

Sentence Ending Particles

In Japanese, there are many [particles](#) that are added to the end of a sentence. They express the speaker's emotions, doubt, emphasis, caution, hesitation, wonder, admiration, and so on. Some sentence ending particles distinguish male or female speech. Many of them don't translate easily.

Ka

Makes a sentence into a question. When forming a question, the word order of a sentence does not change in Japanese.

- Nihon-jin desu ka.
日本人ですか。
Are you Japanese?
- Supeingo o hanashimasu ka.
スペイン語を話しますか。
Do you speak Spanish?

Kana/Kashira

Indicates that you are not sure about something. It can be translated as "I wonder ~". "Kashira (かしら) " is used only by women.

- Tanaka-san wa ashita kuru kana.
田中さんは明日来るかな。
I wonder if Mr. Tanaka will come tomorrow.

- Ano hito wa dare kashira.
あの人は誰かしら。
I wonder who that person is.

Na

(1) Prohibition. A negative imperative marker used only by men in very informal speech.

- Sonna koto o suru na!
そんなことをするな!
Don't do such a thing!

(2) Casual emphasis on a decision, suggestion or opinion.

- Kyou wa shigoto ni ikitakunai na.
今日は仕事に行きたくないな。
I don't want to go to work today.
- Sore wa machigatteiru to omou na.
それは間違っていると思うな。
I think that is wrong.

Naa

Expresses emotion, or a casual remark of wishful thinking.

- Sugoi naa.

すごいなあ。

How great it is!

- Mou sukoshi nete itai naa.

もう少し寝ていたいなあ。

I wish I could sleep in a little more.

Ne/Nee

Confirmation. Indicates that the speaker wants the listener to agree or confirm. It is similar to English expressions "don't you think so", "isn't it?" or "right?".

- Ii tenki desu ne.

いい天気ですね。

It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

- Mou nakanaide ne.

もう泣かないでね。

Please don't cry anymore, okay?

No

(1) Indicates an explanation or emotive emphasis. Used only by women or children in an informal situation.

- Kore jibunde tsukutta no.

これ自分で作ったの。

I made this myself.

- Onaka ga itai no.

おなかが痛い。

I have stomachache.

(2) Makes a sentence into a question (with a rising intonation). Informal

version of "~ no desu ka (～のですか)".

- Ashita konai no?

明日来ないの？

Aren't you coming tomorrow?

- Doushita no?

どうしたの？

What's the matter with you?

Sa

Emphasizes the sentence. Used mainly by men.

- Sonna koto wa wakatteiru sa.

そんなことは分かっているさ。

I certainly know of such a thing.

- Hajime kara umaku dekinai no wa atarimae sa.

始めからうまくできないのは当たり前さ。

It's natural (indeed) that you can't do well when you first starts.

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Wa

Used only by women. It can have both an emphatic function and a softening effect.

- Watashi ga suru wa.

わたしがするわ。

I'll do it.

- Sensei ni kiita hou ga ii to omou wa.

先生に聞いたほうがいいと思うわ。

I think it would be better to ask the teacher.

Yo

(1) Emphasizes a command.

- Benkyou shinasai yo!

勉強しなさいよ！

Study!

- Okoranaide yo!

怒らないでよ！

Don't get so angry at me!

(2) Indicates moderate emphasis, especially useful when the speaker provides a new piece of information.

- Ano eiga wa sugoku yokatta yo.

あの映画はすごく良かったよ。

That movie was very good.

- Kare wa tabako o suwanai yo.

彼は煙草を吸わないよ。

He doesn't smoke, you know.

Ze

Elicits an agreement. Used only by men in casual conversation among colleagues, or with those whose social status is below that of the speaker.

- Nomi ni ikou ze.

飲みに行こうぜ。

Let's go for a drink!

Zo

Emphasizes one's opinion or judgment. Used mainly by men.

- Iku zo.

行くぞ。

I'm going!

- Kore wa omoi zo.

これは重いぞ。

This is heavy, I tell you.