

## **Chit-Chat in Japanese (Part 2)**

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Remark: These exercises were prepared for a friend some years back.  
This is the second of 5 chapters. Please send your comments to  
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## Katagana

The kataganas are read from left to right and are used to phoneticized foreign words or names. Use the phonetic sounds of the alphabet to help you along.

A = ah      I = ee      U = uh      E = eh      O=oh

A	ア	I	イ	U	ウ	E	エ	O	オ
Ka	カ	Ki	キ	Ku	ク	Ke	ケ	Ko	コ
Sa	サ	Shi	シ	Su	ス	Se	セ	So	ソ
Ta	タ	Chi	チ	Tsu	ツ	Te	テ	To	ト
Na	ナ	Ni	ニ	Nu	ヌ	Ne	ネ	No	ノ
Ha	ハ	Hi	ヒ	Hu	フ	He	ヘ	Ho	ホ
Ma	マ	Mi	ミ	Mu	ム	Me	メ	Mo	モ
Ya	ヤ	-	-	Yu	ユ	-	-	Yo	ヨ
Ra	ラ	Ri	リ	Ru	ル	Re	レ	Ro	ロ
Wa	ワ	-	-	-	-	-	-	Wo	ヲ
Nn	ン	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Repeat the characters from “Ka”, with bits of changes to produce new sounds.

Ga	ガ	Gi	ギ	Gu	グ	Ge	ゲ	Go	ゴ
Za	ザ	Ji	ジ	Zu	ズ	Ze	ゼ	Zo	ゾ
Da	ダ	Di/ Ji	ヂ	Du	ヅ	De	デ	Do	ド
Ba	バ	Bi	ビ	Bu	ブ	Be	ベ	Bo	ボ
Pa	パ	Pi	ピ	Pu	プ	Pe	ペ	Po	ポ
Fa	ファ	Fi	フィ			Fe	フェ	Fo	フォ

Again repeat characters

Kya	キヤ	-	-	Kyu	キュ	-	-	Kyo	キョ
Gya	ギヤ	-	-	Gyu	ギユ	-	-	Gyo	ギョ
Sha	シャ	-	-	Shu	シュ	-	-	Sho	ショ
Ja	ジャ	-	-	Ju	ジュ	-	-	Jo	ジョ
Cha	チャ	-	-	Chu	チュ	-	-	Cho	チョ
Hya	ヒヤ	-	-	Hyu	ヒユ	-	-	Hyo	ヒョ
Bya	ビヤ	-	-	Byu	ビユ	-	-	Byo	ビョ
Pya	ピヤ	-	-	Pyu	ピユ	-	-	Pyo	ピョ
Rya	リヤ	-	-	Ryu	リュ	-	-	Ryo	リョ

The dialogue in the following pages had been split into 4 parts: The English dialogue, Japanese pronunciation in alphabets, followed by Hiragana form and finally the standard form of written Japanese.

Please try to memorize the shapes of hiraganas Wo ( を ) and Ha ( は ) which is pronounced “Wa”. Wo ( を ) is used to show Direct Objects of Verbs, while Ha ( は ) acts like a Link Verb. The hiragana He (へ) pronounced “eh” is also used as the infinitive “to”. This will help you notice their usage in the Hiragana dialogue.

The direct English translation below may sound a little too strange, but that is the normal form of speech in Japanese. Please note that the English words used are direct translations of the Japanese word, hence they might not sound quite right. I decided to keep it that way because this is a Japanese language lesson not an English one.

## Asking for Directions

Jenny : Excuse me, Mr. Tanaka. How do I go to the Pelita Office?

Jenny : Sumimasen, Tanaka-san. Perita jimusho he dou ikebaini desuka.

ジェに : すみません、たなかさん。ペリタじむしょへどういけばいいですか。

ジェに : すみません、田中さん。ペリタ事務所へどう行けばいいですか。

Tanaka : Hmm... It's just next to the bus station, so you will know it immediately.

Tanaka : Sou desu ne. Basujo no tonari ni aru no de, sugu wakarimasu yo.

たなか : そうですね。バスじよのとなりにあるので、すぐわかりますよ。

田中 : そうですね。バス所の隣にあるので、すぐわかりますよ。

Jenny : Really? Where should I ride a bus?

Jenny : Sou desu ka. Doko de basu wo norebaini desu ka.

ジェに : そうですか。どこでバスをのればいいですか。

ジェに : そうですか。どこでバスを乗ればいいですか。

Tanaka : Go straight down this road and turn right at the first corner. Wait at the bus stop on the opposite side of the main road.

Tanaka: Kono michi wo massugu itte ichibanme no kado de migi ni magarimasu. Oodoori no hantai gawa no teiryuujo de mattekudasai

たなか : このみちをまっすぐ行っていちばんめのかどでみぎにまがります。おどおりのはんたいがわのていりゅうじよでまってください。

田中 : この道を真っ直ぐ行って一番目の角で右に曲ります。大通りの反対側の停留所で待ってください。

Jenny : Thank you. I am going now.

Jenny : Arigatou gozaimasu. Itte kimasu.

ジェに : ありがとうございます。いってきます。

ジェに : 有難うございます。行ってきます。

Tanaka : Go ahead. Watch out for the cars.

Tanaka : Itte rashai. Kuruma ni ki wo tsuketekudasai.

たなか : 行ってらっしゃい。くるまにきをつけてください。

田中 : 行ってらっしゃい。車に気をつけて下さい。

Tanaka : Ah. Wait. Don't forget your mobile phone.

Tanaka : A, chotto matte. Keitai denwa wo wasurenai de.

たなか : あ、ちょっとまって。けいたいでんわをわすれないで。

田中 : あ、ちょっと待って。携帯電話を忘れないで。

Jenny : Thank goodness you reminded me.

Jenny : Chui sasete yokatta.

ジェに : ちゅういさせてよかった。

ジェに : 注意させてよかった。

Tanaka : If you lost your way, call me.

Tanaka : Michi ni mayoeba denwa shitene.

たなか : みちにまよえばでんわしてね。

田中 : 道に迷えば電話してね。

## Vocabulary List

Sumimasen	すみません	Excuse me, I am sorry
Arigatou Gozaimasu	有難うございます	Thank you
Basujo	バス所	Bus Station
Basu Teiryuujo	バス停留所	Bus Stop
Chikai	近い	Close, Near
Tonari	隣	Next to, Beside
Sugu	直ぐ	Immediately, Straight
Wakarimasu (v)	分かります	Know, Understand
Michi	道	Road
Massugu	真っ直ぐ	Straight
Kado	角	Corner
Ichiban	一番	First, Number 1
Magarimasu (v)	曲ります	Turn
Oodoori	大通り	Main Road
Hantai Gawa	反対側	Opposite Side
Machimasu (v)	待ちます	Wait
Ittekimasu	行ってきます	I am going now
Itterasshai	行ってらっしゃい	Go ahead
Kuruma	車	Car, Wheels
Ki wo Tsukete	気を付けて	Be careful, Watch out
Kudasai	ください	Please
Ikimasu (v)	行きます	Go
Chui suru (v)	注意する	Remind, Alert

**Grammar:**

I hope you are ready to try some different forms of verbs.

Verb	Informal		Formal	
Say	iu	言う	iimasu	言います
Go	iku	行く	ikimasu	行きます
read	yomu	読む	yomimasu	読みます
do	suru	する	shimasu	します
Start	hajimaru	始まる	hajimarimasu	始めます

If you study the Hiragana list from Chapter 1, you will notice that the “u” columns in the informal form is converted into an equivalent in the “i” columns followed by “masu”. However, this rule does not apply for all verbs. For example, Miru (watch) should only be converted to Mimasu and not Mirimasu. Other words include those that have the “e” sound before “ru”.

Verb	Informal		Formal	
Watch	miru	見る	mimasu	見ます
Eat	taberu	食べる	tabemasu	食べます
Bend	mageru	曲げる	magemasu	曲げます
Present	iru	いる	imasu	います

Hence there are two ways you can express yourself.

I go (to) shopping.

**Informal:** Kaimono he iku

買い物へ行く。

**Formal:** Kaimono he ikimasu

買い物へ行きます。

**Let's practice converting simple verb forms from informal to formal:**

I watch a movie.

Watashi wa eiga wo miru.

わたしはえいがをみる

Watashi wa eiga wo .....

I drink tea.

Watashi wa ocha wo nomu.

わたしはおちやをのむ

Watashi wa ocha wo .....

I eat an apple.

Watashi wa ringo wo taberu.

わたしはりんごをたべる

Watashi wa ringo wo .....

I read a book.

Watashi wa hon wo yomu.

わたしはほんをよむ

Watashi wa hon wo .....

I bend a spoon.

Watashi wa su-pun wo mageru.

わたしはすーぷんをまげる

Watashi wa su-pun wo .....

If you study the sentence structure you will notice two phonics that consistently repeat itself, “ha” は (pronounced “wa”) and “wo” を (pronounced “oh”).

The word that comes before “ha” は is the subject.

The word that comes before “wo” を is the direct object of the sentence.

Hence:

Subject は Direct Object を Verb.

Let's practice: \_\_\_\_\_ wa \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_.

### Subjects

I	You	Ms. Jenny	Cat	We
Watashi	Anata	Jenni-san	neko	Watashitachi
わたし	あなた	ジェにさん	ねこ	わたしたち

### Direct Objects

Book	Newspaper	Apple	Shopping	Sake
Hon	Shimbun	Ringo	Kaimono	Sake
ほん	しんぶん	りんご	かいもの	さけ
Tea	Coffee	Noodles	Movie	Water
Ocha	Ko-hi	Ramen	Eiga	Mizu
おちゃ	こーひ	らめん	えいが	みず

### Verbs

Eat	Drink	Read	Go	Watch
Taberu	Nomu	Yomu	Iku	Miru
たべる	のむ	よむ	いく	みる
たべます	のみます	よみます	いきます	みます

## If Form

If you **go (to)** shopping, please buy some apples.

Anata **ga** kaimono **he ikeba**, ringo wo kattekudasai.

あなた**が**かいものへいけば、りんごをかってください。

The “If” format changes the “..u” form of the verb into an equivalent “...e” format + “ba”.

	Verb		“If” Format	
Go	Iku	いく	Ikeba	いけば
Read	Yomu	よむ	Yomeba	よめば
Eat	Taberu	たべる	Tabereba	たべれば
Drink	Nomu	のむ	Nomeba	のめば
Watch	Miru	みる	Mireba	みれば
Cut	Kiru	きる	Kireba	きれば
Do	Suru	する	Sureba	すれば

Remember the lessons in chapter 1 on how to build “Please” sentences. This is where you use it.

If you \_\_\_\_\_, please \_\_\_\_\_.

The “if” form can also be used to ask “How should I....”

**How** should I go shopping?

Kaimono he **dou** ikeba ii desu ka.

**How** should I eat this?

Kore wo **dou** tabereba ii desu ka.

### Good to Know:

You may have noticed by now that the hiraganas “ga” and “ha” are similar to the English link verbs “is” or “are” when used to indicate a subject. However, it takes a lot of practice to know when to use which.

The general guideline is to use “ha” when stating a fact.

I am a student.                      Watashi **ha** gakusei desu.

And to use “ga” when imparting new information.

I study English.                      Watashi **ga** eigo wo benkyou shimasu.

I am a student at Waseda.      Watashi **ga** Waseda no gakusei desu.

Keep in mind that language is a living, breathing form that is built around the needs of the society where it was first formed. Hence do not turn the above guideline into a rule.

**Exercises: (Say the words first then write your answer down)**

1. How should I cut the apple?

.....

2. I drink sake. (fact)

.....

3. The cat drinks water. (new information)

.....

4. If you turn right, you will see the bus stop.

.....

5. If you drink coffee, you will read a book.

.....

6. If we eat noodles, we will drink tea.

.....

7. We go shopping.

.....

8. If you drink tea, please read a newspaper.

.....

9. How should I eat the noodles?

.....

10. You watch a movie.

.....

## Answers.

### Practice

Watashi wa eiga wo mimasu.

Watashi wa ocha wo nomimasu.

Watashi wa ringo wo tabemasu.

Watashi wa hon wo yomimasu.

Watashi wa su-pun wo magemasu.

### Exercises

1. Ringo wo dou kireba ii desu ka.
2. (Watashi ha) sake wo nomimasu.
3. Neko ga mizu wo nomimasu.
4. Anata ga migi ni magereba, basu teiryuujo wo mimasu.  
(This is not the right way to say it, but we are only practicing after all.  
..... basu teiryuujo ga miemasu.)
5. Anata ga ko-hi wo nomeba, hon wo yomimasu.
6. Watashitachi ga ramen wo tabereba, ocha wo nomimasu.
7. Watashitachi ha kaimono he ikimasu.
8. Ocha wo nomeba, shinbun wo yondekudasai.
9. Ramen wo dou tabereba ii desu ka.
10. Anata ha eiga wo mimasu. (Anata ga eiga wo mimasu)

If you like this booklet, please give it a good review and keep an eye out for Chapter 3.

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