

LESSON NOTES

Particles #20

The Japanese Particles Ga and No Are a Dream Come True!

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1. OTOKO: Anata ga otoshita kasa wa kono, gin no kasa desu ka. Soretomo, kono kin no kasa desu ka?
2. RŌJIN(ONNA): Chigaimasu.
Watashi no otoshita kasa wa, pinku no kasa desu.
3. OTOKO: Anata wa, shōjiki desu ne.
Dewa, anata ni, gin no kasa to kin no kasa o agemasu.
4. RŌJIN(ONNA): Ha... yume?

ENGLISH

1. MAN: Is the umbrella you lost, this silver one? Or is it this gold one?
2. OLD WOMAN: No.
The umbrella I lost was pink.
3. MAN: You're very honest, aren't you?
Well, I'll give you both the silver and gold umbrellas.
4. OLD WOMAN: Huh...it was a dream?

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
あなた	あなた	anata	you
落とす	おとす	otosu	to drop;V1
銀	ぎん	gin	silver
傘	かさ	kasa	umbrella
金	きん	kin	gold

違う	ちがう	chigau	to differ, to be different ; V1
あげる	あげる	ageru	to give ;V2
正直	しょうじき	shōjiki	honestly, honest;Adj (na)
夢	ゆめ	yume	dream

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>すみませんが、これは、あなたのですか。 <i>Sumimasen ga, kore wa anata no desu ka.</i></p> <p>Excuse me, but is this yours?</p>	<p>落としましたよ。 <i>Otochimashita yo.</i></p> <p>You dropped something.</p>
<p>銀のネックレスを買った。 <i>Gin no nekkuresu o katta.</i></p> <p>I bought a silver necklace.</p>	<p>あの傘をください。 <i>Ano kasa o kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please give me that umbrella.</p>
<p>金のネックレスが欲しいです。 <i>Kin no nekkuresu ga hoshii desu.</i></p> <p>I want a gold necklace.</p>	<p>それは、違います。 <i>Sore wa chigaimasu.</i></p> <p>That's not right.</p>
<p>彼女に時計をあげた。 <i>Kanojo ni tokei o ageta.</i></p> <p>I gave my girlfriend a watch.</p>	<p>ケンさんは、とても正直です。 <i>Ken-san wa totemo shōjiki desu.</i></p> <p>Ken is very honest.</p>
<p>悪い夢を見た。 <i>Warui yume o mita.</i></p> <p>I had a bad dream.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Particles in Relative Clauses.

私の落とした傘は、ピンクの傘です。

Watashi no otoshita kasa wa, pinku no kasa desu.
"The umbrella I lost was pink."

In this lesson, you'll learn the usage of particles *ga* and *no* in relative clauses.

What's a Relative Clause?

A relative clause provides additional information about a preceding noun or pronoun, such as "who saw you" in "He's the man who saw you" or "(that) I wrote" in "Here's the letter (that) I wrote." In English, a relative clause follows the noun it modifies, and we introduce this type of clause with a relative pronoun or adverb, such as "who," "which," "where," and so on. However, in Japanese, a relative clause precedes the noun it modifies and the noun is directly attached to the relative clause. (Japanese does not require us to use relative pronouns or adverbs.)

"English"		⇒	Japanese	
Noun	Relative clause	⇒	Relative Clause	Noun
"the person"	"who I met"	⇒	私が会った <i>Watashi ga atta</i>	人 <i>hito</i>
"the person"	"who saw you"	⇒	あなたを見た <i>Anata o mita</i>	人 <i>hito</i>
"the letter"	"which I wrote"	⇒	私が書いた <i>Watashi ga kaita</i>	手紙 <i>tegami</i>

が (*ga*) in the Relative Clause

The particle *ga*, not *wa*, marks the topic or subject in the relative clause. Please compare the following two sentences.

1. 私は傘を落とした。
Watashi wa kasa o otoshita.
"I dropped/lost an umbrella."
⇒ *Wa* marks the subject of the sentence, *watashi*.
2. **私が落とした傘**
Watashi ga otoshita kasa
"The umbrella I lost"
⇒ *Ga* marks the subject of the phrase, *watashi*, because it's in the relative clause.

When you combine the following two sentences using a relative clause...

1. 私は車を買った。
Watashi wa kuruma o katta.
"I bought a car."
2. その車は安かった。
Sono kuruma wa yasukatta.
"That car is inexpensive."

you end up with...

私買った車は、安かった。
Watashi ga katta kuruma wa, yasukatta.
"The car I bought was inexpensive."

の (*no*)

The particle *no* can replace *ga* and mark the subject in the clause that modifies the noun.

For Example:

1)

わたしは本を読んだ *Watashi wa hon o yonda*
"I read the book."

+

その本は難しかった *Sono hon wa muzukashikatta*
"That book was difficult."

↓ ↓ ↓

わたしが読んだ本は難しかった。 *Watashi ga yonda hon wa muzukashikatta.*

わたしの読んだ本は難しかった。 *Watashi no yonda hon wa muzukashikatta.*

"The book I read was difficult."

2)

わたしは会社で働いている *Watashi wa kaisha de hataraiteru.*
"I work for a company."

+

その会社は小さい *Sono kaisha wa chiisai.*
"That company is small."

↓ ↓ ↓

わたしが働いている会社は小さい。 *Watashi ga hataraiteru kaisha wa chiisai.*

わたしの働いている会社は小さい。 *Watashi no hataraiteru kaisha wa chiisai.*

"The company I work for is small."

Reference

か (*ka*) as a question marker ⇒ Lesson 4

の (*no*) ⇒ Lesson 3

は (*wa*) as a topic marker ⇒ Lesson 1

に (*ni*) indicates movement toward a place or purpose of the movement ⇒ Lesson 5

と (*to*) means "and" or "with" ⇒ Lesson 8

Practice

Please choose the best particle from the choices given.

1. わたし (と/は/を) かさを買った。
Watashi (to/wa/o) kasa o katta.
"I bought an umbrella."
2. わたし (が/は/を) 買った傘は安かった。
Watashi (ga/wa/o) katta kasa wa yasukatta.
"The umbrella I bought was inexpensive."
3. 昨日、ケンには映画 (が/を/の) みた。
Kinō Ken wa eiga (ga/o/no) mita.
"Ken saw a movie yesterday."
4. 昨日ケン (は/を/の) 見た映画は、面白くなかった。
Kinō Ken (wa/o/no) mita eiga wa, omoshirokunakatta.
"The movie that Ken saw yesterday wasn't interesting."
5. マリ (は/が/を) 会った人は、トムさんです。
Mari (wa/ga/o) atta hito wa Tomu-san desu.
"The person Mari met was Tom."
6. 私 (わ/の/を) 欲しいものは、お金です。
Watashi (wa/no/o) hoshii mono wa okane desu.
"The thing I want is money."

Answer:

- 1) は, wa 2) が, ga 3) を, o 4) の, no 5) が, ga 6) の, no