

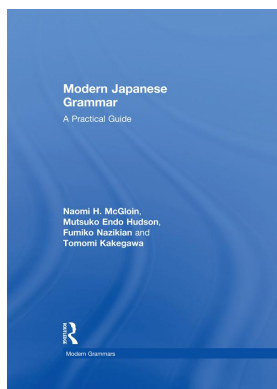
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 03 Oct 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG, UK



## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa, Sarah Butler

### **Location and distance**

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch40>

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa

**Published online on: 04 Oct 2013**

**How to cite :-** Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa. 04 Oct 2013, *Location and distance from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge  
Accessed on: 03 Oct 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch40>

**PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT**

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms>

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

# 40

## Location and distance

This chapter examines various expressions used in Japanese to state location and distance, including locational nouns such as ‘above,’ ‘below,’ ‘next to,’ etc.

### 40.1 Expressing location

#### 40.1.1 *aru/arimasu*

To ask and say where something is, Japanese uses the structure of N **wa** location **ni aru/arimasu** ‘exist’. The copula **da/desu** is often used instead of the verb **aru**.

オペラ座という映画館はどこにありますか。

**Operaza to yuu eegakan wa doko ni arimasu ka.**

Where is the movie theater called the ‘Opera House’?

オペラ座という映画館はどこですか。

**Operaza to yuu eegakan wa doko desu ka.**

Where is the movie theater called the ‘Opera House’?

When a copula construction is used, ‘location **ni arimasu**’ is replaced by ‘location **desu**’. Note that the particle **ni** is deleted together with the verb **aru** in the **desu** construction.

The answer to the question also has two versions, one with the verb **aru/arimasu** and the other with the copula **desu**. You can answer the **arimasu ka** question with the copula version and vice versa.

あそこにあります。

**Asoko ni arimasu.**

It’s over there.

あそこです。

**Asoko desu.**

It is over there.

#### 40.1.2 *iru/imasu*

To ask and state where someone or some living being is, the verb **iru/imasu** is used.

スミスさんはどこにいますか。

**Sumisu-san wa doko ni imasu ka.**

Where is Mr/Ms Smith?

スミスさんは教室にいます。

**Sumisu-san wa kyooshitsu ni imasu.**

Mr/Ms Smith is in the classroom.

The copula construction is also often used as in the following examples.

スミスさんはどこ (ですか)。

**Sumisu-san wa doko (desu ka).**

Where is Mr/Ms Smith?

(スミスさんは) 教室 (です)。

**(Sumisu-san wa) kyooshitsu (desu).**

Mr/Ms Smith is in the classroom.

## 40.2 Indicating precise location

To indicate the precise location, such as ‘on top of,’ ‘under,’ ‘next to,’ etc., Japanese uses nouns expressing a location concept such as **ue** ‘top,’ **shita** ‘below,’ **naka** ‘inside.’ These nouns are modified by nouns indicating what it is on top of, under, inside, etc., as in the following.

つくえ の 上  
**tsukue no ue**  
 desk’s top = on top of the desk

部屋 の 中  
**heya no naka**  
 room’s inside = inside of the room

辞書は机の上にあります。  
**Jisho wa tsukue no ue ni arimasu.**  
 The dictionary is on top of the desk.

喫茶店は駅の隣にあります。                      駅の隣です。  
**Kissaten wa eki no tonari ni arimasu.**      **Eki no tonari desu.**  
 The coffee shop is next to the station.

学校は家の近くに 있습니다。                      家の近くです。  
**Gakkoo wa ie no chikaku ni arimasu.**      **Ie no chikaku desu.**  
 The school is near my house.

子供たちは今建物の中にいます。  
**Kodomo-tachi wa ima tatemono no naka ni imasu.**  
 The children are inside of the building right now.

Other location nouns include **yoko** ‘side,’ **mae** ‘front,’ **ushiro** ‘back,’ **migi** ‘right side,’ and **hidari** ‘left side.’

**Yoko** and **tonari** both mean ‘beside’ and ‘next to.’ **Tonari** is used when referring to two items belonging to the same category, such as two people, two buildings, two countries, etc., whereas **yoko** can be used when referring to things of different categories.

コンビニは銀行の隣にあります。  
**Konbini wa ginkoo no tonari ni arimasu.**  
 The convenience store is next to the bank.

タクシー乗り場は銀行の横にあります。  
**Takushii noriba wa ginkoo no yoko ni arimasu.**  
 The taxi stand is beside the bank.

The idea of ‘between X and Y’ is expressed by **X to Y no aida**.

映画館は銀行とデパートの間にあります。  
**Egakan wa ginkoo to depaato no aida ni arimasu.**  
 The movie theater is between the bank and the department store.

## 40.3 Indicating distance

To indicate distance from something, Japanese uses **X kara** (distance) **no tokoro ni arimasu** or **X kara** (distance) **desu**.

横浜は東京から27キロメートルです。  
**Yokohama wa Tookyoo kara nijuunana kiromeetoru desu.**  
 Yokohama is 27 kilometers from Tokyo.

学校は駅から300メートルのところにあります。

**Gakkoo wa eki kara sanbyaku meetoru no tokoro ni arimasu.**

The school is 300 meters from the (train) station.

Distance may also be expressed by the time it takes to get to a place walking, or by bus, train, etc.

郵便局は駅から歩いて5分ぐらいのところにあります。

**Yuubinkyoku wa eki kara aruite gofun gurai no tokoro ni arimasu.**

The post office is about a five-minute walk from the station.

私の家は駅からバスで10分です。

**Watashi no ie wa eki kara basu de juppun desu.**

My house is ten minutes by bus from the station.

To ask how far away a place is you can use expressions such as the following.

空港までどのぐらいかかりますか。

**Kuukoo made dono gurai kakarimasu ka.**

How long does it take to get to the airport?

タクシーで20分ぐらいです。

**Takushii de nijuppun gurai desu.**

It's about 20 minutes by taxi.

京都までどのぐらいですか。

**Kyoto made dono gurai desu ka.**

How far is it to Kyoto?

新幹線で二時間ぐらいです。

**Shinkansen de nijikan gurai desu.**

It is about two hours by bullet train.