

LESSON NOTES

Japanese Counters for Beginners

#1

Hon

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
一本	いっぽん	i-ppon	one (long and thin) thing
二本	にほん	ni-hon	two (long and thin) things
三本	さんぽん	san-bon	three (long and thin) things
四本	よんほん	yon-hon	four (long and thin) things
五本	ごほん	go-hon	five (long and thin) things
六本	ろっぽん	ro-ppon	six (long and thin) things
七本	ななほん	nana-hon	seven (long and thin) things
八本	はっぽん、はちほん	ha-ppon, hachi-hon	eight (long and thin) things
九本	きゅうほん	kyū-hon	nine (long and thin) things
十本	じゅっぽん	ju-ppon	ten (long and thin) things
本	ほん	hon	counter for long and thin objects
膳	ぜん	zen	counter for a pair of chopsticks

SAMPLE SENTENCES

傘が二本あります。 <i>Kasa ga ni-hon arimasu.</i> There are two umbrellas.	ワインを三本買います。 <i>Wain o san-bon kaimasu.</i> I'll buy three bottles of wine.
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<p>ペンを五本ください。 <i>Pen o go-hon kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I have five pens, please?</p>	<p>キュウリを六本買いました。 <i>Kyūri o ro-ppon kaimashita.</i></p> <p>I bought six cucumbers.</p>
<p>地震で、電信柱が七本倒れました。 <i>Jishin de, denshinbashira ga nana-hon taoremashita.</i></p> <p>Because of the earthquake, seven telephone poles fell down.</p>	<p>木が八本あります。 <i>Ki ga ha-ppon arimasu.</i></p> <p>There are eight trees.</p>
<p>水を十本買いました。 <i>Mizu o ju-ppon kaimashita.</i></p> <p>I bought ten bottles of water.</p>	<p>チューリップが五本、咲きました。 <i>Chūrippu ga go-hon, sakimashita.</i></p> <p>Five tulips bloomed.</p>
<p>箸を二膳、ください。 <i>Hashi o nizen kudasai.</i></p> <p>Can I have two pairs of chopsticks, please?</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is 本 (*hon*), the counter for long and thin objects.

ワインを3本買います。
Wain o san-bon kaimasu.
"I'll buy 3 bottles of wine."

What are the examples of "long and thin" objects? Objects can be made of soft material, like cords and strings, or hard material, like pens and pencils. You can also count bigger objects such as trees and telephone poles.