Grammar Notes for Lesson 3

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Grammar Notes for Lesson 3

1. Sentence with Noun as Predicate

Example:

森さんは学生です。
Mori-san wa gakusei desu.
Ms Mori is a student.

In lesson 1 it was already mentioned that a predicate of a sentence can also be formed of other words than verbs. This lesson deals with sentences in which nouns play a role of a predicate. Such sentences commonly consist of at least a noun \( N_1 \) marked for instance by \( と \) (the topic) and an additional noun \( N_2 \) which functions as a predicate. So a popular prototype of a sentence with noun as predicate can be framed like:

\[ N_1 \text{ wa } N_2 \]

Since a noun itself is uninflected, it utilizes an auxiliary word (verb) which makes it flexible or, more precisely, inflected if it should be used as a predicate, i.e. the appendix makes it possible to adopt different meanings. In this respect the sentence structure expands to:

\[ N_1 \text{ wa } N_2 + \text{inflected auxiliary (verb)} \]

The sample sentence reflects this idea. Mori-san wa acts as the topic and gakusei desu as a commentating predicate. By the way the auxiliary is fused completely with the second noun just like it was in the relationship between the stem and the ending of a verb. The last word desu in the example sentence corresponds to masu of verbs and it shows that the noun in front of it has the form of ordinary polite affirmative.

The principle of modification (inflexion) of the nominal predicate is arranged just like the relationship between the locomotive and its wagon trains or the stem and the endings of a verb. (see lesson 1, chapter 1.1.3)
1.1 Affirmative Sentence with 〜です

Example:

The New York Times は新聞です。
Za nyuuyooku taimuzu wa shinbun desu.
The New York Times is a newspaper.

The auxiliary verb 〜です builds together with a foregoing noun the ordinary polite affirmative form. 〜です enables to assign or better subordinate a particular noun N₁ to another noun N₂.
The sentence structure of subordination is:

Sentence structure:  

N₁ is N₂ です。

More sample sentences with 〜です:

コーヒーは飲み物です。
Koohii wa nomimono desu.
Coffee is a beverage.

パンは食べ物です。
Pan wa tabemono desu.
Bread is a nourishment.

森さんは日本人です。
Mori-san wa Nihon-jin desu.
Ms Mori is Japanese.

日本は国です。
Nihon wa kuni desu.
Japan is a nation.

本田さんは会社員です。
Honda-san wa kaisha-in desu.
Ms Honda is an employee.

At first glance these sample sentences look like a mathematical equation A = B or N₁ = N₂.
But it is incorrect. While N₁ = N₂ is reversible (N₂ = N₁) N₁ wa N₂ desu is not reversible!
You cannot say about beverages that they are always coffee. Beverage can be defined as a conglomeration of very different drinkable things and coffee can be one of them. So coffee (N₁) is only an element of the extensive group of beverages (N₂):
coffee ［] beverages, or more general:  N₁ 「」 N₂
All nouns mentioned in a N₁ -position are subordinate.
The sentence structure $N_1 \text{ wa } N_2 \text{ desu}$ means that a special representative is assigned to the main group.

In this respect the sample sentences are to be understood as follows:

- **Koohii wa nomimono desu.** Coffee is an element of the beverages.
- **Pan wa tabemono desu.** Bread is an element of the nourishments.
- **Mori-san wa Nihon-jin desu.** Ms Mori is a representative of the Japanese population / race.
- **Nihon wa kuni desu.** Japan is one of the world’s nations.
- **Honda-san wa kaisha-in desu.** Ms Honda is a representative of all employees.

**Quiz 1:** Build nominal sentences that make sense.

- ビール 飲み物
- 野菜 食べ物
- 食べ物 パン
- マイケル 学生
- 彼 フランス人
- 私 ドイツ人
- 友だち 中国人
- 飲み物 お酒
- トマト 野菜
- 果物 りんご
- 彼女 高校生
- 医者 お父さん
- お母さん 先生
- アフリカ 大陸

**please notice:**
In special situations it is possible to say $N_2 \text{ wa } N_1 \text{ desu.}$  
**Nomimono wa biiru desu.** (The beverage is beer.) can mean that the only drinkable thing in this case is beer. Other beverages are not available. Or someone declares in an arbitrary way that this is a fact like the famous declaration of Louis XIV: “L’état c’est moi !”  
**Kaisha-in wa watashi desu.** (The employee is me.) can mean that in a group of assembled people only one single person (watashi) is employed. The others have different professions.

**notice further:**
This is an often made mistake with desu:  
**Ms Mori is in the room. = Mori-san wa heya ni desu.** In Japanese the auxiliary verb desu can only be used to assign one noun to another. It cannot be used to express the state of existence. This kind of being is to be translated as *imasu* (lesson 8).
1.2 Formulation of a Question with ～ですか

Example 1:

森さんは学生ですか。
Mori-san wa gakusei desu ka.
Is Ms Mori a college student?

Example 2:

あの方は何人ですか。
Ano kata wa nani-jin desu ka.
What nationality is this person?

An interrogative sentence with a noun as predicate is treated exactly like a verbal sentence. It is also marked by the interrogative particle ～ですか. The first sample sentence shows us a non-probe question.

Sentence structure:

\[ N_1 \text{ は  } N_2 \text{ ですか。} \]

More sample sentences with ～ですか:

コーヒーは飲み物ですか。
Koohii wa nomimono desu ka.
Is coffee a beverage?

本田さんは会社員ですか。
Honda-san wa kaisha-in desu ka.
Is Ms Honda an employee?

The second example includes an interrogative. Usually interrogatives occupy the N2-position, because they are more similar to a generic term than to a subordinate noun. For more information, see chapter 4 of this lesson.

Sentence structure:

\[ N_1 \text{ は  } \text{interrogative} \text{ですか。} \]

In the present state we know only a few interrogatives. (see vocabulary lists lesson 1-3)
More sample sentences with interrogative + わたしですか：

トマトは何ですか。
Tomato wa nan desu ka.
What is a tomato?

トイレはどこですか。
Toire wa doko desu ka. (toire = toilet)
Where is the restroom?

彼は何ですか。
Kare wa nani-jin desu ka.
What nationality is he?

かたかなはどれですか。
Katakana wa dore desu ka.
Which one is Katakana?

How to answer a nominal question

non-probe question:

A non-probe question can be answered by three affirmative and four negative sentences.

affirmative answer:
1. Use はい.
2. Use はい, then put a comma and repeat the predicate of the question.
   (If you repeat the whole sentence, it sounds like a classroom Japanese.)
3. Use the phrase はい、そうです。Hai, soo desu. (Yes, it is right! / Yes, it is so!)

N_1 は N_2ですか。
1. はい。
2. はい、N_2です。
3. はい、そうです。

negative answer:
1. Use いいえ.
2. Use いいえ, then study the next chapter.
3. Use いいえ, then skip the negative answer No, it is not a N_2 and answer it with an adjustment (N_3).
4. use the phrase いいえ、違います。Iie, chigai masu. (No, it is not right! / No, it is different!)

N_1 は N_2ですか。
1. いいえ。
2. いいえ、see next chapter!
3. いいえ、N_3です。
4. いいえ、違います。

probe question:
A probe question will be answered by setting the right word instead of the interrogative:

N_1 は interrogativeですか。 N_1です.
Examples of answering nominal questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Kana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ビールは飲み物ですか。</td>
<td>Biiru wa nomimono desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>はい。</td>
<td>はい。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>マイケルは学生ですか。</td>
<td>Maikeru wa gakusei desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>はい。</td>
<td>はい。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>彼はフランス人ですか。</td>
<td>Kare wa furansu-jin desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>はい。</td>
<td>はい。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>トマトは果物ですか。</td>
<td>Tomato wa kudamono desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いいえ。</td>
<td>いいえ。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>お父さんは先生ですか。</td>
<td>Otoo-san wa sensei desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いいえ。</td>
<td>いいえ。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ドイツは大陸ですか。</td>
<td>Doitsu wa tairiku desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いいえ。</td>
<td>いいえ。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>森さんは何人ですか。</td>
<td>Mori-san wa nanijin desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>日本人です。</td>
<td>日本人です。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ビールは何ですか。</td>
<td>Biiru wa nan desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>飲み物です。</td>
<td>飲み物です。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>トマトは何ですか。</td>
<td>Tomato wa nan desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>野菜です。</td>
<td>野菜です。</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>「やま」は何語ですか。</td>
<td>“Yama” wa nanigo desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>日本語です。</td>
<td>日本語です。</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**notice:**
The phrases はい、そうです。 and いいえ、違います。 are only valid for **nominal questions**. It is not possible to answer a question including a **verbal** predicate using these phrases:
If you answered お酒を飲みましたか。 O-sake o nomimashita ka. (Did you drink alcohol?) using はい、そうです。 or いいえ、違います。 instead of はい、飲みました。 or いいえ、飲みませんでした。 you would be suspected of being an alcoholic....

**Quiz 2:** Answer the following questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Kana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ワインは飲み物ですか。</td>
<td>Wain wa nomimono desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>トマトは果物ですか。</td>
<td>Tomato wa nan desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本田さんは学生ですか。</td>
<td>Honda-san wa gakusei desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>（医者）</td>
<td>（医者）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>マイケルは日本人ですか。</td>
<td>Maikeru wa nihonjin desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>（カナダ人）</td>
<td>（カナダ人）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>彼女は何人ですか。 （中国人）</td>
<td>Kanojo wa nan desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(中国人)</td>
<td>(中国人)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mountain</strong> はドイツ語ですか。</td>
<td>Mountain wa doitsu-gu desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duisburg</strong> は国ですか。</td>
<td>Duisburg wa kuni desu ka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mountain</strong> は何語ですか。</td>
<td>Mountain wa nanigo desu ka.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.3 The Negative Form 〜ではありません／〜じゃないありません

Example:

森さんは会社員ではありません。
森さんは会社員じゃありません。
Mori-san wa kaisha-in de wa arimasen.
Mori-san wa kaisha-in ja arimasen.
Ms Mori is not an employee.

The negation of です is ではありません. As you can see from the example above, the wa of de wa arimasen is written with は but pronounced like the topic-wa. In colloquial and more nonorthodox written language it is popular to use the alternative form じゃないありません. This ja~ is nothing else than an assimilated form of de wa~.

Sentence structures:

\[
\begin{align*}
N_1 \text{ は } N_2 \text{ですか。 いいえ、 } N_2 \text{ ではありません。(}N_3\text{です。)} \\
N_1 \text{ は } N_2 \text{ですか。 いいえ、 } N_2 \text{じゃありません。(}N_3\text{です。)}
\end{align*}
\]

More sample sentences with 〜ではありません／〜じゃないありません：

森さんは先生ですか。
Mori-san wa sensei desu ka
Is Ms Mori a teacher?
いいえ、先生ではありません。 いいえ、食べ物じゃありません。
lie, sensei de wa arimasen. lie, tabemono ja arimasen.
No, she is not a teacher. No, it is not a nourishment.

水は食べ物ですか。
Mizu wa tabemono desu ka.
Is water a nourishment?
いいえ、食べ物じゃありません。
lie, tabemono ja arimasen.
No, it is not a nourishment.

あの方は森さんですか。
Ano kata wa M.san desu ka.
Is that person Ms Mori?
いいえ、森さんじゃありません。
lie, Mori-san ja arimasen.
No, she is not Ms Mori.

森さんは中国人ですか。
M.san wa chuugoku-jin desu ka.
Is Ms Mori a Chinese?
いいえ、中国人ではありません。
lie, chuugoku-jin de wa arimasen.
No, she is not a Chinese.

notice: An abbreviation like いいえ、ではありません。 or いいえ、じゃありません。 does not exist!
Quiz 3: Answer the following questions.

 Birliğiは食べ物ですか。
トマトは果物ですか。
パンは飲み物ですか。
森さんは医者ですか。（学生）
マイケルは中国人ですか。（カナダ人）
お母さんは学生ですか。（主婦）
お父さんは先生ですか。
日本は大陸ですか。
ご両親は日本人ですか。（カナダ人）

* Instead of いいえ、食べ物ではありません。飲み物です。 you can also answer Xじゃないありません or いいえ、違います。Yです。

1.4 The Ordinary Polite Past Form 〜でした

Example:

森さんは学生でした。
Mori-san wa gakusei deshita.
Ms Mori was a college student.

The ordinary polite past form of です is でした.

Sentence structure: 

\[ N_1 \text{ は } N_2 \text{ でした。} \]

Sample sentences with 〜でした：

森さんは学生でしたか。 はい、学生でした。
Mori-san wa gakusei deshita ka.  Hai, gakusei deshita.  
Was Ms Mori a college student?  Yes, she was a college student.

本田さんは会社員でしたか。 はい、会社員でした。
Honda-san wa kaishain deshita ka.  Hai, kaishain deshita.
Was Mr Honda an employee?  Yes, he was an employee.

昨日ご飯は何でしたか。 魚でした。
Kinoo go-han wa nan deshita ka.  Sakana deshita.
What was the meal yesterday?  It was fish.

飲み物は何でしたか。 ワインでした。
Nomimono wa nan deshita ka.  Wain deshita.
What was the beverage?  It was wine.
1.5 Negation of the Past ～ではありませんでした

Example:

森さんは医者ではありませんでした。
Mori-san wa isha de wa arimasen deshita.
Ms Mori was not a doctor.

The ordinary polite negative form of the past (= was not) is ではありませんでした. In colloquial and more nonorthodox written language it is also popular to use the alternative form じゃありませんでした.

Sentence structures:

- \( N_1 \) は  \( N_2 \)ではありませんでした。
- \( N_1 \) は  \( N_2 \)じゃありませんでした。

Sample sentences with ～ではありませんでした／～じゃありませんでした：

森さんは主婦でしたか。  いいえ、主婦では／じゃありませんでした。
Mori-san wa shufu deshita ka.  Iie, shufu de wa / ja arimasen deshita.
Was Ms Mori a housewife?  No, she was not a housewife.

本田さんは先生でしたか。  いいえ、先生では／じゃありませんでした。
Honda-san wa sensei deshita ka.  Iie, sensei de wa / ja arimasen deshita.
Was Mr Honda a teacher?  No, he was not a teacher.

昨日ご飯は肉でしたか。  いいえ、肉では／じゃありませんでした。
Kinoo go-han wa niku deshita ka.  Iie, niku de wa / ja arimasen deshita.
Was the meal yesterday meat?  No, it was not meat.

飲み物はビールでしたか。  いいえ、ビールでは／じゃありませんでした。
Nomimono wa biru deshita ka.  Iie, biru de wa / ja arimasen deshita.
Was the beverage beer?  No, it was not beer.

notice:
It is also possible to use the phrase いいえ、違います。to give a negative answer in past tense. Since it is a set expression, do not try to change the tense. (Iie, chigaimashita does not exist!)
2. Demonstratives (part 1)

2.1 これ，それ，あれ

Examples:

これは本です。This is a book.
それは窓です。That is a window.

In lesson 1 it was already mentioned that a pronoun is treated like a genuine noun. Since the demonstratives are a subcategory of the pronoun, they can be set in all N-positions in a sentence (topic, object, predicate etc.). Unlike demonstratives of western languages which have a dyadic contrast between ‘near´ and ´distant´ reference (here-there, this-that, these-those), Japanese demonstratives have a triadic contrast between ‘near’, ‘distant’ and ‘more distant’ reference. Provided that there is only one person who is observing things (the viewer), the demonstratives これ，それ，あれ are used in the following way:

これ  points at things (in the widest meaning) which are close to the viewer.
それ  points at things (in the widest meaning) which are away from the viewer.
あれ  points at things (in the widest meaning) which are quite faraway from the viewer.

これは鉛筆です。Kore wa enpitsu desu. This is a pencil.
それはラジオです。Sore wa rajio desu. That is a radio.

あれは自転車です。Are wa jitensha desu. That is a bicycle. (that thing over there...)

Notice 1
Since we are accustomed to the near/distant polarity and not used to see things in terms of triadic distance, it is difficult to find an appropriate translation of それ and あれ. Both are that. At the most the translation of あれ can be extended to that thing over there or that thing faraway.

Notice 2
Demonstratives can also be used in verbal sentences or in combination with interrogatives.
More examples with the demonstratives これ、それ、あれ:

これはりんごです。 Kore wa ringo desu. This is an apple.
それは窓です。 Sore wa mado desu. That is a window.
あれは車です。 Are wa kuruma desu. That over there is a car.

これはチョークではありません。 Kore wa chooku de wa arimasen. This is not a chalk.
それはつくえではありません。 Sore wa tsukue de wa arimasen. That is not a table.
あれは黒板ではありません。 Are wa kokuban de wa arimasen. That is not a blackboard.

これを食べます。 Kore o tabemasu. I will eat this.
それを食べます。 Sore o tabemasu. I will eat that.
あれを食べます。 Are o tabemasu. I will eat that.

これは何ですか。 Kore wa nan desu ka. What is this?
それは何ですか。 Sore wa nan desu ka. What is that?
あれは何ですか。 Are wa nan desu ka. What is that?

notice:
The most natural position of the demonstratives is the N1-position. If you say ringo wa kore desu. (kore=N1), the first mentioned noun is emphasized as the topic of the sentence. (The apple is this!) It is not possible to put interrogatives which function as a predicate in the N1-position: Kore wa nan desu ka.

two viewers:
In cases where two persons are involved as viewers of things the demonstratives これ、それ、あれ are still used in the above mentioned way. But it depends, in a very basic sense, on the point of view of each viewer how to refer to things using the three demonstratives:

case 1:

The pencil is located in the immediate territory of the viewer A. So he can designate it as:

これは鉛筆です。 Kore wa enpitsu desu. This is a pencil.

In the view of B the same pencil is not located in his territory. There is a little distance between him and the object. He designates it as:

それは鉛筆です。 Sore wa enpitsu desu. That is a pencil.

(If the situation is reversed, i.e. A and B change their positions, A would refer to the pencil using それ and B would refer to the same pencil using これ.)
case 2:

Now the pencil is neither located in the territory of A nor of B. There is a distance between the object and the persons. In this case both of them refer to the pencil as: それは鉛筆です。Sore wa enpitsu desu. That is a pencil.

case 3:

If the pencil is located relatively faraway from A and B, both of them would say: あれは鉛筆です。Are wa enpitsu desu. That thing over there is a pencil.

case 4:

If the pencil is located in the territory of A, the radio in the territory of B, and the bicycle is quite faraway from A and B we can paraphrase this situation as:

A: これは鉛筆です。Kore wa enpitsu desu. それはラジオです。Sore wa rajo desu.
B: これはラジオです。Kore wa rajo desu. それは鉛筆です。Sore wa enpitsu desu.
AB: あれは自転車です。Are wa jitensha desu.
Quiz 4: Look at the illustration and build sentences with demonstratives. First you are Mori-san, then you are Honda-san.

1. 森さん

2. 森さん 📚 本田さん

3. 森さん 📚 本田さん

4. 森さん 本田さん

5. 森さん 📸 本田さん

6. 森さん 📸 本田さん

7. 森さん 📩 本田さん

The answers will be discussed during the grammar lesson.

notice:
Demonstratives can also be used to refer to more abstract matters like happenings. If there is only one person who is telling about things, これ refers to an affair which is already mentioned as a subject and to which the speaker has an inner relationship, i.e. the speaker feels a psychological nearness to this matter. In case of two persons, the speaker would still refer to this matter as これ, while the second interlocutor (the hearer) would refer to the same matter as それ because of his psychological distance from it. If the speaker wants to express his remoteness from the matter, i.e. he intentionally shows his inner distance from it, he would also use それ. Finally あれ is used for matters which psychologically or in terms of time are faraway from both the speaker and the second interlocutor, but belong to shared information, for example mentioned in an earlier part of the discourse.
2.2 ここ、そこ、あそこ

Examples:

ここは教室です。
Koko wa kyooshitsu dese. This place is the classroom.

そこは図書館です。
Soko wa toshokan desu. That place is the library.

あそこは駐車場です。
Asoko wa chuusha-joo desu. That place over there is the parking place.

These three-parted demonstratives ここ、そこ、あそこ are used to show the place.

ここで points at places (in the widest meaning) which are close to the viewer.

そこで points at places (in the widest meaning) which are away from the viewer.

あそこ points at places (in the widest meaning) which are quite far away from the viewer.

The translation including the word place is more helpful to memorize the nominal character of these words than here, there and over there.

As already mentioned above the most natural position of the demonstratives is the N₁-position. So the correct sentence with ここ in the N₂-position: Kyooshitsu wa koko desu. (The classroom is here.) can be used as an answer to the question: Kyooshitsu wa doko desu ka. (Where is the classroom?)

More examples with the demonstratives ここ、そこ、あそこ:

ここは大学です。 Koko wa daigaku desu. This place is the college.

そこで喫茶店です。 Soko wa kissaten desu. That place is a café.

あそこは駅です。 Asoko wa eki desu. That place over there is the railway station.

あそこが映画館です。 Asoko ga eiga-kan desu. That place over there is the cinema.

昨日あそこで映画を見ました。 Kinoo asoko de eiga o mimashita. Yesterday I saw a film there.

教室はここですか。 Kyooshitsu wa koko desu ka. Is this place the classroom?

いいえ、ここはトイレです。 Iie, koko wa toire desu. No, this place is the restroom.

あそこが教室です。 Soko ga kyooshitsu desu. That is the classroom.
4. Interrogative Pronouns

In lesson 1, chapter 4.2 we have already had an introduction to this special kind of nouns. The following interrogatives are known:

どこ (where, which place, lesson 1)
何 (what, lesson 1)
だれ／どなた (who, which person, lesson 2)

As nouns they can have different functions, be marked by different particles and also act as a nominal predicate like: どこですか、何ですか、 and だれですか／どなたですか.

By the way 何 is always pronounced as なん and never as なに if it functions as a nominal predicate.
In nominal sentences the N2-position (predicate) is the most natural and preferable position of the interrogatives:

Examples:

トイレはどこですか。Where is the restroom?
Toire wa doko desu ka.

それは何ですか。What is this?
Sore wa nan desu ka.

or as a sentence structure:

Nは interrogative ですか。

Interrogative pronouns can never be used as a theme of the sentence, i.e. どこ or 何 do not exist! The reason is simple: These words are always emphasized, it is conditioned by their meaning, and as we know only the particle が is able to emphasize nouns in an adequate way. Furthermore, even using the correct particle が, a sentence like Doko ga toire desu ka.

sounds unusual and it requires a special situation. (Actually where is the restroom? in the sense of Crikey! Where is the restroom?)

more examples with interrogatives どこ, 何, and だれ／どなた

森さんはどなたですか。Mori-san wa donata desu ka. Which person is Ms Mori?
彼女はだれですか。 Kanojo wa dare desu ka. Who is your girlfriend? / Who is she?
駅はどこですか。 Eki wa doko desu ka. Where is the railway station?
今日はご飯は何ですか。Kyoo wa go-han wa nan desu ka. What is the meal today?
お国はどこですか。 O-kuni wa doko desu ka. Where is your homeland?
4.1 Interrogative どれ

Example: 鉛筆はどれですか。Which one is the pencil?

どれ is a new interrogative introduced for the first time in this lesson. It asks for things among a range of goods. You can translate it as which, which one, which of them etc.

Unfortunately, we have a limited vocabulary now to be able to answer a question includingどれ properly. The only way to react is to operate with the demonstratives これ, それ or あれ and to point at the right thing with the forefinger:

鉛筆はどれですか。 Enpitsu wa どれ desu ka. Which one is the pencil?

これ これは。 Kore desu. This one.

手紙はどれですか。 Tegami wa どれ desu ka. Which one is the letter?

それ それは。 Sore desu. That one.

ラジオはどれですか。 Rajio wa どれ desu ka. Which one is the radio?

あれ あれです。 Are desu. That thing over there.

4.2 Interrogative 何人

Example: 森さんは何人ですか。To what nationality does Ms Mori belong?

何人 is pronounced nani-jin. This interrogative pronoun asks for the nationality of a person:

彼は何人ですか。 Kare wa nani-jin desu ka. To what nationality does he belong?

アメリカ人です。 Amerika-jin desu. He is an American.
4.3 Interrogative 何語

**Example:**  
*Bonjour*は何語ですか。What language is *bonjour*?

Bonjuuru wa nani-go desu ka.

何語 is pronounced nani-go. This interrogative pronoun asks for the used language. More examples:

これは何語ですか。  Kore wa nani-go desu ka.  What language is this?

フランス語です。  Furansu-go desu.  It is French.

**Quiz 5:** These answers should be completed with suitable questions.

（トイレは）あそこにいます。

（本は）これは。

（ラジオは）あれです。

これはテレビです。

あれを飲みます。

いいえ、それはつくえではありません。

あそこは駐車場です。

（本田さんは）日本人です。

（森さんは）あそこにいます。

（あの方は）先生です。

（飲み物は）ワインでした。

（鉛筆は）これです。

（それは）英語です。

（鉛筆は）これです。

（教室は）ここです。

いいえ、あそこ（がトイレ）です。