

More Nouns and Adjectives With a Few Conjugations and Phrases

Nouns-People:

人・ひと・hito Person	員・いん・in employee, member	学生・がくせい ・gakusei student	生徒・せいと・ pupil
大学生・ だいがくせい・ daigakusei a college/ university student	先生・せんせい・ sensei professor, teacher	店員・てんいん・ tenin clerk	子・こ・ko child
子供・こども・ kodomo children	-達・たち・-tachi group	人達・ひとたち・ hitotachi group of people	生徒達・ せいとたち・ seitotachi pupils, students
学生達・ がくせいたち・ gakuseitachi students	友達・ともだち・ tomodachi friend, friends	人・にん・nin counter for people	

Notes: For counting people “hitori” is used for one person and “futari” is used for two people.

Nouns-People-Family:

父・ちち・chichi father, dad (your own)	母・はは・haha mother, mom (own)	兄・あに・ani elder brother (own)	姉・あね・ane elder sister (own)
弟・おとうと・ otouto younger brother (own)	妹・いもうと・ imouto younger sister (own)	息子・むすこ・ musuko son (own)	娘・むすめ・ musume daughter (own)
お父さん・ おとうさん・ otousan father (not own)	お母さん・ おかあさん・ okaasan mother (not own)	お兄さん・ おにいさん・ oniisan elder brother (not own)	お姉さん・ おねえさん・ oneesan elder sister (not own)
弟さん・ おとうとさん・ otoutosan younger brother (not own)	妹さん・ いもうとさん・ imoutosan younger sister (not own)	お息子さん・ おむすこさん・ omusukosan son (not own)	お娘さん・ おむすめさん・ omusumesan daughter (not own)
お子様・おこさま・ okosama child (not own)	きょうだい・ kyoudai brothers and sisters	家族・家族・kazoku family	ご家族・ごかぞく・ gokazoku family (not own)
おじさん・ojisan uncle, elderly man	おじいさん・ ojiisan grandfather	おばさん・obasan elderly woman	おばあさん・ obaasan grandmother

Note: When speaking of other's family, it is best to use the more polite form labeled as not own.

Noun-Things:

車・くるま・kuruma car	飛行機・ひこうき・ hikouki plane	船・ふね・fune ship	自転車・ じてんしゃ・ jitensha bicycle
物・もの・mono thing (tangible)	事・こと・koto thing (intangible)	建物・たてもの・ tatemono building	道・みち・michi road
信号・しんごう・ shingou stoplight	交差点・ こうさてん・ kousaten crossing, intersection	横断歩道・ おうだんほどう・ oudanhodou pedestrian crossing	歩道・ほどう・ hodou sidewalk
電車・でんしゃ・ densha train	鉄道・てつどう・ tetsudou railroad	テレビ・terebi TV	

Quick conjugation of nouns (examples from words above):

All the words so far have been nouns. Their conjugation is similar to verbs and adjectives. Again, it's what you hear at the very end of the word form that will tell you when something is. "Desu" and "da" can be used in place of one another. However, when speaking politely only "desu" is used for the "was" form and not datta desu. "Desu" or "da" or the conjugations of "desu" and "da" are used when a noun or na-adjective are at the end of a sentence. "Desu" can also be used after an adjective construction at the end of a sentence. Examples to follow.

first the parts	positive	negative
present	is	is not
past	was	was not
present	hito desu	hito janai desu
past	hito deshita	hito janakatta desu
present	sensei da	sensei janai
past	sensei datta	sensei janakatta
present	tomodachi desu	tomodachi janai desu
past	tomodachi deshita	tomodachi janakatta desu
present	ani da	ani janai
past	ani datta	ani janakatta
present	kyoudai desu	kyoudai janai desu
past	kyoudai deshita	kyoudai janakatta desu

Note: The noun word remains the same and "desu", "da", or the conjugations are added.

Contrast with na-adjectives:

first the parts	positive	negative
present	is	is not
past	was	was not
genki na – well, fine, good		
present	genki da	genki janai
past	genki datta	genki janakatta
yuumei na – famous		
present	yuumei desu	yuumei janai desu
past	yuumei deshita	yuumei janakatta desu
hansamu na – handsome		
present	hansamu da	hansamu janai
past	hansamu datta	hansamu janakatta
benri na – convenient		
present	benri desu	benri janai desu
past	benri deshita	benri janakatta desu
shinsetsu na – kind		
present	shinsetsu da	shinsetsu janai
past	shinsetsu datta	shinsetsu janakatta
nameraka na – smooth		
present	nameraka desu	nameraka janai desu
past	nameraka deshita	nameraka janakatta desu

Note: Na-adjectives do just like nouns when conjugated with the na dropped.

Adverbs: totemo – a lot; sukoshi – a little; amari – not so much

amari is used with the negative form of the adjective making a “not so much” statement.

totemo can be used with any form of the adjective

sukoshi can be used with any form of the adjective but might be best put with the positive forms.

Phrases:

- | | |
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| 1. Nihongo ha amari muzukashikunai desu. | Japanese is not so difficult. |
| 2. Nihongo ha totemo muzukashii desu. | Japanese is very difficult. |
| 3. Nihongo ha sukoshi muzukashii desu. | Japanese is a little difficult. |

Some dialogues:

Family matters:

dialogue 1 Asking how many people are in someone's family.

A: ごかぞくはなんにんですか。 How many are in your family?

A: gokazoku ha nannin desu ka. (a bit more polite is: gokazoku ha nannin deshou ka.)

B: よんにんかぞくです。 Four people.

B: yonnin kazoku desu.

Note: the “deshou” adds a little uncertainty from the questioner's point of view. When telling someone how many people are in your family count yourself too. If there are you, your mother and father, and 3 siblings then you would say “rokunin kazoku” because there are 6 of you in all. Using the number “yon (4)” and “nin” as the counter as “yonnin” is how people are counted (e.g. the number + nin). Except for one or two people.

How to count people:

1 person – hitori; 2 people – futari; 3 people – sannin; 4 – yonnin; 5 gonin; 6 rokunin; 7 nananin; 8 hachinin; 9 kyuunin; 10 juunin...

dialogue 2 asking if someone has brothers and sisters

A: すみませんが、ごきょうだいがありますか。

Excuse me but, do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: sumimasen ga, gokyoudai ga imasuka.

B: はい、あねがいます。 Yes, I have an older sister.

B: hai, ane ga imasu.

Variation:

A: すみませんが、ごきょうだいがありますか。

Excuse me but, do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: sumimasen ga, gokyoudai ga imasuka.

B: はい、あにがふたりづついます。

Yes, I have two older brothers.

B: hai, ani ga futarizutsu imasu.

Variation:

A: すみませんが、ごきょうだいがありますか。

Excuse me but, do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: sumimasen ga, gokyoudai ga imasuka.

B: いいえ、きょうだいがいませぬ。

No I don't have any brothers or sisters.

B: iie, kyoudai ga imasen.

Variation:

A: *さん、いもうとさんがいますか。

Do you have a younger sister, *name*?

A: *san, imoutosan ga imasu ka.

B: はい、いもうとがさんにんづついます。

Yes, I have three younger sisters.

B: hai, imouto ga sanninzutsu imasu.

dialogue 3 asking the name of a member of someone's family

A: おかあさんのおなまえはなんですか。

What is your mother's name?

A: okaasan no onamae ha nan desu ka.

B: ははのなまえはゆみこです。

My mother's name is Yumiko.

B: haha no namae ha yumiko desu.

A: おとうとさんのおなまえはなんですか。

What's your little brother's name?

A: otoutosan no onamae ha nan desu ka.

B: おとうとのなまえはまさおです。

His name is Masao.

B: otouto no namae ha masao desu.