

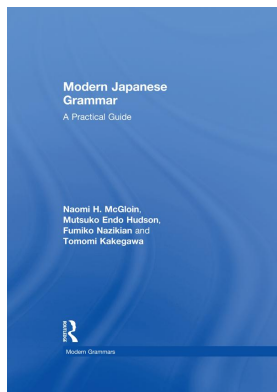
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## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

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### **Auxiliary verbs**

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# 19

## Auxiliary verbs

### 19.1 General remarks on auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs in Japanese are attached to the **te**-form or the stem of the main verb. An auxiliary verb has its own meaning when it is used as the main verb, but as an auxiliary verb, it often loses its original meaning. Auxiliary verbs add aspectual meaning to the action/event denoted by the main verb. They are conjugated to express past/nonpast tense, affirmative/negative distinction, and formal/informal styles. When responding to a question with **V-te/V-stem + auxiliary structure**, the main verb needs to be repeated with the auxiliary verb.

### 19.2 V-te + auxiliary verbs

#### 19.2.1 V-te iru

Meanings expressed by **V-te iru** are: 1. action in progress; 2. resultant state; 3. habitual/repeated action; and 4. experience. Its meaning depends on the types of verb used or the context in which it is used. In casual speech, the vowel **i** in the auxiliary **iru** is often omitted, resulting in **V-te ru**.

#### Action in progress

When the main verb is a durative action verb, **V-te iru** indicates that the action denoted by the main verb is in progress at a given moment. Durative action verbs are verbs that denote an action that takes some time to perform; e.g. **taberu** 'to eat,' **nomu** 'to drink,' **utau** 'to sing,' **kaku** 'to write,' **miru** 'to watch,' **matsu** 'to wait' and **aruku** 'to walk.' Motion verbs, e.g. **iku** 'to go' and **kuru** 'to come' do not belong to this group.

子供が公園で遊んでいる。

**Kodomo ga kooen de asonde iru.**

Children are playing in the park.

今勉強している。

**Ima benkyoo shite iru.**

I'm studying right now.

夕べの10時には家で本を読んでいた。

**Yuube no juuji ni wa ie de hon o yonde imashita.**

I was reading a book at 10 o'clock last night.

#### Resultant state

When the main verb is a change-of-state or a momentary verb or an intransitive verb, **V-te iru** expresses the state which the subject is in as a result of the past action/event denoted by the verb. Change-of-state verbs express actions or events after which the subject's state changes; e.g. **shinu** 'to die,' **kekkon suru** 'to marry,' **owaru** 'for something to end,' **shiru** 'to find out,

learn,' **tatsu** 'to stand up,' **futoru** 'to gain weight,' **yaseru** 'to lose weight' and **aku** 'open (intransitive).'

同僚は結婚している。

**Dooryoo wa kekkon shite iru.**

My colleague is married.

この虫はもう死んでいる。

**Kono mushi wa moo shinde iru.**

This bug is already dead.

窓が開いている。

**Mado ga aite iru.**

The window is open.

Motion verbs such as **iku** 'to go' and **kuru** 'to come' also express a resultant state in the **-te iru** construction.

父は今会社に行っています。

**Chichi wa ima kaisha ni itte imasu.**

My father is at work now.

友達が来ています。

**Tomodachi ga kite imasu.**

My friend has come and is here.

Transitive verbs in the passive form are intransitive as a composite, and express a resultant state in the **-te iru** construction.

鍵が壊されている。

**Kagi ga kowasarete iru.**

The lock has been broken (and it is broken).

### Habitual/repeated action

In some contexts, **V-te iru** is interpreted as a habitual or repeated action. This type of sentence often includes adverbs of frequency; e.g. **mainichi** 'every day' **yoku** 'often' **maitoshi** 'every year' and **itsumo** 'always.'

健康のために毎朝歩いている。

**Kenkoo no tame ni maiasa aruite iru.**

I walk every morning for my health.

妹は電車で高校にかよっています。

**Imooto wa densha de kookoo ni kayotte imasu.**

My younger sister commutes to high school by train.

### Experience

When **V-te iru** is used with adverbs like **sudeni** 'already' and **moo** 'already' or adverbial phrases indicating a specific time in the past, it expresses a person's past experience that is somehow relevant to the speaker at present, especially when checking a document.

田中さんは3年前に留学している。

**Tanaka-san wa sannen mae ni ryuugaku shite iru.**

Mr/Ms Tanaka studied abroad three years ago.

佐藤さんは去年新車を買っています。

**Satoo-san wa kyonen shinsha o katte imasu.**

Mr/Ms Sato bought a brand new car last year.

In these examples, the auxiliary verb **iru** remains in the nonpast form even though it expresses a past experience. The temporal adverbs are needed to indicate that they are talking about a past event.

V-**te** plus the negative form of the auxiliary verb **iru** is used especially with the adverb **mada** ‘yet’ to express that one has not done something yet.

(まだ) 昼ご飯を食べていません。

**(Mada) hirugohan o tabete imasen.**

I have not eaten lunch (yet).

▶ 12.1; 12.2; 37.5; 37.6; 37.7; 37.11; 44.2

### 19.2.2 V-te aru

V-**te aru** expresses a state that results from somebody’s action without stating the agent of the verb. It implies the volition of the person who performed the action, i.e. someone did it for some purpose. It is typically used with transitive verbs. The direct object of the main verb is marked by **-ga** in V-**te aru** sentences.

ケーキが買ってあります。

**Keeki ga katte arimasu.**

A cake has been bought.

部屋がかたづけてあった。

**Heya ga katazukete atta.**

The room had been tidied up.

The verbs that are not used in V-**te aru** sentences are: stative verbs (e.g. **aru/iru** ‘(for inanimate/animate things) to exist,’ **dekiru** ‘can do’); copula; verbs that express actions that cannot be done volitionally (e.g. **wasureru** ‘to forget’ and **ushinau** ‘to lose’); and verbs that denote actions that do not imply a predetermined end point or result (e.g. **utau** ‘to sing,’ **unten suru** ‘to drive’ and **aruku** ‘to walk’).

Transitive V-**te aru** and intransitive V-**te iru** both describe a state, but while V-**te iru** simply describes the state of the subject noun, as in example (a) below, V-**te aru** implies that the state described is a result of something someone did for some purpose, as in example (b).

(a) 窓が開いています。

**Mado ga aite imasu.**

The window is open.

(b) 窓が開けてあります。

**Mado ga akete arimasu.**

The window is open. (Someone left it open for some purpose.)

▶ 12.1; 12.2

### 19.2.3 V-te miru

V-**te miru** means ‘to do something to see what will happen.’ To use this expression, the action has to be performed. If it is not possible to complete the action, i.e. if one tried but couldn’t do it, the volitional form of the verb + **to suru** construction is used instead.

激辛ラーメンを食べてみた。

**Gekikara raamen o tabete mita.**

I tried super spicy ramen. (Lit. I ate super spicy ramen to see how it was.)

新しいドレスを着てみた。

**Atarashii doresu o kite mita.**

I tried on the new dress. (Lit. I put on the new dress to see how it looked.)

ドアをノックしてみた。

**Doa o nokkushite mita.**

I knocked on the door to see what would happen.

## V-te + auxiliary verbs

朝5時に起きてみた/起きようとしたけど、起きられなかった。

**Asa goji ni okite-mita/okiyoo to shita kedo, okirarenakatta.**

I tried to get up at five a.m., but I could not wake up.

## ▶ 72.4

## 19.2.4

## V-te oku

V-te oku expresses that the subject does something as preparation for future purpose so that there will be no regret. Another meaning is to keep some state as is for some purpose.

ホテルを予約しておいた。

**Hoteru o yoyaku shite oita.**

I reserved a hotel.

傘を買っておきました。

**Kasa o katte okimashita.**

I bought an umbrella.

暑かったので、窓を開けておいた。

**Atsukatta node, mado o akete oita.**

I kept the window open because it was hot.

Unlike the V-te aru construction (see 19.2.2), the agent of the action denoted by the main verb can be expressed as the subject in the V-te oku construction.

母は晩ご飯を作っておいた。

**Haha wa bangohan o tsukutte oita.**

My mother made dinner in advance.

## ▶ 12.1

## 19.2.5

## V-te shimau

V-te shimau expresses that the subject does something completely, regrettably, or inadvertently. The interpretation of V-te shimau sentences depends on the context and one's understanding of the situation.

友達の宿題をやってしまった。

**Tomodachi no shukudai o yatte shimatta.**

I did my friend's homework completely/regrettably/inadvertently.

If we assume that the speaker thinks doing another person's homework is wrong, we may interpret this sentence as 'I regrettably did my friend's homework.' If we know that s/he did a friend's homework by mistake, it would mean 'I inadvertently did my friend's homework.' Consider the next example:

暇だったから、宿題をやってしまった。

**Hima datta kara, shukudai o yatte shimatta.**

Because I had free time, I did my homework completely.

Given the context (having free time), we may interpret shukudai o yatte shimatta as 'I did my homework completely' rather than 'regrettably' or 'inadvertently,' though these are still possible interpretations. Another example is:

会社をさぼったのに本屋で同僚に会ってしまった。

**Kaisha o sabotta noni hon'ya de dooryoo ni atte shimatta.**

I skipped work, but I ran into my colleague at a bookstore regrettably/inadvertently.

Knowing that the agent skipped his/her work, 'running into a colleague' is interpreted as 'regrettable' or 'inadvertent.'

In casual speech, the pronunciation V-**te shimau** may change as follows:

**-te shimau** → **chau**  
 食べてしまう → 食べちゃう  
**tabete shimau** → **tabe chau**  
 eat

**-de shimau** → **jau**  
 飲んでしまう → 飲んじゃう  
**nonde shimau** → **non jau**  
 drink

▶ 57.4; 67.2

### 19.2.6 V-te kuru

**Kuru** as a main verb means 'to come,' indicating a motion toward the speaker. V-**te kuru** expresses how the action/event denoted by the main verb relates to the speaker in a spatial or temporal sense.

#### Meanings expressed by V-**te kuru**:

(1) 'to do something and come back; to go and do something and come back'

Main verb = action verb

弟が飲み物を買ってきた。

**Ootoo ga nomimono o katte kita.**

My brother went to buy drinks (and came back).

明日、様子を見てくる。

**Ashita, yoosu o mite kuru.**

I will go tomorrow and see how things are.

(2) Continuation of action/event from some point in the past to the present.

ずっと魚屋で魚を買ってきたので、スーパーの魚は食べられない。

**Zutto sakanaya de sakana o katte kita node, suupaa no sakana wa taberarenai.**

I've always bought fish at fish markets, so I can't eat fish from supermarkets.

その番組は小さい時から見てきた。

**Sono bangumi wa chiisai toki kara mite kita.**

I have been watching the program since I was little.

(3) 'to begin to change'

Main verb = verb of process/change

雨が降ってきた。

**Ame ga futte kita.**

It has begun to rain.

物価があがり生活が苦しくなってきた。

**Bukka ga agari seekatsu ga kurushiku natte kita.**

Prices have gone up and life has begun to get difficult.

最近やせてきた。

**Saikin yasete kita.**

I have begun to lose weight.

▶ 50.3

### 19.2.7 V-te iku

When it is the main verb, **iku** 'to go' denotes a motion away from the speaker. V-**te iku** indicates a spatial, temporal, or psychological movement of the action/event denoted by the main verb in a direction away from the speaker.

**Meanings expressed by V-te iku:**

## (1) 'do something and go'

服が汚れたから、着替えていく。

**Fuku ga yogoreta kara, kigaete iku.**

My clothes (have) got dirty, so I will change and go.

友達の家ケーキを買っていった。

**Tomodachi no ie ni keeki o katte itta.**

I bought cake and went to my friend's house.

## (2) 'continue to do ... ; continue to change'

Main verb = verb of process/change

夫婦がうまくやっていく方法を知りたい。

**Fuufu ga umaku yatte iku hoochoo ga shiritai.**

I want to know a method for a married couple to continue to get along.

これからもがんばっていきたいです。

**Kore kara mo ganbatte ikitai desu.**

I want to continue doing my best from now on as well.

## (3) 'to occur gradually'

時代と共にさまざまな製品が我々の生活から消えていくでしょう。

**Jidai to tomo ni samazama na sechin ga wareware no seekatsu kara kiete iku deshoo.**

Over time, various products will gradually disappear from our daily life.

## (4) 'to be changing' (process of change)

大量生産で製品が劣化していった。

**Tairyooseesan de sechin ga rekka shite itta.**

Due to mass production, the product quality went down.

夫は薬の副作用で痩せていった。

**Otto wa kusuri no fukusayoo de yasete itta.**

My husband went on losing weight due to side effects of the medicine.

## ▶ 50.3

## 19.2.8

**V-te + benefactives**

Benefactives are verbs such as **ageru** 'to give,' **kureru** 'X gives me,' and **morau** 'to receive.' See 12.7 for the use of these verbs in the giving and receiving of objects. The same rules apply to the use of V-te + benefactives, which expresses the giving and receiving of a favor/benefit.

■ **V-te ageru/sashiageru/yaru: 'to do something as a favor'**

The subject of the V-te **ageru/sashiageru/yaru** sentence is the giver of a favor. The recipient is someone other than the speaker or his/her in-group.

not \*田中さんは私に車を貸してあげた。

\***Tanaka-san wa watashi ni kuruma o kashite ageta.**

Mr/Mr Tanaka lent me a car.

However, when the speaker is the giver, the recipient can be someone in the speaker's in-group.

私は妹に朝ご飯を作ってあげた。

**Watashi wa imoto ni asagohan o tsukutte ageta.**

I made breakfast for my younger sister.

**V-te ageru** is used when the social status of the subject/giver is equal or higher than that of the recipient of the benefit. The recipient is marked by the particle **ni** when the recipient is an indirect object.

研さんは美奈さんに英語を教えてあげました。

**Ken-san wa Mina-san ni Eigo o oshiete agemashita.**

Ken taught English to Mina as a favor.

私は友達にお金を貸してあげた。

**Watashi wa tomodachi ni o-kane o kashite ageta.**

I lent money to my friend as a favor.

If the recipient is the direct object of the main verb, it is marked by **o**.

私は友達を応援してあげた。

**Watashi wa tomodachi o ooen shite ageta.**

I cheered my friend on as a favor.

親は子供をほめてあげた。

**Oya wa kodomo o homete ageta.**

The parent praised his/her child for the child's benefit.

The recipient is marked with **to** 'with' in the following example.

私は弟と映画を見てあげた。

**Watashi wa ootoo to eega o mite ageta.**

I watched the movie with my younger brother as a favor.

In other cases, the recipient is indicated by **no tame ni** 'for the sake of.'

私は友達のためにノートをコピーしてあげた。

**Watashi wa tomodachi no tame ni nooto o kopii shite ageta.**

I copied my notes for my friend.

父は母のために買い物をしてきてあげた。

**Chichi wa haha no tame ni kaimono o shite kite ageta.**

My father went and did the shopping for my mother.

**V-te sashiageru** is used if the social status of the recipient is higher than that of the giver's.

おばあさんの荷物を運んでさしあげた。

**Obaasan no nimotsu o hakonde sashiageta.**

I carried the elderly woman's luggage for her.

私はお客様にお茶を入れてさしあげた。

**Watashi wa okyaku-sama ni ocha o irete sashiageta.**

I made tea for the customer.

When the utterance is directed towards the recipient of the favor, **V-te ageru/sashiageru** is often avoided because it sounds as if the speaker is demanding the recipient's gratitude by making it explicit that the speaker did the action as a favor. In such a case, the humbling form, **o-V(stem)-suru** is used.

お茶をお入れします。

**O-cha o o-ire shimasu.**

I will make some tea for you.

## ▶ 29

**V-te yaru** may be used when the giver's social status is higher than the recipient's. However, some people, especially female speakers of Japanese, frequently use **V-te ageru** in those cases, possibly because **V-te yaru** may be perceived by others as too rough.



## V-te + auxiliary verbs

弟に事情を説明してやった。

**Ootoo ni jijoo o setsumee shite yatta.**

I explained the circumstances to my younger brother.

犬にパンをわけてやった。

**Inu ni pan o wakete yatta.**

I shared my bread with the dog.

V-te **yaru** is often used to express the giving of a negative action.

絶対に思い知らせてやる。

**Zettai ni omoi-shirasete yaru.**

I will definitely take revenge.

彼をひどい目に遭わせてやる。

**Kare o hidoi me ni awasete yaru.**

I will make him suffer.

■ V-te **kureru/kudasaru**: ‘X gives me the favor of doing . . .’

The subject of a V-te **kureru/kudasaru** sentence is the giver of a favor. In declarative sentences, the recipient of the favor is the speaker or someone in his/her in-group. V-te **kureru** is used when the social status of the subject/giver is equal or lower than that of the recipient of the favor. The recipient is marked by a particle appropriate in relation to the main verb. If the recipient is the indirect object of the main verb, for example, it is marked by **ni**. When it is the speaker him/herself, it is often omitted.

父が（私に）車を買ってくれた。

**Chichi ga (watashi ni) kuruma o katte kureta.**

My father bought me a car for my benefit.

母が（私に）プレゼントを送ってくれた。

**Haha ga watashi ni purezento o okutte kureta.**

My mother sent me a present for my benefit.

友達が弟に英語を教えてくれた。

**Tomodachi ga ootoo ni Eego o oshiete kureta.**

My friend taught English to my younger brother for his benefit.

If the recipient is the direct object of the main verb, it is marked by **o**.

みんなが私の家族を歓迎してくれた。

**Minna ga watashi no kazoku o kangee shite kureta.**

Everyone welcomed my family.

いつも両親が（私を）支えてくれる。

**Itsumo ryooshin ga watashi o sasaete kureru.**

My parents always support me (which I appreciate).

When the recipient is neither the direct or indirect object of the main verb but needs to be specified in the sentence, **no tame ni** ‘for the sake of’ can be used.

母が私のために先生に尋ねてくれた。

**Haha ga watashi no tame ni sensee ni tazunete kureta.**

My mother asked the teacher for my sake.

V-te **kudasaru** is used when the giver is the recipient’s social superior or someone worthy of respect.

先生が私のために推薦状を書いてくださった。

**Sensee ga watashi no tame ni suisenjoo o kaite kudasatta.**

My teacher wrote a recommendation letter for me.

In interrogative sentences, the recipient can be a second person, ‘you’.

友達は何をしてくれた？

**Tomodachi wa nani o shite kureta?**

What did your friends do for you?

子供の頃、お父さんは一緒に遊んでくださいましたか。

**Kodomo no koro, otoosan wa isshoni asonde kudasaimashita ka.**

Did your father play with you when you were a child?

■ **V-te morau/itadaku: ‘to receive the favor of doing . . .’**

The subject of **V-te morau/itadaku** sentences is the recipient of a favor. The giver of the favor is marked by **ni** (or sometimes **kara**). The giver in **V-te morau/itadaku** sentences cannot be the speaker. **V-te morau/itadaku** can be used when the recipient receives a favor by asking for it. However, it is possible to use it when such is not the case. **V-te morau** is used when the recipient’s social status is equal to or higher than that of the giver’s.

誠くんは友達に本を貸してもらった。

**Makoto-kun wa tomodachi ni hon o kashite moratta.**

Makoto asked his friend to lend him a book, which he did. / For Makoto’s sake, his friend lent him a book.

(Lit. Makoto received the favor of his friend’s lending him a book.)

私は母に料理を教えてもらった。

**Watashi wa haha ni ryoori o oshiete moratta.**

I asked my mother to teach me how to cook and she taught me. / I had my mother teach me how to cook.

(Lit. I received the favor of my mother’s teaching me how to cook.)

When the giver’s social status is higher than that of the recipient’s, **V-te itadaku** is used.

私は友達のお母さんにケーキを作っていただいた。

**Watashi wa tomodachi no okaasan ni keeki o tsukutte itadaita.**

My friend’s mother made a cake for me.

母は上司の方にうちまで送っていただいた。

**Haha wa jooshi no kata ni uchi made okutte itadaita.**

My mother’s boss brought her home as a favor.

▶ 43

## 19.3

### Frequently used verb stem + auxiliary verbs

#### 19.3.1

#### V(stem) + **-hajimeru/-dasu** ‘begin doing . . .’

Both V(stem)-**hajimeru** and V(stem)-**dasu** denote the meaning of ‘begin to do something.’

雨が降りはじめた。

**Ame ga furi-hajimeta.**

It began to rain.

雨が降りだした。

**Ame ga furi-dashita.**

It began to rain.

While V(stem)-**dasu** implies the abruptness of the event and reflects the speaker’s surprise about the event, V(stem)-**hajimeru** simply describes the event without such implications. When the action denoted by the main verb can be controlled by the agent’s volition, **-dasu** cannot be used.

私は晩ご飯を作り出した/はじめた。

**Watashi wa bangohan o tsukuri-dashita/hajimeta.**

I began making dinner.

私は映画を見出した/はじめた。

**Watashi wa eega o mi-dashita/hajimeta.**

I started to watch the movie.

V(stem)-**hajimeru/-dasu** is not usually used with change-of-state verbs unless the subject is interpreted as plural.

姉/大学時代の友達が結婚しはじめた。

**Ane/daigaku jidai no tomodachi ga kekkon shi-hajimeta.**

My sister/My friends from college began to get married.

5時をすぎると田中さん/お客さんが来はじめた。

**Goji o sugiru to Tanaka-san/okyaku-san ga ki-hajimeta.**

Mr/Ms Tanaka/Customers began to show up after five p.m.

When the main verb denotes an action that can be controlled by the agent's volition, V(stem)-**dasu** expresses the meaning of 'out' or 'up' as in the following examples.

母は新しい商品を作り出した。

**Haha wa atarashii shoochin o tsukuri-dashita.**

My mother made up a new product.

妹は買う物を書き出した。

**Imooto wa kau mono o kaki-dashita.**

My sister wrote out things to buy.

▶ 17.3; 50.4.2

19.3.2

**V(stem) + -owaru 'finish doing ...'**

V(stem)-**owaru** expresses that the action denoted by the main verb is completed.

本を読みおわった。

**Hon o yomi-owatta.**

I finished reading the book.

宿題をやりおわったら、出かける。

**Shukudai o yariowattara, dekakeru.**

I will go out after I finish doing my homework.

父は朝食を食べ終わると、会社に向かった。

**Chichi wa chooshoku o tabe-owaru to, kaisha ni mukatta.**

When my father finished eating breakfast, he left for work.

19.3.3

**V(stem) + -sugiru 'to overdo ...'**

**Sugiru** as a main verb means 'to pass, to go beyond.' V(stem)-**sugiru** expresses 'to do something excessively.'

今日は食べすぎた。

**Kyoo wa tabe sugita.**

I ate too much today.

最近の子供はテレビを見すぎる。

**Saikin no kodomo wa terebi o mi-sugiru.**

Kids nowadays watch too much TV.

The auxiliary **-sugiru** can be used with the negative form of the main verb. Take the plain negative form of the main verb and change the final **-i** to **sa-sugiru**.

Plain neg.	<b>-sugiru</b> form
見ない	見なさすぎる
<b>minai</b>	<b>minasa sugiru</b>
not see	see too little

父は自分の意見を言わなさすぎます。

**Chichi wa jibun no iken o iwanasa sugimasu.**

My father keeps his opinion to himself excessively.

妹は勉強しなさすぎる。

**Imooto wa benkyoo shinasa sugiru.**

My sister studies too little.

The auxiliary **-sugiru** is also used with adjectives, expressing that the state is excessive. Take the final **-i** from **i**-adjectives and attach **-sugiru**.

この服は大きすぎる。

**Kono fuku wa ooki-sugiru.**

These clothes are too large.

暑すぎて眠れない。

**Atsu sugite nemurenai.**

It's too hot to sleep.

Attach **-sugiru** to a **na**-adjective without the copula.

図書館は静かすぎる。

**Toshokan wa shizuka-sugiru.**

The library is too quiet.

寮は賑やかすぎます。

**Ryoo wa nigiyaka sugimasu.**

The dorm is too noisy.

### ▶ 17.3

#### 19.3.4 V(stem) + **-uru/-eru** 'there is a possibility of doing ...'

V(stem) **-uru/-eru** expresses that there is a possibility that the action, state, or event described by the main verb may be realized. It is primarily used in writing. It cannot be used to express one's ability.

事故はいつでも起こりうる。

**Jiko wa itsu demo okori uru.**

Accidents can occur anytime.

嘘もつきえたが、真実をのべた。

**Uso mo tsuki eta ga, shinjitsu o nobeta.**

I could have lied, but I told the truth.

The auxiliary **-uru** appears only in the plain nonpast affirmative form, but **-eru** can be conjugated like any other verb.

	<i>Non past</i>		<i>Past</i>	
	<i>Plain</i>	<i>Polite</i>	<i>Plain</i>	<i>Polite</i>
Aff.	<b>-uru/eru</b>	<b>-emasu</b>	<b>-eta</b>	<b>-emashita</b>
Neg.	<b>-enai</b>	<b>-emasen</b>	<b>-enakatta</b>	<b>-emasen deshita</b>

Stative verbs, such as **aru** 'exist' and **wakaru** 'understand,' can be used with the auxiliary **-uru/eru** to express possibility.

そんなことはありえない。

**Sonna koto wa ari enai**

Such things cannot possibly happen.

その可能性はありうる。

**Sono kanoosee wa ari uru.**

That possibility can exist.

### ▶ 12.6; 53.1.2