

LESSON NOTES

Particles #14

Casually Speaking, Have Some Fun with Japanese Particles, No, Na, Kana, and Jan!

CONTENTS

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

14

KANJI

1. 田中(妻) : 無事だったの？よかったじゃん。
2. 田中明: そうだなあ。
3. 田中(妻) : 勉強のストレス かな。
4. 田中明: そうだろうなあ。
「勉強しろ」「テレビみるな」「マンガ読むな」「友だちと遊ぶな」。。。
毎日 毎日 勉強だけ。。。ま、かわいそうだよな。
5. 田中(妻) : お母さんも 反省したかな？
6. 田中明: どうだろうね。

KANA

1. たなか(つま) : ぶじだったの？よかったじゃん。
2. たなかあきら: そうだなあ。
3. たなか(つま) : べんきょうのストレスかな。
4. たなかあきら: そうだろうなあ。
「べんきょうしろ」「テレビみるな」「マンガよむな」「ともだちとあそぶな」。。。
まいにち まいにち べんきょうだけ。。。ま、かわいそうだよな。
5. たなか(つま) : おかあさんも はんせいしたかな？

CONT'D OVER

6. たなかあきら: どうだろうね。

ROMANIZATION

1. TANAKA(TSUMA): Buji datta no? Yokatta jan.
2. TANAKA AKIRA: Sō da nā.
3. TANAKA(TSUMA): Benkyō no sutoresu ka na.
4. TANAKA AKIRA: Sō darō nā.
"Benkyō shiro" "Terebi miruna" "Manga yomu na" "Tomodachi to asobu na"..
Mainichi mainichi benkyō dake... Ma, kawaiō da yo na.
5. TANAKA(TSUMA): O-kā-san mo hansei shita kana?
6. TANAKA AKIRA: Dō darō ne.

ENGLISH

1. TANAKA'S WIFE: He was found safe? That's great.
2. AKIRA TANAKA: Yeah.
3. TANAKA'S WIFE: I wonder if it was stress from studying?
4. AKIRA TANAKA: Probably.
"Study more!" "Don't watch TV!" "Don't read manga!" "Don't play with your friends!"
It was just study, study every day. Well, I feel sorry for him.

CONT'D OVER

5. TANAKA'S WIFE: I wonder if the mother is regretting it.
6. AKIRA TANAKA: It's hard to say.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
無事	ぶじ	buji	safe, safely
反省する	はんせいする	hansei suru	to regret or reflect on what one has done
かわいそう	かわいそう	kawaisō	poor, pitiful; Adj(na)
だけ	だけ	dake	only, just
毎日	まいにち	mainichi	every day
遊ぶ	あそぶ	asobu	to play, to hang out; V1
友だち	ともだち	tomodachi	friend
読む	よむ	yomu	to read; V1
マンガ	マンガ	manga	comic, manga
テレビ	テレビ	terebi	TV
勉強	べんきょう	benkyō	study
ストレス	ストレス	sutoresu	stress
お母さん	おかあさん	o-kā-san	mother

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>無事にうちに帰った。 <i>Buji ni uchi ni kaetta.</i></p> <p>I got home safely.</p>	<p>反省しなさい。 <i>Hansei shinasai.</i></p> <p>You should reflect on what you did.</p>
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<p>かわいそうですね。 <i>Kawaisō desu ne.</i></p> <p>That's a pity, isn't it?</p>	<p>10円だけ、かしてください。 <i>Jū-en dake, kashite kudasai.</i></p> <p>Could you lend me just 10 yen?</p>
<p>毎日、スターバックスでコーヒーを買う。 <i>Mainichi, Sutābakkusu de kōhī o kau.</i></p> <p>I buy coffee at Starbucks everyday.</p>	<p>今週の日曜日、遊ばない？ <i>Konshū no nichī-yōbi, asobanai?</i></p> <p>Do you want to hang out this Sunday?</p>
<p>友だちがいますか。 <i>Tomodachi ga imasu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you have friends?</p>	<p>どんな本を読みますか。 <i>Donna hon o yomimasu ka.</i></p> <p>What kind of books do you read?</p>
<p>毎月、マンガ本を買う。 <i>Maitsuki manga-bon o kau.</i></p> <p>I buy a comic book every month.</p>	<p>テレビはどこですか。 <i>Terebi wa doko desu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the TV?</p>
<p>勉強が大好きです。 <i>Benkyō ga daisuki desu.</i></p> <p>I love studying.</p>	<p>ストレスを感じますか。 <i>Sutoresu o kanjimasu ka?</i></p> <p>Do you feel stressed out?</p>
<p>お母さんはお元気ですか。 <i>O-kā-san wa o-genki desu ka.</i></p> <p>How's your mother?</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Sentence-ending Particles.

よかったじゃん。
Yokatta jan.
"That's great."

In the previous lesson, we learned about some particles that attach to the end of a sentence to indicate the speaker's feelings and tone. In this lesson, you'll learn more sentence-ending particles such as *no*, *na*, *kana*, and *jan*.

の (no)

As you learned in Lesson 4, when we use *no* as a sentence-ending particle, it indicates a colloquial question. When we use *no* in that way, we say this *no* with rising intonation. When we say *no* with falling intonation, it serves to soften the statement. Women and children usually employ this second usage.

Colloquial Question

The sentence-ending particle *no* said with rising intonation indicates a colloquial question.

For Example:

1. 今日、何するの。(↑)
Kyō nani suru no?
"What are you going to do today?"

Softening the Statement

The sentence-ending particle *no* said with falling intonation softens the statement. Women and children usually use *no* in this way.

1. 学校に行くの。(↓)
Gakkō iku no.
"I'm going to go to school."

な (na)

The particle *na* indicates emotion, softens the speaker's assertion, or and also asks for agreement in informal speech. It can also follow the dictionary form of a verb to express a negative imperative or prohibition.

Softening the Speaker's Feeling or Assertion

Male speakers often use this *na*. Speakers often prolong the final vowel, *a*, and pronounce this word as *nā*.

For Example:

1. この車は高いなあ。
Kono kuruma wa takai nā.
"What an expensive car it is!"

2. そうだなあ。
Sō da nā.
"Right..."

Seeking Agreement from the Listener

In this usage, the speaker does not prolong the final vowel. Male speakers usually use this *na*.

For Example:

1. 今日は寒いな。
Kyō wa samui na.
"It's cold today, isn't it?"
2. 明日は日曜日だな。
Ashita wa nichiyōbi da na.
"It's Sunday tomorrow, right?"

Expressing a Negative Imperative

We use the structure [dictionary form of a verb] + *na* to express an informal negative imperative. In other words, it is a very strong command saying not do to something. It's equivalent to "Don't..." in English.

For Example:

1. 話すな。
Hanasu na.
"Don't speak."
2. 来るな。
Kuru na.
"Don't come."

かな (*ka na*)

The particle *kana* expresses the speaker's uncertainty about something. We use it as a question to oneself or as a request to the listener. It's equivalent to "I wonder..." in English. Speakers sometimes prolong the last vowel, *a*, as in *kanā*.

For Example:

1. 会議は3時からかな。
Kaigi wa san-ji kara kana.
"I wonder whether the meeting is at three."
2. どうしてかな。
Dō shite kana.
"I wonder why."
3. 明日会社に来られるかな。
Ashita kaisha ni korareru kana?
"I'm wondering whether you can come to work tomorrow."

じゃん (*jan*)

Jan is the contracted form of *janai*, which means "isn't it." People in a comparatively young generation use this particle to confirm or to criticize something in an informal way.

For Example:

1. いいじゃん。
Ii jan.
"That's good, isn't it!"
2. 昨日、言ったじゃん。
Kinō itta jan.
"I told you yesterday! (Didn't I?!)"

Reference

の (*no*) indicates a colloquial question ⇒ Lesson 4

も (*mo*) means "too" or "also" ⇒ Lesson 1

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the particles *no*, *na*, *kana*, or *jan*. Do not use the same particle twice.

1. 言った () 。
Itta ().
"I told you, didn't I?"
2. 行く () 。
Iku ().
"Don't go!"
3. 明日、学校に行く () 。
Ashita gakkō ni iku ().
"Are you going to go to school tomorrow?"
4. 明日、雨 () 。
Ashita, ame ().
"I wonder whether it's going to rain tomorrow..."

Answer:

1) jan, 2) na, 3) no, 4) kana