

wa: indicates topic / sets off a topic for the rest of the sentence.

1. Indicates info is being presented about something that is already known or that has been identified.

- [1] Asoko ni akai hon ga arimasu ne. Are wa kanji no hon desu.
Over there is a red book, right? It's a Kanji book.
- [2] Ano daigaku wa, Yotsuya-eki no chikaku ni arimasu.
That university, it's near Yotsuya Station.

2. Indicates a topic, which is then identified or explained.

- [3] Ashita wa nichiyōbi desu.
As for tomorrow, it's Sunday. / Tomorrow is Sunday.
- [4] Kujira wa sakana de wa arimasen.
As for the whale, it's not a fish. / The whale is not a fish.

3. In “N + wa N + ga”, wa indicated a topic (the 1st noun) about which an aspect or quality (2nd noun) is explained

- [5] Zō wa hana ga nagai desu.
The elephant, it's nose is long.
- [6] Takemoto-san wa seikaku ga yasashii desu.
As for Takemoto, her personality is gentle. / Takemoto has a gentle nature.

4. Used to show contrast between two items or ideas, both of which are signified by wa.

- [7] Kanji wa muzukashii desu ga, Nihon-go no bunpō wa amari muzukashii nai-n desu.
Kanji is difficult, but Japanese grammar is not very difficult.
- [8] Hokkaidō no fuyu samui desu ga, Tōkyō wa atatakai desu.
Hokkaidō winter is cold, but the Tokyo winter is warm.
- [9] Takai kara, ano resutoran ni wa ikimasen.
Because that restaurant is expensive, I won't go there.

5. In the form “V-te wa iru” and “V-masu” base followed by “wa” and “suru”, “wa” indicates emphasis.

- [10] Konpyūtā o motte wa imasu ga, mada tsukatte (wa) imasen.
I own a computer, but I haven't used it yet.
- [11] Ano hito o shitte wa imasu ga, amari hanashita koto wa arimasen.
I know him, but I haven't spoken to him much.
- [12] Ocha wa nomimashita ga, jikan ga nakatta no de shokuji wa shimasen deshita.
I had some tea, but since there wasn't much time, I didn't eat (I didn't have a meal).

Japanese Particles 05: wa

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Nouns:	daigaku kujira zō seikaku bunpō nihon-go no bumpō hana fuyu shokuji eki resutoran / レストラン konpyūta / コンピュータ	university whale elephant personality grammar Japanese grammar nose (and “flower”) winter meal / dinner railway station (e.g.: “Tokyo-eki”) restaurant computer
Pronouns:	asoko ano	distance pronoun (between speaker and object) that / those / the
Adjectives:	amari (n) chikaku (n) nagai yasashii muzukashii samui ataakai takai kawaita	too much, excessively, overly / remainder, rest, balance near long gentle difficult cold (weather) warm tall, expensive dry
Counters:		
Verbs:	arimasu (aru) / atte imasu tsukaimasu (tsukau) / tsukatte imasu shimasu (suru) / shite imasu nomimasu (nomu) / nonde imasu mochimasu (motsu) / motte imasu	to exist (not walking) to use or operate to do, to make to drink to own, to have, to hold
Expressions:	nakatta = was not(?)	