**Japanese Particles**

Particles sometimes have no dictionary meaning – they are grammatical elements in the sentence.

1. は(pronounced ‘wa’ when used as a particle) signals the topic of a sentence. It comes AFTER the subject. You are familiar with this in the pattern:

わたし　は　name です。わたし　は　三十さいです。

1. をis an object marker. It comes after the object and before the verb. It is used with sports.

からて　を　します。すも　を　みません。

1. に is used for location, time or direction.

げつようび　に　　を　します。

ー　に　すんで　います。*I live in Maitland.*

1. が　is a subject marker and is used before すき and its various forms (likes). はis usually used before dislikes.

すも　が　だいすき　です。すいえ　が　きらい　です。

1. か is a question particle, and is used like a question mark.

おんがく　が　すきですか　*Do you like music?*

1. とas a particle means ‘and’ and it joins nouns.

すうがく　と　おんがく　と　ちり　が　すき　です。

*I like maths and music and geography.*

1. のis a possessive particle, and works a bit like an apostrophe s (‘s) in English.

けいこさん　の　ほん Keiko’s book