

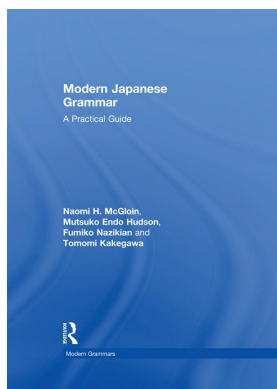
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Compounds

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Compounds

17.1 Nominal compounds

The following compounds are examples of those combining two nouns. Some nominal compounds maintain the original meaning of each noun. In other nominal compounds the second noun functions as a suffix.

- N1 + N2
 - ◆ [N1 modifies N2] or [N1 and N2]
 - 本棚 **hon-dana** ‘bookshelf’ (**hon** ‘book’ + **tana** ‘shelf/shelves’)
 - 食品部門 **shokuhin-bumon** ‘food department’ (**shokuhin** ‘food’ + **bumon** ‘section/department’)
 - 三人部屋 **sannin-beya** ‘a room for three people’ (**sannin** ‘three people’ + **heya** ‘room’)
 - 草木 **kusa-ki** ‘grass and trees’ (**kusa** ‘grass’ + **ki** ‘tree’)
 - 物事 **mono-goto** ‘things’ (**mono** ‘thing’ + **koto** ‘thing’)
 - ◆ N2 functions as a suffix
 - バス代 **basu-dai** ‘bus-fare’
 - 若者向け **wakamono-muke** ‘targeted at young people’
 - 入場料 **nyuujuu-ryoo** ‘entrance fee’

Some nominal compounds are created by the pattern V + N.

- V(stem) + N
 - 生け花 **ike-bana** ‘arranged flowers’ (or ‘flower arrangement’)
 - やり残し **yari nokoshi** ‘things left undone’
 - 食べ物 **tabe-mono** ‘food’
 - 飲み物 **nomi-mono** ‘drink’
 - 買い物 **kai-mono** ‘shopping’
 - 食べ方 **tabe-kata** ‘the way to eat’
 - 挿し絵 **sashi-e** ‘illustration’ (lit. ‘inserted picture’)

17.2 Adjectival compounds

Some compounds are created by the pattern V(stem) + adj.

- V(stem) + adj.
 - 書きやすい **kaki-yasui** [write+easy] ‘easy to write’
 - 歩きにくい **aruki-nikui** [walk+difficult] ‘difficult to walk’
 - 誇り高い **hokori-takai** [be proud+high] ‘proudly’
 - 待ち遠しい **machi-dooshii** [wait+impatient] ‘can hardly wait’
 - 寝苦しい **ne-gurushii** [sleep+hard] ‘difficult to sleep’

- N + adj.

心細い **kokoro-bosoi** [heart+narrow] ‘insecure’
 心安らか **kokoro-yasuraka** [heart+peaceful] ‘peaceful’
 心苦しい **kokoro-gurushii** [heart+painful] ‘sorry’
 涙もろい **namida-moroi** [tears+weak] ‘easy to cry’
 生ぬるい **nama-nurui** [raw+tepid] ‘lukewarm’
 根深い **ne-bukai** [root+deep] ‘inveterate/deep-rooted’

17.3 Verbal compounds

Two verbs can be combined to create verbal compounds. In one type, each of the two verbs contributes equally (‘do V1 and do V2’). In another, the first verb describes how the second verb (i.e. main verb) is carried out.

- V1 + V2: do V1 and V2; or V2 is the main verb

持ち出す **mochi-dasu** [hold+take out] ‘take out’
 飛び出す **tobi-dasu** [jump+go out] ‘run out’
 書き写す **kaki-utsusu** [write+copy] ‘copy; transcribe’
 飛び越える **tobi-koeru** [jump+go over/pass] ‘jump over’
 呼び止める **yobi-tomeru** [call+stop] ‘call out for someone to stop’
 作り直す **tsukuri-naosu** [make+fix] ‘remake’
 聞き返す **kiki-kaesu** [question+return] ‘question again’
 引き起こす **hiki-okosu** [draw+cause] ‘trigger’
 取り戻す **tori-modosu** [get+return (something)] ‘retrieve/take back’

In yet another type, the first verb functions as the main verb, and the second verb as an auxiliary (helping) verb.

- V1 + V2: V1 is the main verb

食べかける **tabe-kakeru** [eat+hang] ‘take a bite/start to eat’
 怒鳴りつける **donari-tsukeru** [shout+attach (transitive)] ‘yell at’
 泣きつく **naki-tsuku** [cry+adhere] ‘beg desperately’
 飲み過ぎる **nomi-sugiru** [drink+exceed] ‘over drink’
 押し込む **oshi-komu** [push+get into] ‘put something into’
 降り出す **furi-dasu** [rain+begin] ‘start to rain (all of sudden)’
 書きあげる **kaki-ageru** [write+raise] ‘complete writing something’
 炊きあがる **taki-agaru** [boil+rise] ‘(rice) is cooked’