

Answer to Question # 11: Answers 1 & 4 are correct.

Answer: Many Japanese expressions combine an activity with the verb suru (shimasu) to describe what someone does. In these expressions, the use of the particle “o” before suru (shimasu) is usually optional. For example, 電話をする (denwa o suru) = 電話する (denwa suru) = “I will do a phone call.” Both sentences are correct.

Here’s another example: 残業をする (zangyoo o suru) = 残業する (zangyoo suru) = “I will do overtime.” Again, both sentences are correct.

However, if you use an ADJECTIVE to modify the activity that someone does, you MUST use the particle “o” before suru. The first two answers to this question use 日本語の (nihongo no) = “Japanese language’s” as an adjective modifying 勉強 (benkyoo).

Therefore, ANSWER # 1 IS CORRECT, because it modifies the activity in question with an adjective and also uses the particle “o” before suru (shimasu).

By the same reasoning, ANSWER # 2 IS INCORRECT, because it modifies the activity in question with an adjective but fails to use the particle “o” before suru (shimasu).

What about answers 3 and 4? From what we’ve said so far, you might think that they are both correct. However, it turns out that the verb suru (shimasu) cannot be preceded by two instances of the particle “o.” Therefore, one “o” has to be omitted, and that is the one just before suru (shimasu).

As a result, ANSWER # 3 IS INCORRECT, since it uses the particle “o” twice before suru (shimasu).

By the same token, ANSWER # 4 IS CORRECT, since it uses the particle “o” only once before suru (shimasu).

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Question # 11: "Using the Particle ‘o’ before Suru"

You want to say, “I study the Japanese language every day.”

Which of the following 4 Japanese sentences is correct?

1. 毎日日本語の勉強をします (mainichi nihongo no benkyoo o shimasu).
2. 毎日日本語の勉強します (mainichi nihongo no benkyoo shimasu).
3. 毎日日本語を勉強をします (mainichi nihongo o benkyoo o shimasu).

4. 毎日日本語を勉強します (mainichi nihongo o benkyoo shimasu).