

LESSON NOTES

Particles #1

Coincidence Times Two, Japanese Particles Wa, No, and Mo

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KANJI

1. けい子: こんにちは。わたしは、佐藤けい子です。
2. どうぞよろしく お願いします。
3. 明: けい子さん？（笑）妻の名前もけい子です。
4. あ、僕は田中明です。
5. けい子: それは、偶然！私の主人も明です。

KANA

1. けいこ: こんにちは。わたしは、さとう けいこです。
2. どうぞよろしく おねがいします。
3. あきら: けいこさん？(わらい) つまの なまえも けいこです。
4. あ、ぼくは たなか あきらです。
5. けいこ: それは、 ぐうぜん！わたしの しゅじん も あきらです。

ROMANIZATION

1. KEIKO: Kon'nichiwa. Watashi wa, Satō Keiko desu.
2. Dōzo yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
3. AKIRA: Keiko-san? (warai) Tsuma no namae mo Keiko desu.

CONT'D OVER

4. A, boku wa Tanaka Akira desu.
5. KEIKO: Sore wa, gūzen! Watashi no shujin mo Akira desu.

ENGLISH

1. KEIKO: Hello! I'm Keiko Sato.
2. Nice to meet you.
3. AKIRA: Keiko? (laughs) My wife's name is also Keiko.
4. Oh, I'm Akira Tanaka.
5. KEIKO: What a coincidence! My husband is also named Akira.

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
こんにちは。	こんにちは。	Kon'nichi wa.	Hello.
私	わたし	watashi	I, me
どうぞ	どうぞ	dōzo	please
妻	つま	tsuma	one's wife (humble)
よろしくお願ひしま す	よろしくおねがいし ます	yoroshiku onegai shimasu	Nice to meet you
僕	ぼく	boku	I, me (used by males)
名前	なまえ	namae	name
偶然	ぐうぜん	gūzen	coincidence, by chance

主人

しゅじん

shujin

one's husband

SAMPLE SENTENCES

こんにちは。はじめまして。 <i>Kon'nichiwa. Hajimemashite.</i> Hello. Nice to meet you.	私は、田中です。 <i>Watashi wa, Tanaka desu.</i> I'm Tanaka.
太郎の母です。どうぞよろしく。 <i>Taro no haha desu. Dōzo yoroshiku.</i> I'm Taro's mother. Nice to meet you.	僕の妻はフランス人です。 <i>Boku no tsuma wa furansu jin desu.</i> My wife is French.
田中太郎です。よろしくおねがいします。 <i>Tanaka Tarō desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.</i> I'm Taro Tanaka. It's a pleasure to meet you.	ぼくは、プロボクサーです。 <i>Boku wa, puro bokusā desu.</i> I'm a professional boxer.
私の名前はサトシです。 <i>Watashi no namae wa Satoshi desu.</i> My name is Satoshi.	うわ～。偶然！ <i>Uwā. Gūzen!</i> What a coincidence!
私の主人は社長です。 <i>Watashi no shujin wa shachō desu.</i> My husband is a company president.	

GRAMMAR

In This Lesson, We'll Look at Three Different Particles: は, の, も

わたしは、佐藤けい子です。
Watashi wa, Satō Keiko desu.
"I'm Keiko Satō"

In this lesson, you'll learn a particle that marks the topic of the sentence, a particle that expresses possession, and a particle that means "also" or "too."

What's a Particle?

In Japanese, there is a group of words which are called "particles," or *joshi* (助詞), which literally means "helping word." We identify the subject, object, topic, and so on of a sentence by looking at the particles following them. The role that particles play in Japanese is somehow similar to that of prepositions or conjunctions in English. However, please note that Japanese particles always come after the word they mark, as opposed to English prepositions which come before the word. One advantage of particles, though, is that as long as the particles are in the right place, the order of the sentence does not matter as much as in other languages.

Wa: Particle Used to Mark the Topic

● *wa* (は): "as for..."

We often refer to the particle *wa* as the "topic marking particle" because *wa* comes after the topic of the sentence and tells the listener what the sentence is about. We can translate this *wa* as "as for..." or "speaking of..." in English.

We write it as は ("ha") in hiragana, but the pronunciation is *wa*. Make sure to pronounce は as *wa* and not *ha* (this applies only when it is used as a particle).

Examples:

1. わたしは、カナダ人です。
Watashi wa kanada-jin desu.
"I'm Canadian." Literally, "As for me, Canadian am."
2. 今日は、雨です。
Kyō wa ame desu.
"It's rainy today." Literally, "As for today, rainy is."

No: Particle Used to Express Possession

● *no* (の): "---'s" or "of"

The particle *no* usually appears between two nouns and indicates that the first noun possesses the second noun. When it is obvious what the first noun possesses, we can omit the second noun.

Examples:

1. これは、私のさいふです。
Kore wa watashi no saifu desu.
"This is my wallet."
2. これは、私のです。
Kore wa watashi no desu.
"This is mine."

Mo: Particle That Indicates "also" or "too"

● *mo* (も): "also" or "too"

When the particle *mo* replaces the particle *wa*, it means "also" or "too."

Examples:

1. わたしは、カナダ人です。ケントもカナダ人です。
Watashi wa kanada-jin desu. Kento mo Kanada-jin desu.
"I'm Canadian. Kent is **also** Canadian."
2. 今日は、雨です。明日も雨です。
Kyō wa ame desu. Ashita mo ame desu.
"It's rainy today. It will be rainy tomorrow **too**."
3. これは、私のさいふです。それも私のさいふです。
Kore wa watashi no saifu desu. Sore mo watashi no saifu desu.
"This is my wallet. That's **also** my wallet."
4. これは、私のです。それも私のです。
Kore wa watashi no desu. Sore mo watashi no desu.
"This is mine. That's **also** mine."

Konnichiwa.

Kon'nichiwa. (こんにちは。) "Hello."

The *wa* in *kon'nichiwa* is written は ("ha") and not わ ("wa"), because this *wa* was originally a particle, since this word used to be part of a full phrase. Since then, the rest of the phrase got dropped, and only the *kon'nichiwa* part became a greeting. For the same reason, spell *konbanwa*, meaning, "Good evening," as こんばんは.

Practice

Fill in the blanks with the particle, *wa*, *no*, or *mo*.

1. 私 () 日本人です。
Watashi () nihon-jin desu.
"I'm Japanese."
2. これは100円です。それ () 100円です。
Kore wa hyaku-en desu. Sore () hyaku-en desu.
"This is one hundred yen. That's also one hundred yen."
3. それは、わたし () です。
Sore wa watashi () desu.
"That's mine."
4. その車はケン () です。
Sono kuruma wa Ken () desu.
"That car is Ken's."
5. 私の名前 () ピーターです。
Watashi no namae () Pītā desu.
"My name is Peter."
6. 彼の名前 () ピーターです。
Kare no namae () Pītā desu.
"His name is also Peter."

Answer:

1) *wa*, 2) *mo*, 3) *no*, 4) *no*, 5) *wa*, 6) *mo*