

## Examples of phrases marked with *-wa* (は)

Data from Banno et al. (1999), Kuno (1973), Masuoka (1993)

### I. Is *-wa* a subject marker?

- (1) Watasi-**wa** Tanaka desu. *used to introduce oneself*  
Watasi-**ga** Tanaka desu. *used in response to question, "Which of you is Tanaka?"*  
*I* *COP-FML-NPST*

- And, crucially, in the opposite contexts these are infelicitous

- (2) Syuumatu-**wa** taitei nani-o simasu ka.  
*weekend-wa usually what-ACC do-FML-NPST C[+Q]*

- (3) Kyoo-**wa** Kyooto ni ikimasu.  
*today-wa Kyoto to go-FML-NPST*

- (4) Bunpoo-**wa** kono hon de benkyoo simasita.  
*grammar-wa this book INST study do-FML-PAST*

- (5) Ryoori-**wa** syuzin-ga saisyo ni hasi-o tukemasu.  
*food-wa IG.husband first NI chopsticks attach-FML-NONPAST*

- (6) Zoo-**wa** hana-**ga** nagai.  
*elephant nose long-NONPAST*

### II. Noncontrastive or contrastive *-wa*?

- (7) Watasi-**wa** [syuumatu ni]-**wa** hon-**wa** yomimasu kedo, benkyoo-**wa** simasen.  
*I weekend LOC book read-FML-NPST but study do-FML-NPST-NEG*

### III. More examples to consider

(8) Infelicitous (contextually inappropriate) examples — why?

(a) # *Dono hito-wa anata-no oniisan desu ka.*  
*which person you-GEN older.brother COP C[+Q]*  
Intended meaning: ‘Which person is your older brother?’

(b) # *Hito-ri-no otoko-wa totuzen hanasikakete kimasita.*  
*one-CL-GEN man suddenly talk-TE come-FML-PAST*  
Intended meaning: ‘A man suddenly came and spoke (to me).’

(9) These next examples are fine, though — how would we translate these?

(a) *Anata-no oniisan-wa dono hito desu ka.*  
*you-GEN older.brother which person COP C[+Q]*

(b) *Hitori no otoko-ga totuzen hanasikakete kita.*  
*one-CL-GEN man suddenly talk-TE come-PAST*  
‘A man suddenly came and spoke (to me).’

*Otoko-wa pen to tetyoo-o te ni site-ita.*  
*man pen and notebook hand NI do-TE-PAST*

(10) In this context...

*Kinoo tikaku de densya-no dassen.ziko-ga atta.*  
*yesterday nearby at train-GEN derailling-accident-NOM exist-PAST*

...would you use *-wa* or *-ga* in these two follow-up sentences? And, how to gloss?

(a) *Gen.in-\_\_\_\_\_ untensyu-no hutyuui datta.*  
*cause-\_\_\_\_\_ driver-GEN carelessness COP-PAST*

(b) *Untensyu-no hutyuui-\_\_\_\_\_ gen.in datta.*  
*driver-GEN carelessness-\_\_\_\_\_ cause COP-PAST*

(11) What is the difference between these two answers? And does A2 have a contrastive or a noncontrastive *wa*-phrase?

Q: *Asita dare-ga ikimasu ka?*  
*tomorrow who go-FML-NPST C[+Q]*

A1: *Nakano-san-ga ikimasu.*

A2: *Nakano-san-wa ikimasu.*