

はじめに

本書は仮名学習を終えた学習者が初級文法を短期間で学ぶために作られました。独学の方でも分かりやすいように簡潔に書かれています。JLPT N5 の合格に必要な文法を網羅していますが、実用的なレベルに到るには、別の本と併用して使用することをお勧めします。

本書を学び終えたらなら、簡単な会話の文法はほぼマスターしたとも言えます。

毎日学習できるよう 2 ページの短いセクションに分かれており、1 ページが文法、もう 1 ページが練習問題になっています。ゆっくり学習しても数ヶ月で終わることができます。

iPhone 用の無料日本語学習アプリ「Coban」も本書と併用していただくとより効率よく学習できますので、是非ご利用ください。

Introduction.

This book is designed to help students who already know hiragana and katakana to learn essential Japanese grammar quickly. The explanations are simplified to make self-learning easy.

The book covers the grammar needed to pass the JLPT N5 but combining it with other materials or books will help you feel more comfortable speaking Japanese.

By the end of this book, you should have almost mastered the grammar used in many basic conversations.

The book is divided into short two-page sections, with one page for grammar and another for exercises. If you study a new concept every one or two days you should be able to finish the book in a couple of months.

You can also use the free Japanese learning app 'Coban' for iPhone to supplement your studies.



### Japanese Grammar : Coban

for learning Japanese

Free

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/japanese-grammar-coban/id1506009508>



This is an app for studying a combination of basic grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and kanji using different exercises and tools.

Audio files are available for all materials (exercises, words, etc.) so you can learn the correct pronunciation.

You will also become familiar with the more than 800 words needed to pass the JLPT N5.

The grammar tips cover basic and also more advanced concepts.

Your efforts are recorded on your profile page to motivate you to learn ever more Japanese.

## なに : what?

なに (nani) is an interrogative pronoun which means “what” .  
Before “d”, “t”, and “n” sounds, なに (nani) becomes なん (nan).

これは<sup>なん</sup>何ですか。

What is this?

それは<sup>なん</sup>何ですか。

What is that?

あれは<sup>なん</sup>何ですか。

What is that (over there)?

## Particle が

We have seen that the particle は (wa) indicates the subject of a sentence but the particle が (ga) also indicates it.

The particle は (wa) cannot be used with interrogative pronouns such as だれ (dare) who, なに (nani) what, どれ (dore) which one, etc. You need to use the particle が, and don't forget to repeat it to indicate the subject when answering.

A: <sup>だれ</sup>誰 <sup>が</sup> <sup>がくせい</sup>学生 ですか。

A: Who is the student?

A: <sup>なに</sup>何 <sup>が</sup> <sup>むずか</sup>難しい ですか。

A: What is difficult?

A: <sup>どれ</sup>どれ <sup>が</sup> <sup>おもしろ</sup>面白い ですか。

A: Which one is more interesting?

B: <sup>わたし</sup>私 <sup>が</sup> <sup>がくせい</sup>学生 です。

B: I am the student.

B: <sup>ぶんぽう</sup>文法 <sup>が</sup> <sup>むずか</sup>難しい です。

B: GRAMMAR is difficult.

B: <sup>これ</sup>これが <sup>おもしろ</sup>面白い です。

B: THIS is more interesting.

### - Note -

If the sentence doesn't start with a interrogative pronoun as its subject, you can use the particle は.

・ <sup>せんせい</sup>先生 <sup>は</sup> <sup>だれ</sup>誰 ですか。

・ Who is a teacher?

・ <sup>だれ</sup>誰 <sup>が</sup> <sup>せんせい</sup>先生 ですか。

・ Who is the teacher?

■ Complete the following sentences.

1. これは \_\_\_\_\_ ですか。  
What is this?
2. その食べ物<sup>た もの</sup>は \_\_\_\_\_ ですか。  
What is that food?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ が 難<sup>むずか</sup>しいですか。  
What is difficult?
4. あの建物<sup>たてもの</sup>は \_\_\_\_\_ ですか。  
What's that building over there?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 有<sup>ゆうめい</sup>名ですか。  
What is famous?
6. 誰<sup>だれ</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 先生<sup>せんせい</sup>ですか。  
Who is the teacher?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 面<sup>おもしろ</sup>白<sup>しろ</sup>いですか。  
Which one is interesting?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 安<sup>やす</sup>いですか。  
Which one is cheap?

■ Translate the following sentences into Japanese.

1. What is this?
2. What is difficult?
3. What is that (over there)?
4. Which is the teacher's book.
5. Which is Ken's house?
6. Which is the dictionary?
7. Which movie is interesting?

## Particle の

In general the particle の is placed between two nouns. You need to add the particle の (no) to the end of the added noun to indicate that it is a modifier. “Noun1 of Noun2” is expressed as “Noun2 の Noun1”. But this の can be used more widely than the English “of”. It also creates adjectives, indicates positions, and makes adjectives or pronouns possessive, etc.

### 1) Possession

わたし ほん  
私 の本です。  
It is my book.

たなか  
それは田中さんのペンです。  
It is Mr Tanaka's pen.

### 2) Location

とうきょう かいしゃ  
東京の会社です。  
It is a company in Tokyo.

### 3) Time

きょう しんぶん  
今日の新聞です。  
That is today's newspaper.

### 4) Nature, state

にほんご ほん  
日本語の本です。  
It is a Japanese book.

### 5) Material

き いす  
木の椅子です。  
It is a wooden chair (made of wood).

## Suffixes さん, ちゃん and くん

■ **さん** is typically used after a name, surname or some social title like “director” or “store manager”. It corresponds to “Mr.” and “Miss”.

■ **ちゃん** is typically used after girls' names, but is also used for small children (either sex).

■ **くん** is typically used after boys' names. It usually refers to someone you know very well, to others of the same age or younger, or in other kinds of informal conversation.

リョウ君はとても親切です。  
(My friend) Ryo is very kind.  
はな かわい おんな こ  
花ちゃんは可愛い女の子です。  
Hana (little girl) is a pretty girl.  
たなか にほんご せんせい  
田中さんは日本語の先生です。  
Mr. Tanaka is a Japanese teacher.

■ Complete the following sentences.

1. これは誰 <sup>だれ</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 辞書 <sup>じしょ</sup> です \_\_\_\_\_ 。  
Whose dictionary is it?
2. それ \_\_\_\_\_ 私 <sup>わたし</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ペンです。  
This is my pen.
3. 東京 <sup>とうきょう</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 会社 <sup>かいしゃ</sup> です。  
It is a company in Tokyo.
4. シン \_\_\_\_\_ は5才 <sup>さい</sup> です。  
Little Shin is 5 years old.
5. 田中 <sup>たなか</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ は会社 <sup>かいしゃ</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 社長 <sup>しゃちょう</sup> です。  
Mr. Tanaka is the president of the company.
6. ケン \_\_\_\_\_ はエンジニアです。  
My friend Ken is an engineer.
7. マリア \_\_\_\_\_ はアメリカ \_\_\_\_\_ 女 <sup>おんな</sup> の子 <sup>こ</sup> です。  
Little Maria is an American girl.

■ Translate the following sentences into Japanese.

1. Mr. Smith is an English teacher.
2. Whose umbrella is it?
3. Which are Miss Wan's shoes?
4. That is today's newspaper.
5. It is a Japanese book.

## Personal pronouns

I	わたし	We	わたしたち
You	あなた	You (plural)	あなたたち
He	かれ	They (me)	かれら
She	かのじょ	They (women)	かのじょたち

Personal pronouns are often omitted. The Japanese rarely use pronouns like “I”, “you”, “he”, and so on, and the distinction between the singular and plural is often not clearly indicated. “You” may be translated as **きみ** in Japanese, but it is used so infrequently that it may seem rude. Here only **あなた** is used to politely say “you”.

In real life, instead of pronouns, names are used. **あなた** is used only when you don't know the name of the person you are talking to.

### - Note -

In Japan **かれ** and **かのじょ** are not often used to say “he” and “she” because they are colloquial ways of saying “boyfriend” and “girlfriend”.

**この人** (this person), **その人** (that person), and **あの人** (that person) correspond to “he” and “she” in English. These are used to indicate people whom we don't know well and to whom we need to show respect.

・ **あの人は** 学生ですか。

・ Is **he** (she) a student?

・ **その人は** 学生ですか。

・ Is **the person you are talking about** a student?

わたし がくせい  
**私** は 学 生 です。

I am a student.

あなた がくせい  
**あなた** は 学 生 ですか。

Are **you** student?

わたしたち  
**私** 達 は エンジニア です。

We are engineers.

かれ にほんじん  
**彼** ら は 日 本 人 です。

They are Japanese.

■ Complete the following sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ は \_\_\_\_\_ です。  
I am a student.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ は日本人 \_\_\_\_\_。  
He is Japanese.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ エンジニアです。  
They are engineers.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 先生 \_\_\_\_\_ です。  
They (women) are professors.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ はアメリカ人 \_\_\_\_\_。  
We are not Americans.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ は誰 \_\_\_\_\_ です。  
Who is she?

■ Translate the following sentences into Japanese.

1. My name is Ken.
2. Are you Japanese?
3. We are students.
4. His father is a teacher.
5. Which are her shoes?
6. They are not Americans.