# Japanese Lesson 4: Desu

“desu,” or です in Hiragana, is a very important Japanese word. It means “is.”

In English we say “I **am** …”, “You **are** …”, “He **is**…”. The verb is changing based on who you’re referring to. This is called “agreement,” and we say the verb is agreeing with the person it’s referring to.

In Japanese the verb doesn’t change/agree – you can always use “desu” when you’re referring to yourself, one other person, or many other people.

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| **Nouns** | | | |
| **#** | **English word** | **Japanese word**  **(rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese word**  **(written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | Apple | Ringo | りんご |
| **2** | Pen | Pen | ペン |
| **3** | School | Gakko | がっこう |
| **4** | Friend | Tomodachi | ともだち |
| **5** | Japan | Nihon | にほん |
| **6** | Batman | Battoman | バットマン |

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| **#** | **English word** | **Japanese word** | **Japanese word in Japanese** |
| **1** | This | Kore | これ |
| **2** | That | Sore | それ |
| **3** | That (far away) | Are | あれ |

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| **#** | **English phrase** | **Japanese phrase**  **(rough pronunciation)** | **Japanese phrase**  **(written in Japanese)** |
| **1** | I am Batman. | Watashi wa batman desu. | わたしは Batman です. |
| **2** | This is an apple. | Kore wa ringo desu. | これは りんご です. |
| **3** | That is a pen. | Sore wa pen desu. | それは ペン です. |
| **4** | That (over there) is a school. | Are wa gakkou desu. | あれは がっこう です |
| **5** | This is Japan. | Kore wa nihon desu. | これは にほん です |
| **6** | That (over there) is my friend. | Are wa tomodachi desu. | あれは ともだち です |