Indicate subjects by coming after them

**Meanings:** “is, am, are”

*One thing to know about は is that it’s not pronounced “ha” but pronounced “wa”

は emphasizes what comes after it

が emphasizes what comes before it

The Possessive

**Meanings:** “Apostrophe S” & “of”

*Makes something possessive, like saying “my monkey,” “Jenny’s friend,” or “Bobby of Sony (i.e. Sony’s Bobby).”

**Examples:**

わたし の なまえ は こういち です

My name is Koichi

ポッピーさん の いぬ です

It’s Bobby’s dog

Also / Too

**Meanings:** “also” and “too” - it can also emphasize “any”

**Examples:**

わたしこ

Me too / Me also

ポッピーさん ね アイケアに行きます

Bobby also will go to Ikea

なに ね たべなかった

I didn’t eat anything

The Direct Object

**How it’s used:** All it does is shows what the direct object is. Used when you’re directly doing something (the verb) to something (the object).

**Examples:**

すし (object) を (particle) たべます (verb)

Eat sushi

わたし は Xbox を かいます

I will buy an X-Box

*Not used when you aren’t directly involved or responsible (i.e. “the radio is broken” vs. “I broke the radio” - the second one uses を)

Movement and Time

**How it’s used:** Used to show what an action is directed to, and also shows destinations, directions, places, and time. Remember, when you move you use your knees (ni)

**Examples:**

わたし は にほん に いきます

I will go to Japan

3 に すし を たべます

At 3 o’clock I will eat sushi

*Some Movement Verbs: いきます、きます、かえります、ります、のります、ぱります、はいります

Emphasizing the Destination

**How it’s used:** This is a lot like the particle “ni” but emphasizes the destination. It’s more like “heading towards” than anything else (see examples below)

**Examples:**

にほん に いきます

Heading towards Japan

を

Shows Context

**Meaning:** “By way of” / “at”

Can show how and where an action takes place.

**Examples:**

くるま で いきます

I went by Car

わたし は レストラン で たべた

I ate at the restaurant

“Other” Particles

か：Question marker - used on the end of a sentence to make a question, like a question mark!

と：Used to list nouns when you are listing everything and you know everything on the list

や：Used to list nouns when you aren’t listing everything, and maybe there are other things not included.

ね：Sentence ender that gives an “isn’t it” feeling used to receive agreement for what you’re saying.

よ：Sentence ender that gives a “you know” feeling, often when relaying new information.

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