Verbs in Japanese

**Some Important Terms**
(p. 3 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)

- **Dictionary Form**
  Most basic form of verbs (*No tenses, no affirmative/negative, no formality*). The words are listed in this form in dictionaries.

- **Long Form vs. Short Form**
  - **Long Form:** *the safest form to use for now*
    Used when speaking/writing politely
  - **Short Form:**
    Used when speaking/writing informally or writing for publication
• Tenses in Japanese
  There are basically only two tenses in Japanese: Present (including future) and Past.
  Also see the following pages of “English Grammar for Students of Japanese”
  • Dictionary form, tenses and verb groups→p. 21 to 25
  • Long vs. Short forms→p. 57 and 58
  • Inflections (word forms and verb groups)→p. 61 to 64

• Three Verb Groups in Japanese
  (p. 3 & 4 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)
  • Irregular Verbs
    する (to do) and くる (to come) only
    Note:
The verbs created with a noun+する follows are also considered as irregular verbs.
    e.g., べんきょうする
          = べんきょう (study) + する (to do)
• **る-verbs**
The endings in their dictionary forms are [-iru] or [-eru]

  e.g., みる (to watch) [miru]
         たべる (to eat) [taberu]

**Exception:**
かえる (to go/come back) [kaeru] is a う-verb

• **う-verbs**
The ending vowels in their dictionary forms are [-u]

  e.g., よむ (to read) [yomu]

  The ending sounds must be the one other than [ru] or [-aru]/[-uru]/[-oru].
  e.g., わかる (to understand) [wakaru]

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**れんしゅう (Practice)**

Which verb group does each one belong to?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>う-verb</th>
<th>あう</th>
<th>う-verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ある</td>
<td>う-verb</td>
<td>あう</td>
<td>う-verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いる</td>
<td>る-verb</td>
<td>せんたくすする (せんたくす=laundry)</td>
<td>Irrg. V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>おきる</td>
<td>る-verb</td>
<td>ねる</td>
<td>る-verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>かく</td>
<td>う-verb</td>
<td>あそぶ</td>
<td>う-verb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Verb Group Identification Game** in Lesson 3 Part 1 of VIULearn
Conjugation Rule – Present Long Form (p. 4 & 5 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)

Affirmative

It is also called ます-form, as all verbs in this form end in ます.

• う-verbs
  1. Change the “u” vowel in the ending of their dictionary forms to “i” vowel.
     e.g., いく (to go) [iku] → いき [iki]
  2. Add ます
     e.g., いく → いき → いきます

はなす (to talk) → はなします
よむ (to read) → よみます

• る-verbs
  1. Drop the ending る.
     e.g., たべる (to eat) → たべ
  2. Add ます
     e.g., たべる → たべ → たべます

みる (to watch/see) → みます

• Irregular Verbs: No specific rule

する (to do) → します
くる (to come) → きます
べんきょうする (to study) → べんきょうします
Negative

All groups use one same rule.
1. Create affirmative form
   e.g., はなす→はなします
2. Replace ます to ません.
   e.g., はなす→はなします→はなしません

たべる → たべません たべます
くる → きません きます

Basic Sentence Structure with Verbs in Japanese

English: Mary watches TV.
にほんご:メアリーさんはテレビをみます。

English: Sue does not drink coffee.
にほんご:スーさんはコーヒーをのみません。
Basic Sentence Structure with Verbs in Japanese

**English:** Mary watches TV.

にほんご: メアリーさんは テレビを みます。

**English:** Sue does not drink coffee.

にほんご: スーさんは コーヒーを のみません。

を as a Direct Object Marker

Pattern: **Person**は **Noun**を **Verb**。

**Usage:** To mark a direct object

- a noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb directly.

**Verbs:** Verbs that require direct objects

- たべる (to eat), のむ (to drink), よむ (to read), みる (to watch), べんきょうする (to study)

These verbs often express actions such as reading, eating, drinking, studying, etc.

Particles

(p. 5 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)

- Each particle follows after a word (usually a noun) and identifies the role of the word in the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic (subject)</th>
<th>Time of the action</th>
<th>The destination to which the action leading to</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>わたし は ごごにじ に えいご の クラス に いきます。</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 2 p.m.</td>
<td>English language</td>
<td>class</td>
<td>go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

クラスに いきます。
e.g.,
スーさんは かんこくのテレビを みます。
(Sue watches Korean TV.)

わたしたちは にほんごを べんきょうします。
(I study Japanese.)

Direct objects in English are identified in word orders (no specific marker for them).

Types of Actions Expressed by Japanese Verbs

• **Motion verbs:**
  Expressing an action of the subject of the sentence in which he/she moves from Point A to Point B. (e.g., go, come, return, go out, enter, etc.)

• **Action verbs:**
  Expressing an action of the subject of the sentence that is continuous in nature. (e.g., eat, drink, write, read, study, etc.)
で: Place-of-Activity Marker [at/in a place]  
(p. 6 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)

**Pattern:** Personは Placeで obj.を Action Verb.

- **Usage:**  
  Marking the place where the subject of the sentence does a certain action.

- **Verbs:**  
  Action verbs such as たべる, みる, きく, etc.

  *This usage of で is never used with motion verbs.*

**e.g.,**
わたしたちは としょかんで ほんを よみます。

*Place this action takes place*
いく, くる, and かえる

- いく (to go) and くる (to come)

- かえる (to go come home; to return)
  The action taker returns to the place where they belong, such as home, home town/country, etc.

に／へ: Destination Marker [to a place]
(p. 7 of Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 1)

Pattern: Person は Place に／へ Motion Verb.

- Usage:
  Marking the place where the subject of the sentence moves towards.

- Verbs:
  Motion verbs such as いく, くる, and かえる

  e.g., わたしは としょかんに いきます。
Particle に/へ continues…

Example:

たけしさんは 大学に/へ きます。

(Takeshi comes to the university.)

わたしは 家に/へ かえります。

(I am going home.)
More on Particles

If you used inappropriate particles

Readers/listeners of the sentence may have a difficulty to understand or misinterpret the meaning of the sentence.

e.g., Answering to a question where s/he eats lunch.

だいがくで たべます。I eat (it) at the university.

で marks the location where one takes the action “eat”

だいがくを たべます。I eat the university.

を marks the object that receives the action “eat” = what one eats

It is extremely important to be able to identify a type of action each verb expresses.

This often determines which particle should be used to mark many parts of a sentence.

e.g.,

- **Action Verbs:**
  Take で to mark the place where the action takes place.

- **Motion Verbs:**
  Take に or へ to mark the place where the action taker moves to.
Questions with Verbs

- **Yes-No Questions**
  
  Q: スーさんは うちで べんきょうしますか。
  
  A: はい/ええ、べんきょうします。

  いいえ、べんきょうしません。

  “はい/ええ、そうです。” and “いいえ、XXXじゃないです” can not be used to answer Yes-No questions with verbs.
Expressing Time of Events or Actions
(p. 3 in Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 2)

Two Types of Time Words

- **Relative Time Words**

  The actually point of time referred by the word change depending on when the sentence is said.

  きょう (today), あした (tomorrow), いつ (when)

  [In English: No preposition]

- **Definite Time Words**

  Specific holidays, days of weeks, and those with numbers (e.g., 4:00)

  いちじクリスマス (Christmas), 一時, どようび (Saturday)

Format:

Personは Definite Timeに Event/Action.
Personは Relative Time Event/Action.

e.g.,

スーさんは 八時に だいがくに きます。
8 o’clock = Definite
(Sue comes to university at 8 o’clock.)

スーさんは きょう だいがくに きます。
today = Relative きょうに
(Mary comes to university today.)
Important Notes for Expressing Time

1. “every-“ words, such as まいにち (every day) and まいばん (every night), are not really time words but the words (adverbs) expressing frequency.

They are never marked by the time marker, に.

e.g., わたしは まいにち あさごはんを たべます。

× まいにちに (I eat breakfast everyday.)

everyday = expressing how frequently, including which part of the day, you eat breakfast.

2. The following time words can be used with or without に.

あさ (morning), ひる (noon time),
よる (night), しゅうまつ (weekend)

Using it without に is more common.

Try!
Practice on p. 3 and 4 in Additional Notes for Lesson 3 Part 2
Word Order

- **Definite T.** に
- **Relative T.** まいにち/まいばん
- **Plc** に/へ
- **Motion V.** おきます/ねます。
- **Plc** で
- **Obj.** を
- **Action V.**

**e.g.,**

わたしは 七時に うちで ばんごはんを たべます。
(I will eat dinner at home at 7:00.)

たけしさんは きょう としょかんに いきません。
(Takeshi will not go to the library today.)

スーさんは まいばん にほんごを べんきょうします。
(Sue studies Japanese every night.)

**Two different kinds of time words can be used together.**

**e.g.,**

わたしは きょう ごご六時に ばんごはんを たべます。
(I will eat a dinner at 6:00 p.m. today.)

どうようびの 九時に えいがを みますか。
(Will you watch a movie at 9:00 on Saturday?)
1. Time
たけしさんは ？？？？時に おきます。
Time (o'clock) = なん時 (what time)
Q:たけしさんは なん時に おきますか。
A:（ごぜん）八時に おきます。

2. Place
a. With Motion Verbs
たけしさんは 九時に ？？？？に（へ）いきます。
Place = どこ (where)
Q:たけしさんは 九時に どこに いきますか。
A:きっさてんに いきます。
Question Words in Verb Sentences continues…

2. Place

b. With Action Verbs

たけしさんは 三時に どこで べんきょうします。

**Place = どこ (where)**

Q:たけしさんは 三時に どこで べんきょうしますか。
A:としょかんで べんきょうします。

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3. What one eats, drinks, reads, etc.

たけしさんは 一時に なにを たべます。

**Thing = なに (what)**

× なに cf. あれはなんですか。

Q:たけしさんは 一時に なにを たべますか。
A:ひるごはんを たべます。
Question Words in Verb Sentences continues...

4. What one does

たけしさんは 八時に ??????????

Action = なにをする (do what?)

Q: たけしさんは 八時に なにをしますか。
A: (うちで)にほんの ざっしを よみます。

Timeに vs. Timeごろ

七時におきます

7:00 a.m.

に

七時ごろおきます

7:00 a.m.

ごろ
Adverbs for Frequency of Events/Actions

Pattern:

Personは [まいにち まいばん よく たいてい ときどき] Action。

(in affirmative only)

Personは [あまり ぜんぜん] Action。

(in negative only)

E.g.,

スーさんは まいにち にほんごを はなします。

affirmative

×はなしません

せんせいは あまり おさけを のみません。

negative

×のみます
If someone does a certain action (e.g., drink coffee) at a certain time (e.g., 3:00) in a certain frequency (e.g., often)

The time word goes to after the frequency word

e.g., わたしはよく三時にコーヒーをのいます。

よく expresses the frequency of the action, 三時にコーヒーをのいます.

Asking/Answering for the Frequency

- **Yes-No Questions**
  
  Q: メアリーさんは本をよみますか。
  
  A: ええ、まいにち/まいばん/よく/ときどきよみます。
     いいえ、あまり/ぜんぜんよみません。

- **WH Questions**
  
  Q: せんせいはなん時におきますか。
  
  A: たいてい(ごぜん)五時に おきます。
     ときどき(ごぜん)七時ごろ おきます。
Inviting Someone to Do Something Together

**Pattern:**
Definite Time に／Relative time  Activity ませんか。

Negative form of verb + か

e.g., スーさん、あした えいがを みませんか。
Sue, would you like to watch a movie?

- Equivalent to “Would you like to do ~?” in English.
- Used when the speaker is not sure if the invitation will be accepted.

- You do not need to mention the subject of the sentence since it is always “You”.

  To Sue: どようびに テニスを しませんか。
  ×スーさんは どようびに テニスを
  しませんか。

- **The affirmative + か = simply asking whether or not the person will do the action**
  - it does not have the sense of the invitation.

  どようびに テニスを しますか。 Do you play tennis?
  Simply asking if the person will play tennis on Saturday,
  not willingness of doing the action with you
How to Accept/Decline an Invitation

**Invitation:**
どうようびに だいがくで テニスを しませんか。

- **Accept:** いいですね。 (That sounds good.)
- **Decline:** すみませんが、ちょっと…。
  (I am sorry, but it is a little… [inconvenient].)
  ×いいえ、しません。(No, I will not do it.)

![Strong refusal = it sounds rude](https://example.com/strong-refusal.png)

**Important!**
In Japanese invitation situations, you must not say “No” verbally, but show your hesitation!

If a Part of an Invitation is not acceptable

**Invitation:**
どうようびに だいがくで テニスを しませんか。

- if **the time** is not good/your liking.
  (あのう、)すみませんが、どうようびは ちょっと…。
- if **the place** is not good/your liking.
  (あのう、)すみませんが、だいがくは ちょっと…。
- if **the activity** is not good/your liking.
  (あのう、)すみませんが、テニスは ちょっと…。

**Simply show your hesitation to the suggested time, place, etc., using “～は ちょっと…”.”**

![Simply show your hesitation](https://example.com/hesitation.png)
Steps for Inviting Someone to Do Something Together

1. Find out what the person usually/often do the time in your mind.
   **Time** is たいてい／よくなにをしますか。
   The speaker has a specific time in his/her mind and want to highlight the time as a topic of the conversation.

2. If the person does the action or if you are interested in the activity mentioned by the person, give an invitation.
   **Time**にActivityませんか。

3. If the person declined the invitation partially (i.e. the time/place/activity is not good), then offer an alternative using ～はどうですか.
   A: どようびに えいがをみませんか。
   B: すみませんが、どようびはちょっと...。
   **Time is not good.**
   A: じゃあ、にちようびはどうですか。
   **Offering the alternative time**
   (Then, how about Sunday?)
   B: いいですね。
   あのう、にちようびもちょっと...。
   **To give up the invitation:**
   そうですね。じゃあ、また こんど。(Maybe next time.)