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The subject and the direct object are the primary grammatical categories.

Two types of locational particles: -de and -ni.

Three reasons not to use phrase particles.

“Exceptional” uses of -ga.

Grammatical reasons for alternations of particles.

The person marked with the particle -ni is an active participant in an interaction.

The person marked with the particle -to is a “reciprocal” participant in an interaction.

Certain auxiliary verbs take the non-subject participant particle -ni.

The auxiliary verb -morau comes with -ni; the auxiliary verbs -ageru and -kureru do not.

Another consequence of the double-o constraint.

Phrase particles are powerful!

Part 3. Expanding Noun Phrases

The particle -no between two nouns turns the first noun into a modifier.

A noun modified by an adjective functions like a noun.

The modifier consistently precedes the modified.

Spatial relationships are expressed with stacked nouns.

The particle -no mediates a wide range of relationships. Mekishiko-jin-no tomodachi, for instance, means either “a friend of a Mexican” or “a friend who is Mexican.”

The particle -to connects noun phrases representing separate objects.

Na-nouns behave like nouns, but they have “fuzzy” meanings.

To say something more complex, use complex noun phrases.

The head noun of a complex noun phrase carries with it only the particle which marks its function in a larger sphere.

Japanese does not employ WH-phrases for creating complex noun phrases.

Mekishiko-jin-no tomodachi “a Mexican friend” is a complex noun phrase.

Atarashii tomodachi “a new friend” is also a kind of complex noun phrase.

One more way to create a complex noun phrase.

No is for a familiar event; koto is for an abstract idea.

Part 4. Tense and Events

There are only two tenses in Japanese: non-past and past.

Special use of past tense forms.
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