

## Introducing the Japanese particle to beginners

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The particle is one of the most difficult grammatical obstacles to those who are studying Japanese as a second language. No satisfactory way to teach the particle has yet been devised.

As a result of analysis of Japanese textbooks, it was found that most case markers are presented as parts of the new sentence patterns and few models are available that focus on the particle.

The other hand, in the recent study, the meaning of verbs is considered in conjunction with noun phrases. There are two types of connection between verbs and noun phrases. Similarly, there are two types of case markers which combine nouns with verbs: obligatory case markers (to be called OB) and optional case markers (OP), and these two classes have to be considered separately.

On the basis of above, we list models of the connections between verbs and OB. In this list, verbs placed in groups of ten according to the kind of OB they take.

This list represents one part of the textbook. The OB appear first the lesson where the verbs are introduced. They are demonstrated in clear connections with the verbs.

The group to which each verb belongs is identified by number. Besides, the index also lists the verbs by group number. Thus, learners can readily look up the number of the verb on the list, and comprehend which OB they should use. After learners master the use of basic-verb sentences, OP will be dealt with.

OB with the appropriate verbs need to be memorized. The OP teacher has to introduce that these are additional to the sentences, and emphasize the relationship with nouns.

If teachers consciously accept the proposal in this paper, they can expect: (1) wider student control of case markers; and (2) a reduction of the improper use of case markers, regardless of the teacher's years in the classroom or mother tongue of the students.

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