

□ Using だけ

In Japanese you can translate the phrase “I only have one.” as follows:

ひと
一つだけあります。

I **only** have one. / There is **just** one.

This is very comfortable for English speakers since it matches the English style of sentence structure. Let's look at some examples:

だけ with amounts

ちよっとだけおねがいします。

Just a little please.

み
三つだけ頂いたきました。

I received **only** three.

ぶんだけ磨みげばすぐきれいになります。

If you brush it for **only** 5 minutes, it will be clean.

だけ with verbs

見てるだけです。

I'm **just** looking.

あとはかパンを買うだけです。

All that's left is **just** to buy bread.

せんせいのしごとおしべんきょうはおしひつようではなく、べんきょうすることもひつようです。

A teacher's job is not **just** teaching, studying is also necessary.

ひらがなをよむだけではにほんしんぶんがよめないです。

By **only** reading Hiragana, you can't read a Japanese newspaper.

にほんにいっしゅうかんだけではにほんごじょうたつがよまりまさります。

Your Japanese won't improve by being in Japan for **just** one week.

だけ to mean “as much as”

しゅくだい しゅくだい を でき 出来る **だけ** やってください。

Do **as much as** you can of your homework.

す す 好き た な **だけ** くだ 食べて 下さい。

Eat **as much as** you like.

か か 買える **だけ** 買ってください。

Buy **as much as** can buy.

□ Using しか

しか, like だけ, can be used to mean only. But しか is only used negative verb conjugations. This can initially a strange concept if you only know English, but it's a very commonly used structure in Japanese. Here is the same sentence used with だけ in the prior section:

ひと ひと 一つ **しか** ありません。

I **only** have one. / There is **just** one.

NOTE: The translation in English doesn't use the negative verb as it is weird to say “I only don't have one” in English. What you are REALLY saying is “With the exception of one, I don't have any.”

しか with amounts

テストは あと 後4つ **しか** ないです。

I **just** have 4 more tests.

きょう きょう は いっかい 一回 **しか** た 食べて ないです。

I have **only** eaten once today.

しか with nouns

ふる ふる 本 ほん **しか** ないです。

There are **only** old books.

ねこ おも
猫もいると思ったけど、^{いぬ}犬^いしか居なかった。

I thought there were also cats, but there was **only** dogs.

しか with verbs

くるま こわ ある
車^が壊れているから歩く^{しか}ないです。

Because my car is broken, I can **only** walk. (my **only option** is walking)

両親に言う^{しか}ないです。

Your **only option** is telling your parents. / You **must** tell your parents.

Thank you for learning!



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