

Wa

Watashi wa Anna desu. 'I am Anna.'

Watashi wa gakusei desu. 'I am a student.'

Suzuki-san wa shakaijin desu. 'Mr Suzuki is a working adult.'

Kore wa sushi desu. 'This is sushi.'

Sore wa hon desu. 'That's a book.'

Are wa raamen desu. 'That is ramen.'

Kyou wa getsuyoubi desu. 'Today is Monday.'

Ashita wa kayoubi desu. 'Tomorrow is Tuesday.'

Koko wa kouen desu. 'This is a park.'

Soko wa toire desu. 'That is a toilet.'

Resutoran wa asoko desu. 'The restaurant is over there.'

Vocab

watashi 'I'

gakusei 'student'. Note that the u is devoiced.

san 'Mr, Mrs, Miss'. Usually follows a surname. Do not use san with your own name.

shakaijin 'working adult' from shakai 'society' and -jin 'person'. (- indicates an element that can't be used on its own.)

kore 'this (thing)'. Cannot be followed by a noun.

sore 'that (thing nearby)'. Cannot be followed by a noun.

are 'that (thing over there, away from both of us)'. Cannot be followed by a noun.

hon 'book'

kyou 'today'

ashita 'tomorrow'. The i is devoiced.

getsuyoubi 'Monday'. Getsu- means 'moon, month'.

kayoubi 'Tuesday'. Ka- means 'fire'.

koko 'here'

soko 'there'. Often near the other person.

asoko 'over there'. Often away from both speaker and hearer.

kouen 'park'

toire 'toilet'

resutoran 'restaurant'. The u is devoiced, as it is in many cases when a word has been borrowed from English and there is no vowel in the original word.

Notes

Wa. Indicates the topic of the sentence. It is often left out if it is obvious. Note that it is written with , not , for historical reasons. Grammatically, elements like wa are called "particles" and follow the nouns to which they refer.

Kore and koko. Note how Japanese often uses koko 'here' with places, where English uses 'this'. It's the same with soko 'there' and asoko 'over there'.