

### GODAN CONJUGATION TABLE

Last Character of Conjugated Verb	BASE A	BASE I	BASE U	BASE E	BASE O	BASE TE	BASE TA
	う わ	い い	う う	え え	おう おう	って って	った った
く か	き き	く く	け け	こう こう	いて いて	いた いた	
ぐ が	ぎ ぎ	ぐ ぐ	げ げ	ごう ごう	いで いで	いだ いだ	
す さ	し し	す す	せ せ	そう そう	して して	した した	
つ た	ち ち	つ つ	て て	とう とう	って って	った った	
ぬ な	に に	ぬ ぬ	ね ね	のう のう	んで んで	んだ んだ	
ぶ ば	び び	ぶ ぶ	べ べ	ぼう ぼう	んで んで	んだ んだ	
む ま	み み	む む	め め	もう もう	んで んで	んだ んだ	
る ら	り り	る る	れ れ	ろう ろう	って って	った った	

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### VERB CONJUGATION

2

P  
O  
L  
I  
T  
E

FOR ICHIDAN VERBS:  
RU MA-SU  
る → ます

FOR GODAN VERBS:  
BASE I + ます

SU-RU する SHI-MA-SU します	I-KU 行く I-KI-MA-SU 行きます	KU-RU 来る KI-MA-SU 来ます
---------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

This conjugation makes a sentence polite. It doesn't change the meaning of the sentence at all, but it sounds more pleasant to the Japanese ear.

*Shichimenchou o yakimasu.*  
七面鳥を焼きます。  
I will roast a turkey.

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### COPULA

1

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.

*Ee, keikai deshou.*  
ええ、警官でしょう。  
Yeah, I think he's a policeman.

PREDICATE 述

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### PARTICLE

1

N  
O

NOUN (owner)

NO

の

possessive marker

This particle marks the noun after it as belonging to the noun before it. It's the 's part of "Jake's dog" or the OF in "the boys of summer." It also assigns possession of attributes just like English as in "sea of green."

*Kochira wa anata no isu da.*  
こちらはあなたの椅子だ。  
Here is your seat (or "the seat of you").

NOUN (possession or attribute)

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NO 1

PARTICLE

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O 1

PARTICLE

NOUN (direct object)

O

を

object marker

This particle 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.

*Juutaku o tsukutta. Kare wa endai o ketta.*  
 住宅を作った。彼は緑台を蹴った。  
 (I) built a house. He kicked the bench.

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G A 1

PARTICLE

NOUN (subject)

GA

が

subject marker

This particle can mark any subject in a sentence. If a sentence is contained within a larger sentence, the sub-sentence uses the particle が. It can also replace the particle は to emphasize the role of the subject in a sentence, like so:

*Watashi wa sore o kaita = I wrote that.*  
 私はそれを書いた。  
*Watashi ga sore o kaita = I'm the one who wrote that.*  
 私がそれを書いた。

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WA PARTICLE 0

NOUN (subject)

WA

は

topic marker

This particle 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 that do not have a marked subject.

*Akiko wa jitensha ga suki da.*  
 明子は自転車が好きだ。  
 Akiko likes bikes.

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E PARTICLE 1

NOUN (general direction)

E

へ

direction marker

When you go (send/throw something, etc.) to a general area instead of a specific place, you use this directional particle as opposed to the more specific direction particle に. It's pronounced "eh."

*Gakkou e itte asobu.*  
 学校へ行って遊ぶ。  
 I'll go over by the school and play.

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NI PARTICLE 1

NOUN (destination or recipient)

NI

に

destination marker

Means "to" or "at," marking the noun before it as a destination. Also used for marking specific times, recipients, and metaphorical places. Can only be used in sentences with a verb for the predicate unless a card specifies otherwise.

*Kazuo no ie ni iku. Joudan ni warau.*  
 和夫の家に行く。冗談に笑う。  
 (I) go to Kazuo's house, (I) laugh at jokes.

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ADVERB 1

I-TSU-MO  
いつ

何時も  
always

This is a nice, common temporal adverb. Usually written in hiragana.

*Itsumo chiizukeeki ga tabetai.*  
いつもチーズケーキが食べたい。  
I always want to eat cheesecake.

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ADVERB 1

KYO-U  
きょう

今日  
today

The present day. This word can also be used as a noun.

*Kyou wa nani o shita no?*  
今日は何をしたの?  
What did you do today?

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ADVERB 1

MA-TA  
また

又  
again

Again. Usually written in hiragana.

*Mata auo.*  
また会おう。  
Let's meet again.

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ADVERB 1

I-MA  
いま

今  
now

At this very moment. Could also mean at this general time or in this current era. Time is relative. This word can also be used as a noun.

*Itsu ikou ka? Ima iku zo.*  
何時行こうか?今行くぞ。  
When do we leave? I'm leaving now, f'realz.

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END PARTICLE 1

KA

か  
question marker

Used at the end of your sentence (after a predicate) to turn your sentence into a question. Questions asked in familiar company end with the question marker No instead.

*Inu desu. Matte. Inu desu ka?*  
犬です。待って。犬ですか?  
It's a dog. Wait. Is it a dog?

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END PARTICLE 1

YO

よ  
I say/I tell you

Goes at the end of the sentence to affect an authoritative or explanatory tone. In English we might say "I'll have you know..." or, in some circles, "...for reals."

*Sugoku oishii yo.*  
すごく美味しいよ。  
(I'm telling you) it's very delicious.

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END PARTICLE 1

NE

ね

...isn't it?/right?

Used at the end of a sentence (after a predicate) to prompt the listener for agreement. Can also go after end particles Ka or Yo to prompt for reinforcement.

*Mushiatsui desu ne.*  
蒸し暑いですね。  
It's hot and humid out here, isn't it?

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PREDICATE or another end particle

NOUN 2

KO-KO-RO

こころ

心

heart

This is the eternal essence of you, and that which experiences and interprets phenomena, especially the non-physical.

*Kokoro o tokihanate!*  
心を解き放て!  
Set your heart free.

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INANIMATE

NOUN 1

FU-RA-I-GA-E-SHI

がえ

フライ返し

spatula

What you use to flip burgers, or in the case of a Japanese barbecue, whole grilled squid. Yes, really.

*Furaigaeshi o tsukau.*  
フライ返しを使う。  
I'll use the spatula.

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INANIMATE

NOUN 2

NI-WA

にわ

庭

garden

It's a peaceful place once the work is done.

*Niwa ni itte suwatte yasumitai.*  
庭に行って座って休みたい。  
I want to go to the garden, sit down, and rest.

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INANIMATE

NOUN 1

KANO-JO

かのじょ

彼女

she/her/girlfriend

This is the third-person feminine pronoun you've been looking for. Also the word for girlfriend.

*Kanojo wa totemo bijin da.*  
彼女はとても美人だ。  
She is very pretty.

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ANIMATE

NOUN 1

A-NA-TA

あなた

貴方

you

Means "you" in general use, and is also the word wives use to affectionately address their husbands. Usually written in hiragana.

*Anata no namae wa nan desu ka?*  
あなたの名前は何ですか?  
What is your name?

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ANIMATE



W  
A  
T  
A  
S  
H  
I

NOUN 0

WA-TA-SHI  
わたし  
私  
I/me

This is a common word, but as you will see in the examples they usually leave it out. So you get zero points.

*Watashi wa gakusei desu.*  
私は学生です。  
I am a student.

 ANIMATE

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I  
K  
E

NOUN 1

I-KE  
いけ  
池  
pond

Smaller than a lake but larger than a puddle? You've got an "ike," my friend.

*Ashi o ike de arau.*  
足を池で洗う。  
I'll wash my feet at the pond.

 INANIMATE

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T  
O  
M  
O  
D  
A  
C  
H  
I

NOUN 1

TO-MO-DA-CHI  
とも だち  
友達  
friend

Friends are the best, aren't they?

*Tomodachi o tsurete kite ne.*  
友達を連れてきてね。  
Bring your friend(s), okay?

 ANIMATE

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G  
A  
K  
K  
O  
U

NOUN 1

GA-K-KO-U  
がっこう  
学校  
school

This can refer to school of any type, but usually means kindergarten through high school.

*Gakkou ni ikou.*  
学校に行こう。  
Let's go to school.

 INANIMATE

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K  
O  
R  
E

NOUN 1

KO-RE  
こ  
これ  
this

This noun is used for referring to an object near you, or one you identify with, also known as "this thing." Usually written in hiragana.

*Kore o tabete mo ii no?*  
これ食べてもいいの？  
Okay if I eat this?

 INANIMATE

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G  
O  
H  
A  
N

NOUN 1

GO-HA-N  
はん  
ご飯  
meal/rice

This word means "boiled rice" but usually refers to a complete meal (even without rice).

*Amerika de gohan o tabemasu ka?*  
アメリカでご飯を食べますか？  
Do (you) eat rice in America?

 INANIMATE

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ADJECTIVE 1

C H I I S A I

CHI-I-SA-I  
ちい  
小さい  
small

Chiisai kinda sounds small, doesn't it?

*Chiisai kuruma o kashite agemasu.*  
小さい車を貸してあげます。  
I will lend you a small car.

述 PREDICATE

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ADJECTIVE 1

O O K I I

O-O-KI-I  
おお  
大きい  
big

This kanji is a picture of a guy holding his arms out to demonstrate bigness. I kid you not.

*Sakana wa konnani ookikatta!*  
魚はこんなに大きかった!  
The fish was THIS BIG!

述 PREDICATE

© 2014 Bernhard Hamaker 001136

ADJECTIVE 1

U R U S A I

U-RU-SA-I  
うるさ  
煩い  
loud/annoying

If something's too loud, this word describes it. It's also one way to say "shut up" in Japanese.

*Ongaku ga urusai yo.*  
音楽がうるさいよ。  
(Your) music is loud!

述 PREDICATE

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ADJECTIVE 1

T A N O S H I I

TA-NO-SHI-I  
たの  
楽しい  
fun

Fun or exciting. Kind of like this game.

*Kono geemu wa tanoshii!*  
このゲームは楽しい!  
This game is fun!

述 PREDICATE

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ADJECTIVE 1

A B U N A I

A-BU-NA-I  
あぶ  
危ない  
dangerous

If it could mess you up, it's Abunai. People also yell this in place of "watch out!" or "be careful!"

*Abunai hashi o wataru.*  
危ない橋を渡る。  
Cross a dangerous bridge.  
(Idiom identical to "Skate on thin ice.")

述 PREDICATE

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COPULA 1

D A

DA  
だ  
is

This is a copula. Use it to assign attributes, definitions, or identities to a noun just like is/am/are in English. Da is used in familiar (not polite) situations and in sentences within larger sentences.

*Kyou wa getsuyoubi da.*  
今日は月曜日だ。  
Today's Monday.

述 PREDICATE

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PREDICATE 述

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COPULA 1

DE-SU

です

is

This copula, like the copula Da, means "is/am/are" but is more polite. It can also follow an adjective to make the adjective polite. In that case Desu ceases to be a copula and simply becomes a "polite-ifier."

*Kore wa pen desu. Midori desu.*  
これはペンです。緑です。  
This is a pen. (It) is green.

PREDICATE 述

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PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 2

HA-SHI-RU

はし

走る

run

This is the verb for running as with legs and has nothing to do with refrigerators or noses.

*Okitara, hashiru.*  
起きたら走る。  
Once I get up, I'll run.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

MI-RU

み

見る

look/see

Use this verb when your eyes are pointed at a thing.

*Dono juutaku o mite iru no?*  
どの住宅を見ているの?  
Which house are you looking at?

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 2

K U D A K U

KU-DA-KU  
くだ  
砕く  
crush

This word applies to things that make hard sounds (such as "crunch" or "crack") when you hit them. You cannot Kudaku pudding.

*Anata no ringo o kudaïta.*  
あなたのりんごを砕いた。  
(I) crushed your apple.

を TRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

N A G E R U

NA-GE-RU  
な  
投げる  
throw

This verb is used for the physical throwing of objects and does not apply to metaphorical uses like "throwing a party."

*Saru no you ni nageru.*  
猿のように投げる。  
(You) throw like a monkey.

を TRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

T A T A K U

TA-TA-KU  
たた  
叩く  
hit

Strike, hit, bash, tap, knock... there are so many ways to tatakau.

*Taiko o tataku.*  
太鼓を叩く。  
(I) beat a drum.

を TRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

K A U

KA-U  
か  
買う  
buy

Feel free to buy things if you ever visit Japan. They will be delighted to sell you things.

*Ore mo nisemono no ken o katta.*  
俺も偽物の剣を買った。  
I bought a fake sword, too.

を TRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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IRREGULAR VERB 1

I K U

I-KU  
い  
行く  
go

One of the most common verbs, it simply means "go."

*Jaa ikou ka?*  
じゃあ行こうか?  
Shall we go, then?

を INTRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

S U T E R U

SU-TE-RU  
す  
捨てる  
dispose

This verb helps you deal with garbage.

*Sono furui hon o suteta.*  
その古い本を捨てた。  
(I) chucked those old books.

を TRANSITIVE      PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 2

KAGU

KA-GU  
か  
嗅ぐ  
sniff

This verb is used for sniffing objects or otherwise smelling them intentionally.

*Chiizu no nioi o kaida.*  
チーズの匂いを嗅いだ。  
(He) took a whiff of the cheese.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

TABERU

TA-BE-RU  
た  
食べる  
eat

Eat. You do this to food when you are hungry.

*Banana o taberu no ga suki desu.*  
バナナを食べるのが好きです。  
(I) like eating bananas.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

AGERU

A-GE-RU  
あ  
上げる  
give

This verb literally means "to raise up," but it's typically used as a polite way to say "give."

*Kappukeeki o ageru.*  
カップケーキを上げる。  
(I'll) give you a cupcake.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADVERB 1

CHOU

CHO-U  
ちょう  
超  
super/extremely

This means "super" or "extremely." Like "super hungry" or "dang tired" or "ultra broke." It's slang.

*Ude wa chou nagai yo.*  
腕は超長いよ。  
(His) arms are so long.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE 1

SUGOI

SU-GO-I  
すご  
凄い  
awesome

You think it's nifty. In America you might say, "awesome." In Australia, "sweet as," or on Twitter, "#totesswag."

*Sugoi kuruma katta ne.*  
すごい車買ったね。  
(You) bought an awesome car, didn'tcha.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

TOKU

TO-KU  
と  
解く  
solve

You can solve riddles, mysteries, and crimes, or untie knots and untangle hair with this verb.

*Nazo ga tokareta.*  
謎が解かれた。  
The mystery was solved.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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NOUN 1

HANNIN  
はんにん  
犯人  
criminal/culprit

These are the bad guys, folks. They don't have to come and confess. We're looking for them.

*Hannin o tsukamaete yokatta.*  
犯人を掴かまえて良かった。  
It's good (they) caught the culprit.

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NOUN 1

HON  
ほん  
本  
book

Books are your friends. But they never, ever call.

*Hon o yonde suteru.*  
本を読んで捨てる。  
(I) read books; then (I) throw them away.

INANIMATE

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ICHIDAN VERB 2

KANGAERU  
かんが  
考える  
think

You can just think to yourself, or you can think of something with the particle を.

*Nani kangaete iru no?*  
何考えているの?  
Whatcha thinkin' 'bout?

を TRANSITIVE 述 PREDICATE

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NOUN 1

KARAOKE  
カラオケ  
karaoke

Karaoke is a good evening out. Don't worry. No one else can sing, either.

*Karaoke ikou ka?*  
カラオケ行こうか。  
Wanna go to karaoke?

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NOUN 2

TETSUGAKU  
てつがく  
哲学  
philosophy

When you need to think about the way people think about thinking, this may come in handy.

*Tetsugaku wa hissu kamoku desu.*  
哲学は必須科目です。  
Philosophy is a required course.

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NOUN 1

TANTEI  
たんてい  
探偵  
detective

Detectives are pretty common in Japan. You'll get a flyer for one in your mailbox when you move there.

*Tantei o yatou no?*  
探偵を雇うの?  
Are you going to hire a detective?

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NOUN 1

NINGYOU

NI-N-GYO-U  
にんぎょう

人形  
doll

Dolls. They don't have to be the creepy kind in Japanese horror movies, though. Happy dolls are still Ningyou.

*Horane, kono ningyou wa kowakunai desho.*  
ほらね、この人形は怖くないでしょ。  
See, this doll isn't scary.

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NOUN 1

YOUSEI

YO-U-SE-I  
ようせい

妖精  
fairy

Fairies, sprites, and elves are sort of lumped together in Japanese. This can describe any or all of them.

*Yousei ga kono eda o kuremashita.*  
妖精がこの枝をくれました。  
The fairy gave me this twig.

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ADJECTIVE 1

NAI

NA-I  
ない

無い  
does not exist

This word means "does not exist," "is not," or "have none." It's an adjective that only applies to inanimate things—food, ideas, etc.—but you can think of it as a verb if that helps.

*Saba yori oishii sakana wa nai.*  
サバよりおいしい魚は無い。  
There is no fish tastier than mackerel.

PREDICATE 述

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NOUN 1

NEKO

NE-KO  
ねこ

猫  
cat

Cats are very popular in Japan. And populous. There is one for every 17 people, to be exact.

*Watashi no neko desu!*  
私の猫です!  
(That)'s my cat!

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NOUN 1

INU

I-NU  
いぬ

犬  
dog

In English they say "woof." In Japanese, "wan wan." They bite in both languages.

*Sore wa donna inu desu ka?*  
それはどんな犬ですか。  
What kind of dog is that?

ANIMATE

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JAPANESE THE GAME  
Easy Reference Card

All you need for a Japanese sentence to be grammatically correct is a predicate, but you can expand your sentences for more points with the following structure:

INTER. ADVERB NOUN PARTICLE NOUN PARTICLE ADVERB PREDICATE (optional) PARTICLE  
JECTION

THREE OPTIONS:

- Interjection
- Adverb
- Nouns, each followed by a Particle (as many as you want)
- Adverb
- Can be an Adjective, a Verb, or a Noun plus a Copula
- End Particle

Every noun in a sentence must be followed by:  
 • A particle if it is in the body of the sentence  
 • A copula if it is in the predicate.

Any sentence that uses the particle "wo" (を) must have a transitive verb.



JAPANESE



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