

～という～

called / named

Romaji: **to iu**

～という～ links a name or description to a noun, like "a ~ called X" in English: 『雪国』という小説 means "a novel called Snow Country." It combines the quote particle と with 言う ("to say"), so it literally presents the first element as what the thing is called. Beyond naming, という also turns whole clauses into noun modifiers ("the rumor that...", "the news that...") and appears in defining phrases like ～というのは and ～ということ.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Name + という + Noun

ポチという犬を飼っている。 — I have a dog called Pochi.

Clause + という + Noun

彼が会社を辞めるという噂を聞いた。 — I heard a rumor that he is quitting the company.

～というのは (defining/explaining)

「侘び寂び」というのは日本の美意識だ。 — "Wabi-sabi" is a Japanese sense of beauty.

例文 EXAMPLES

① えきまえ 駅前みせに「たぬき」という店みせができた。

A shop called "Tanuki" opened in front of the station.

② みやざわけんじ 宮沢賢治という作家さっかしを知っていますか。

Do you know the author Miyazawa Kenji?

③ あした やす 明日は休みだという知らせしが届とどいた。

Word arrived that tomorrow is a day off.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ という is normally written in hiragana here, even though it comes from 言う. Kanji と言う is reserved for actual speech ("said that...").
- ▶ Use という to introduce a name the listener may not know; once it is familiar, drop it — 東京という町 sounds odd because everyone knows Tokyo.
- ▶ In casual speech という contracts to って or っていう: ポチって犬 = ポチという犬. You will meet って constantly in dialogue-heavy fiction and manga.
- ▶ In the naming and noun-modifying uses nobody is literally speaking — という is a grammatical label, not a report of someone's words.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Introduce a book, dish, or place from your country to a Japanese friend using "Name + という + noun".