

# Japanese Particles

These particles are placed **after** the word (or phrase) they modify.

<p>は <b>Wa</b></p>	<p>This is the topic marker/particle. It shows the main topic of the conversation. [NOTE: it is a hiragana <i>ha</i> but pronounced as "wa"]</p> <p>Kare ha yasashii deesu = He is nice.</p> <p><b>[Makes "Kare" the main topic]</b></p>
<p>が <b>Ga</b></p>	<p>This is the subject marker/particle. The one doing the action. It is hard to distinguish between Wa and GA since they can be used interchangeably with only a slight change in meaning.</p> <p>Inu ga hen desu = The dog is strange.</p> <p>Watashi ga tabe mashita = I ate it !</p> <p><b>[Makes the "dog" , "I" the subject]</b></p>
<p>を <b>O</b></p>	<p>This is the direct object marker/particle. The thing acted upon</p> <p>kouhi o nomimasu = (I) drink coffee</p> <p>Kare wa hon o yomimashita = He read a book</p> <p><b>[Makes "coffee" , "book" the object]</b></p>
<p>へ <b>(h)e</b></p>	<p>This is a directional marker / particle; to, toward</p> <p>toukyou he ikimasu = (I) am going to Tokyo. (can also use ni)</p> <p>Watashi wa ginkou he ikimasu = I go to the bank</p> <p><b>[Makes "Tokyo" , "bank" the location]</b></p>

<p>に ni</p>	<p>This is a multipurpose marker/particle; to : <b>it usually shows movement (to)</b></p> <p>1) Indirect object (receiver): Hon o anata ni agemasu_ = (I) give you a book.</p> <p>2) Place where something is going: Totoukyou ni ikimasu = (I) am going to Tokyo.(can also use <b>(h)e</b>)</p> <p>3) Time (at, in) : Shichi ji ni shuppatsu = (I) will leave at 7</p> <p>4) In/at a place: Toukyou ni sundeimasu = (I) live in Tokyo.</p> <p>5) Purpose (to) Kouhi ni shimashou = Let's have coffee. [There is movement going to have coffee]</p>
<p>で de</p>	<p>This shows location marker / particle; at , in : <b>it usually does NOT show movement</b></p> <p>1) By means of : Densya de ikimashou = Let's go by (means of) train.</p> <p>2) Place where the action happens: Ie de terebi o mimasu = (I) watch TV at home.</p> <p>3) Cause, reason: <u>Taifuu de ki ga taoremashita</u> = Because of the typhoon, a tree fell.</p>