

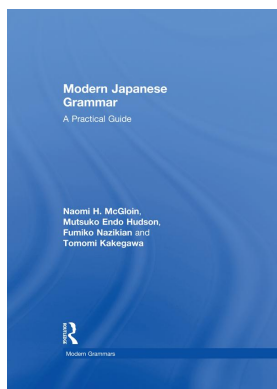
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Comparisons

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- B: このイタリアレストランが一番有名です。
Kono Itaria resutoran ga ichiban yuumees desu.
 This Italian restaurant is the most famous.
- A: 兄弟の中で誰が一番よく食べますか。
Kyoodai no naka de dare ga ichiban yoku tabemasu ka.
 Who eats the most among your siblings?
- B: 一番下の弟が一番よく食べます。
Ichiban shita no ootoo ga ichiban yoku tabemasu.
 My youngest brother eats the most.

38.2 Comparisons of equality

Comparisons of equality can be made using the phrase **to onaji kurai** or **gurai** ‘the same extent, as . . . as,’ or **X wa Y to onaji da** ‘X is the same as Y.’

- 東京の物価はニューヨークの物価と同じくらい高い。
Tookyoo no bukka wa Nyuu Yooku no bukka to onaji kurai takai.
 The prices in Tokyo are as expensive as in New York.
- 弟は父と同じくらい背が高いです。
Ootoo wa chichi to onaji kurai se ga takai desu.
 My younger brother is as tall as my father.
- 女性の給料は男性の給料と同じですか。
Josee no kyuuryoo wa dansee no kyuuryoo to onaji desu ka.
 Are women’s salaries the same as men’s?

38.3 Comparisons of three or more things

To compare three or more things the expression **x ga ichiban** or **mottomo** is used. Both **ichiban** and **mottomo** mean ‘the best’ or ‘the most’ in English. However, **mottomo** is a formal expression and tends to be used in a written context.

- すしとてんぷらとさしみの中で、てんぷらが一番好きです。
Sushi to tempura to sashimi no naka de tempura ga ichiban suki desu.
 Among sushi, tempura, and sashimi, I like tempura the most.
- 兄弟の中で、兄が一番背が高いです。
Kyoodai no naka de, ani ga ichiban se ga takai desu.
 My elder brother is the tallest among the siblings.
- 日本の山の中で富士山が一番有名です。
Nihon no yama no naka de Fujisan ga ichiban yuumees desu.
 Among the mountains in Japan Mt. Fuji is the most famous.
- 日本三景というのは日本で最も美しいと言われている所です。
Nihon-sankee to yuu no wa Nihon de mottomo utsukushii to iwarete iru tokoro desu.
 ‘Nihon-sankee’ refers to three places which are said to be the most beautiful (scenic) places in Japan.