

Lesson 6

After their meeting Mr Hasegawa accompanies Mr Brown to the door.

- ブラウン こちらの銀行には外国人もいますか。
長谷川 ええ、アメリカ人とスイス人がいます。イギリス人はこの支店にはいません。
ブラウン そうですか。私の会社の本社にも外国人がたくさんいます。日本人も中国人もいますよ。
長谷川 そうですか。
ブラウン すみませんが、お電話はありますか。
長谷川 ええ、もちろん。こちらへどうぞ。電話はあのつくえの上にあります。

After making a short telephone call Mr Brown returns to Mr Hasegawa.

- ブラウン どうもありがとうございました。
長谷川 どういたしまして。
ブラウン それでは今日はこれで失礼いたします。
長谷川 失礼いたします。
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6.1 True verbs

こちらの銀行には外国人もいますか。
ええ、アメリカ人とスイス人がいます。
お電話はありますか。
あのつくえの上にあります。

So far we have only met the copula *です*, which signified the 'is' of equivalence: A = B. Here we have our first true verbs, *います* and *あります*, both meaning

the 'is' of existence. Japanese verbs come at the end of the sentence and, like the copula, do not alter for either number or person. Note the distinction between these two verbs however: *います* is used when the subject or topic is animate; *あります* must be used when the subject or the topic of this existential verb is inanimate. Plants, although 'living', count as being inanimate.

6.2 The particle *に*

こちらの銀行には
この支店には

The particle *に* denotes location in or at which something exists; it is used with both animate and inanimate subjects.

6.3 Negatives of true verbs

イギリス人はこの支店にはいません。

The whole question of how to form the negative will be dealt with in detail in lesson 15. Here we simply introduce the negative of the animate *います*, which is *いません*, and of the inanimate *あります*, which is *ありません*.

6.4 More on *は*

アメリカ人とスイス人がいます。
イギリス人はこの支店にはいません。

Study these two sentences carefully, because topicalisation is used in one but not the other. In the first case 'Americans and Swiss' is new information and so cannot really become a topic, at least at this point. In the second case, however, 'Englishmen' can become a topic because Mr Hasegawa knows that Mr Brown is English and so the word イギリス人 is already present as part of their discourse. It is as if Mr Hasegawa is thinking to himself 'He has presumably asked that question because he is interested in finding out whether there are any English working for my bank.'

But what is the second は doing in this sentence? You saw in lesson 1 that the second major function of は was to imply a contrast. It is this は marking contrast that is so often found in negative statements, so that although it may not be strictly incorrect to say イギリス人はこの支店にいません, it is in fact rarely said. By adding は after 支店に one can highlight what is being negated i.e. この支店, and at the same time weaken the degree of negation that the verb bears; hence the implication of this sentence is 'And as for Englishmen, there are none in this branch (but there may well be in some other branch).'

By now you may well be asking yourself: so how can one distinguish between these two roles of は: the topic and the contrast? How do we know that the first は here is topicalising? You will usually be able to tell from context, but the truth of the matter is that both roles are interconnected, because the primary role of は is to isolate. The effect of this isolation can sometimes be to produce a topic and sometimes to emphasise a contrast. Sometimes it is difficult, indeed unnecessary, to make the distinction. You will find, for instance, that in some cases a word has been topicalised precisely in order to point up a contrast. This could well be the case in the following examples:

- (a) 私の大学に男の学生はいません。
- (b) 私の大学には男の学生はいません。

(a) is a very simple and direct statement which negates the existence of male students in 'my university', but (b), depending on context, could well imply that although there are no male students in *my* university, there are in some *other* universities. Furthermore, は is used after 男の学生 in both sentences because they both deny only the existence of male students; obviously there are *some* students, in this case female.

6.5 Plain and polite forms

Both the copula *です* and true verbs like *あります* and *います* have been introduced so far in their polite forms. The kind of conversations that we have presented have demanded this level of politeness. There is also a plain form. You will be gradually introduced as to when these plain forms are appropriate; it is a matter of social context. For a start, however, study the following tables.

(a) The copula

	<i>plain</i>	<i>polite</i>
<i>positive</i>	だ である†	です であります†
<i>negative</i>	ではない じゃない‡	ではありません じゃありません‡

† Stilted equivalent, used only in writing or very formal occasions.

‡ *じゃ* is a contraction of *では*, much used in conversation but never in written Japanese.

(b) True verbs *あります* and *います*

	<i>plain</i>	<i>polite</i>
<i>positive</i>	ある いる	あります います
<i>negative</i>	ない いない	ありません いません

ある is known as the plain 'dictionary' or 'citation' form of the verb. Details of how these plain forms are transformed into polite equivalents will be dealt with in the next lesson, but note here that the transformation involves the ending *～ます*. More will be said about the negative form *ない/いない* in lesson 15.

From a grammatical point of view the plain form and the polite form of true verbs are completely interchangeable, although the switch will of course involve a change in register. The situation with the copula is not quite so simple and will be commented on further.

6.6 More on location

あのつくえの上にあります。

As you have just seen above, these existential verbs are used to create sentences that deal with place and location. The particle *に* can be added to other nouns to make that location more specific than simply 'at'.

Noun	+	の上 (うえ) に	on top of
	+	の下 (した) に	underneath
	+	の前 (まえ) に	in front of
	+	の後ろ (うしろ) に	behind
	+	の右 (みぎ) に	on the right of
	+	の左 (ひだり) に	on the left of
	+	の中 (なか) に	inside
	+	のとなりに	next to
	+	の向こう (むこう) に	the other side of
	+	の横 (よこ) に	on the side of
	+	の間 (あいだ) に	between

がわ 'side' can often be added to some, but not all, of these nouns to indicate even more detail: 右がわ, 左がわ, 向うがわ. Study the following question and response examples:

ピーターの前にだれがいますか。

Who is in front of Peter?

(ピーターの前に) ジュリアンがいます。

Julian is in front of Peter.

ピーターはどこにいますか。

Where is Peter?

ピーターはジュリアンの後ろにいます。
Peter is behind Julian.

このビルの中に電話はありましか。
Is there a telephone in this building?

ええ、電話は入口の右がわにあります。
Yes, there is one on the right-hand side of the entrance.

Now at the risk of complicating matters, there is one difficulty that must be faced at this point, if only to avoid subsequent confusion. This lesson is your first introduction to true verbs and we have tried to stress the difference between the 'is' of equivalence (the copula *です*) and the 'is' of existence (the true verbs *あります/います*). This distinction is extremely important. The fact of the matter is, however, that both the following sets of sentences are in fact correct:

ピーターはどこにいますか。
ピーターはどこですか。

ええ、電話は入口の右がわにあります。
ええ、電話は入口の右がわです。

Why? At first sight this seems to conflate the two again. What is happening is that in certain circumstances *です* can be used as a substitute for another verb, as long as that underlying verb is clear from the context. Nine times out of ten this substitution occurs when the subject is topicalized with *は*. The sentence *東西銀行はどこですか* in the conversation to lesson 5 is another example. *どこにありますか* would also have been correct. Observe the following:

おとうさまはどちらですか。
Where is your father?
父は今アメリカです。
Father is at present in America.

父は今アメリカにいます is another possible response here. In a sense this substitution is a natural outcome of the general desire to cut corners in colloquial

speech. Another related phenomenon is the following oft-quoted example. The normal Japanese response to 'What do you want to drink?' is 私は X です. This should be understood as: 'As for myself, (my drink) is X.' Compare the situation in English when a mix-up with the drinks might lead you to say 'No, she's a gin; I'm a whisky.'

6.7 On leaving

それでは今日はこれで失礼いたします。
失礼いたします。

You will not now be surprised to hear that the grammar of these common phrases will also have to be explained in detail much later in the course. Learn them here as set phrases. それでは 'right, then', 今日は 'today', これで 'with this', and 失礼いたします, 'I am being very rude (by leaving you now)' hence 'please excuse me'.

Note that 今日は in this context is *not* read こんにちは as in 'hello' (3.4), but きょうは. This is a nice example of the complications that lie ahead for you. The pronunciation in this case has little or no connection to either the *on* or *kun* of the characters 今 KON/KIN, *ima* 'now' or 日 NICHII, *hi* 'day'. Although this may well worry and occasionally annoy you, it is not uncommon. It is really no different from writing down 'H₂O' and then deciding to pronounce it 'water'. This anomaly is known as 当て字 ('assigned characters').

失礼いたします expresses even more respect than the phrase 失礼します that you came across in 5.11, where it meant 'excuse me'.

Key to conversation

Romanisation

Buraun	Kochira no ginkō ni wa gaikokujin mo imasu ka.
Hasegawa	Ē, Amerikajin to Suisujin ga imasu. Igrisujin wa kono shiten ni wa imasen.
Buraun	Sō desu ka. Watakushi no kaisha no honsha ni mo gaikokujin ga takusan imasu. Nihonjin mo chūgokujin mo imasu yo.
Hasegawa	Sō desu ka.
Buraun	Sumimasen ga, o-denwa wa arimasu ka.
Hasegawa	Ē, mochiron. Kochira e dōzo. Denwa wa ano tsukue no ue ni arimasu.
Buraun	Dōmo arigatō gozaimashita.
Hasegawa	Dō itashimashite.
Buraun	Sore de wa kyō wa kore de shitsurei itashimasu.
Hasegawa	Shitsurei itashimasu.

Translation

Brown	Are there foreigners working here too?
Hasegawa	Yes, there is an American and a Swiss. There aren't any British at this branch.
Brown	Really? There are many foreigners at my company's head office as well. Both Japanese and Chinese, you know.
Hasegawa	Oh really?
Brown	I wonder if there is a telephone I might use.
Hasegawa	Of course. This way please. It's on that desk over there.
Brown	Thank you very much.
Hasegawa	Not at all.
Brown	Well then, if you'll excuse me, I'll be on my way.
Hasegawa	Good-bye.
