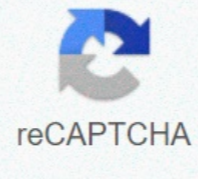




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teaching Japanese using functional grammar.Donated by L Morris. functional_grammar.pdfFile Size: 662 kbFile Type: pdfDownload File Grammar summary sheetEncourage students to remember taught grammar points by using this grammar summary sheet regularly.Donated by S Buck. grammar_summary_sheet.docFile Size: 37 kbFile Type: docDownload File Hiragana grammar chartThis chart shows how the five sounds in the hiragana lines are used to conjugate verbs and below the table how the various consonant and vowel combinations change into te form and ta form.Donated by A Yamaura hiragana_grammar_chart.xlsFile Size: 49 kbFile Type: xlsDownload File Level check testNew students? Not sure how much previous knowledge students have obtained? Test your students Japanese general knowledge, including kana and grammar, with this level check placement test.Donated by L Avila level_check_test.docxFile Size: 36 kbFile Type: docxDownload File Traffic lights - understanding toolGive each Ss a set of traffic light cards. When teaching a new topic, grammar point, giving instructions etc Ss put on their desk the card corresponding to their level of understanding. Ss withgreen on their desks maybe able to help those with red on their desks. Donated by: R Davey traffic_light_understandingFile Size: 33 kbFile Type: docxDownload File We want to now make good use of what we learned in the last lesson by associating a noun with another noun. This is done with something called particles. Particles are one or more Hiragana characters that attach to the end of a word to define the grammatical function of that word in the sentence. Using the correct particles is very important because the meaning of a sentence can completely change just by changing the particles. For example, the sentence "Eat fish." can become "The fish eats." simply by changing one particle. The 「は」 topic particle Vocabulary 学生【が・せい】 - student うん - yes (casual) 明日【あした】 - tomorrow うらん - no (casual) 今日【きょう】 - today 試験【しけん】 - exam The first particle we will learn is the topic particle. The topic particle identifies what it is that you're talking about, essentially the topic of your sentence. Let's say a person says, "Not student." This is a perfectly valid sentence in Japanese but it doesn't tell us much without knowing what the person is talking about. The topic particle will allow us to express what our sentences are about. The topic particle is the character 「は」. Now, while this character is normally pronounced as /ha/, it is pronounced /wa/ only when it is being used as the topic particle. Example 1 ポブ：アリスは？ Bob: Is Alice (you) student? アリス：。 Alice: Yeah, (I) am. Here, Bob is indicating that his question is about Alice. Notice that once the topic is established, Alice does not have to repeat the topic to answer the question about herself. Example 2 ポブ：ジョンは？ Bob: John is tomorrow? アリス：うらん、じゃない。 Alice: No, not tomorrow. Since we have no context, we don't have enough information to make any sense of this conversation. It obviously makes no sense for John to actually be tomorrow. Given a context, as long as the sentence has something to do with John and tomorrow, it can mean anything. For instance, they could be talking about when John is taking an exam. Example 3 アリス：はだ。 Alice: Today is exam. ポブ：ジョンは？ Bob: What about John? アリス：ジョンは。 Alice: John is tomorrow. (As for John, the exam is tomorrow). The last example shows how generic the topic of a sentence is. A topic can be referring to any action or object from anywhere even including other sentences. For example, in the last sentence from the previous example, even though the sentence is about when the exam is for John, the word "exam" doesn't appear anywhere in the sentence! We'll see a more specific particle that ties more closely into the sentence at the end of this lesson with the identifier particle. The 「も」 inclusive topic particle Vocabulary 学生【が・せい】 - student うん - yes (casual) でも - but うらん - no (casual) Another particle that is very similar to the topic particle is the inclusive topic particle. It is essentially the topic particle with the additional meaning of "also". Basically, it can introduce another topic in addition to the current topic. The inclusive topic particle is the 「も」 character and its use is best explained by an example. Example 1 ポブ：アリスは？ Bob: Is Alice (you) student? アリス：うん、トムも。 Alice: Yeah, and Tom is also student. The inclusion of 「も」 must be consistent with the answer. It would not make sense to say, "I am a student, and Tom is also not a student." Instead, use the 「は」 particle to make a break from the inclusion as seen in the next example. Example 2 ポブ：アリスは？ Bob: Is Alice (you) student? アリス：うん、でもトムはじゃない。 Alice: Yeah, but Tom is not student. Below is an example of inclusion with the negative. Example 3 ポブ：アリスは？ Bob: Is Alice (you) student? アリス：うらん、トムもしない。 Alice: No, and Tom is also not student. The 「が」 identifier particle Vocabulary 誰【だれ】 - who 学生【が・せい】 - student 私【わたし】 - me; myself; I; Ok, so we can make a topic using the 「は」, and 「も」 particle. But what if we don't know what the topic is? What if I wanted to ask, "Who is the student?" What I need is some kind of identifier because I don't know who the student is. If I use the topic particle, the question would become, "Is who the student?" and that doesn't make any sense because "who" is not an actual person. This is where the 「が」 particle comes into play. It is also referred to as the subject particle but I hate that name since "subject" means something completely different in English grammar. Instead, I call it the identifier particle because the particle indicates that the speaker wants to identify something unspecified. Example 1 ポブ：が？ Bob: Who is the one that is student? アリス：ジョンが。 Alice: John is the one who is student. Bob wants to identify who among all the possible candidates is a student. Alice responds that John is the one. Notice, Alice could also have answered with the topic particle to indicate that, speaking of John, she knows that he is a student (maybe not the student). You can see the difference in the next example. Example 2 が？ Who is the one that is student? は？ (The student is who? The first sentence seeks to identify a specific person for "student" while the second sentence is simply talking about the student. You cannot replace 「が」 with 「は」, in the first sentence because "who" would become the topic and the question would become, "Is who a student?" The two particles 「は」 and 「が」 may seem very similar only because it is impossible to translate them directly into English. For example, the two sentences below have the same English translation.* Example 3 は。 I (am) student. が。 I (am) student. However, they only seem similar because English cannot

express information about the context as succinctly as Japanese sometimes can. In the first sentence, since 「は」 is the topic, the sentence means, "Speaking about me, I am a student!" However, the second sentence is specifying who the 「は」 is. If we want to know who the student is, the 「が」 particle tells us it's 「は」. You can also think about the 「が」 particle as always answering a silent question, "Who is the student?" I often translate the topic particle as "as for; about" and the identifier particle as "the one; the thing" to illustrate the difference. は。 As for me, (I am) student. が。 I (am) the one (that is) student. The 「は」 and 「が」 particles are actually quite different if you think of it the right way. The 「が」 particle identifies a specific property of something while the 「は」 particle is used only to bring up a new topic of conversation. This is why, in longer sentences, it is common to separate the topic with commas to remove ambiguity about which part of the sentence the topic applies to. *Well technically, it's the most likely translation given the lack of context. *Note: The order of topics covered are different in the videos so you may want to read about Adjectives first. Lemony Snicket loved grammar. "Grammar is the greatest joy in life," he said. Moliere believed that grammar could control even kings. When looked at it this way, grammar might seem like a kind of super weapon. Well, let me tell you a secret: It actually is. No matter how hard you try to memorize all those endless phrases, verbs, and vocabulary lists, words will mean nothing unless you are able to put them in the right order. So know your vocabulary, but don't forget that sentence structure is what links those words together. It provides us with the ability to express ourselves, fosters precision and exploits the richness that derives from learning a foreign language. Grammar is important. Grammar is your super weapon. "But how do I get hold of that secret weapon?," you ask. There are so many sites and books and workshops and cram schools and phrase books and learning aids and... Hold up! Take a deep breath and relax. The sea is vast, but don't worry: I know how important it is to start smart, so I prepared a list of 12 grammar sites, spanning the range of all Japanese language levels. Get ready to hone your grammar skills. 1. Marugoto Plus - まるごと (まるごとぶらす) (Beginners) Marugoto Plus is a site compatible with the contents of "MARUGOTO: Japanese Language and Culture," the official course book of the Japan Foundation. Having the textbook is not a prerequisite in order to use the site, and all of the site's content is super useful. What's interesting about Marugoto is that its culture references are not strictly Japanese; you can learn about other cultures as well! Marugoto Plus is great for studying the grammar for A1-A2 levels of the JF Standard through an array of conversations, videos and pictures. The A1 level is available in Japanese, English and Spanish while the A2 level is available in Japanese and English. 2. Visualizing Japanese Grammar (Beginners) Visualizing Japanese Grammar is one of my favorite grammar sites for beginners. It contains 66 flash animations, each presenting a different sentence structure. Every unit consists of the flash animation, complete with explanations and examples, a vocabulary list and a final quiz to test your understanding of the lesson. The explanations are presented in both Japanese and English, and at the end of each lesson you will see a list of other related units, so you can choose the grammar structure you want to learn in particular. The site, on top of the video lessons, offers 12 PowerPoint presentations with all the key elementary grammar points. It is a great place to start if you're new to learning Japanese grammar, and it'll make your life easier when you turn the page from the elementary to the intermediate level. 3. Genki Vol. 1 Particle Exercises (Beginners) Genki Vol. 1 Particle Exercises is exactly what it says it is: a website in which you can study and practice particles covered in the "Genki" textbook. It contains multiple choice quizzes, and if you happen to not know the answers, there are explanations provided. "Genki" is a great resource for learning elementary Japanese, and this site is a great companion to the actual textbook. 4. Genki-Online Verb/Adjective Conjugation Practice (Intermediate) Here's another great site that goes alongside my beloved "Genki" textbook series. In Genki-Online Verb/Adjective Conjugation Practice you can easily check all the rules for conjugating Japanese verbs and adjectives. You know all those funny endings you encounter on Japanese words? They all do have a special meaning. The exercises allow you to turn your keyboard to Japanese input and get a real feel for the way Japanese is written. The site follows the grammar sections of the textbook and contains various exercises—from choosing the correct masu-form (ます) to those difficult past tense adjective conjugations. At the end of each practice session there is a very useful summary to review your answers and find your weak points. It's a great site for brushing up those import basic grammar points. 5. Tama Tamako's Nihongo Learning Animations - Let's Learn Japanese! (Beginners) I love using animations to teach the basics of Japanese grammar, and Tama Tamako is doing just that on her site. Tama Tamako's Nihongo Learning Animations—Let's Learn Japanese! In her blog you can study some basic grammar through the use of simple animations and audio. There are a total of 35 lessons, and each lesson is about three minutes long. According to Tamako, her blog is designed in such a way that it makes you feel as though each lesson were feeding you with a chunk of everyday Japan. She knows her videos aren't necessarily that easy to understand with a single viewing, but she believes that even if you don't understand them at first, there will surely come a day when you do. And that day will come if you continue to study—which I totally agree with. So keep on studying, you guys! It's working! 6. Teach Yourself Japanese (Beginners) Teach Yourself Japanese is a very useful site for those early learners of the Japanese language who prefer to study on their own. Don't be fooled by its dated appearance, as this site covers all the basic grammar with clear and useful explanations. Its categorization system is simple, making it fairly easy to find what you want. It starts with a very useful outline of the language, and all the basics of pronunciation and terminology. This is another fantastic site for those of you who just started exploring the wonderful world of the Japanese language. 7. Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese (Beginners - Intermediate) Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese site is one of my all-time favorites. It contains the key points of Japanese grammar with clear explanations and great example sentences. Tae Kim offers his grammar guide in 11 different languages, and his site is pretty easy to navigate. You can also find both a forum and a blog on his site. In the forum there's a very active community ready to answer all your questions about the Japanese language, and the blog is full of interesting articles on Japanese culture. Overall, a must-visit site. 8. Erin's Challenge! (I can speak Japanese. - WE目標 エリンが挑戦！)にほんごできます。(うそがばん えりんがちょうせん！)にほんごできます。) (Intermediate) Erin's Challenge is a great interactive site for practicing your Japanese grammar. It's the online version of the popular DVD learning material "エリンが挑戦！)にほんごできます。(Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese)." It supports more than five languages including English, Japanese, Spanish, Korean and French. It has 25 lessons with videos of real-life situations in which you can hear a near-natural form of the language. Because of its realistic aspect, you'll feel like you experience various aspects of the Japanese society firsthand. Each lesson is divided into seven parts: The Basic Skit contains a situational video, which has the ability to turn into a manga! In the manga version, the dialogue is inserted into text bubbles and you can click on each line to hear the audio. There are subtitles in kanji/kana, kana only, romaji or English. After each video there is a comprehension quiz. The Advanced Skit contains language as you would find it in a normal conversation between Japanese people. There are practice questions in this section as well. You can study the lesson's key expressions in Key Phrases. In What Is This? you answer questions relating to the topic of the lesson. Let's See is a section where you have to answer questions based on pictures relating to Japanese culture. The Let's Try part lets you try out Japanese-related games associated with each lesson. And finally, in Develop Vocabulary you can practice the words related to each lesson's situation or topic with the help of pictures. The site also offers a mini-game where you have to find you way through a small Japanese town. All the dialogues are solely in Japanese, making the game a great practice on reading and general understanding. Overall, it's a fun way to practice your Japanese grammar and a great site to bookmark. After all, they have a cute mascot. How wrong can you get with a cute mascot? 9. Keigo - Advice - 敬語おもしろ相談室 (けいご おもしろ そうだんしつ) (Advanced) Keigo is the respectful form of the Japanese language, otherwise known as honorific speech. It's generally used to show respect, and the use of Keigo is mandatory in many social situations. Honorifics emphasize differences or similarities in rank and social status. Thus, the honorific system in Japan is really extensive, closely resembling the systems found in both Korea and China. It not only includes special vocabulary but it also employs a lot of specialized grammatical forms. Even native Japanese speakers can make mistakes when it comes to the proper use of Keigo. The Japanese Ministry of Culture created a Keigo website for both Japanese people and advanced learner. It guides you through all facets of Keigo, coupled with detailed explanations and quizzes to test your understanding of the concept. All speaking is done at a natural speed, and the videos depict real-life situations in which mistakes are corrected and explained by a Japanese Keigo master. 10. AJALT's Enjoy Learning Online Japanese (All Levels) The Association for Japanese Language Teaching created a website, Enjoy Learning Online Japanese, in which you can study anything from elementary grammar to some pretty advanced reading practice. There are eight distinct sections, which include survival Japanese and daily conversations, language games (like crossword puzzles), and reading practices accompanied by texts on the history and origins of kanji. 11. U-biq: Online Japanese Tests - オンライン日本語テスト(おんらいんにほんごですと) (All Levels) U-biq's Online Japanese Tests site is a collection of quizzes on Japanese grammar, vocabulary, kanji, listening and reading. It focuses on the things you need to know for the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Tests), and it also supports Chinese and Korean. The grammar quiz format might seem a little familiar to those of you using the "Minna no Nihongo" textbooks, and all the answer explanations are in Japanese. This is a very complete and comprehensive quiz site that is sure to meet all your online testing needs. It is part of the U-biq site, which includes tons of information and tests for both students and teachers. 12. JGram: The Japanese Grammar Database - ジェイグラム (じえいぐらむ) (All Levels) JGram: The Japanese Grammar Database is a site run by its community and contributing members. As an open source grammar, you can register and write your own explanations and examples. It has a very extensive list of the most important grammar points, with explanations and example sentences. The site covers all levels, from elementary to advanced grammar. You can practice each of the lessons with quizzes and flashcards. It has a "grammar-a-day" mailing list, which is similar to the popular word-a-day concept. By joining, you'll receive a grammar explanation sent to you by email each day. Don't forget to check out the games as well. GramaGame is a great practice in sentence structure! Bonus: FluentU FluentU doesn't exclusively teach Japanese. But it's an excellent way to learn grammar concepts in action! It's also a great way to learn new vocabulary, authentic speech, kanji and much more. FluentU takes real-world videos—like music videos, movie trailers, news and inspiring talks—and turns them into personalized language learning lessons. It naturally and gradually eases you into learning Japanese language and culture. You'll learn real Japanese as it's spoken in real life. Just take a look at the wide variety of authentic video content available in the program. Here's a small sample: You'll discover tons of new Japanese vocabulary through these great clips. Don't worry about your skill level being an issue when it comes to understanding the language. FluentU makes native Japanese videos approachable through interactive transcripts. Tap on any word to look it up instantly. You'll see definitions, in-context usage examples and helpful illustrations. Simply tap "Add to" to send interesting vocabulary words to your personal vocab list for later review. FluentU even uses a learning program which adapts to your specific needs to turn every video into a language learning lesson and get you to actively practice your newly-learned language skills. Access FluentU on the website to use it with your computer or tablet or, better yet, start learning Japanese on the go with the FluentU app for iOS or Android! So, there you have it. These websites are sure to fill all your grammar needs, whether you're a beginner or an advanced learner. Grammar is really important when it comes to successfully translating your thoughts to speech. There is a whole unconscious process in the works, from thinking what you want to say in your native language, finding the right words in Japanese and then trying to make a comprehensible sentence out of them. So don't just attempt, learn how to do it properly—with grammar. What are you waiting for? Go out there, check out these sites and find your favorite today! Thanasis Karavasilis is a writer and lover of stories who was educated to be a teacher of English. He spends his time between worlds and inside pages; written or otherwise. You can get a glimpse of his adventures somewhere inside his hideout. If you liked this post, something tells me that you'll love FluentU, the best way to learn Japanese with real-world videos. Experience Japanese immersion online!

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