

Answer to Question # 3: Answers 1 & 3 are correct.

Answer: In Japanese, when modifying a noun using a clause, the subject of the modifying clause may be marked with either *ga* or *no*. For example, 足が長い人 (ashi ga nagai hito) = 足の長い人 (ashi no nagai hito) = ‘a person with long legs.’ In the example used here, 車がない人 (kuruma ga nai hito) = 車のない人 (kuruma no nai hito) = “a person without a car.” Therefore, answer # 1 and answer # 3 are BOTH correct.

On the other hand, recall that じゃない (ja nai) = じゃありません (ja arimasen) = “something is not something else.” So 車じゃない人 (kuruma ja nai hito) means “a person who is not a car,” which doesn’t make much sense. Therefore, answer # 2 is incorrect.

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Question # 3: "Ga vs. No vs. Ja"

A lot of younger people in Japan don’t have cars. Referring to them, you want to say “people without cars always ride the train.”

Which of the following 3 Japanese sentences is correct?

1. 車がない人はいつも電車に乗ります。 (kuruma ga nai hito wa itsumo densha ni norimasu)
2. 車じゃないひとはいつも電車に乗ります。 (kuruma ja nai hito wa itsumo densha ni norimasu)
3. 車のない人はいつも電車に乗ります。 (kuruma no nai hito wa itsumo densha ni norimasu)