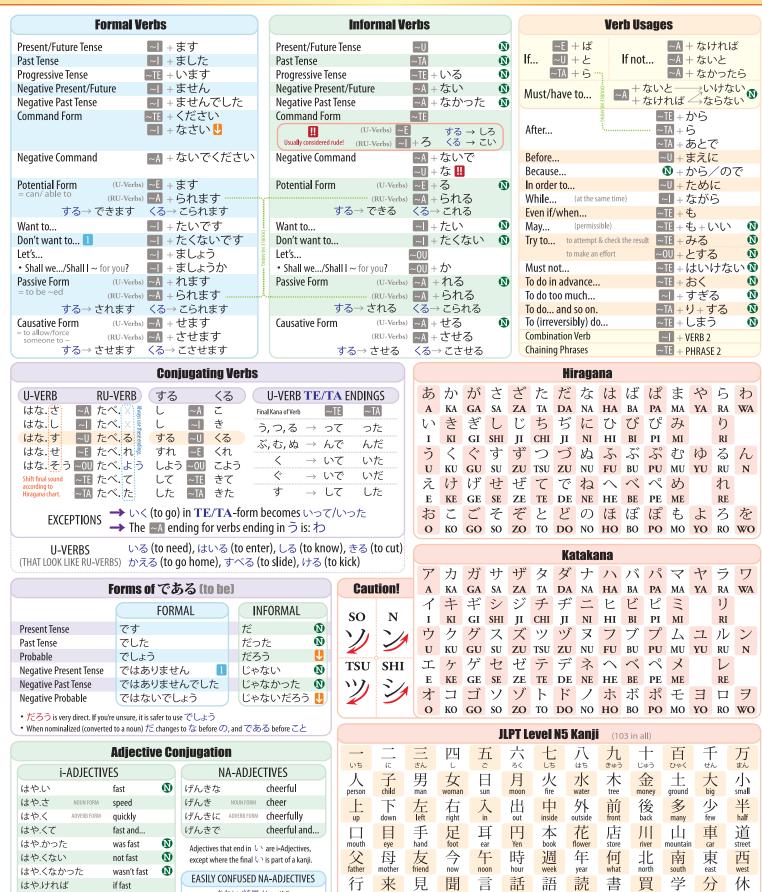
Basic Japanese





N : "Noun-able" form (a form that can be nominalized with $\angle \mathcal{E}$ or \mathcal{O})

• Drop な from NA-Adjectives if followed by a form of である

いい (good) always conjugates as よし

if not fast

too fast

Ø

• It is possible (but uncommon) to add さ to a NA-Adj. when useing it as a noun (ie. げんきさ)

はや.くなければ

はや.すぎる

station : Considered inappropriate when addressing superiors.

食

駅

きれい(綺麗 / beautiful)

ていねい(丁寧/polite)

ふこうへい (不公平 / unfair)

write

安

safety

高

high

気

buv

長

魚

learn

間

interva

雨

understand

先

previous

白

rest

毎

come

飲

see

生

社

company

hear

立.

玉

say

会 meet

name

language

新

new

heaven

電

electricity

Basic Japanese





WA - Topic Marker

Written with hiragana "ha", but pronounced "wa"

- Marks the topic of a sentence. (non-grammatical relationship)
- Contrasts one option or thing against others. (A vs. B, C, D)
- Used when elaborating on things already known to the listener.

くるま は わたし が うんてん しました。 As for the car, I was the one who drove it. たなかさん は おかね を もっています。 Mr. Tanaka has money. (he is rich)



GA - Subject Marker

- Marks the subject of a verb. (grammatical relationship)
- Distinguishes one option or thing from others. (A vs. ???)
- Used when adding new things/information to a conversation.
- Used when describing specific things with adjectives.
- Marks objects of potential-form verbs. (can/able to) 5
- (Used as an conjunction [between phrases]) : "..., but..." or "even though ..., ..."

にほんごが すこしはなせます。 (I) can speak Japanese a little.

たなかさんが おかねを もっています。 Mr. Tanaka has the money. (with him now)

WA vs. GA (Detailed Article) - http://nihonshock.com/waga



0 - Object Marker

Written with hiragana "wo", but the "w" sound is very faint.

- · Marks the object of a verb.
- · With verbs of motion, shows where the motion occurs.

くつをかいました。 (I) bought shoes.

そらをとぶ To fly (in) the sky

じぶんのことをはなす。 To talk about (things of) one's self.



NI - The "Aiming" Particle

- Marks an indirect object (the person/thing an action is done for/directed toward)
- Marks a destination, direction or specific place for an action. (to/at)
- Marks a specific point in time (ie. Monday / 3pm / 1972 / July) 2
- Marks a period of time that something repeats in. (ie. twice a week)
- Marks direct objects for: なる (to become), あう (to meet), のる (to ride)

かのじょにほんをあげた。 どようびにこうえんにいきましょう。 いちにちにコーヒーをにはいのむ。

Let's go to the park on Saturday. (I) drink 2 cups of coffee a day.



TO - The "Glue" Particle

When quoting speech, ∠ can become ⊃ て (informal)

- Marks a person that an action is done with.
- Links nouns to create a complete "and" group. [3]
- Marks guoted speech or phrasal objects: おもう (to think), かく (to write)
- Shows a natural/predictable "if-then" relationship between clauses.
- Marks onomatopoeic words. (words that mimic sounds)

"And" group ボスとじょうしとけんかしました。 Phrasal object

(I) had an argument with (my) boss and manager.

いすがこわれたとおもいます。 (l) think the chair broke.

こそこそと はなす to speak in whispers



DE - The "Enabling" Particle

- Marks a place, area, or length of time inside which something occurs.
- Marks a method, tool or circumstance under which something happens.
- · Marks a material or substance; composition.

(I) learned kanji in two years.

かんじをにねんでおぼえました。 きょうはでんしゃできました。 Today (I) came by train.

ようもう で つくられた マフラー a scarf made of wool



MO - Even/Also Marker

- Used with other particles to add a meaning of "also/too" or "even." (も replaces は, が, and を completely, but follows all other particles)
- Turns interrogative words (どこ, だれ, いつ, etc.) into every~/all~ words.

おおさか にも いきました。 (I) also/even went to Osaka.

むししてもいいですよ。 かれはいつもそうです。 It's okay even if (you) ignore (him). He is always like that.



- Marks a sentence as a question.
- · Links nouns to create an "or" group.
- Turns interrogative words into some~ words.
 - だれ (who) + b = だれか (someone)

- Shows <u>possession</u>. (わたしの = my/mine) Combines two nouns.
- Note: the final noun becomes the "primary" meaning

3 : と (and か) groups list all their members, や only lists some.

かいしゃのくるま = the company car くるま の かいしゃ = a car company



Links nouns to create an incomplete "and" group.

Can be used instead of

ほん やえんぴつ books and pencils (and such)

📘 : also marks objects of わかる (understand), ほしいです (want), and すきです (like).

4: さしあげる can sound patronizing; わたす (to hand over) is a safe alternative. 5:に marks the grammatical subjects of potential-form verbs.

だけ DAKE

- Marks a <u>limited amount</u> or extent of something. ("not more than")
- ・ Used with できる (and other potential-form verbs) to mean "as ~ as possible"

いちじかんだけまってください。 Please wait for just one hour.

できるだけはやくかいてください。

かけるだけかいてください。 Please write it as quickly as you can. Please write as much as you can.



1

- Marks a firm extent/limit (usually one which presents a problem for the speaker).
- Emphasizes the negation of anything beyond the extent/limit. Therefore, しか is always is used with a negative verb form.

せんえん しか もっていません。 I haven't but one thousand yen.

しゃしんでしかみたことがない。 I've never seen it except in pictures.

あなたにしかできない。 5 Only you can do it.

HODO

- Marks a degree or extent of something. (not small)
- · Marks an approximate number or length of time.
- Marks the greater element in a negative comparison. ("not as ~ as")

そのくるま は このくるま ほど はやくないです。 That car is not as fast as this car.

はらがいたくなったほどわらいました。 I laughed so hard that my stomach became painful.



- Marks the lesser element in a positive comparison. ("more than")
- "From ~" (when closing a private letter)

そのくるまはこのくるまよりはやいです。 That car is faster than this car.



- Marks a possibility or suggestion.
- Turns interrogative words into any~ words.
- (Used as an conjunction [before a phrase]): "even so/but/however, ..."

おちゃ でも のみましょうか。 Shall we drink some tea or something? いつでもでんわしてください。 Please call me anytime.



- Marks an approximate or negotiable degree, amount, or length of time. (speaker feels that the stated number/extent is a fair and/or reasonable estimate)
- Alternate form: ぐらい

かんじをじゅっかいぐらいかくとわすれないよ。 If you write a kanji about 10 times, you won't forget it.



- Means "only", or "to the exclusion of other things"
- Informally, can be pronounced ばっかり / ばっか / ばっかし for emphasis.

あの きょうしつ は おんなのこ ばかりいます。 That classroom has nothing but girls in it.

かれのいうことはうそばっかりだ。 Everything he says is a lie.



- Marks a starting place or time. Marks a source of information.

Marks a reason when used after 🕥

ともだち から ききました。 I heard about it from a friend. さいふを わすれた から はらえない。 I can't pay because I forgot my wallet.



- Marks an ending place or time.
- When followed by 12, means "by/before"

かいぎはいちじからさんじまでです。 the meeting is from 1 o'clock until 3 o'clock. あした までに レポート を かいて ください。 Please write the report by tomorrow.

NOUNの ADJ VERB ほうが

Comparison

- · Marks the greater element in a positive comparison (より marks the lesser element).
- · Can take past tense verbs even for non-past sentences. しらべるより せんせい にきいたほうがはやいです。

この ほん を かうか どうか かんがえています。

Rather than looking it up, it would be faster to ask the teacher. NOUN ADJ VERB かどうか

I'm considering whether or not to buy this book. NOUN について

About/Regarding

Whether or not

この レポート は にほん の れきし に ついて です。 This report is about Japanese history.

NOUNの VERB ため In order to

にほんにいくために にほんごをべんきょうしている。 In order to go to Japan, am studying Japanese

~ため+に: Adverb form ~ため+の: Adjective form

Conjunctive Adverbs

	/1150,
だから	Therefore (so),
しかし	However (but),
でも	However (but),
だけど	However (but),
ただし	However (but)

Give/Receive



Give (to me) くれる くださる

Conjunctions

が けれど A, but B けれども even though A, B のに even though A, B から because of A. B. ので because of A, B なら if A, B if A, (unavoidably) B

2: Relative time words, like きょう (today), あした (tomorrow), きのう (yesterday), らいげつ (next month) etc. do not take に.

More cheatsheets available at: http://cheatsheets.nihonshock.com

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