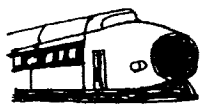


【*オプションナルたんご: Optional Vocabulary】



- 1.*しんかんせん
bullet train

【ぶんぽう: Grammar】

A. Transportation facility + で by (transportation facility)

The particle で immediately follows the noun which is the form of transportation, means, or tool by which an action occurs.

- わたしは バスBASUで がっこうへ きます。 I come to school by bus.
- ははは くるまで かいしゃに いきます。 My mother goes to her company by car.
- おじいさんと おばあさんは きのう ひこうきで にほんへ きました。
My grandfather and grandmother went to Japan by airplane yesterday.

B. Subject / だれ+が

が marks the subject of a sentence when the information expressed by the subject is introduced for the first time. When the subject is presented as the topic (that is, the information has already been introduced), however, the topic marker は replaces が.

- だれが がっこうへ バスBASUで きますか。 Who comes to school by bus?
- だれが くるまで きますか。 Who comes by car?

【● ぶんかノート: Cultural Notes】

1. What is a しんかんせん?

The しんかんせん, literally translated at the "new trunk line," but more commonly known as the bullet train, stretches from northern Honshu to Kyushu in the south. It also connects eastern and western Japan. It is the fastest means of ground transportation, traveling at a maximum speed of about 175 mph.

2. Japanese cars drive on the left side of the street.

Unlike cars in the U.S., Japanese cars drive on the left lanes of the highway. Japanese cars have the steering wheel on the right side of the car.

3. Japanese Taxis

In Japan, there are many taxis on the street so they are easy to catch. Taxis with lighted red signs in their windows are available. Raise your hand and the taxi will stop for you. Because the door opens automatically, wait until it is opened by the driver. Do not stand close to the door, you may be hit! You do not have to give tips to taxi drivers in Japan. If you are unfamiliar with the Japanese language, it is recommended that you carry the business card of your place of destination, (or the correct address) and show it to the taxi driver when you enter the taxi. Many taxi drivers do not speak English well.