1. [noun] desu.

You may compose simple sentences by using this form.

Meepuru 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.


“Wa” shows topic, what we are talking about.

Watashi wa Meepuru 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.
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.
Iie, hon dewa arimasen. No, it isn't a book.

In answering the question, the topic is not repeated.

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.

"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.**

"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.
- Koohi o kudasai. Please give me coffee.
- Kitte o kudasai. Please give me some stamps.

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

- Koohi o hitotsu kudasai. Please give me a cup of coffee.
- Kitte 2(ni)-mai kudasai. Please give me two stamps.
- Biiru 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
- mesen 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, "kimashita", 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.

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 kooen ni ikimasu.  (I) will go to the park tomorrow.
Kinoo 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.
12. 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

To express desire, replace "masu" from 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

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 : Itadakimasu. B : Yes, I'd like some.

A : Biiru o nomimasen ka. A : Would you like some beer?
B : Kekkoo desu. B : No thank you.

A : Tenisu o shimasen ka. A : Would you like to play tennis?
B : Shimashoo. B : Yes, let's.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>-masu form</th>
<th>-te form+kudasai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to go</td>
<td>ikimasu</td>
<td>itte kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to come</td>
<td>kimasu</td>
<td>kite kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to return</td>
<td>kaerimasu</td>
<td>kaette kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to eat</td>
<td>tabemasu</td>
<td>tate kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to drink</td>
<td>nomimasu</td>
<td>nonde kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to see</td>
<td>mimasu</td>
<td>mite kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to listen</td>
<td>kikimasu</td>
<td>kiite kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to buy</td>
<td>kaimasu</td>
<td>katte kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to use</td>
<td>tsukaimasu</td>
<td>tsukatte kudasai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to get off</td>
<td>orimasu</td>
<td>orite kudasai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
- **chisai 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.