# Your first Japanese introduction

Use は, です, and か to give your name and ask a simple question.

**YOUR GOAL** Introduce yourself and ask someone a short, polite question.

## は + です

Topic + noun + です introduces you. The topic particle は is read wa.

**わたしはミナです。**
Watashi wa Mina desu.
I'm Mina.

**わたしは学生です。**
Watashi wa gakusei desu.
I'm a student.

**わたしは中国人です。**
Watashi wa Chūgokujin desu.
I'm Chinese.

## です + か

Add か to the end of these polite sentences to ask a question.

**学生ですか。**
Gakusei desu ka.
Are you a student?

**日本人ですか。**
Nihonjin desu ka.
Are you Japanese?

**はい、学生です。**
Hai, gakusei desu.
Yes, I'm a student.

## Three useful patterns

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Your name** | わたしはミナです。 | I'm Mina. |
| **Your identity** | わたしは学生です。 | I'm a student. |
| **Ask someone** | 学生ですか。 | Are you a student? |

The readings help you start. When the topic is clear, Japanese often omits わたしは. Learn the Japanese reading of each kanji.

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# Make it a conversation.

Read the meaning, choose a form, then check why it fits.

### Read the particle は as wa

**わたしは学生です。**
I'm a student.

**は → wa**
The topic particle is read wa.

Here は marks the topic, so read it wa, not ha. Read the Japanese words aloud with the supplied readings.

### A simple polite question

**学生ですか。**
Are you a student?

**はい、学生です。**
Yes, I'm a student.

Sentence-final か asks a question. です is polite here; it is not a universal ending for every sentence.

## Your turn

Fill each gap with は, です, or か. Use the meaning as your clue.

**01** わたし_____ミナです。
I'm Mina.

**02** わたしは学生_____。
I'm a student.

**03** 学生です_____。
Are you a student?

**04** わたし_____中国人です。
I'm Chinese.

**05** 日本人です_____。
Are you Japanese?

**06** はい、学生_____。
Yes, I'm a student.

**07** わたしはミナ_____。
I'm Mina.

**08** 中国人です_____。
Are you Chinese?

## Check your answers

1. は  Topic marker: は (wa).
2. です  Polite noun sentence: です.
3. か  Question marker: か.
4. は  Topic marker: は (wa).
5. か  Question marker: か.
6. です  Polite noun sentence: です.
7. です  Polite noun sentence: です.
8. か  Question marker: か.

**MAKE IT YOURS** Introduce yourself with your own name, then ask if someone is a student. Say both sentences aloud.

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