

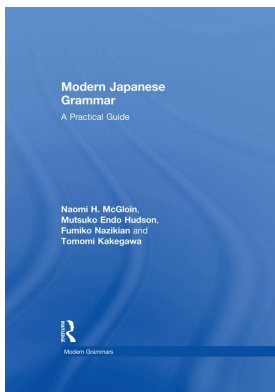
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Possession

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41

Possession

This chapter covers expressions related to ownership, possession, and belongings.

41.1 Expressing possession of things

To indicate that one has inanimate objects, **X o motte iru/imasu** is commonly used.

私は車を持っています。

Watashi wa kuruma o motte imasu.

I own a car.

田中さんは立派なテニスラケットを持っています。

Tanaka-san wa rippa na tenisu racketto o motte imasu.

Mr/Ms Tanaka has an impressive tennis racket.

X ga aru/arimasu can also be used to express possession of things.

▶ 5.3; 12.3

私はコンピューターがあります。

Watashi wa konpyuutaa ga arimasu.

I have a computer.

井田さんはお金がたくさんある。

Ida-san wa o-kane ga takusan aru.

Mr/Ms Ida has a lot of money.

41.2 Expressing possession of animals and pets

To communicate that one has animals or pets, **X o katte iru** is commonly used.

私は犬を飼っている。

Watashi wa inu o katte imasu.

I have a dog.

この牧場では牛を50頭飼っています。

Kono bokujoo de wa ushi o gojuttoo katte imasu.

At this farm, they have/raise 50 cows.

X ga iru can also be used to express possession of animals or pets.

▶ 5.3; 12.3

私はペットがいます。

Watashi wa petto ga imasu.

I have a pet.

うちには猫がいる。

Uchi ni wa neko ga iru.

We have a cat.

41.3 Describing body parts

To indicate that some being has various body parts such as hands, legs, and hair, X **wa** Y **ga aru/arimasu** ‘X has Y’ is commonly used.

▶ 5.2.3; 12.3

人間は手が二つある。

Ningen wa te ga futatsu aru.

A human has two hands.

蜘蛛は脚が八本あります。

Kumo wa ashi ga happon arimasu.

A spider has eight legs.

When describing characteristics of one’s body parts; e.g. one has long legs, short hair, or large hands, possessive expressions such as X **wa** Y **ga aru** or X **wa** Y **o motte iru** are not usually used. Instead, the following structure is used.

▶ 5.2.5; 12.3

- Person **wa** body part(s) **ga** description (adj.)

小野さんは足が長いです。

Ono-san wa ashi ga nagai desu.

Mr/Ms Ono has long legs.

森さんは髪が短い。

Mori-san wa kami ga mijikai.

Mr/Ms Mori has short hair.

私は手が大きいです。

Watashi wa te ga ookii desu.

I have large hands.

When expressing injuries or illnesses related to one’s body parts, the possessive pronoun (X **no**) is not used with one’s body part. The subject of the sentence is assumed to be the possessor of the body part.

太郎は足を折りました。

Taroo wa ashi o orimashita.

Taro broke his leg.

私は頭が痛い。

Watashi wa atama ga itai.

My head hurts/I have a headache.

41.4 Other ways of expressing possession

There are many other words that express possession, including the following verbs. They are mainly used in writing or in a professional context.

- **Shoyuu shite iru** ‘to own’

田中さんは多くの株を所有している。

Tanaka-san wa ooku no kabu o shoyuu shite iru.

Mr/Ms Tanaka owns a lot of stocks.

- **Shoji shite iru** ‘to possess, to carry, to have on one’

中学生の6割が携帯電話を所持している。

Chuugakusee no roku wari ga keetai denwa o shoji shite iru.

60 percent of middle school/junior high school students carry a cellphone.

- **Shozoo shite iru** ‘to have in stock, to own’

この美術館は500点を超す美術作品を所蔵している。

Kono bijutsukan wa gohyakuten o kosu bijutsu sakuhin o shozoo shite iru.

This museum has more than 500 art works in its collection.