

NOUN

KISHIDOU

KI-SHI-DO-U

き し どう

騎士道

chivalry

Similar to how bushido is the way of the samurai, chivalry is the way of the knight.

*Seikatsu youshiki no kakushin to naru no ga kishidou desu.*  
生活様式に核心となるのが騎士道です。  
(My) lifestyle revolves around chivalry.

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NOUN

DORAGON

DO-RA-GO-N

ドラゴン

dragon

Dragons, the most fascinating and awesome of fantasy creatures, may unapologetically eat you. Happens.

*Ryuu o doushite mo taosenakatta.*  
竜をどうしても倒せなかった。  
We weren't able to kill (literally, "bring down") the dragon.

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NOUN

HANA

HA-NA

はな

花

flower

Entire flower plants or just their blossoms. You'll see this kanji in other words such as 花見 (hanami, cherry blossom viewing) or 花火 (hanabi, fireworks).

*Yousei no deiji wa hana de bannouyaku o tsukutta.*  
妖精のデイジーは花で万能薬を作った。  
daixy the fairy made an elixir out of flowers.

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NOUN

TSUBASA

TSU-BA-SA

つばさ

翼

wing

Wings are a very popular feature for fantasy creatures. Fairies, dragons, and gryphons all have them. You should get some, too.

*Daitenshi wa migoto na tsubasa o motteiru.*  
大天使は見事な翼をもっている。  
Archangels have magnificent wings.

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NOUN

KURA

KU-RA

くら

鞍

saddle

Riding horses without them can be very uncomfortable, so it's not surprising that these became wildly popular.

*Uma ni noru tame ni kura ga hitsuyou da.*  
馬に乗るために鞍が必要だ。  
(You'll) need a saddle to ride (this) horse.

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NOUN

YUMI

YU-MI

ゆみ

弓

bow

Bows have been one of the most important weapons for humans. They are a common weapon in the history of most cultures.

*Erufu wa tsune ni yumi to ya de busou shiteita.*  
エルフは常に弓と矢で武装していた。  
The Elves were constantly armed with bows and arrows.

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NOUN

TAKARA

TA-KA-RA  
たから

宝  
treasure

Ah, treasure. Everyone wants it, and it's a great motivator for adventures.

*Tankenka wa maizou saretaki takara o hakken shita.*  
探検家は埋蔵された宝を発見した。  
The explorer discovered buried treasure.

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NOUN

MAHO-U  
まほう

魔法  
magic

Stories of magic have been around since recorded history. Warning: Do not use these cards for real magic. They may combust.

*[Majin no mahou wa sugokatta na!]*  
魔神の魔法はすごかったな！  
The genie's magic was so impressive!

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NOUN

HI  
ひ

火  
fire

Arguably the greatest discovery ever, fire is an essential part of human life and one of the five elements in Japanese philosophy: Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Void.

*Hi o tsukeru tame no jumon o kakete kureta.*  
火をつけるための呪文をかけてくれた。  
He cast a spell to light a fire for us.

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NOUN

YAKUSOU

YA-KU-SO-U  
やく そう

薬草  
herb

This word specifically refers to medicinal plants. Many games made in Japan use herbs in order to restore health or hit points.

*Kitoushi wa samazama na yakusou o atsumeta.*  
祈祷師は様々な薬草を集めた。  
The medicine woman gathered various herbs.

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ICHIDAN VERB

KAKERU

KA-KE-RU

かける  
cast a spell

If you play any RPGs in Japanese, you're bound to see this word. It carries the nuance of putting an effect on something, such as a spell, anaesthetic, or curse.

*Mahoutsukai wa jumon o kaketa.*  
魔法使いは呪文をかけた。  
The wizard cast a spell.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB

AKERU

A-KE-RU

あける  
open, unlock

This word is just as flexible as the verb "to open" is in English. It can be used for opening things, unlocking things, and opening for business.

*Takarabako o akeyou!*  
宝箱を開けよう！  
Let's open the treasure chest!

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

NUSUMU

NU-SU-MU  
ぬす

盗む  
steal

Stealing is an awful thing to do, yet in fantasy it's very popular... even by good guys.

*Dorobou wa houseki o nusunde shimatta.*  
泥棒は宝石を盗んでしまった。  
A thief stole the gems.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 2

HIKU

HI-KU  
ひ

弾く  
play a stringed instrument

This is the verb used for playing any stringed instrument such as a guitar, lute, shamisen, or even a piano.

*Baado wa hitobanjuu ryuuto o hiita.*  
バードは一晩中リュートを弾いた。  
The bard played the lute through the night.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

KIKU

KI-KU  
き

聞く  
listen

While this verb means to hear or to listen, it can also be used when asking a question or enquiring about something. Context is your friend.

*Supai wa rongi o kossori kiite ita.*  
スパイは論議をこっそり聞いていた。  
A spy was secretly listening to the discussion.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

TOGU

TO-GU  
と

研ぐ  
sharpen

Toгу means to grind, sharpen, or polish a blade. It also means to wash rice before you cook it, because that's considered polishing the grain. Japanese is fun.

*Kenshi wa mainichi tsurugi wo toida.*  
剣士は毎日剣を研いだ。  
The swordsman sharpened (his) sword every day.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

HIKARU

HI-KA-RU  
ひか

光る  
shine, sparkle

Gold, gems, jewelry, beautiful eyes--all of them shine. If you find an object that is inexplicably shining, check it for magical powers by shaking it like a present.

*Omamori ni fureru to hikatta.*  
お守りに触れると光った。  
The amulet shined when touched.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

TATAKAU

TA-TA-KA-U  
たたか

戦う  
fight

This word for "fight" can mean fighting as with fists or weapons, or in the larger sense of a battle or war. Only use violence as a last resort.

*Bashirisuku to tatakau koto wa o-susume dekinai.*  
バシリスクと戦うことはお勧めできない。  
I can't recommend fighting the basilisk.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE

K  
O  
W  
A  
I

KO-WA-I  
こわ

怖い  
scary

In Japanese, it's common to express feelings with one-word adjective sentences. If you watch someone experience something scary, you'll probably hear 怖い!

*Yoru ni deru yuurei wa kowai.*  
夜に出る幽霊は怖い。

Ghosts that come out at night are frightening.

PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE

A  
B  
U  
N  
A  
I

A-BU-NA-I  
あぶ

危ない  
dangerous

This means dangerous, risky, or at risk. It can also be used as an expression to mean "look out!" 危ない!

*"Abunai!" to iu sakebigoe o kiku to, ippo shirizoita.*  
「危ない！」という叫び声を聞くと、一步退いた。

(He) took a step back when he heard a voice yelling "look out!"

PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE

Y  
A  
M  
A  
S  
H  
I  
I

YA-MA-SHI-I  
やま

疚しい  
guilty/guilty conscience

This word means that you are feeling guilty or have a guilty conscience.

*Okashita hanzai no koto de yamashiku omotteita.*  
犯した犯罪のことで疚しく思っていた。

(The prisoner) felt guilty for the crime he'd committed.

PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE

H  
I  
K  
U  
I

HI-KU-I  
ひく

低い  
low

This can describe something that is low, short, or of low rank, degree, or quality.

*Kobito wa se ga hikui kedo, igai to chikarazuyoi!*  
小人は背が低いけど、以外と力強い!

Dwarves are short but surprisingly strong!

PREDICATE 述

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COPULA

D  
E  
S  
H  
O  
U

DE-SHO-U

でしょう  
probably is

This is a copula similar to Da and Desu except that you use Deshou in cases where you suppose something is true. Can be used to make adjectives polite just like Desu but in a supposition situation.

*Ousama no kyuuden wa dochira no houkou deshou ka?*  
王様の宮殿はどちらの方向でしょうか?

Which direction is the king's palace?

PREDICATE 述

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COPULA

D  
A

DA

だ  
is

This is a copula. It assigns attributes, definitions, or identities to a noun just like is/am/are in English. Da is not polite, so only use it in informal situations.

*Ryuu no su ni deru michi wa kotchi da to omou.*  
竜の巣に出る道はこっちだと思う。

I think this is the path leading to the dragon's nest.

PREDICATE 述

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COPULA

DESU

DE-SU

です

is

Means "is/am/are" like the copula Da except that Desu is polite. Desu can also follow an adjective to make it polite, in which case Desu ceases to be a copula and simply becomes a "polite-ifier."

*Asoko ni iru no wa goburin desu ka?*  
あそこにいるのはゴブリンですか？  
Is that a goblin over there?

述

PREDICATE

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ADJECTIVAL NOUN

SHIZUKA

SHI-ZU-KA  
しず

静か

quiet/silent

Describe things that are quiet or silent, but can also be used to describe the pace of something as unhurried. Archers are very quiet and careful while lining up a shot.

*Ite wa shizuka de subyakatta.*  
射手は静かで素早かった。  
The archer was quiet and swift.

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ADVERB

MATTAKU

MA-T-TA-KU  
まった

全く

completely

This word is an ideograph of everything under one roof. It means entirely or wholly. Or you can use it to add emphasis to something you're saying.

*Risuku ga mattaku nai jinsei wa tsumaranai.*  
リスクが全くない人生はつまらない。  
A life entirely devoid of risk is boring.

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ADVERB

MOU

MO-U

もう

already

Mou means already or anymore. It can also mean soon or yet. A common expression is "mou nido to" (もう二度と) before the negative form of a verb, which means "will never again".

*Kare wa mou nido to temarawanai to itteiru.*  
彼はもう二度と躊躇らわな  
いと言っている。  
He's saying he will never hesitate again.

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PARTICLE

NO

NO

の

possessive marker

This particle marks the noun after it as belonging to the noun before it. It's the 's in "knight's sword" or the "of" in "philiter of love". It also assigns possession of attributes as in "look of fear."

*Nouka no sakumotsu ga yoku sodatta.*  
農家の作物がよく育った。  
The farmer's crops grew well.

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PARTICLE

O

を

object marker

Marks a direct object in a sentence. A direct object is a thing that is having an action done to it, the "victim" of the verb. を can ONLY be used in sentences that have a transitive verb.

*Higaisha wa kougaku na kingaku o sonshitsu shita.*  
被害者は高額な金額を損失した。  
The victims lost a large amount of money.

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o PARTICLE 1



を  
object marker

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TO PARTICLE 1



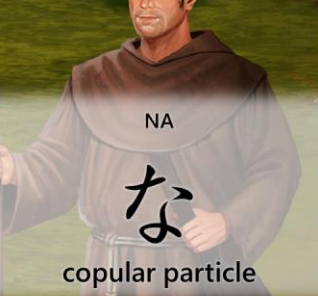
と  
and/with

This particle can either mean "with" as in going with someone or it can establish a complete list of things, in which case you'll need one と before each additional item.

*Uma wa ninjin to hoshikusa to mugi o tabeta.*  
馬は人参と干し草と麦  
を食べた。  
The horse ate carrots, hay, and oats.

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NA PARTICLE 1



な  
copular particle

This particle turns most adjectival nouns into adjectives. (Some use the particle の instead; it'll say so on the card). Place the adjectival noun to the left of this card and the noun you want to modify to the right.

*Shuudoushi wa jimi na fuku o kimasu.*  
修道士は地味な服を着ます。  
Friars wear simple clothes.

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NI PARTICLE 1



に  
destination marker

Marks the noun before it as a destination, like "at" or "in." Also marks times of events, recipients, and metaphorical places. Can only be used in sentences with a verb for the predicate unless noted otherwise.

*Mahou no kagami ni tazuneru.*  
魔法の鏡に尋ねる。  
(I) will ask the magic mirror.

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WA PARTICLE 0



は  
topic marker

Marks the word before it as the main topic of discussion as well as the subject of the sentence. The noun marked by は can also serve as the subject of any sentences with no marked subject.

*Akuyaku wa kougeki o kuwadateta.*  
悪役は攻撃を企てた。  
The villain planned his attack.

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WA PARTICLE 0



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topic marker

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