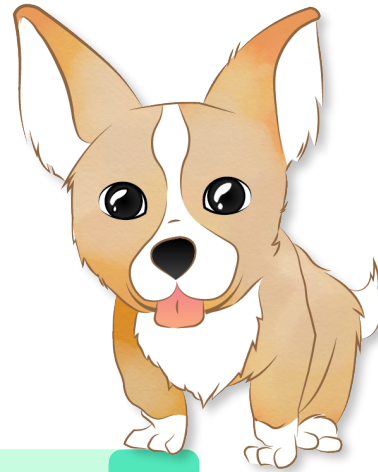
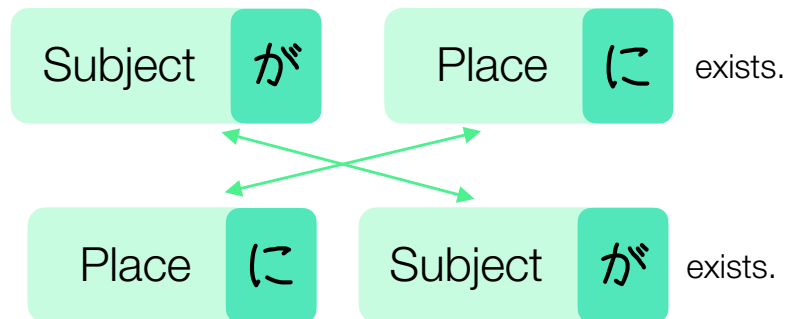


0.09 PARTICLES INTRODUCTION

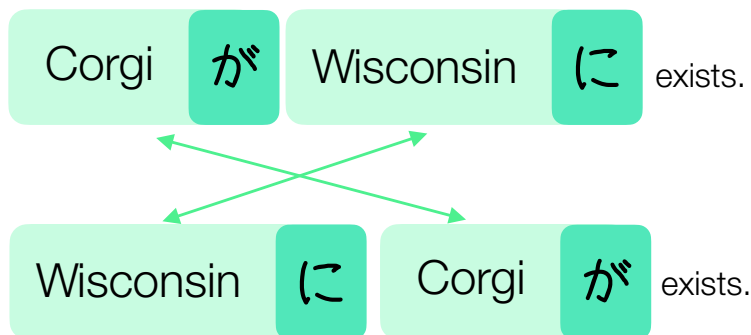
In this particle introduction we will explain very common particle usage. Generally, every single sentence in Japanese, unless surrounded by abundant contextual phrases or other speakers' words and sentences, will require some set of the **word+particle blocks** and a sentence-final verb like so:



In the following example sentence, the bunsetsu jars are flexible in their sequence, but the jar-contents must keep their proper and corresponding lids.



Immediately above we can see two arrangements to explain *in what place a subject exists*. Subject exists in Place. Corgi exists in Wisconsin could be either of the following two arrangements, as the resultant meanings are identical:

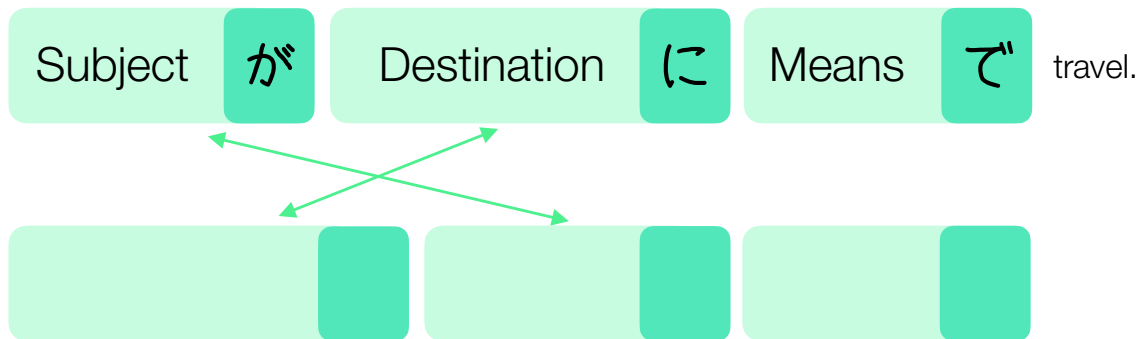


Hakujo's Tip

You can rearrange bunsetsu jars so they come in any order. Just be sure to keep the proper particle lid for each jar, as they explain the role of the contents.



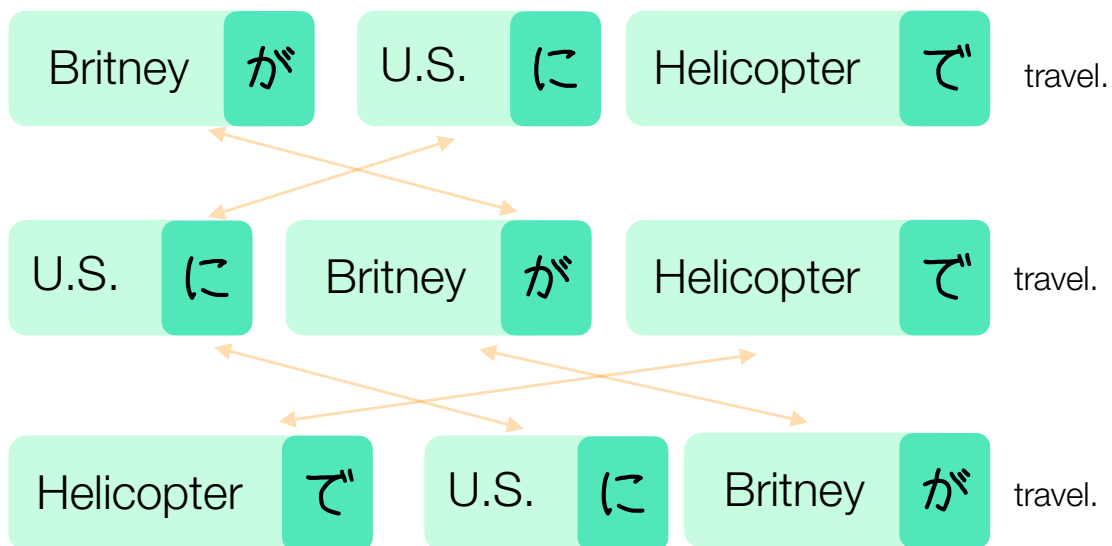
The bunsetsu jars of a sentence can be mixed up and the meaning will stay intact 100% because the particles (and verb) are what give Japanese grammar its scaffolding, **not** the phrase order.



The above two sentence skeletons and the one below are all equivalent. This illustrates how flexible Japanese is with regards to sequence of bunsetsu jars before the verb at the end.



In the above sentence, Subject travels to the Destination via some Means. We can arrange the jars of a sentence in any order, as they are tagged with a particle for the type of information they provide, a “who, what when where” or “how.” All three examples below, when read left-to-right, are equivalent in meaning, “Britney travels to the U.S. via helicopter.”



Subject が

Who (Self-reflexive when paired with object)

Direct Object を

What they act on, or use

Precise Time に

When

Companion と

With-Whom

Location で

Where-at (At where)

Destination に

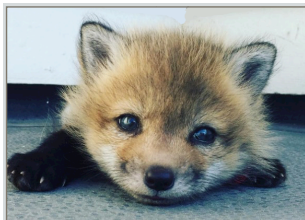
Where-to

Instrument で

With what

+ action。

Hakujo is a pro at rearranging Bunsetsu Jars and putting a verb at the end of the sentence always. A full sentence can have one or many bunsetsu jars, and each jar comes with a particle-lid. When speaking, rising and falling tones help segment concepts for your listener and highlight where jars start and stop.



Hakujo's Tip

Particles in Japanese are akin to the W-words from English: Who, what, when, where-to, where-from, where-at, with-whom, with-what and so forth. Through practice we'll internalize this pattern so that when we hear が [ga] we'll immediately be thinking about the "Who" of the sentence, and when we hear に [ni] we'll immediately be putting

together the precise time of happening or the destination spot for the main verb.

0.10 PARTICLE に NI

に

The first particle we will delve into is the particle に sounding like "knee" and romanized as "ni."



に [ni] is a trajectory thread that connects 2 things and typically indicates destination or landing point. Some words that start with に include にほん [nihon] the term for Japan, にじ [niji] rainbow, にんき [ninki] popular, にち [nichi] day or date, and にちようび [nichi-you-bi] Sunday.

Hakujo's Facts



に is also the name for the numeral 2 and is the first mora in にこにこ [niko-niko] which is sound-effect language for smiling.

Counting in Japanese is accomplished via special counter-words that attach to numbers to let your listener know the rough geometry of the objects being counted.

Conceptualizations of 「に」

1. The location or time of existence.

Location に exist.

To exist in a location.

Time に exist.

To exist at a precise time.

2. The destination point of movement in one direction, including *becoming* or *transformations*.

Destination に travel.

To travel to a destination.

Form に become.

To become a form.

Person に meet.

To meet with a person.

Vessel or Platform に mount.

To mount a vehicle or platform.

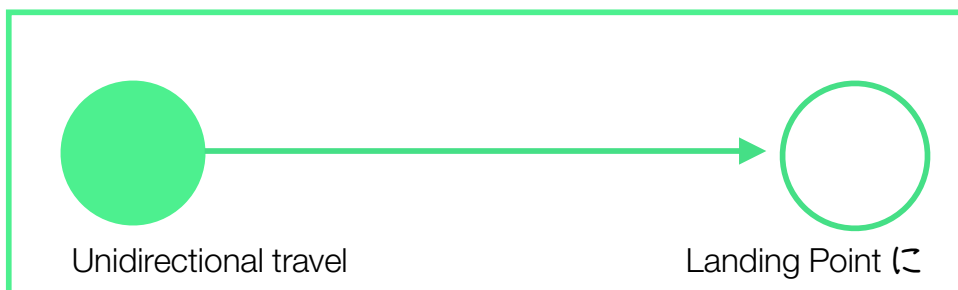
3. *Where* an action came from (the main actor) in an act of *transfer* or *influence*.

Agent に receive.

To receive from an agent (unstated subject receives from Agent).

∴ Broadly, に marks:

1. Existence Time or Place,
2. Destination Point, or
3. Influential Actor.



The case particle "Ni" can be broadly divided into three usages:

(1) The *location and time* of existence,

Montana	に	grandma is living.	Grandma is living in Montana. に marks the location of existence.
Friday	に	arrive.	(Unstated subject) arrives on Friday.

When subjects are unstated in Japanese, they are implied by context or assumed prior common knowledge. We will look at this soon in the following lessons regarding a phenomenon called **Zero-Ga**.

(2) The *destination point* of movement in one direction, including becoming or transformation. Also, meeting face-to-face, mounting vehicles/platforms.

Store	に	travel.	(Unstated subject) will go to the store. (Unstated subject) goes to the store.
Japanese Particles Ninja	に	become.	(She/he/you) will become a Japanese Particles Ninja.
Japan	に	travel.	Zero travels to Japan. Zero will travel to Japan. We will learn more about Zero and how it can stand in for any particular person.
Friend	に	meet.	(Unstated subject) meets or will meet face-to-face with [their] friend.
Train	に	mount [to ride].	(Unstated subject) boards a train. This に is also used for mounting horses, climbing mountains, getting on platforms.

(3) Where an action *came from* (the main actor) in an act of transfer or influence. The actor could be a person or thing such as Susie or a catapult.

Boris	に	received.	Received (unstated thing) from Boris. From Boris (the influential actor), Zero receives (unstated thing).
James Bond	に	killed by.	Unstated subject was killed by James Bond.

Marie Curie

に

discovered by.

(Unstated thing) was
discovered by Marie Curie.

+ Verb (action).

The above examples illustrate that に has a variety of uses, but they can all be circumscribed by the sense of "landing point," "destination point," or "indirect source actor." Knowing these possible senses of に up front will help avoid a lot of frustration and confusion in the future, so try to make a mental note of them. Number 3 in the many-senses image above can be thought of as Influential に and describes, for example, where a blowdart came from, as opposed to where it's headed (senses 1 and 2).

Cancer

に

killed by.

Killed by cancer. In this case, the influential actor, namely cancer, is marked by に

Cured by the doctor.

Doctor

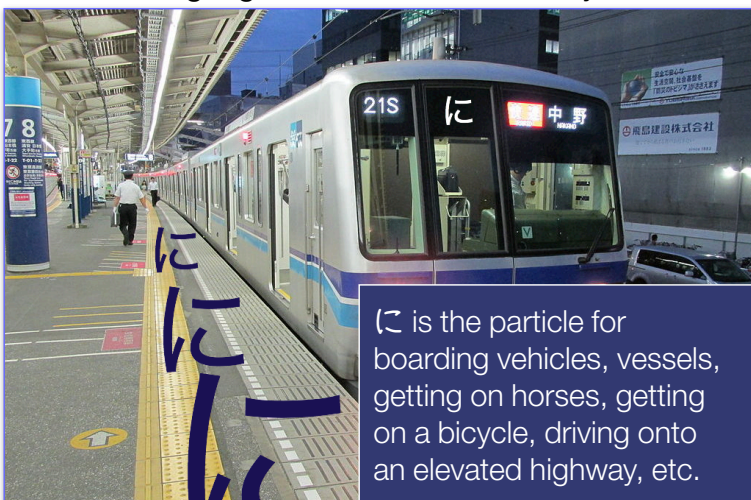
に

cured by.

Although getting healthy is generally something the *patient* does, we say that doctors are quite influential in the healing process. In this case, this relationship is best indicated by に。

We will teach the broad senses of に first, finally going sense by sense to glean the most out of this rich Japanese particle. We will learn new senses of に in later lessons one by one. For now we are taking a general look at the variety of uses に can have, so we are not surprised when we see it defy one of our known definitions. With practice and exposure, we can narrow down the potential meanings of particles quickly.

に is the main particle used to "mount" vehicles such as trains, horses, ferries, escalators, and even elevated roadways.



Senses 1 and 2 of に indicate a target destination or striking spot (even for concepts such as existing). Sense 3 flips the first sense on its head, flipping the directional funnel of に and explaining the origin of the blowdart instead of the target.

Patron

に

receive.

To receive from a patron. Zero receives (unstated thing) from a patron.

Trébuchet

に

received.

To receive from a trébuchet. Zero receives some projectile via trébuchet.



A Japanese cedar called a sugi すぎ is pictured to remind you with "needles" as a mnemonic helper for に。

Let's practice drawing に in our notebooks and in the relevant workbook pages. に is three strokes.



0.11 PARTICLE で DE-SETTING, MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, CAUSE

で

The next particle we will delve into is the particle で which sounds like “deh” and is romanized as “de.”

We will now turn our study to the first sense of our new friend, particle で “Deh,” known as de-setting, indicating the locality where something happens.



As part of our pedagogical philosophy, we believe in showing you the great variety of uses straight out the gate and honing in on them one-by-one in a digestible way, so simply use these pages as a curiosity and intrigue grower for now, as closer inspection of で shall come throughout the lesson plan.

で has several roles, it marks the setting or locality of activities (verbs), it functions as a complete-thought connector — or sentence connector — and で can be used to mark the previous statement as reason or justification. The reason で can be used to connect two complete thoughts is because it is the continuative form of the sentence-final copula だ [da]. The copula だ holds “is-ness” for nouns and we will study in more in detail later on. For now, let's look at で closely:

The main focus of our study of で is its use as a **setting-marking particle** and a particle indicating **means of achievement**.

In broad terms, we can put で into four categories:

- 1) Setting-place or locality of an activity/action.
- 2) To accomplish something **via** some specific means, some specific way, with some specific method, or with some specific ingredients.
Roughly: Means of accomplishment.
- 3) To illustrate a dominant cause, factor, or influence [affecting outcome].
- 4) で can function as a connector between two complete sentences or ideas.

Senses of 「で」 (Simplified)

1. Setting

Setting

で

verb.

At the setting, verb.
With setting as a
location, action.

2. Means of achievement

Means of Accomplishment

で

achieve.

Achieve something
by specified means
of accomplishment.

3. Illustrate a dominant cause, factor, or influence

Factor or Situation

で

result.

Result happens due
to factor, or due to
the situation.

The above three senses of で are the most common. Below are some examples of these three senses from above. On the next page, you can see all eight dictionary senses of で and when they are used.

1. Setting example

Living Room

で

play.

Play in the living room.
With the living room as the
setting, play happens.

2. Means of accomplishment example

Chopsticks

で

eat.

Ate via chopsticks. Used
chopsticks to eat.

3. Dominant factor or cause example

Your help

で

saved.

Saved thanks to your
help. Saved by your help.

Entrance exams

で

got no free time.

Due to entrance exams, Zero has no free time.
Because of entrance exams, speaker has no free time.

Senses of 「で」 (Extended)

1. Signifies a place or setting where something happens.

Station	で	play.	Hang out at the station.
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2. Indicating a time when something happens.

Twenty years old	で	get married.	Get married at twenty.
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3. Indicate the main group undertaking an action or operation.

Everyone	で	do research.	Do research together.
----------	---	--------------	-----------------------

4. Indicating a standard of exchange.

200 yen	で	can purchase it.	Can purchase it with 200 yen.
---------	---	------------------	-------------------------------

5. Explaining the base state of an interaction.

Smile	で	greet someone.	Greet someone with a smile.
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6. Explaining the means by which something is achieved. Same as “utilizing...”

Telephone	で	contact.	Contact by telephone. Contact via telephone.
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Television	で	learned of the news.	Learned of the news by television.
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7. Explaining the reason for something. Same as #3 on the previous page.

8. Identical to the て-verb connector, but で is only for verbs with a final mora that is one of the following ぐ・ぬ・ぶ・む。 We will learn about this in future lessons.