

# Online Campus Writing Center Multilingual Writer Support

# Top Ten Translanguaging Tips: Japanese & English



# **Adjective-Noun Order**

#### **Japanese**

- All adjectival elements, no matter the length, must precede the noun they modify
- No relative pronouns or clauses

"学校で新しい先生" (the new in school teacher

#### **English**

- Adjectives precede the noun they modify
- Adjectival relative clauses follow the noun they modify
  - "The teacher, who is new in school"

#### **Japanese**

 Verbs are not modified or inflected for person or number

"彼は文法を学びます"
"文法を勉強しています"
"彼らは文法を勉強します"

#### **English**

Verbs are inflected or modified with an auxiliary verb for person and number

> "He <u>studies</u> grammar." "I <u>study</u> grammar." "They **study** grammar."



Verbs: Person & Number



# **Negation**

## **Japanese**

- Negation is formed by adding the negative auxiliary verbs "nai" and "n"
- Affixed after the verb at the end of the utterance

"私は勉強しません"

#### **English**

 Negation is formed by an auxiliary/modal verb + not structure prior to the verb

"I <u>do not</u> study."

#### **Japanese**

• Questions are formed by adding the particle か "ka" after the complete sentence

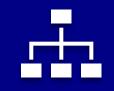
"今日勉強しましたか?"

#### **English**

All question forms utilize subject-verb inversion. Questions are formed:
[Question Word] + Aux. Verb +
Subject + Verb + other sentence elements, if present

"Did you study today?"





**Sentence Order** 

#### **Japanese**

- Utilizes Subject-Object-Verb order
- As long as the verb is placed last, other sentence elements may be reordered as desired

"田た中なかさんが今いまから学校がっこうに 行いく / 行いきます。"

#### **English**

- Utilizes Subject-Verb-Object order
- Transposed elements must be dependent phrases or clauses

"Mr. Tanaka will go to school from now." "From now. Mr. Tanaka will ao to school "

# **Top Ten Translanguaging Tips**



#### **Japanese**

- No articles exist
- If needed, the demonstrative その, sono, meaning "that/those", may be used for English "the"

"学生は文法を学びます" "*その文法を学ぶ学生*"

#### **English**

- Specific, countable nouns require the definite article: *the*
- General, plural nouns and noncount nouns do not require articles

"<u>The</u> students study grammar."

#### Japanese

 Most conjunctions are placed at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> clause, prior to the comma between the two clauses

"この本は新しいですが、小さいで す*。"* 

#### **English**

 Conjunctions are placed at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> clause, following the punctuation between the clauses

"This apartment is new, but it is small."



Conjunction Placement



#### **Japanese**

- Auxiliary verbs are expressed as verbal suffixes or inflections
- Never independent structures

"彼は勉強していた*"* "私は英語を勉強しています'

#### **English**

 Many verb tenses are expressed in two-part structures of the auxiliary verb, expressing the tense, and another verb, expressing the meaning

"He <u>was</u> studying."
"I <u>am</u> studying English."

#### **Japanese**

 Utilizes postpositions, where particles are adjoined to the end of the prior structure word

"図書館の後ろに"

### **English**

Utilizes prepositions, where small, independent location words are used prior to a nominal phrase

"Behind the library"





**Future Tense** 

#### **Japanese**

 The future tense is indicated by context and adverbial elements, no conjugation

"放課後にお手伝いします*"* 

#### **English**

 The future tenses are formed with the auxiliary verb "will", which precedes the main verb

"I <u>will</u> help you after school tomorrow."

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