

PART 1: Indicates the subject of the sentence, or, with certain verbs and adjectives, the object.

1. Indicates existence: aru, gozaimasu, iru, irassharu.

- [1] asoko ni watashi no bōrupen ga arimasu ka.
is my ball-point pen over there?
- [2] asoko ni yūbin-kyoku ga arimasu
there's a post office over there.
- [3] watashi no kaisha ni wa, onna no hito ga gojū-nin ijō imasu.
there are more than 50 women in my company.
- [4] watashi no bōrupen wa asoko ni arimasu ka
is my ballpoint pen over there?

2. Indicates the subject of the predicate.

- [5] asoko ni sakura ga saite imasu.
The cherry trees are blooming over there.
- [6] Ano yama o mite kudasai. Mada yuki ga nokotte imasu yo.
Look at that mountain. There's still snow on it ("snow remains...")

3. Indicates the subject of an intransitive verb.

- [7] To ga akimashita.
The door opened.
- [8] Ame ga futte imasu (or "futte iru").
It's raining.
- [9] Ame wa futte iru ga, yuki wa mada futte imasen.
It's raining, but it's not snowing yet.

4. Indicates the subject of the sentence when new - as yet unknown - information is being presented.

- [10] kochira ga Yamada-sen desu.
This is Mr Yamada (personal introduction).
- [11] kinō tomodachi no Jakku ga anata ni aitai itte imashita. ??
Yesterday, my friend Jack said he wanted to meet you.
- [12] go shōkai shimasu. kochira ga Yamada-san de, kochira wa Suzuki-san desu.
Let me do the introductions. This is Mr Yamada, and this is Ms. Suzuki.

5. Used with interrogative words in questions. (a) In general questions. (b) In asking for a choice.

- [13] (a) dono hito ga kachō desu ka.
Which one [person] is the section chief?
- [14] (a) dare ga ichiban hayaku kimashita ka?
Who came [arrived] first?
- [15] (a) kachō wa dono hito desu ka
The section chief, which one is he?
- [16] (b) sushi to tempura to dochira ga suki desu ka
Which do you like better, sushi or tempura?
- [17] (b) chūgoku-go to nihon-go to, dochira ga muzukashii desu ka
Which is more difficult, Chinese or Japanese?

6. Indicates the subject of a relative clause.

[18] senshū watashi ga mita eiga wa tsumarankatta.
The movie I saw last week was boring (“was uninteresting”).

[19] isshūkan de watashi ga yomu hon wa yonsatsu desu. ??
I read four books in one week (“Four books is what I read in one week”).

7. Indicates the subject of a clause ending in “ka”.

[20] naze kare ga sonna koto o yatta ka, wakarimasen.
I don't know why he did that? (“I don't know why he did something like that”)

[21] dō shite kanojo ga anna tsumaranai hon o yonde iru no ka, fushigi desu.
It's a mystery to me [beyond me] why she's reading such a boring book [a boring book like that].

8. Indicates the subject of a subordinate or conditional clause when it is different from the main clause. (b) conditional clauses.

[22] (a) haha ga nihon ni kuru mae ni, [watashi wa] kono heya o kirei ni sōji shinakereba naranai. ??
Before my mother comes to Japan, I have to make this room nice and clean.

[23] (a) haha ga kita toki, watashi wa gochisō o tsukutta.
When my mother came, I prepared quite a spread.

[24] (a) haha ga kita ato, watashi wa kaimono ni dekaketa.
After my mother came, I went out shopping.

[25] (b) ano hito ga iku-n dattara, watashi wa ikanai.
If he's going, I am not.

[26] (b) anata ga sō iu nara, nattō o tabete mimasu.
If you say so [if you recommend it], I'll try some fermented beans.

9. Indicates the object of verbs and ability (dekiru, wakaru, and the potential forms of verbs).

[27] Abe-san wa gorufu ga dekimasu.
Abe can play [“do”] golf.

[28] Okada-san wa piano ga hikemasu.
Okada can play the piano.

[29] Yamada-san wa Chūgoku-go ga wakarimasu.
Yamada understands Chinese.

10. Indicates the object of verbs of sensation (mieru and kikoeru), as well as “suru” in certain uses.

[30] koko kara fuji-san ga miemasu.
You can see Mt Fuji from here.

[31] asa no daidokoro wa, kōhī no kaori ga shimasu.
The kitchen smells of coffee in the morning (In the morning, you can smell coffee brewing in the kitchen).

[32] koko kara Fuji-san wa miemasu ga, noboru hito no sugata wa miemasen.
You can see Mt Fuji from here, but not the figures of the people climbing it.

11. Indicates the object of verbs and adjectives of necessity (hitsuyō da, iru).

[33] watashi wa okane ga iru.
I need money.

[34] kōtsū no anzen no tame, kibishii kisoku ga hitsuyō desu.

Strict rules are needed for traffic safety.

- [35] watashi wa, okane wa iru ga, mono wa iranai.
I need money, but I don't need things.

12. Indicates the object of adjectives of desire (hoshii and the -tai form of verbs).

- [36] jikan to okane ga hoshii
I want time and money.

- [37] tsumetai mono ga nomitai.
I want something cold to drink.

- [38] tsumetai mono wa nomitai ga, atatakai mono wa irimasen.
I want something cold to drink, but not anything warm.

13. Indicates the object of verbs and adjectives of emotion (suki da, kirai da, ureshii, kanashii, kowai, shinpai, suru, etc).

- [39] watashi wa mōtsuaruo ga daisuki desu.
I love Mozart.

- [40] Jon-san wa nattō ga kirai desu.
Jon doesn't like natto.

- [41] aki ni naru to taifū ga shinpai desu
In the fall, typhoons are a worry [a problem].

- [42] Hanako wa konna subarashii purezento o kureta-n desu yo. Sono kimochi ga ureshii desu.
Hanako gave me a wonderful present. I'm so pleased ("this feeling is great")

- [43] Jimu-san wa nattō kirai da ga, surume wa daisuki desu.
Jim doesn't like natto, but he loves dried cuttlefish.

14. Indicates the object of adjectives of ability (jōzu no, heta na, tokui na, kiyō na, etc).

- [44] atarashii shushō wa, haiku ga jozū da sō desu
The new prime minister is said to be good at haiku.

- [45] Ogawa-san gogaku ga tokui de, Furansu-go mo Itaria-go mo dekimasu.
Ogawa is good at languages, she can speak both French and Italian.

- [46] atarashii shushō wa, haiku wa jozū desu ga, seji wa māmā desu.
The new prime minister is said to be good at haiku, but his politics are so-so.

Japanese Particles 06: ga (part 1)

ā ī ū ē ō

Nouns:	bōrupen (k) yūbin-kyoku kaisha sakura yama to kochira kachō senshū eiga isshūkan satsu sōji gochisō kaimono gorufu (k) daidokoro kaori okane kōtsū taifū shinpai surume sugata aitai	ball point pen post office company, workplace, corporation cherry tree mountain Japanese-style door “this person” (for introductions) section chief last week movie / film one week book cleaning, sweeping treat (food and drink), treating someone to a meal shopping golf kitchen scent, aroma, smell money traffic typhoon worry, anxiety, concern, problem cuttlefish figure, form, shape tete-a-tete, involving only two parties 4 books
Counters:	yon-satsu	
Pronoun:	asoko sonna	there ; over there ; that place such; that sort of; that kind of / like that
Adverb:	hayaku nara	soon, early if, in case, if it is the case, if it is true that
Adjectives:	tsumaranai fushigi kibishii hitsuyou (na) daisuki (na)	boring wonderul, marvelous, strange, mysterious, amazing severe, strict necessary liking very much, loving
Verbs:	mimasu (miemasu) / mite imasu (mita = “saw”) nokorimasu (nokoru) / nokotte imasu akimasu (aku) / aite imasu furimasu (furu) / futte imasu yomimasu (yomu) / yonde imasu sakimasu (saku) / saite imasu yarimasu (yaru) / yatte imasu tsukurimasu (tsukuru) / tsukutte imasu dekimasu (dekiru) / dekite imasu dekaketa iimasu (iu) / itte imasu hikimasu (hiku) / hiite imasu noborimasu (noboru) / nobotte imasu irimasu (iru) / itte imasu narimasu (naru) / natte imasu	to see / to look at to remain / to be left over to open (e.g.: a door) to fall from the sky to read / reading to bloom / blooming to do, give / doing, giving to make, build to be able went out to say to play (stringed instrument) to climb to need to become
Expressions:	go shōkai shimasu sonna hito sonna koto sonna koto nai sonna koto nai yo shinakereba dattara tabete mimasu	Let me introduce you. “someone like that” / negative sense “something like that” / negative sense “There is nothing like that” “That's not true” “have to” if so / if that's the case “try to eat”