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1. [noun] **desu**

[noun] **desu**.

You may compose simple sentences by using this form.

Mepuru **desu**. *I'm Maple.*

Tokyo **desu**. *This is Tokyo.*

Shichi-ji **desu**. *It's 7 o'clock.*

Omiyage **desu**. *It's a gift.*

Ringo **desu**. *It's an apple./They're apples.*

Japanese nouns have neither gender nor number.

2. [noun] **wa** [noun] **desu**.

[noun] **wa** [noun] **desu**.

"Wa" shows topic, what we are talking about.

Watashi **wa** Mepuru **desu**. *(As for me,) I'm Maple.*

Koko **wa** Fukushima **desu**. *(As for here,) it's Fukushima.*

Nyuu Yooku **wa** shichi-ji **desu** . *(As for N.Y.,) it's 7 o'clock.*

Kore **wa** omiyage **desu**. *(As for this,) it's a gift.*

Kore **wa** ringo **desu**. *(As for this(these),) this is an apple.*

When the topic is obvious, it is generally omitted.

3. [noun] **wa** [noun] **desu ka.**
[noun] **wa** [noun] **dewa arimasen.**

[noun] **wa** [noun] **desu ka.**

[noun] **wa** [noun] **dewa arimasen.**

The interrogative in Japanese is easy. Put "ka" at the end of a sentence and it becomes a question.

The negative form of "desu" is "dewa arimasen."

Kore **wa** hon **desu ka.**

(As for this,) is it a book?

Hai, hon **desu.**

Yes, it's a book.

lie, hon **dewa arimasen.**

No, it isn't a book.

In answering the question, the topic is not repeated.

4. [noun] **desu ka.**

[noun] **desu ka.**

The interrogative in Japanese is easy.

Put "ka" at the end of a sentence and it becomes a question.

[Meepuru san] **desu ka.**

(As for you,) are you Mr. Maple?

The use of pronouns such as "anata", you, "kare", he, and "kanojo", she, is avoided in this case. The person's name is used instead.

"-san" is a title of respect added to a name, so it cannot be used after one's own name.

"-san" may be used with both male and female names, with either surname or given name.

5. [noun1] **no** [noun2]

noun1 **no** noun2

"no" is used to connect nouns. Noun 1 modifies noun 2.

ongaku no kyooshi

teacher of music

Kanada no omiyage

souvenir from Canada

watashi no hon

my book

In answering the question, the topic is not repeated.

6. [noun] **wa** [interrogative] **desu ka.**

[noun] **wa** [interrogative] **desu ka.**

No change in word order is required even when the question contains interrogative pronouns such as "dare", who, "nan", what, "doko", where, etc.

Kore **wa** ikura **desu ka.** (As for this,) how much is it?

Kore **wa** nan **desu ka.** (As for this,) what is it?

Koko **wa** doko **desu ka.** (As for here,) where is it?

When the topic is obvious, the following phrases are often used.

Ikura **desu ka.** How much is (it)?

Nan **desu ka.** What is (it)?

Doko **desu ka.** Where is (this)?

7. [noun] **o kudasai.**

[noun] **o** [numeral(with counter)] **kudasai.**

[noun] **o kudasai.**

"Kudasai", please give me, follows the object (a noun referring to concrete things only). Placed after a noun, "o" indicates that it is the object.

Menyuu **o kudasai.** Please give me the menu.

Koohii **o kudasai.** Please give me coffee.

Kitte **o kudasai.** Please give me some stamps.

[noun] **o** [numeral(with counter)] **kudasai.**

Koohii **o** hitotsu **kudasai.** Please give me a cup of coffee.

Kitte **o** 2(ni)-mai **kudasai.** Please give me two stamps.

Biiru **o** 3(san)-bon **kudasai.** Please give me three bottles of beer.

8. Verb tense stem of **-masu form**

Verb tense stem of **-masu form**

masu non-past

mashita past

masen non-past negative

masen deshita past negative

The verb comes at the end of the sentence. Verbs have two tenses, the past form and the non-past form. The past shows something that has already happened; the non-past shows something that has not yet happened. Exact tense is determined from the context.

Tabemasu. (I) eat. (I) will eat.

Tabemashita. (I) ate. (I) have eaten.

Tabemasen. (I) don't eat. (I) won't eat.

Tabemasen deshita. (I) didn't eat.

9. [noun (place)] **ni ikimasu.**

[noun (place)] **ni ikimasu.**

Place as destinations of verbs like "**ikimasu**", to go, "**kimasu**", to come, "**kaerimasu**", to return, are indicated by "**ni**". "**e**" is used interchangeably.

Tookyoo ni ikimasu.	(I) will go to Tokyo.
Nihon ni kimashita.	(I) came to Japan.
Kanada ni kaerimasu.	(I) will return to Canada.

'**kara**' indicates the place of origination.

Kanada kara kimashita.	(I) came from Canada.
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10. [noun (thing)] **o tabemasu.**

[noun (thing)] **o tabemasu.**

Object of verbs like "**tabemasu**", to eat, "**nomimasu**", to drink, "**mimasu**", to see/watch, etc. are indicated by "**o**".

Asa-gohan o tabemasu.	(I) eat breakfast.
Terebi o mimasu.	(I) watch TV.
Hon o yomimasu.	(I) read a book.

11. Verb Sentence

Verb Sentence

[time I]

Ashita koon ni ikimasu.	(I) will go to the park tomorrow.
Kino eiga o mimashita.	(I) saw a movie yesterday.

[time II] ni

Do-yoobi ni sushi o tabemashita.	(I) ate sushi on Saturday.
4(yo)-ji ni uchi ni kaerimasu.	(I) will return home at four.

[place] de

Uchi de hiru-gohan o tabemasu.	(I) will eat lunch at home.
Aizu de o-shiro o mimashita.	(I) saw a castle in Aizu.

[means] de

Basu de eki ni ikimasu.	(I) will go to the station by bus.
Hashi de sushi o tabemasu.	(I) eat sushi with chopsticks.

[person] to

Tomodachi to umi ni ikimashita.	(I) went to the beach with a friend.
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12. desu/masu form

desu/masu form

In Japanese, you must change the way you speak according to whom you are speaking, either casually or politely. The difference appears by how you end each sentence.

Japanese language education usually begins by teaching you how to speak with sentences ending with "desu/masu". "Desu/masu" is a polite way of speaking. There are other ways to speak, more casually or with more respect, but this is what you will usually use when speaking with someone who is older than you, or whom you have met for the first time.

13. tai desu

tai desu

To express desire, replace "masu" from of the verb --- masu" with "tai desu". Safest way to use this form is to express the speaker's desire only.

Nichi-yoobi ni Iwaki ni ikimasu. *I'll go to Iwaki on Sunday.*

Nichi-yoobi ni Iwaki ni ikitai desu. *I want to go to Iwaki on Sunday.*

Eki de omiyage o kaimasu. *I'll buy a souvenir at the station.*

Eki de omiyage o kaitai desu. *I want to buy a souvenir at the station.*

14. masen ka/mashoo

*masen ka
mashoo*

The speaker makes a suggestion by using the "verb-masen ka" form. The "Verb-mashoo" form shows a stronger volition. In accepting the invitation, the "verb-mashoo" form is used.

A : Keeki o tabemasen ka. *A : Would you like some cake?*

B : Ee, itadakimasu. *B : Yes, I'd like some.*

A : Biiru o nomimasen ka. *A : Would you like some beer?*

B : Iie, kekkoo desu. *B : No thank you.*

A : Tenisu o shimasen ka. *A : Would you like to play tennis?*

B : Ee, shimashoo. *B : Yes, let's.*

A : Kaerimashoo. *A : Let's go home.*

B : Ee, kaerimashoo. *B : Yes, let's.*

15. Verb **-te form kudasai**

Verb -te form kudasai

Verb **-te form** combined with "**kudasai**" is used to request and order more politely.

	-masu form	-te form+kudasai	
to go	ikimasu	itte kudasai	Please go
to come	kimasu	kite kudasai	Please come
to return	kaerimasu	kaette kudasai	Please return
to eat	tabemasu	tabete kudasai	Please eat
to drink	nomimasu	nonde kudasai	Please drink
to see	mimasu	mite kudasai	Please see
to listen	kikimasu	kiite kudasai	Please listen
to buy	kaimasu	katte kudasai	Please buy
to use	tsukaimasu	tsukatte kudasai	Please use
to get off	orimasu	orite kudasai	Please get off

16. Adjectives 1

Adjectives 1

Adjective + [noun]

Japanese adjectives can either modify nouns by immediately preceding them or act as predicates, as in English.

There are two kinds of adjectives: **-i** adjective and **-na** adjective.

ookii uchi	big house
chiisai uchi	small house
shizukana kooen	quiet park
kireina kooen	pretty park

17. Adjectives 2

Adjectives 2

Unlike English, adjectives in Japanese change their form. **-i** adjectives change as follows.

Atsui desu.	It is hot.
Atsukunai desu.	It isn't hot.
Atsukatta desu.	It was hot.
Atsukunakatta desu.	It wasn't hot.

In the case of **-na** adjective, "**desu**" changes as follows.

Kirei desu.	It is pretty.
Kirei dewa arimasen.	It isn't pretty.
Kirei deshita.	It was pretty.
Kirei dewa arimasen deshita.	It wasn't pretty.