

Chit-Chat in Japanese (Part 3)

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Remark: These exercises were prepared for a friend some years back.
This is the third of 5 chapters. Please send your comments to alpha@gmowe.ws

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The dialogue in the following pages had been split into 4 parts: The English dialogue, Japanese pronunciation in alphabets, followed by Hiragana form and finally the standard form.

Please try to memorize the shapes of Hiraganas Wo (を) and Ha (は) which is pronounced “Wa”. Wo (を) is used to show Direct Objects of Verbs, while Ha (は) acts like a Link Verb. This will help you notice their usage in the Hiragana dialogue.

Shopping in Nihongo

Ishii : Excuse me. There is no price tag on this bag, but how much is it?

Ishii : Ano, sumimasen. Kono kaban ni nedan ga tsuite arimasen ga, ikura desu ka?

いしい: あの、すみません。このかばんにねだんがついてありませんが、いくらですか。

石井 : あの、済みません。このカバンに値段が付いてありませんが、いくらですか。

Seller : It is eight thousand yen.

Urite : Sore ha hassen yen desu.

たなか それははっせんえんです。

田中 : それは八千円です。

Ishii : Really. It is a little too expensive.

Ishii : Sou desu ka. Chotto takai desu ne.

いしい そうですか。ちょっとたかいですね。

石井 : そうですか。ちょっと高いですね。

Seller : Now, that bag is very popular.

Urite: Ima, sono kaban ga ninki takai mono desu.

たなか いま、そのかばんがにんきたかいものです。

田中 : 今、そのカバンが人気高い物です。

Ishii : Do you have anything else like this that is within five thousand yen?

Ishii : Onaji you na mono de, gosen yen inai no mono ha arimasenka?

いしい おなじようなもので、ごせんえんいないのものはありますか。

石井 : 同じ様な物で、五千円以内の物はありませんか。

Seller : If you are not particular about the brand, there is another bag like this one at four thousand five hundred yen.

Urite: Burando mei wo ki ni shinakereba, onajiyou na mono ga arimasu kedo, yonsen gohyaku yen desu.

たなか : ぶらんどめいをきにしなければ、おなじようなものがありますけど、よんせんごひゃくえんです。

田中 : ブランド名を気にしなければ、同じ様な物がいありますけど、四千五百円です。

Ishii : That is most helpful.

Ishii : Sore ha totemo tasukarimasu.

いしい それはとてもたすかります。

石井 : それはとても助かります。

Vocabulary

Sumimasen	済みません	Excuse me
Kaban	カバン	Bag
Nedan	値段	Price
Tsukimasu	付きます	Stick
Ikura	いくら	How much
Ninki takai	人気高い	Popular
Chotto	ちょっと	A little
Onajiyou na	同じ様な	Almost the same
Mono	物	Thing
Ki ni shimasu	気にします	Particular/ Worry
Totemo	とても	Very
Tasukarimasu	助かります	Helpful

Grammar:

This time, we will be looking at the different forms of Verb Tenses. Like English, the Japanese Language also consists of past tense, though the present and future tense are the same. The verbs also do not indicate a plural or singular form like English. Do not let this fool you though because Japanese is a complicated language.

First let's look at the formal “ます” forms. You will need to refer back to the hiragana table for this. Most textbooks will describe the verbs by types – consonants, vowels and irregulars – but that is not what I will do here.

	Dictionary format	Simple Present and Future Tense	Simple Past Tense
Talk	hanasu 話す	hanashimasu 話します	hanashimashita 話しました
Write	kaku 書く	kakimasu 書きます	kakimashita 書きました
Go home	kaeru 帰る	kaerimasu 帰ります	kaerimashita 帰りました

The fonts highlighted in blue in the dictionary format indicates that you should convert its “~u” sound into an “~i + masu” with reference to the hiragana table. For example “~su” becomes “~shimasu” and “~ku” becomes “~kimasu”

	Dictionary format	Simple Present and Future Tense	Simple Past Tense
Do	Noun + suru する	~ shimasu します	~ shimashita しました

In this verb form, a noun will be followed by the verb “do” to change it into a verb. For example “kaimono suru” as in “do shopping”. “suru” will be converted to “shimasu”.

	Dictionary format	Simple Present and Future Tense	Simple Past Tense
See, watch	miru 見る	mimasu 見ます	mimashita 見ました
Wake	okiru 起きる	okimasu 起きます	okimashita 起きました
Come	kuru 来る	kimasu 来ます	kimashita 来ました
Eat	taberu 食べる	tabemasu 食べます	tabemashita 食べました
Change	kaeru 変える	kaemasu 変えます	kaemashita 変えました

For the verbs above, only “~ru” form needs to be changed to “~masu”. Why not “~rimasu” you ask? We have to remember that language was spoken first before it was standardized, hence it would make no sense to force socially accepted “conversion” methods to conform to a rigid standard because it will cause confusion in the community of origin. So, GAIJIN (外人), adapt.

Future Tense

I will eat noodles tonight.

Konban, ramen wo tabemasu.

今晚、ラーメンを食べます。

Present Tense

I eat noodles every day.

Mainichi, ramen wo tabemasu.

毎日、ラーメンを食べます。

Past Tense

I ate noodles yesterday.

Kinou, ramen wo tabemashita.

昨日、ラーメンを食べました。

Exercise 3.1

1. I came yesterday.

.....

2. I go home every day.

.....

3. I will talk tonight.

.....

4. I went home yesterday.

.....

5. I write every day.

.....

We are not done yet. There is still the Progressive Tenses to look at.

The Progressive Verb Form is shown with the “te-i-masu” form. It means “(do)-ing” an ongoing action for a period of time either in the past or in the present. Again please study the “conversion” method, and keep it in mind.

Dictionary format	Present and Future Progressive Tense	Past Progressive Tense
hanasu 話す	hanashi-te-i-masu 話しています	hanashi-te-i-mashita 話していました
kaku 書く	kai-te-i-masu 書いています	kai-te-i-mashita 書いていました
kaeru 帰る	kaet-te-i-masu 帰っています	kaet-te-i-mashita 帰っていました
Noun + suru する	~ shi-te-i-masu しています	~ shi-te-i-mashita していました
miru 見る	mi-te-i-masu 見えています	mi-te-i-mashita 見ていました
okiru 起きる	oki-te-i-masu 起きています	oki-te-i-mashita 起きていました
kuru 来る	ki-te-i-masu 来ています	ki-te-i-mashita 来ていました
taberu 食べる	tabe-te-i-masu 食べています	tabe-te-i-mashita 食べていました

I am eating noodles now.

Ima, ramen wo tabeteimasu.

今、ラーメンを食べています。

He came when I was eating noodles.

Kare ga kita toki, ramen wo tabeteimashita.

彼が来た時、ラーメンを食べていました。

Exercise 3.2

1. I saw him when I was coming here.

.....

2. I am going home now.

.....

3. I talked to him when I was eating noodles.

.....

4. I am talking now.

.....

5. When I came, he was writing.

.....

Answers exercise 3.1

1. Kinou, (watashi ga) kimashita.
昨日、(私が)来ました。
2. (Watashi ha) Mainichi kaerimasu.
(私は) 毎日帰ります。
3. (Watashi ga) Konban hanashimasu.
(私が) 今晚はなします。
4. (Watashi ga) Kinou kaerimashita.
(私が) 昨日帰りました。
5. (Watashi ha) Mainichi kakimasu.
(私は) 毎日書きます。

Answers exercise 3.2

1. Kare wo mita toki, (watashi ga) koko he kiteimashita.
彼を見た時、(私が) ここへ来ていました。
2. Ima (watashi ha) uchi he kaetteimasu.
今 (私は) 家へ帰っています。
3. Kare to hanashita toki (watashi ga) ramen wo tabeteimashita.
彼と話した時 (私が) ラーメンを食べていました。
4. Ima, (watashi ga) hanashiteimasu.
今、(私が) 話しています。
5. (Watashi ga) Kita toki, kare ga kaiteimasu.
(私が) 来た時、彼が書いています。

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