

## PREFACE

This book is a revised edition of **NIHONGO NO KISO I Grammatical Notes in English**, which has been prepared to accompany the recently completed textbook, **SHIN NIHONGO NO KISO I**. **SHIN NIHONGO NO KISO I** is carefully designed to introduce sentence patterns in order of difficulty; beginning with simple structures and advancing towards more complex ones. This will enable the learners to study them systematically. Although **Renshū A** (Drill A) of each lesson explains the newly introduced basic sentence patterns with illustrations, the Grammatical Notes are to assist the learners further by giving a brief description of important grammatical points.

In preparing this book, we have tried to discuss sentence patterns and important points in each lesson without using grammarian's terminology. As this book has been compiled as a grammar for beginners, highly technical details or grammatical discussions have not been included.

This book will be most effective when used in conjunction with **SHIN NIHONGO NO KISO I** and its translation, either under the instruction of Japanese language teachers or for students' self-study.

I would like to express my thanks to Keiko Mihara for translating and Motoko Tsuchiya and Nicholas McNeill for checking this edition.

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## I. General features of Japanese

1. A predicate always comes at the end of a sentence.
2. A verb has no inflection for person, gender or number.
3. There are no articles in Japanese.
4. Most of the nouns have no plural form.
5. A particle is placed at the end of a word or a sentence to indicate the relationship between the words in a given context or to add various meanings.
6. A subject and an object are often omitted if they may be understood from the context without being stated explicitly.
7. There are plain and polite styles in Japanese; one is chosen over the other in daily conversation depending on circumstances.

## II. Japanese Script

There are three kinds of letters used in the Japanese writing system: **Kanji** (Chinese characters), **Hiragana** and **Katakana** (Japanese syllabaries).

Written Japanese is a hybrid writing system where **Kanji**, **Hiragana** and **Katakana** are combined to write a sentence. Foreign names and loan-words are written in **Katakana**. In addition to the above three types of letters, **Rōmaji** (roman letters) is sometimes used, but only on signboards or on signs specifically put up for foreigners; it is not used in ordinary writing.

1. <b>Rōmaji</b>	<b>Nihon-go</b>	<i>Japanese language</i>
<b>Hiragana</b>	にほんご	<i>Japanese language</i>
<b>Katakana</b>	ニホンゴ	<i>Japanese language</i>
<b>Kanji</b>	日本語	<i>Japanese language</i>

2. **Watashi wa Kenshū Sentā de Nihon-go o benkyō-shimasu.**

わたし は 研修 センター で 日本語 を 勉強 します。

                                        

*I study Japanese at the Kenshu Center.*

... **Kanji**

... **Hiragana**

... **Katakana**

In this textbook roman letters are used for the sake of convenience for short-term Japanese learners.

## Lesson 3

### 1. koko, soko, asoko, doko, kochira, sochira, achira and dochira

The pronouns **kore**, **sore** and **are** that are discussed in Lesson 2 refer to a thing, while **koko**, **soko**, **asoko** and **doko** refer to a place. **kochira**, **sochira**, **achira** and **dochira** also refer to a place, but they are more polite expressions than **koko**, **soko**, **asoko** and **doko**.

### 2. doko and dochira

The sentence below has two different meanings: (1) a question asking the name of the company, and (2) a question asking the location of the company. When **dochira** is used, the question is usually asking the name of the company.

Anata no kaisha wa  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{dochira} \\ \text{doko} \end{array} \right\}$  desu ka.

(1) *What is the name of your company?*

(2) *Where is your company?*

### 3. N no N ... 3

We have learned in Lesson 1 and Lesson 2 that **no** connects a noun with another noun and makes a possessive or indicates that one belongs to the other. There are other uses of **no** and the following are some examples for your reference.

konpyūtā no kaisha	<i>computer company</i>
Nihon no tokei	<i>Japanese watch</i>
kinō no ban	<i>last night</i>

4. Demonstrative pronouns, adjectives

demonstrative pronoun	demonstrative adjective	pronoun of place	pronoun indicating direction, side, place
<b>kore</b> <i>this</i>	<b>kono</b> <i>this</i>	<b>koko</b> <i>this place</i>	<b>kochira</b> <i>this direction, side, place</i>
<b>sore</b> <i>that</i>	<b>sono</b> <i>that</i> } +N	<b>soko</b> <i>that place</i>	<b>sochira</b> <i>that direction, side, place</i>
<b>are</b> <i>that over there</i>	<b>ano</b> <i>that over there</i> ↓	<b>asoko</b> <i>that place over there</i>	<b>achira</b> <i>that direction, side, place over there</i>
<b>dore</b> <i>which</i>	<b>dono</b> <i>which</i> +N	<b>doko</b> <i>where</i>	<b>dochira</b> <i>where, which direction</i>

5. Sentence ka ... 2

Not all the sentences ending with the particle **ka** are interrogative. **ka** is also used at the end of a sentence when the speaker is trying to confirm what the other person has said.

**Kaban-uriba wa doko desu ka.**      *Where is the bag department?*

… **Kaban-uriba desu ka. 5-kai desu.**

…*The bag department? It is on the 5th floor.*