんか。
3. 佐藤（夫）：                    うーん。野球は得意ですが、サッカーはちょっと・・・。

## KANA

1. さとう（おっと）：   へー。たなかさんはフットサルをするんですか。
2. たなかあきら：        ええ。れんしゅうはたいへんですが、しあいのはたのしいです。  
こんど、れんしゅうにきませんか。
3. さとう（おっと）：   うーん。やきゅうはとくいですが、サッカーはちょっと・・・。

## ROMANIZATION

1. SATŌ(OTTO):            Hē. Tanaka-san wa futtosaru o surundesu ka.
2. TANAKA AKIRA:        Ee. renshū wa taihen desu ga, shiai wa tanoshii desu.  
Kondo, renshū ni kimasen ka.
3. SATŌ(OTTO):            Ūn. Yakyū wa tokui desu ga, sakkā wa chotto...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. MR. SATO: Wow, so do you play soccer, Mr. Tanaka?
2. AKIRA TANAKA: Yes, I do. Practice is tough, but the games are a lot of fun. Would you like to come to our next practice session?
3. MR. SATO: Well, I'm good at baseball, but not at soccer...

## VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana  | Romaji    | English  |
|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| フットサル | フットサル | futtosaru | futsal   |
| 得意    | とくい   | tokui     | forte, strong point, be good at; Adj(na)       |
| 野球    | やきゅう  | yakyū     | baseball                                       |
| 来る    | くる    | kuru      | to come; V3                                    |
| 今度    | こんど   | kondo     | next time, another time                        |
| 楽しい   | たのしい  | tanoshii  | fun;Adj (i)                                    |
| 試合    | しあい   | shiai     | game, match                                    |
| 大変    | たいへん  | taihen    | serious, terrible, tough, in trouble; Adj (na) |
| 練習    | れんしゅう | renshū    | practice                                       |
| サッカー  | サッカー  | sakkā     | soccer, football                               |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>毎週月曜日、フットサルをします。<br/> <i>Maishū getsu-yōbi futtosaru o shimasu.</i></p> <p>I play futsal every Monday.</p> | <p>私はピアノが得意です。<br/> <i>Watashi wa piano ga tokui desu.</i></p> <p>I'm good at the piano.</p> |
|---|--|

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>高校生の野球大会である「甲子園」は有名な大会です。</p> <p><i>ōkōsei no yakyū taikai dearu ""kōshien"" wa yūmei na taikai desu.</i></p> <p>A famous baseball event is the "Koshien", which is a high school baseball tournament held each summer.</p> | <p>選手達が野球をしている。</p> <p><i>Senshu-tachi ga yakyū o shite iru.</i></p> <p>The players are playing baseball.</p>   |
| <p>野球選手たちは、子供と素晴らしいひとときを過ごしました。</p> <p><i>Yakyū senshu-tachi wa kodomo to subarashii hitotoki o sugoshimashita.</i></p> <p>The baseball players had a wonderful time with the children.</p>                                    | <p>次の電車は何時に来ますか。</p> <p><i>Tsugi no densha wa nan-ji ni kimasu ka.</i></p> <p>What time does the next train come?</p>   |
| <p>じゃ、また今度。</p> <p><i>Ja, mata kondo.</i></p> <p>See you next time!</p>  | <p>楽しかったです。</p> <p><i>Tanoshikatta desu.</i></p> <p>It was fun.</p>   |
| <p>試合は8時からです。</p> <p><i>Shiai wa hachi-ji kara desu.</i></p> <p>The game starts at 8 o'clock.</p>  | <p>大変な一日だった。</p> <p><i>Taihen na ichinichi datta.</i></p> <p>It was a rough day.</p>  |
| <p>ピアノの練習が大嫌いでした。</p> <p><i>Piano no renshū ga daikirai deshita.</i></p> <p>I hated piano practice.</p>  | <p>1999年以降、日本のサッカーはJ-1 とJ-2 のふたつのリーグがあります。</p> <p><i>sen kyūhyaku kyūjū kyūnen ikō, nihon no sakkā wa jeiwan to jeitsū no futatsu no rīgu ga arimasu.</i></p> <p>Since 1999, the Japanese soccer league has had two divisions: J-1 and J-2.</p> |
| <p>サッカーが苦手です。</p> <p><i>Sakkā ga nigate desu.</i></p> <p>I'm bad at playing soccer.</p>  |   |

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Usage of the Particle *Wa*.**

練習は大変ですが、試合は楽しいです。  
*Renshū wa taihen desu ga, shiai wa tanoshii desu.*  
"Practice is tough, but the games are a lot of fun."

In this lesson, you'll learn more about the particle *wa*.

## Topic Marking Particle は [ *wa* ]

As you learned in Lesson 1, the particle *wa* marks the topic of a sentence. Because of this, we often call *wa* the topic marking particle, and we can translate it as "as for X," or "speaking of X," in English.

わたしはスペイン人です。  
*Watashi wa supein-jin desu.*  
"I'm Spanish."

In Lesson 9, you also learned that the particle *wa* never marks WH-words such as *nani* ("what") and *dare* ("who").

### Who is going to the party?

→ ○ **誰が**パーティーに行きますか。

*Dare ga pātī ni ikimasu ka.*

→ × **誰は**パーティーに行きますか。

*Dare wa pātī ni ikimasu ka.*

## Contrastive Marker ...は...は [ *...wa...wa* ]

We also use the particle *wa* to show contrast between two items or ideas. When we use it in this way, we mark the two items being contrasted with *wa*.

Here's how to show contrast using *wa*. When focusing on the object of the sentence to show contrast, replace *o* or *ga* with *wa*. In English, we often show this same kind of contrast through intonation (Note the use of words in bold letters in the examples below).

| Form | Japanese   | "English"     |
|------|--|---------------|
| 1    | (わたしは) 魚を食べます。<br><i>(Watashi wa) sakana o tabemasu.</i> | "I eat fish." |

|     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 2   | (わたしは) 肉を食べませ<br>ん。<br>( <i>Watashi wa</i> ) <i>niku o</i><br><i>tabemasen.</i>   | "I don't eat meat."                                    |
| 1+2 | (わたしは) 魚は食べま<br>す。でも肉は食べませ<br>ん。<br>( <i>Watashi wa</i> ) <i>sakana wa</i><br><i>tabemasu. Demo, niku wa</i><br><i>tabemasen.</i> | "I eat <b>fish</b> , but I don't eat<br><b>meat</b> ." |

| Form | Japanese   | "English"   |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | (わたしは) 時間がありま<br>す。<br>( <i>Watashi wa</i> ) <i>jikan ga</i><br><i>arimasu.</i>  | "I have time."  |
| 2    | (わたしは) お金がありま<br>せん。<br>( <i>Watashi wa</i> ) <i>o-kane ga</i><br><i>arimasen.</i>   | "I don't have money."                                     |
| 1+2  | (わたしは) 時間はありま<br>す。でも、お金はありませ<br>ん。<br>( <i>Watashi wa</i> ) <i>jikan wa</i><br><i>arimasu. Demo o-kane wa</i><br><i>arimasen.</i> | "I have <b>time</b> , but I don't<br>have <b>money</b> ." |

Sometimes, only one item or idea is marked by *wa* and mentioned in the sentence. In that case, the speaker is trying to imply something. Compare the following two sentences:

- (わたしは)犬が好きです。  
(*Watashi wa*) *inu ga suki desu.*
- (わたしは)犬は好きです。  
(*Watashi wa*) *inu wa suki desu.*

Both sentences mean "I like dogs." Sentence 1 simply states that the speaker likes dogs. Sentence 2, on the other hand, implies that the speaker likes dogs but also that there is something that the speaker doesn't like in contrast ("I like dogs, as opposed to [something else]").

## Contrastive Marker は [ wa ]

---

Sometimes, it's not clear whether the particle *wa* marks the topic or shows contrast. Here are the general rules for *wa* showing contrast.

### Stress

When we use *wa* as a contrastive marker, we sometimes stress the ...*wa* part. We also do this in English (Note the words in bold letters below).

- 「私は」虫が好きです。  
*WATASHI WA mushi ga suki desu.*  
"(I don't about you or anyone else, but) **I** like insects."
- 「あの映画は」良かったです。  
*ANO EIGA WA yokatta desu.*  
"(I don't know about other movies, but) **That** movie was good."

### Two or More Wa Particles in One Sentence

When more than one *wa* appears in one sentence, the first *wa* usually indicates the topic and we use the rest to show contrast.

- 私は英語はわかります。  
*Watashi wa eigo wa wakarimasu.*  
"I understand English."
- 僕は今日はお酒は飲まない。  
*Boku wa kyō wa osake wa nomanai.*  
"I won't drink alcohol today."

### Wa with Other Particles

As we learned above, when showing contrast, we replace the particles *ga* and *o* with *wa*.

- 英語は勉強しました。でも、数学は勉強しませんでした。  
*Eigo wa benkyō shimashita. Demo sūgaku wa benkyō shimasen deshita.*  
"I studied English, but I didn't study math."

For showing the contrast in location, there are two ways to do so.

One: Replace *e* or *ni* with *wa*

Two: Add *wa* to *e* or *ni*

- マドリッド(へ)は行きます。でもバルセロナ(へ)は行きません。  
*Madrid (e) wa ikimasu. Demo Baruserona (e) wa ikimasen.*  
"I'm going to Madrid, but I'm not going to Barcelona."

When showing contrast with other particles such as *ni* (indicating time), add *wa* to *ni*, *de*, *kara*, or *made*.

- 10時には起きられません。でも11時には起きられます。  
*Jū-ji ni wa okiraremasen. Demo, jūichi-ji ni wa okiraremasu.*  
"I can't get up at ten, but I can get up at eleven."

### Particle [ *ga* ], Meaning "but"

When we use the particle *ga* between two clauses or at the end of sentences, it usually means "but."

- アニメは好きですが、カートゥーンは好きじゃありません。  
*Anime wa suki desu ga, kātūn wa suki ja arimasen.*  
"I like anime, but I don't like cartoons."
- すみませんが、手伝ってください。  
*Sumimasen ga, tetsudatte kudasai.*  
"Excuse me; could you give me a hand?"

You'll learn more about double particles in Lesson 12.

### Reference

---

は [ *wa* ] topic marker, see Lesson 1

を [ *o* ] object marker, see Lesson 2

に [ *ni* ] movement toward a place, purpose of the movement, see Lesson 5

### Practice

---

Fill in the blanks with *wa*, *o* or *ga*.

1. 誰 ( ) 言いましたか。  
*Dare () iimashita ka.*  
"Who said that?"
2. わたし ( ) スペイン語 ( ) 勉強しています。  
*Watashi () Supein-go () benkyō shiteimasu.*  
"I study Spanish." (General statement)
3. 日本語はわかります。でも英語 ( ) わかりません。  
*Nihon-go wa wakarimasu. Demo Eigo () wakarimasen.*  
"I can understand Japanese, but I can't understand English."
4. わたしはお茶は好きです ( )、コーヒーはちょっと。  
*Watashi wa o-cha wa suki desu (), kōhī wa chotto...*  
"I like tea, but I don't like coffee very much."
5. スノーボード ( ) 好きです。  
*Sunōbōdo () suki desu.*  
"I like snowboarding." (General statement)
6. 京都へ ( ) 行きました。でも大阪へ ( ) 行きませんでした。  
*Kyōto e () ikimashita. Demo Ōsaka e () ikimasen deshita.*  
"I went to Kyoto, but I didn't go to Osaka."

Answer:

1) ga, 2) wa, o, 3) wa, 4) ga, 5) ga, 6) wa, wa