

ぶんぽう  
文法■ Noun<sup>1</sup> は Noun<sup>2</sup> です : Noun<sup>1</sup> is Noun<sup>2</sup>

は(wa) is the particle which indicates the subject or the topic of the sentence  
 です(desu) is a verb which means “to be” or “to equal”. It shows the identity or the state of things and people.

わたしは がくせいです。 watashi wa gakusei desu	I am a student.
これは ほんです。 kore wa hon desu	This is a book.
あきは にほんじんです。 Akira wa nihonjin desu	Akira is Japanese.

*-Note-*

Subjects actually tend to be omitted in the conversation whenever it is clear to the listener what or who they are talking about.

がくせいです。 gakusei desu	(I) am a student.
ほんです。 hon desu	(This) is a book.
にほんじんです。 nihonjin desu	(He) is Japanese.

■ ではありません : Noun<sup>1</sup> is not Noun<sup>2</sup>

です(desu) is replaced with ではありません(dewa arimasen) to make a sentence in the negative form.

わたしは がくせいではありません。 watashi wa gakusei dewa arimasen	I am not a student.
これは ほんではありません。 kore wa hon dewa arimasen	This is not a book.
サラは にほんじんではありません。 Sara wa nihonjin dewa arimasen	Sarah is not Japanese.

*-Note-*

Instead of ではありません(dewa arimasen), じゃないです(ja arimasen) is used in informal speech.

がくせい じゃないです。 gakusei ja naidesu	I am not a student.
ほんじゃないです。 hon ja naidesu	It is not a book.
にほんじんじゃないです。 nihonjin ja naidesu	He (She) is not Japanese.

れんしゅう もんだい  
**練習問題**

**Complete the following sentences.**

1. これ \_\_\_\_ ノート \_\_\_\_\_。  
This is a book.
2. それ \_\_\_\_ かばん \_\_\_\_\_。  
That is a bag.
3. わたし \_\_\_\_ がくせい \_\_\_\_\_。  
I am a student.
4. サラ \_\_\_\_ アメリカじん \_\_\_\_\_。  
Sarah is American.
5. これ \_\_\_\_ じしよ \_\_\_\_\_。  
This is not a dictionary.
6. かれ は \_\_\_\_\_。  
He is not Japanese.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ がくせい \_\_\_\_\_  
I am not a student.
8. それ \_\_\_\_\_。  
This is not a dictionary.

**Translate the following sentences into Japanese.**

1. This is a bag.
2. That is not a book.
3. This is a newspaper.
4. I am a student.
5. That is not a notebook.
6. I am not a teacher.
7. I am an office worker.
8. Takeshi is an engineer.
9. This is a school.

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文法■ でした : Noun<sup>1</sup> was Noun<sup>2</sup>

です (desu) is replaced with でした (deshita) to make the past tense in the affirmative form.

わたしは がくせいでした。 watashi wa gakusei deshita	I was a student.
ほんでした。 hon deshita	(It) was a book.
にほんじんでした。 nihonjin deshita	He/She was Japanese.

■ ではありませんでした : Noun<sup>1</sup> was not Noun<sup>2</sup>

です (desu) is replaced with ではありませんでした (dewa arimasendeshita) to make the past tense in the negative form.

わたしは がくせいではありませんでした。 watashi wa gakusei dewa arimasen deshita	I was not a student.
ほんではありませんでした。 hon dewa arimasen deshita	It was not a book.
にほんじんではありませんでした。 nihonjin dewa arimasen deshita	(He/She) was not Japanese.

**-Note -**

Instead of ではありませんでした (dewa arimasen), じゃなかったです (ja nakatta desu) is used in informal speech.

がくせい じゃなかったです。 gakusei ja nakatta desu	(I) was not a student.
ほん じゃなかったです。 hon ja nakatta desu	It was not a book.
にほんじん じゃなかったです。 nihonjin ja nakatta desu	(He/She) was not Japanese.

## ■ Particle か

When you want to ask a question, simply put the particle か (ka) at the end of the sentence.

あなたは がくせいですか? anata wa gakusei desu ka	Are you a student?
ほんですか? kore wa hon desu ka	Is it a book?
かれは にほんじんですか? kare wa nihonjin desu ka	Is he Japanese?

れんしゅう もんだい  
**練習問題**

**Complete the following sentences.**

1. これ \_\_\_\_ ノート \_\_\_\_\_。  
This was a book.
2. それ \_\_\_\_ かばん \_\_\_\_\_。  
That was a bag.
3. わたし \_\_\_\_ がくせい \_\_\_\_\_。  
I was a student.
4. サラ \_\_\_\_ アメリカじん \_\_\_\_\_。  
Sarah was American.
5. これ \_\_\_\_ じしよ \_\_\_\_\_。  
This was a dictionary.
6. かれは \_\_\_\_\_。  
He was not Japanese.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ がくせい \_\_\_\_\_。  
I was not a student.
8. それ \_\_\_\_\_。  
This was not a dictionary.
9. これ \_\_\_\_ じしよ \_\_\_\_\_?  
Is this a dictionary?
10. かれは \_\_\_\_\_?  
Wasn't he Japanese?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ がくせい \_\_\_\_\_?  
Aren't you a student?
12. それ \_\_\_\_\_?  
Is that a newspaper?

**Translate the following sentences into Japanese.**

1. Is this a hospital?
2. Takeshi was a doctor.
3. That was not a magazine.
4. Sarah was a student.
5. (He) was not (my) friend.
6. I was not a teacher.
7. Are you a bank clerk?
8. Is it a park?
9. Are you Japanese?

ぶんぽう  
文法

## ■ はい : Yes    いいえ : No

The ANSWERS to a yes/no question usually starts with はい(hai) or いいえ(iie). はい(hai) means “Yes” and いいえ(iie) means “No” .

はい、わたしは がくせいでした。  
hai, watashi wa gakusei deshita

Yes, I was a student.

はい、それは ほんです。  
hai, sore wa hon desu

Yes, that is a book.

いいえ、わたしは せんせい ではありません。  
iie, watashi wa sensei dewa arimasen

No, I am not a teacher.

いいえ、これは じしょ ではありません。  
iie, kore wa jisho dewa arimasen

No, this is not a dictionary.

## ■ なに : Interrogative pronoun “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 なんですか?  
kore wa nan desu ka  
それは じしょです。  
sore wa jisho desu

What is this?

That is a dictionary.

それは なんですか?  
sore wa nan desu ka  
これは かばんです。  
kore wa kaban desu

What is that?

This is a bag.

あれは なんですか?  
are wa nan desu ka  
あれは がっこうです。  
are wa gakkou desu

What is that?

That is a school.

## Conjugating the verb です (desu)

Affirmative, present	Negative, present	Affirmative, past	Negative, past
(formal)	(formal)	(formal)	(formal)
(informal)	(informal)	(informal)	(informal)

れんしゅう もんだい  
**練習問題**

Complete the following sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, これ \_\_\_\_ しんぶん \_\_\_\_\_。  
Yes, this is a newspaper.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, それ \_\_\_\_ ざっし \_\_\_\_\_。  
No, that is not a magazine.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, わたし \_\_\_\_ かいしゃいん \_\_\_\_\_。  
Yes, I was an office worker.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, サラ \_\_\_\_ エンジニア \_\_\_\_\_。  
No, Sarah was not an engineer.
5. これ \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
What is this?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ は \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
What is that?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
What was it?
8. あれ \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
What is that (over there) ?

Translate the following sentences into Japanese.

1. What is this?
2. Yes, I am a student.
3. What is this?
4. What is that (over there)?
5. No, I am not a student. I am an office worker.
6. No, Ken is not Japanese.