

Kyoto mi? 32

While having supper the other day with a friend who also studies Japanese, we talked about the Japanese language. We realized that we were not sure how to use particles. When I say "I'm going to **Kyoto**" in Japanese, I use the particle "ni" and say, "Kyoto ni ikimasu." But my friend uses "e" and says, "Kyoto e ikimasu." Is there any difference between the two? I checked some textbooks for Japanese, but some books use "ni" while others use "e." I'm going to see the friend next week,

but I would like to know the answer before I see her.



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■■ Most textbooks for Japanese explain that both particles ((ni)) and (e) are used. I agree that the two mean the same thing. However, their nuances are different. To be exact, the particle (e) indicates the "direction," while (c) ((ni)) indicates the "the point of location," which means that (c) ((ni)) is more specific than (e). The pronunciation of (e) is "he," but it is pronounced "e" when used as a particle. For example, "(e) is pronounced "heya e...," meaning "(to go) to a room." This might be a bit confusing for people who have just started learning hiragana.

Point of the location... place に ni e.g., I will go back home. うちに帰ります。 uchi ni kaerimasu



In daily life, native speakers of Japanese do not really care one way or the other, and some use (c(ni)) only, while others use c(ni) only. In fact, I say (c(ni)) most of the time. c(ni) is frequently used in daily life.

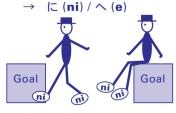
the time. • \(\cdot \"e" \) sounds a little bit more polite than "\(ni." \)

It may be interesting to pay attention to the people around you to check who says |C(ni)| only or $\wedge(e)$ only !

The particle \mathbb{C} (ni) $/ \wedge$ (e) and \mathcal{E} (o) are used for the verbs that describe actions involving legs.

(It is good to remember this rule even though there are some exceptions.)







B) Passing through a place by using legs. $\rightarrow \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{o})$



Let's try!

- 1) to climb 登ります noborimasu
 - ... I have climbed up Mt. Fuji three times.

asu 3回 富士山 ____ 登りました。 san-kai Fujisan ____ noborimashita

- 2) to stand 並びます … in line **narabimasu**
- ··· Please line up here.

ここ ___ 並んで下さい。

koko ____ narande-kudasai

- 3) to walk 歩きます arukimasu
- す … Pedestrians walk on the right side of the road in Japan.

 「中本では、歩行者は道の右側 ____ 歩きます。

 Nihon dewa hokōsha wa michi no migigawa __ arukimasu
- 4) to ride 乗ります to get in (on)
- 自転車 ____ 乗れません。 jitensha ____ noremasen

... I cannot ride a bicycle.

- 5) to run 走ります hashirimas
- 走ります … Children are running on an athletic field.

 hashirimasu 子供たちがグラウンド___ 走っています。
 kodomo-tachi ga ground hashitteimasu
- 6) to live 住みます … I lived in Hiroshima for four years.
 - 4年間 広島 ____ 住みました。 yo-nenkan Hiroshima ___ sumimashita
- 7) to enter 入ります **hairimasu**
- ··· I enter the meeting room.
 - 会議室 ___ 入ります。 kaigishitsu ___ hairimasu
- 8) to cross 渡ります ・ watarimasu

sumimasu

- Be careful when you are crossing the intersection.
 交差点 ___ 渡る時は気をつけましょう。
 kosaten __ wataru toki wa ki o tsukemasho
- 9) to take 通ります torimasu
- … I took a shortcut. 近道 通りました。
- 10) to sit 座ります … I will down suwarimasu イス
- ・・・・ I will sit down on the chair.

 イス 座ります。

isu ___ suwarimasu

Answers
1) goal ...ni 2) goal ...ni 3) passing through...o 4) goal ...ni
5) passing through...o 6) goal ...ni 7) goal ...ni
8) passing through...o 9) passing through...o 10) goal ...ni

In some cases, you cannot use any particle but \land (e). For example, when addressing someone in a letter, memo, etc., as in "To Mr./Ms. ___," you can only use \land (e).

e.g., to Mr. Pole ポールさんへ *Pole*-san e





Make complete sentences in the following story by using the appropriate particles (particles are not limited to "ni" and "o").

I'm going to **Kyoto** tomorrow on the **Shinkansen**.

明日 新幹線 __1) 乗って京都 __2) 行きます。

ashita shinkansen ____ notte Kyoto ____ ikimasu

I went to the station to buy my ticket.

切符 __3) __買いに 駅 __4) __ 行きました。

kippu ___ kai ni eki ____ ikimashita

But many people were standing in line at the ticket office.

でも、たくさん ____5) __ 人が 切符売り場の 前 ___6) __ 並んでいました。 demo takusan __ hito ga kippu-uriba no mae ___ narande-imashita

I entered a small restaurant nearby in order to kill time.

時間 ______ つぶす ために 駅 _____ 近くの店 _____ 入りました。 jikan ____ tsubusu tameni eki ____ chikaku no mise ____ hairimashita

There I saw an elderly man who was blankly staring out from a chair.

suruto ojisan ____ bonyari to isu ____ suwatte-imashita

When he caught sight of me, he said to me, "Long time no see."

そして、私を見ると「久し振りですね」___12)_ 言いました。

soshite watashi o miru to " hisashiburi desu ne" ___ iimashita

I asked, "What? Have I met you before?"

私は「え?会ったこと 13) ありますか?」 14) 聞きました。

watashi wa " e? atta-koto ____arimasu ka" __ kikimashita

Suddenly, he took off his outer garment and pretended to lift up a barbell.

すると突然、上着<u>15)</u> 脱ぎ、バーベル<u>16)</u>持ち上げる格好をしました。 suruto totsuzen uwagi __ nugi *barbell* __ mochiageru kakkō o shimashita

I realized that he was the man who can lift 150 kilograms at my sport club.

なんとスポーツクラブ_17)_150 kg _18)_バーベル_19)_持ち上げる nanto *sports club* ____150-kiro ____ *barbell* ____mochiageru おじいさんでした。 oiisan deshita

Answers

1) ni 2) ni 3) o 4) ni 5) no 6) ni
7) o 8) no 9) ni 10) ga 11) ni 12) to
13) ga 14) to 15) o 16) o 17) de 18) no 19) o

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga