

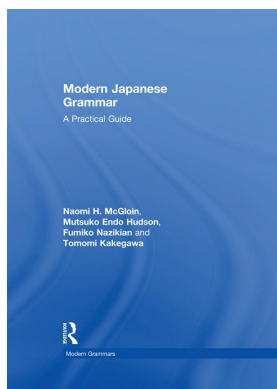
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Conjunctions and connectives

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22

Conjunctions and connectives

There are many different ways to connect sentences. Conjunctions, or conjunctive particles, connect two or more clauses into one sentence. Connectives, on the other hand, are independent words or phrases that express how one sentence relates to another sentence.

22.1 te-form as a conjunction

The **te**-form of any predicate can be used as a conjunction. When the predicate is a **na**-adjective or a noun, the **te**-form of the copula (i.e. **de**) is used. See 13.3 for the **te**-form of adjectives and 12.1 for the **te**-form of verbs. The **te**-form can be used to express a simple coordination ('and'), a causal relation ('and so'), or a sequential relation ('and then') of the conjoined clauses.

▶ 37.4

(a) Simple coordination ('and')

父は教師で母は会計士です。

Chichi wa kyooshi de haha wa kaikeeshi desu.

My father is a teacher and my mother is an accountant.

このレストランは安くておいしいです。

Kono resutoran wa yasukute oishii desu.

This restaurant is inexpensive and delicious.

週末、井田さんは映画を見て、森さんは買い物をした。

Shuumatsu, Ida-san wa eega o mite, Mori-san wa kaimono o shita.

On the weekend, Mr/Ms Ida watched a movie and Mr/Ms Mori went shopping.

(b) Causal relation ('and so')

Depending on the meaning expressed by the clauses connected with the **te**-form, the first clause may be interpreted as the cause or reason for the second clause.

▶ 48.3

頭が痛くて、勉強ができません。

Atama ga itakute, benkyoo ga dekimasen.

I have a headache, so I can't study.

悲しい映画を見て、泣いてしまった。

Kanashii eega o mite, naite shimatta.

I watched a sad movie and I couldn't help crying.

When two adjectives are connected using the **te**-form, the first one tends to be interpreted as the cause or reason for what is expressed by the second adjective. Because of this tendency, the adjective that expresses the more objective concept tends to precede the adjective that expresses the speaker's evaluation, such as, **omoshiroi** 'interesting,' **tsumaranai** 'boring,' **oishii** 'tasty,' and **mazui** 'taste horrible.' The adjective **ii** 'good' always comes at the end when used with other adjectives. The first adjective tends to be interpreted as the reason for the speaker's evaluation.

ここは静かでいいですね。

Koko wa shizuka de ii desu ne.

This place is quiet and nice.

この町は小さくてつまらないです。

Kono machi wa chiisakute tsumaranai desu.

This town is small and boring.

甘い物はきらいなのですが、このケーキは甘くなくておいしいですね。

Amai mono wa kirai na n desu ga, kono keeki wa amakunakute oishii desu ne.

I don't like sweets, but this cake is not sweet and it's tasty.

(c) Sequential relation ('and then')

The **te**-form of verbs can also express multiple actions carried out by the same person in sequence.

夫は毎朝七時に起きて、ニュースを聞きます。

Otto wa maiasa shichiji ni okite, nyuusu o kikimasu.

My husband gets up at 7 o'clock every morning, and listens to the news.

昨日は、買い物をして、映画をみて、レストランで食事をした。

Kinoo wa, kaimono o shite, eega o mite, resutoran de shokuji o shita.

Yesterday, I went shopping, watched a movie, and had a meal at a restaurant.

When a motion verb like **iku** 'to go' or **kuru** 'to come' is used in the **te**-form followed by an action verb, it indicates that the action takes place where one goes or comes to.

図書館に行って本を借りた。

Toshokan ni itte hon o karita.

I went to the library and borrowed a book.

友達がうちに来てテレビを見た。

Tomodachi ga uchi ni kite terebi o mita.

My friend came to my house and watched TV.

NOTE

In writing and in formal speech, the verb stem is used instead of the verb **te**-form for conjunction.

春が去り、夏が来た。

Haru ga sari, natsu ga kita.

Spring left and summer came.

私はいつもどおりに会社に行き、仕事をした。

Watashi wa itsumo doori ni kaisha ni iki, shigoto o shita.

I went to the office as always and worked.

22.2

Coordinate conjunctions and connectives

22.2.1

shi

The conjunctive particle **shi** 'and' is used to list activities or states. The predicate preceding **shi** usually takes the plain form.

働く女性は、仕事もするし、家事もする。

Hataraku josee wa, shigoto mo suru shi, kaji mo suru.

Working women not only work but do the housework too.

小野さんは親切だし、頭もいいし、素晴らしい人ですね。

Ono-san wa shinsetsu da shi, atama mo ii shi, subarashii hito desu ne.

Mr/Ms Ono is kind as well as smart, so he/she is a wonderful person, isn't he/she?

When clauses are coordinated with **shi**, the semantic particle **mo** tends to be used in place of the case particles **ga** and **o**. For instance, **atama mo ii** ‘is also smart’ is used instead of **atama ga ii** ‘is smart’ in the above example.

The **shi** clause is often used to list reasons or causes for the main clause.

お金もないし、仕事もないし、ぜいたくはできない。

Okane mo nai shi, shigoto mo nai shi, zeitaku wa dekinai.

I can't allow myself any luxuries because I don't have money and I don't have a job.

疲れていたし、宿題もあったし、出かけませんでした。

Tsukarete ita shi, shukudai mo atta shi, dekakemasen deshita.

I was tired, and I had homework, so I didn't go out.

22.2.2 V-ba-form

Clauses conjoined with the V-**ba**-form express ‘to do X as well as Y’ or ‘some do X and some do Y.’

ビールも飲めば、日本酒も飲む。

Biiru mo nomeba, nihonshu mo nomu.

I drink beer as well as Japanese sake.

犬が好きな人もいれば、猫が好きな人もいる。

Inu ga suki na hito mo ireba, neko ga sukina hito mo iru.

Some people like dogs and some people like cats.

(Lit. There are people who like dogs as well as people who like cats.)

雪が降る日もあれば、降らない日もある。

Yuki ga furu hi mo areba, furanai hi mo aru.

Some days it snows and some days it doesn't.

(Lit. There are days it snows as well as days it doesn't snow.)

▶ 24.2

22.2.3 ... toka ... toka suru

The conjunctive particle **toka** is used to list activities non-exhaustively as examples, i.e. ‘to do things like X and Y.’ The tense of the whole sentence is expressed by the final verb **suru**. The verb preceding **toka** takes the plain nonpast tense form regardless of the tense expressed by **suru**.

分からない時は、人に聞くとかネットで調べるとかする。

Wakaranai toki wa, hito ni kiku toka netto de shiraberu toka suru.

When I don't know, I do things like asking others and searching on the Internet.

学生時代はよく映画を見るとかケーキを焼くとかしました。

Gakusee jidai wa yoku eega o miru toka keeki o yaku toka shimashita.

I often did things like watching movies and baking cakes during my college years.

22.2.4 V-tari V-tari suru

The conjunction with the V-**tari** (plain past tense form + **ri**) structure is also used to list activities non-exhaustively as examples, i.e. ‘to do things like X and Y.’ The tense of the whole sentence is expressed by the final verb **suru**. The verb in the **-tari -tari** structure always takes the plain past tense form regardless of the tense expressed by **suru**.

休みの日は本を読んだり映画を見たりします。

Yasumi no hi wa hon o yondari eega o mitari shimasu.

On my day off, I do things like read books and watch movies.

週末は友達と会ったり買い物をしたりした。

Shuumatsu wa tomodachi to attari kaimono o shitari shita.

On the weekend, I did things like meet with my friends and go shopping.

22.2.5 Coordinate connectives

Connective phrases such as **soshite**, **sorekara**, **soreni** and **mata** can be used to list actions and states, with the sense of 'and' and 'also.' They may be used with a conjunctive particle.

明日の授業に写真を持って来ててください。それから、宿題も忘れないでください。

Ashita no jugyoo ni shashin o motte kite kudasai. Sorekara, shukudai mo wasurenaide kudasai.

Please bring a photo for tomorrow's class. Also, please don't forget your homework.

歴史漫画はおもしろい。そして歴史の勉強にもなる。

Rekishi manga wa omoshiroi. Soshite rekishi no benkyoo ni mo naru.

History comics are fun. And you can also learn history.

私は漢字が苦手だし、それに、カタカナもよく忘れます。

Watashi wa kanji ga nigate da shi, soreni, katakana mo yoku wasuremasu.

I'm bad at **kanji**, and also, I often forget **katakana**.

夏はキャンプに行ったり、また、海水浴にもよく行く。

Natsu wa kyanpu ni ittari, mata, kaisuiyoku ni mo yoku iku.

During summer, we go camping and we also often go to the sea to swim.

When **soshite** and **sorekara** are used to express actions carried out by the same person, they express that those actions are carried out in sequence. See the next section for sequential connectives.

22.3 Sequential conjunctions and connectives

The **V-te** form is the most commonly used sequential conjunction. See examples in 22.1. Sequential connectives indicate that events described by two adjacent sentences occur in sequence; e.g. **soshite** 'and,' **sorekara** 'and then,' **sorede** 'and,' and **de** 'and.' While **soshite** and **sorekara** are used both in (formal) writing and in speaking, **sorede** and **de** are used mainly in speaking.

学校に行った。そして試験を受けた。

Gakkoo ni itta. Soshite shiken o uketa.

I went to school. And I took the exam.

昨日はジョギングをした。それから、家で洗濯をした。

Kinoo wa joringu o shita. Sorekara, uchi de sentaku o shita.

Yesterday, I went jogging. And then, I did the laundry at home.

ケーキを5個買った。で、全部一人で食べた。

Keeki o goko katta. De, zenbu hitori de tabeta.

I bought five pieces of cake. And I ate them all by myself.

22.4 Causal conjunctions and connectives

Commonly used causal conjunction particles are **kara** 'because,' **node** 'because' and **tame** 'due to.' See 47.3 and 47.4 for examples and usages of these conjunctions.

Causal connectives express the cause and result relationship between sentences.

In many cases, the first sentence expresses the cause/reason and the causal connective precedes the second, result sentence; e.g. **dakara** 'so (informal),' **sorede** 'so,' **sono tame** 'due to that

(formal), **shitagatte** ‘consequently (writing),’ **sore yue** ‘therefore (writing),’ and **yue ni** ‘hence (writing).’

お金がない。だから車を買えない。

Okane ga nai. Dakara kuruma ga kaenai.

I don't have money. So I cannot buy a car.

約束を忘れていた。それで待ち合わせに行かなかった。

Yakusoku o wasurete ita. Sorede machi-awase ni ikanakatta.

I had forgotten the appointment. So I didn't go to the meeting place.

会社が倒産した。したがって、ボーナスは出ない。

Kaisha ga toosan shita. Shitagatte, boonasu wa denai.

The company went bankrupt. Therefore, bonuses won't be paid.

22.5 Concessive conjunctions and connectives

When two clauses contrast in meaning or when the second clause expresses what is not expected from the first clause, the two clauses may be connected by concessive connectives or conjunctions. Some of the commonly used concessive conjunctions and connectives are listed below.

22.5.1 *keredo(mo)/kedo* (colloquial) ‘but, although’

お金はあまりないけど、幸せです。

Okane wa amari nai kedo, shiawase desu.

I don't have much money, but I am happy.

スミスさんは日本に住んでいたけれど（も）、日本語が話せません。

Sumisu-san wa Nihon ni sunde ita keredo(mo), Nihongo ga hanasemasen.

Mr/Ms Smith lived in Japan, but he/she can't speak Japanese.

22.5.2 *ga* ‘but’ (formal/written)

あのレストランはおいしいですが、ちょっと高いです。

Ano resutoran wa oishii desu ga, chotto takai desu.

That restaurant is good, but it is a little expensive.

▶ See 39 for more examples and explanations about the use of *keredo(mo)/kedo* and *ga*.

22.5.3 *noni* ‘although, despite the fact that’

スミスさんは日本に住んでいたのに、日本語が話せません。

Sumisu-san wa Nihon ni sunde ita noni, Nihongo ga hanasemasen.

Despite the fact that Mr/Ms Smith lived in Japan, he/she can't speak Japanese.

Compared with *keredo(mo)* and *ga*, which express contrast objectively, *noni* expresses contrast more subjectively. *Noni* is used to express the speaker's various sentiments such as surprise, frustration, and complaints.

(a) 勉強したけれど、できなかった。

Benkyoo shita keredo, dekinakatta.

I studied, but did not do well.

(b) 勉強したのに、できなかった。

Benkyoo shita noni, dekinakatta.

Even though I studied, I did not do well.

While (a) with *keredo* is an objective statement about what happened, (b) with *noni* indicates that the speaker is frustrated that he/she did not do well, and that he/she feels he/she should have done better because he/she had studied.

22.5.4 te mo 'even if, even though'

The **te**-form of a copula, adjective, or verb + **mo** is used to express the meaning of 'even though' or 'even if' depending on the situation.

日本食はたくさん食べても太らないようです。

Nihonshoku wa takusan tabete mo futoranai yoo desu.

It seems that, with Japanese food, even if you eat a lot, you don't gain weight.

先生に聞いても分からなかった。

Sensee ni kiite mo wakaranakatta.

I did not understand even though I asked the teacher.

When a **-te mo** clause contains question words, it means 'no matter who/what/where/how much, etc.'

源氏物語は何度読んでも面白い。

Genji monogatari wa nando yonde mo omoshiroi.

'The Tale of Genji' is interesting no matter how many times I read it.

「羅生門」という映画は、だれが見ても面白いだろう。

Rashomon to yuu eega wa dare ga mitemo omoshiroi daroo.

The movie 'Rashomon' will be interesting to whoever watches it.

22.5.5 V-ta tte 'even if, even though'

V-tatte (-ta is the same as the past tense form) is similar in meaning to **-te mo**. While **-temo** can be used in both speech and (formal) writing, **-tatte** is only used in colloquial speech and sounds more emotive than **-temo**.

失敗したって大丈夫!

Shippai shi-tatte daijoo!

Even if you fail, no problem!

今さら謝ったって遅い。

Ima sara ayamat-tatte osoi.

It's too late to apologize now.

22.5.6 kuse ni 'although'

Kuse ni expresses the speaker's strong feeling of displeasure, disgust, contempt or the like. Such negative feelings are based on the speaker's belief and/or stereotypes.

お金がないくせに高いものばかり買っている。

O-kane ga nai kuse ni takai mono bakari katte iru.

(He) buys only expensive things although (in spite of the fact that) he does not have any money.

知らないくせに知っているように言うのはよくない。

Shiranai kuse ni shitte iru yoo ni iu no wa yokunai.

It's not good to say things that you don't know as if you knew them.

22.5.7 monono 'although'

Monono is used mainly in (formal) writing. It follows the plain forms of verbs and **i**-adjectives. When **monono** follows a predicative noun, **N de aru monono** is used; when it follows a **na**-adjective, **adj.-na monono** is used.

毎日運動しているものの、なかなか体重が減らない。

Mainichi undoo shite iru monono, nakanaka taijuu ga heranai.

Although I am exercising every day, I am not losing weight quickly.

友達がいいアニメだと言うから見たものの、よくわからなかった。

Tomodachi ga ii anime da to yuu kara mita mono, yoku wakaranakatta.

I watched the anime because my friend said it was good, but I did not understand it well.

22.5.8 *nagara* 'although'

Nagara has two interpretations depending on what precedes it. When *nagara* follows action verbs (e.g. **tabe-nagara mita**), it means that two actions occur simultaneously (e.g. watching while eating). When it follows a predicative noun, an adjective, or a stative verb, it means 'although.'

ここは小さい町ながら活気がある。

Koko wa chiisai machi nagara kakki ga aru.

Although this is a small town, it is lively.

忙しいながら楽しい毎日です。

Isogashii nagara tanoshii mainichi desu.

Although I am busy, I am enjoying my days.

残念ながら、今日はパーティーに行けません。

Zannen nagara, kyoo wa paatii ni ikemasen.

I am sorry but I can't go to the party today.

知っていながら教えてくれない。

Shitte i-nagara oshiete kurenai.

Although (he) knows (it), (he) won't tell me.

22.5.9 Concessive connectives

Like concessive conjunctions, concessive connectives are used to express contrast. A concessive connective begins a sentence that opposes the statement made in the preceding sentences. Commonly used concessive connectives include **demo** 'but (spoken),' **dakedo** 'but (spoken),' **shikashi** 'but (written),' **daga** 'but (written),' **tokoroga** 'however (written),' **sono hanmen** 'on the other hand,' **gyakuni** 'in contrast; on the contrary,' **ippoo** 'on the other hand' and **sore ni taishite** 'in contrast.' See 39.2 for examples and usages.

22.6 Disjunctive conjunctions and connectives

To connect clauses disjunctively, a disjunctive particle **ka** or **nari** can be used.

22.6.1 ...ka ...ka suru

The structure X **ka** Y **ka suru** is used to express 'do X or do Y.'

小野さんは銀行でお金をおろすか借りるかしたようです。

Ono-san wa ginkoo de o-kane o orosu ka kariru ka shita yoo desu.

It appears that Mr/Ms Ono either withdrew or borrowed money from the bank.

来年は新しい家を買うか建てるかするつもりだ。

Rainen wa atarashii ie o kau ka tateru ka suru tsumori da.

Next year, I intend to buy or build a new house.

The tense of the coordinated clauses is expressed by the final verb **suru**, and the verb before **ka** generally takes the nonpast form regardless of the tense of the final **suru**. However, when the final **suru** is in the past tense, the verb before **ka** may appear in the past tense.

小野さんは銀行でお金をおろしたか借りたかしたようです。

Ono-san wa ginkoo de o-kane o oroshita ka karita ka shita yoo desu.

It appears that Mr/Ms Ono either withdrew or borrowed money from the bank.

22.6.2 ... nari ... nari suru

The disjunctive structure X **nari** Y **nari suru** expresses ‘to do things like X or Y.’ The tense of the disjunctive clauses is expressed by the final verb **suru**. The verb before **nari** is always in the plain nonpast form regardless of the tense of the final **suru**.

要らないものは、しまうなり、捨てるなりした。

Iranai mono wa, shimau nari, suteru nari shita.

As for the things I don't need, I did things like put them away or throw them away.

人に聞くなり調べるなりして、答えをだすべきだ。

Hito ni kiku nari shiraberu nari shite, kotae o dasu beki da.

You should find the answer by doing things like asking others or looking it up.

22.6.3 Disjunctive connectives

Disjunctive connectives such as **matawa**, **aruwa**, **moshikuwa**, and **soretomo**, all meaning ‘or, alternatively,’ can be used along with disjunctive particles or by themselves.

レポートは明日の授業で提出するか、または、メールで送ってください。

Repooto wa ashita no jugyoo de teeshutsu suru ka, matawa, meeru de okutte kudasai.

Please turn in your paper in class tomorrow or email it to me.

コーヒー、飲む？ それとも、お茶のほうがいい？

Koohii, nomu? Soretomo, o-cha no hoo ga ii?

Want coffee? Or would you prefer tea?

22.7 Other connectives**22.7.1 Summary/rephrase**

Connectives such as **tsumari** ‘in short,’ **sunawachi** ‘that is to say (literary),’ and **yoosuruni** ‘to sum up’ are used to begin a sentence that summarizes or rephrases the preceding sentence(s).

イベントには大勢の客が押し寄せた。つまり大成功だった。

Ibento ni wa oozee no kyaku ga oshiyoseta. Tsumari daiseekoo datta.

‘The event drew a large audience. In short, it was a great success.’

田中さんは事故のことを何も覚えていない、要するに、記憶喪失です。

Tanaka-san wa jiko no koto o nanimo oboete inai, yoosuruni, kiokusooohitsu desu.

Mr/Ms Tanaka does not remember anything about the accident; in other words, he/she suffers from amnesia.

22.7.2 Addition

Connectives such as **sono ue** ‘what's more,’ **sara ni** ‘what's more’ and **shikamo** ‘furthermore’ are used to introduce a sentence that expresses additional information.

風邪をひいた。その上、財布を落としてしまった。

Kaze o hiita. Sono ue, saifu o otoshite shimatta.

I caught a cold. What's more, I lost my wallet.

明日は期末試験がある。しかも、私の苦手な科目だ。

Ashita wa kimatsu shiken ga aru. Shikamo, watashi no nigate na kamoku da.

I have a final exam tomorrow. Furthermore, it's my weakest subject.

22.7.3 Change of topic

Connectives such as **sate** ‘now,’ **tokorode** ‘by the way,’ **sore dewa** ‘now, well then (formal)’ and **soreja** ‘now, well then (informal)’ **jaa** ‘well then (informal)’ are used to bring up a new topic of discussion.

ところで、週末は何か予定がありますか。

Tokorode, shuumatsu wa nanika yotee ga arimasu ka.

By the way, do you have any plans for the weekend?

さて、みなさんの意見はまとまりましたか。

Sate, minasan no iken wa matomarimashitaka.

Now, have you all reached a consensus?

それでは、自己紹介をしてもらいましょう。

Soredewa, jiko shookai o shite moraimashoo.

Well then, please introduce yourselves.

22.7.4 *tatoeba* ‘for example’

野菜を作っています。例えば、胡瓜とか、人参です。

Yasai o tsukutte imasu. Tatoeba, kyuuri toka, ninjin desu.

I’m growing vegetables. Like, for example, cucumbers and carrots.

バザーで売れそうなもの、例えば、状態のいい古着や食器類などを寄付してください。

Bazaa de uresoo na mono, tatoeba, joutai no ii furugi ya shokkirui nado o kifu shite kudsai.

Please donate things to be sold at our thrift sale, for example, used clothes in good condition and dishes.