

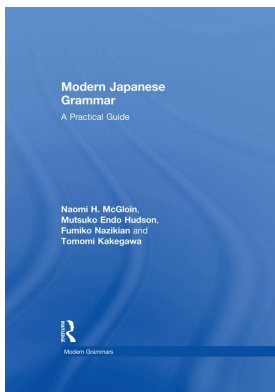
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## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

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### **Adverbs**

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# 14

## Adverbs

### 14.1 Meanings expressed by adverbs

Adverbs modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or an entire sentence. They provide additional information about an action or event, such as manner, time, quantity, degree, and the speaker's judgment about the action or event. They usually precede the word they modify.

In the following examples, **yukkuri** 'slowly' modifies the verb **arukimasu** 'walk,' **itsumo** 'always' the verb **chikoku suru** 'be late,' **tappuri** 'abundantly' the verb **tsuketa** 'put,' **totemo** the adverb phrase **genki yoku** 'energetically,' and **kitto** the whole sentence.

#### Manner

ゆっくり歩きます。  
**Yukkuri arukimasu.**  
 I walk slowly.

#### Time

太郎は学校にいつも遅刻する。  
**Taroo wa gakkoo ni itsumo chikoku suru.**  
 Taro is always late for school.

#### Quantity

トーストにバターをたっぷりつけた。  
**Toosuto ni bataa o tappuri tsuketa.**  
 I put a lot of butter on my toast. (Lit. I put butter on my toast abundantly.)

#### Degree

子供たちがとても元気よく走っている。  
**Kodomo-tachi ga totemo genki yoku hashitte iru.**  
 The children are running around very energetically.

#### Speaker's judgment

きっと明日はいい天気だ。  
**Kitto ashita wa ii tenki da.**  
 Tomorrow will certainly be a sunny day.

All mimetic words, such as **rinrin** 'ring-ring,' **guruguru** 'round and round,' **kirakira** 'twinkle-twinkle,' and **sassa to** 'quickly,' function as adverbs.

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星がきらきら輝いている。  
**Hoshi ga kirakira kagayaite iru.**  
 The stars are shining brightly (lit. twinkle-twinkle).

## 14.2 Derived adverbs

Many adverbs are derived from adjectives and nouns. The adverbial form of **i**-adjectives is obtained by adding **ku** to the stem, i.e. the dictionary form minus **-i**. This is analogous to forming adverbs from adjectives by adding ‘-ly’ in English; e.g. quiet → quietly, beautiful → beautifully. With **na**-adjectives and nouns, the particle **ni** is added to derive adverbial forms.

### From *i*-adjectives:

<b>yasashi</b> ‘gentle’	+ <b>ku</b> =	<b>yasashiku</b> ‘gently’
<b>hido</b> ‘terrible’	+ <b>ku</b> =	<b>hidoku</b> ‘terribly’
<b>tadashi</b> ‘correct’	+ <b>ku</b> =	<b>tadashiku</b> ‘correctly’

文字は正しく書いてください。

**Moji wa tadashiku kaite kudasai.**

Please write the letters correctly.

### From *na*-adjectives:

<b>genki</b> ‘energetic’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>genki ni</b> ‘energetically’
<b>shizuka</b> ‘quiet’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>shizuka ni</b> ‘quietly’
<b>joozu</b> ‘skillful’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>joozu ni</b> ‘skillfully’

子供たちは元気に走った。

**Kodomo-tachi wa genki ni hashitta.**

The children ran energetically.

Some time-related nouns are changed to an adverb by the addition of the particle **ni**.

<b>saisho</b> ‘beginning’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>saisho ni</b> ‘at first, firstly’
<b>saigo</b> ‘last’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>saigo ni</b> ‘at the end, finally’
<b>tsugi</b> ‘next’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>tsugi ni</b> ‘next’
<b>chooki</b> ‘long term’	+ <b>ni</b> =	<b>chooki ni</b> ‘for a long time’

最後にみんなで夕食を食べた。

**Saigo ni minna de yuushoku o tabeta.**

We all ate dinner together at the end.

Many time-related nouns function as adverbs without the particle **ni**; e.g. **kyoo** ‘today,’ **kinoo** ‘yesterday,’ **ashita** ‘tomorrow,’ **asa** ‘morning,’ **yoru** ‘night,’ and **ima** ‘now.’ In most cases, **ni** is required when the English counterparts are expressed with prepositions such as ‘at, on, in’ (e.g. at nine o’clock, on Sunday, in August), but not with others (e.g. now, every day). **Asa** ‘(in the) morning’ and **yoru** ‘(at) night,’ neither of which require **ni**, are exceptions.

朝、歯を磨く。

**Asa, ha o migaku.**

I brush my teeth in the morning.

### From verbs:

There is a small group of adverbs that are derived by repetition of a verb.

<b>miru</b> ‘see’	→	<b>mirumiru</b> ‘in a twinkle’
<b>masu</b> ‘increase’	→	<b>masumasu</b> ‘more and more, increasingly’
<b>naku</b> ‘cry’	→	<b>nakunaku</b> ‘in tears’

6月になり、ますます暑くなった。

**Rokugatsu ni nari, masumasu atsuku natta.**

June came, and it has become increasingly hotter.

Some verbs in **te**-form are interpreted like an adverb.

<i>Dictionary form</i>		<i>Te-form</i>
<b>yorokobu</b> 'to be glad'	→	<b>yorokonde</b> 'gladly'
<b>isogu</b> 'to hurry'	→	<b>isoide</b> 'quickly'
<b>kakureru</b> 'to hide'	→	<b>kakurete</b> 'secretly'

いそいで来てください。

**Isoide kite kudasai.**

Please come quickly.

## 14.3 Adverbs requiring specific endings

### (1) Affirmative

Adverbs such as **mare ni** 'rarely' and **zahi** 'by all means, without fail, definitely' require the associated predicates to be in the affirmative.

そういうことも稀にある。

**Soo yuu koto mo mare ni aru.**

That kind of thing happens once in a long while.

### (2) Negative

Adverbs such as **amari** 'seldom,' **kesshite** 'never,' **taishite** '(not) very,' and **metta ni** 'rarely' require the associated predicates to be in the negative . . . **nai**.

父はめったにタバコをすわない。

**Chichi wa metta ni tabako o suwanai.**

My father rarely smokes.

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### (3) Conjecture

Adverbs such as **osoraku** 'probably,' **tabun** 'maybe,' **hyotto suru to** 'by a remote possibility,' and **moshi ka suru to** 'by some chance' are usually used with predicates expressing conjecture, such as **daroo** 'may' and **kamoshirenai** 'might.'

娘はおそらくもう到着しただらう。

**Musume wa osoraku moo toochaku shita daroo.**

My daughter has probably already arrived.

もしかすると来月休みがとれるかもしれない。

**Moshi ka suru to raigetsu yasumi ga toreru kamoshirenai.**

I might possibly be able to get a day off next month.

### (4) Conditional

Adverbs such as **moshi** 'if', **man ga ichi** 'if by any chance' and **tatoe** 'even if' are always used within a clause ending in a conditional form.

もし何か良い物を見つけたら、お知らせしますね。

**Moshi nani ka ii mono o mitsuke-tara o-shirase shimasu ne.**

If I find something nice, I'll let you know.

たとえ優勝するのは無理でも、やってみます。

**Tatoe yuushoo suru no wa muri demo, yatte mimasu.**

Even if it were impossible to win, I would try.

**(5) Resemblance**

Adverbs such as **maru de** ‘entirely’ and **atakamo** ‘just as if’ co-occur with a predicate expressing resemblance.

まるで夢のようです。

**Marude yume no yoo desu.**

It is just like a dream.

Some adverbs are interpreted differently depending on whether they are used in affirmative or negative sentences; e.g. **mada** ‘(not) yet, still,’ **moo** ‘(not) any more, already,’ **zenzen** ‘(not) at all, totally,’ **amari** ‘(not) very, excessively,’ **totemo** ‘(not) possibly, very,’ and **nakanaka** ‘(not) easily, quite.’ In the following examples, (a) sentences are in the negative and (b) sentences are in the affirmative.

- (1) a. まだ分かりません。  
**Mada wakarimasen.**  
I don’t know yet.
- b. まだ考えています。  
**Mada kangaete imasu.**  
I’m still thinking.
- (2) a. もう要りません。  
**Moo irimasen.**  
I don’t need it any more.
- b. もう分かりました。  
**Moo wakarimashita.**  
I’ve figured it out already.
- (3) a. 全然眠れなかった。  
**Zenzen nemurenakatta.**  
I couldn’t sleep at all.
- b. 心配していたけど、全然大丈夫だった。  
**Shinpai shite ita kedo, zenzen daijoobu datta.**  
I was worried, but it was totally fine.
- (4) a. 今日はあまり天気がよくない。  
**Kyoo wa amari tenki ga yokunai.**  
The weather is not very good today.
- b. あまり暑かったのでエアコンをつけた。  
**Amari atsukatta node eakon o tsuketa.**  
It was excessively hot, so I turned on the air-conditioner.
- (5) a. 辛すぎてとてもたべられない。  
**Karasugite totemo taberarenai.**  
It is too spicy and I cannot possibly eat it.
- b. この夏はとても暑い。  
**Kono natsu wa totemo atsui.**  
This summer is very hot.
- (6) a. 顧客の名前がなかなか覚えられない。  
**Kokyaku no namae ga nakanaka oboerarenai.**  
I cannot easily remember my clients’ names.
- b. この映画はなかなかおもしろい。  
**Kono eega wa nakanaka omoshiroi.**  
This movie is quite interesting.