

【Basic Word Order】

The languages of East Asia basically have two kinds of word order.

1: Subject / Verb / Object

2: Subject / Object / Verb

Chinese is Subject / Verb / Object, while Japanese is Subject / Object / Verb.

【Chinese compound words Structure】

①Synonym	「岩石」「尊敬」
②Antonym	「強弱」「男女」
③Modify Attributive / Continuative	「温水」「實行」
④Subject + Predicate	「国立」「日照」
⑤Predicate + Object	「握手」「着席」
⑥Negative + Inflected form / Nominal	「不安」「非常」

Question Match a-f to ①-⑱.

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| ①吉報 | ②賞罰 | ③雷鳴 |
| ④消毒 | ⑤不穩 | ⑥攜帶 |
| ⑦無限 | ⑧駐車 | ⑨是非 |
| ⑩日沒 | ⑪愛好 | ⑫疾走 |
| ⑬未知 | ⑭苦樂 | ⑮親友 |
| ⑯地震 | ⑰除去 | ⑱遭難 |

【Classical Chinese 古典中国語】

〈Component sign〉

A | B : subject + predicate A - B : predicate + object 《於 - A》 : preposition + the object of a preposition [A] : pivot

①花 | 開、鳥 | 啼。

The flower opens, the bird sings.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

There are no tenses in Classical Chinese in the strict definition of variant forms of a verb such as “go” “went” “gone”. However, Classical Chinese have aspect, in which relative time is indicated by particles and other words or phrases.

②野中兼山 | 土佐人。

Nonaka Kenzan was a man of Tosa.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

土佐 : the Tosa clan [han] in the Edo Era

When a noun or noun phrase forms the predicate of a sentence in Classical Chinese, there is normally no copula, like the verb “to be” in English.

③王 | 好一戰。

Our king likes fight.

〈Japanese word order〉

④出 《於 - 水》。

To come out of the water.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

於 : preposition Places “out of”

⑤為一博士。

To become a court scholar.

〈Japanese word order〉

⑥治《於一人》。

To be ruled by other people.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

Verb (with passive meaning) + 於 + agent

於 : Preposition Passive “by”

⑦霜葉 | 紅 《於一二月花》。

Maple trees are redder than the flowers which bloom in February.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

Adjective + 於 + object of comparison

於 : Preposition Comparison “than”

⑧田中 | 有一株。

In the field there was a stump.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

有 : The verb of existential predication “there is /are”

⑨王 | 使一 [人] | 殺。

Our king caused someone to kill.

〈Japanese word order〉 王 人 殺 使

Note

使：使 expresses the important act of causative : one has or lets (causes) someone do something.

請歸 requested to return

使歸 caused to return

使漁夫歸 caused the fisherman (pivot) to return

⑩歲月 || 〈不〉 待一人。

Time and tide wait for no man.

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

歲月：Time, years

不：Adverb Negative “not”

Verbs are negated by 不, 未, 勿, 莫.

Nouns are negated by 非, 無.

⑪牛 || 〈何〉 之。

Where is the ox going?

〈Japanese word order〉

Note

何：Interrogative “where”

之：Verb “to go”

【Kambun-kundoku 漢文訓読】

〈Component sign〉

A |B : subject+predicate A-B : predicate+object 《於-A》 : preposition+the object of a preposition [A] : pivot

①花 |開、鳥 |啼。

The flower opens, the bird sings. 花開き、鳥啼く。

Note

開 “*hira-ku*” YD 啼 “*na-ku*” YD

<i>Yodan</i> ひらく		<i>Yodan</i> なく	
MZ	ひらか	MZ	なか
RY	ひらき	RY	なき
SS	ひらく	SS	なく
RT	ひらく	RT	なく
IZ	ひらけ	IZ	なけ
MR	ひらけ	MR	なけ

②野中兼山 |土佐人。

Nonaka Kenzan was a man of *Tosa*. 野中兼山は土佐の人なり。

Note

は Bound Particle Topic marker

なり Copular Auxiliary verb

Copular なり		
MZ	なら	○
RY	なり	に
SS	なり	○
RT	なる	○
IZ	なる	○
MR	なれ	○

Nari follows a nominal, the *rentaikei*.

③王 |好一戦。

Our king likes fight. 王 戦いを好む。

Note

を Case Particle Object of action

好 “kono-mu” YD

<i>Yodan</i> このむ	
MZ	このま
RY	このみ
SS	このむ
RT	このむ
IZ	このめ
MR	このめ

④出 《於一水》。

To come out of the water. 水より出づ。

Note

より Case Particle Point of origin “from”

出 “i-du” SN

<i>Shimon-nidan</i> いづ	
MZ	いで
RY	いで
SS	いづ
RT	いづる
IZ	いづれ
MR	いでよ

⑤為一博士。

To become a court scholar. 博士と為る。

Note

と Case Particle Result of change

為 “na-ru” YD

<i>Yodan</i> なる	
MZ	なら

RY	なり
SS	なる
RT	なる
IZ	なれ
MR	なれ

⑥治 《於一人》。

To be ruled by other people 人に治めらる。

Note

に Case Particle Object of passive “by”

治 “*osa-mu*” SN

<i>Shimo-nidan</i> おさむ	
MZ	おさめ
RY	おさめ
SS	おさむ
RT	おさむる
IZ	おさむれ
MR	おさめよ

This is a passive construction. “*raru*” Passive Auxiliary verb

Passive る、らる		
MZ	れ	られ
RY	れ	られ
SS	る	らる
RT	るる	らるる
IZ	るれ	らるれ
MR	れよ	られよ

Ru follows the *mizenkei* of *yodan*, *rahen* verb, and *raru* follows the *mizenkei* of all other conjugations in *kanbun-kundoku*.

⑦霜葉 | 紅 《於一二月花》。

Maple trees are redder than the flowers which bloom in February.

霜葉は二月の花より紅なり。

Note

より Case Particle Standard of comparison “superior to” “more than”

紅 “*kurenai-nari*” *Nari* adjectival verb

Nari Adjectival verb

くれないなり

MZ	なら
RY	なり、に
SS	なり、に
RT	なる
IZ	なれ
MR	なれ

⑧田中 |有 一株。

In the field there was a stump. 田中に株有り。

Note

に Case Particle Place of action “at” “on” “in”

有 “*a-ri*” (RH) is the verb of existential predication.

Rahen あり

MZ	あら
RY	あり
SS	あり
RT	ある
IZ	あれ
MR	あれ

⑨王 |使 一 [人] |殺。

Our king caused someone to kill. 王 人をして殺さしむ。

Note

をして

を Case Particle Object of action

して Case Particle Object of causative action “to order (someone) to do something”

殺 “*korō-su*” YD

	<i>Yodan</i>	ころす
MZ		ころさ
RY		ころし
SS		ころす
RT		ころす
IZ		ころせ
MR		ころせ

This is a causative construction. 使 “*shimū*” Causative Auxiliary verb

	Causative	しむ
MZ		しめ
RY		しめ
SS		しむ
RT		しむる
IZ		しむれ
MR		しめよ

Shimu follows the *mizenkei*.

Su / *Sasu* are made no use of in *kanbun-kundoku*.

⑩歳月 || 〈不〉 待一人。

Time and tide wait for no man. 歳月 人を待たず。

Note

を Case Particle Object of action

待 “*ma-tu*” YD

	<i>Yodan</i>	まつ
MZ		また
RY		まち
SS		まつ
RT		まつ
IZ		まで
MR		まで

不 “zu” Negative Auxiliary verb

Negative ず			
MZ	○	ず	ざら
RY	○	ず	ざり
SS	○	ず	○
RT	(ぬ)	○	ざる
IZ	(ね)	○	ざれ
MR	○	○	ざれ

Zu follows the *mizenkei*.

(ぬ) (ね) are made no use of in *kanbun-kundoku*.

⑪牛 何 之。

Where is the ox going? 牛 何にか之く。

Note

何 “*izukunika*” “Where?”

Ka Bound Particle Doubt, question, rhetorical question

Ka is bound at the end of the predicate by the *rentaikei*.

之 “*yu-ku*” YD

<i>Yodan</i> ゆく	
MZ	ゆか
RY	ゆき
SS	ゆく
RT	ゆく
IZ	ゆけ
MR	ゆけ