

Adjectives

The Japanese adjectives are sorted into two groups; **i**-adjective (True adjectives) and **na**-adjective (Quazi adjectives).

i-adjectives

As examples, あつい "hot," たかい "expensive" and おおきい "big" are cited. The reason why they are called the **i**-adjectives is that **all** of them end with **ai, oi, ui or ii**.

The **i**-adjective have the affirmative, the negative, the past affirmative and the past negative forms. Each form can be made by changing the last, **-i** as follows:

	hot	expensive	big
affirmative	あつ-い	たか-い	おおき-い
negative	あつ-くない	たか-くない	おおき-くない
past affirmative	あつ-かった	たか-かった	おおき-かった
past negative	あつ-くなかつ た	たか-くなかつ た	おおき-くなかつ た

In the formal sentence, **です** should be attached to them.

あつ-い です	is hot
あつ-くない です	is not hot
あつ-かった です	was hot
あつ-くなかつた です	was not hot

It is an **incorrect usage** to attach the negative form of **です, じゃないです** and the past form **じゃなかつた です** like あつい **じゃないです** or あつい **じゃなかつた でした**.

きょうはあついです。	It is hot today.
きょうはあつくないです。	It is not hot today.

きのうはあつかったです。	It was hot yesterday.
きのうはあつくなかったです。	It was not hot yesterday.

The following four forms are the plain form of the **i**-adjective.

あつ-い	root form
あつ-くない	nai form
あつ-かった	ta form
あつ-くなかった	nakatta form

i-Adjective plain form

root form	nai form
ta form	nakatta form



Besides the plain form, the **i**-adjective has the **て** form (e.g., あつ-くて)。While the particle **と** "and" is used to connect the nouns, the **て** form is used to connect two **i**-adjectives or to join sentences. You should not use **と** in such case.

コーヒーとこうち や	coffee and tea
きょうとあした	today and tomorrow
やす-くて, おいしい	cheap and delicious
おおき-くて, おもい	big and heavy

na-adjectives

This adjective group includes **しずか** "quiet," **きれい** "pretty" and so on. As opposed to the **i**-adjective ending with **-i**, the **na**-adjectives have **no special rules**. As a matter of fact, a few of them end with **-i**. As the **na**-adjectives do not change themselves, the negative and the past forms of **です** are used to express the negation or the past. In view of this point, it is the same usage as nouns.

	easy	pretty, beautiful, clean
affirmative	かんたん です	きれい です
negative	かんたん じゃないです	きれい じゃないです
past affirmative	かんたん でした	きれい でした

日本語はかんたんです。	The Japanese language is easy.	
日本語はかんたんじゃありません。	The Japanese language is not easy.	
しけんはかんたんでした。	The exam was easy.	
しけんはかんたんじゃなかったです。	The exam was not easy.	
past negative	かんたん じゃなかったで す	きれい じゃなかったで す

All adjectives can be used in the structure [A] は [adjective] です
It is also used to modify a noun in the sentence as seen below.

Modifying nouns

When the **i**-adjective modifies a noun, it comes before a noun in the same way as English. When the **na**-adjective modifies a noun, you should put な before the noun. In the case of nouns, you need to put の when a noun explains another noun.

大きい	町	big town	i -adjective + noun
きれい	な 町	pretty town	na -adjective + noun
日本	の 町	Japanese town	noun + noun

いい	人	nice person	i -adjective + noun
ゆうめい	な 人	famous person	na -adjective + noun
かいしゃ	の 人	person from my office	noun + noun

These are the noun phrases. Each of them can be either a subject, or an object, or the various parts of the sentence.

- 東京は大きい町です。

Tokyo is a big city.

- 私はゆうめいな人に会いました。

I met a famous person.