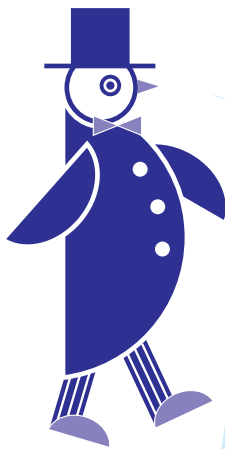


Design: Masako Ban



# restaurant o tabemashita! Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

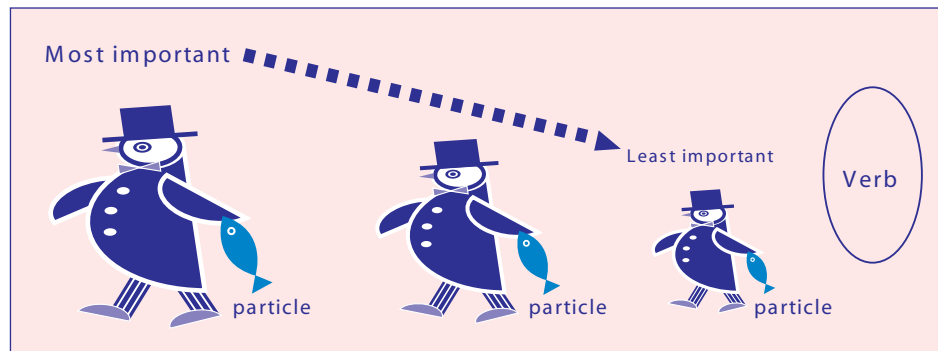
## Vol. 27

*During a lunch break with some colleagues, I was reading through a gourmet magazine and came across a listing for my favorite restaurant. I told my friends, "kinō kono oishi restaurant o tabemashita." I meant to say, "Yesterday, I had a delicious dinner at this restaurant," but all of my friends looked shocked! One of them asked me, "How was it? Was it good?" "Yes, of course, it was good!" I said. They all started laughing and one of them said to me, "Sorry, Pole-san! We cannot eat a restaurant!"*

■■■ They laughed because you used the wrong particle when you spoke. You said, "I ate this delicious restaurant." You should have used the particle 'de,' saying, "\_\_restaurant 'de' ( \_\_at the restaurant)." It is generally hard to use Japanese particles, but I think they are fun! I think many of you might have already noticed from my column that my explanations of Japanese grammar are somewhat different from those of most people. That's because I've been using "Hitomi Grammar," the set of grammatical rules that I have created to make Japanese grammar much easier and more enjoyable for foreign students. And I'll continue to use "Hitomi Grammar" for my explanations from now on.

### Basic Rule of Sentence Structure

Japanese grammar places less emphasis on word order than other languages. Although it is up to you to decide how to arrange your words, it will be much easier to communicate in Japanese if you start each sentence with the most important idea, then work down through the less important things and finish with the verb. However, each particle must stay with the word it modifies



Word order is up to you!

e.g., I'll see my friends in Hawaii next week. You can say, either 1), 2) or 3).

In general, Japanese people do not use "I (watashi)" much in everyday speech. If you use "watashi" too much, it starts to sound arrogant. Avoid using it unless you want to emphasize yourself.

1) ~~私は~~ ~~watashi wa~~ (I) ハワイで 来週 友達に 会います。  
Hawaii de raishū tomodachi ni aimasu (will meet)  
The word order is up to you! The verb ends.

2) 来週 ハワイで 友達に 会います。  
raishū Hawaii de tomodachi ni aimasu

3) 友達に 来週 ハワイで 会います。  
tomodachi ni raishū Hawaii de aimasu

### particle は (wa) ..... Explanation, Comparison

The particle "wa" is used in many different ways, but I'm going to explain two main ways of using the particle for this lesson. They are "Explanation" and "Comparison."

#### Explanation (Objectively)

B is the explanation of A.



When you finish saying "wa," the listeners will think that you are going to explain the details next.

#### "Comparison"

• To pronounce "wa" with emphasis. It's stressed



e.g., (comparing with other fish) This fish is smaller.

この魚は 小さい です。  
kono sakana wa chīsai desu

e.g., (comparing with other people) I am not beautiful.

私は きれい じゃないです。  
watashi wa kirē janai desu

★Caution★ It is not a common practice to say "wa" directly after words that relate to dates, such as "tomorrow," "the day after tomorrow," "Sunday," "next week," etc.

I'm going to see a friend tomorrow.  
e.g., 明日 ~~は~~ 友達に会います。  
ashita wa tomodachi ni aimasu  
▼ If you put "wa" right after 'tomorrow,' it will be compared with other days.  
(comparing with other days) It is tomorrow that I'm going to see a friend.  
明日 は 友達に会います。  
ashita wa tomodachi ni aimasu



は wa?  
は ha?

### Quiz:

Please identify the particle, "は: wa" in the following sentences.

- ははははちはんにはしてかいしゃにいきます。  
ha ha ha ha chi ji ha n ni ha shi tte ka i sha ni i ki ma su
- このはこにははなははいていません。  
ko no ha ko ni ha ha na ha ha i tte i ma se n
- たばこのはいはははいらに。  
ta ba ko no ha i ha ha i za ra ni
- ははのははははくはつです。  
ha ha no ha ha ha ha ku ha tsu de su
- はちははなにとまっています。  
ha chi ha ha na ni to ma tte i ma su
- はとはぐきははぶらしてみがきましょう。  
ha to ha gu ki ha ha bu ra shi de mi ga ki ma shō
- きのはははいろいろです。  
ki no ha ha ha i i ro de su
- ははははりといとはさみをかいました。  
ha ha ha ha ri to i to to ha sa mi o ka i ma shi ta

### Answers

- My mother runs to work at 8:30 a.m.  
母は8時半に走って会社に行きます。  
haha (wa) hachi-ji han ni hashitte kaisha ni ikimasu  
my mother 8:30 at company
- There aren't any flowers in this box.  
この箱には花は入っていません。  
kono hako ni wa hana wa haitte-imasen  
this box flower
- Put the cigarette ash in an ashtray.  
タバコの灰は灰皿に。  
tabako no hai (wa) haizara ni  
cigarette ash ashtray
- My mother's mother has gray hair.  
母の母は白髪です。  
haha no haha wa hakuhatsu desu  
my mother's mother gray hair
- There's a bee on the flower.  
ハチは花にとまっています。  
hachi (wa) hana ni tomatte-imasu  
bee flower
- Let's brush our teeth and gums with a toothbrush.  
歯と歯茎は歯ブラシで磨きましょう。  
ha to haguki (wa) ha-brush de migaki-mashō  
teeth gums toothbrush Let's brush
- The leaf is gray.  
木の葉は灰色です。  
ki no ha (wa) haiiro desu  
tree leaf gray
- My mother bought a needle and scissors.  
母は針とハサミを買いました。  
haha (wa) hari to hasami o kaimashita  
my mother needle scissors bought