

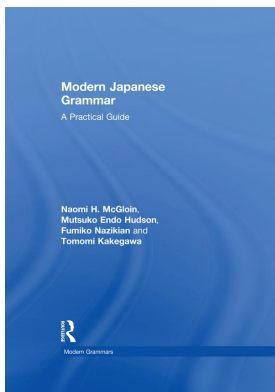
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Temporal clauses

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23

Temporal clauses

23.1 *toki (ni)* ‘when’

Toki ‘time’ is a noun used in time expressions such as ‘at/during the time of X’ and ‘when X.’ The predicate of the clause appears in the noun-modifying form.

▶ 7.2; 25

When the predicate of a **toki** clause is stative (a noun, adjective, or stative verb) it is usually nonpast even when the whole sentence is past tense.

■ Noun *no toki (ni)*

妹が高校生の時（に）たまに一緒にでかけた。

Imooto ga kookoosee no toki (ni) tamani isshoni dekaketa.

When my younger sister was a high school student, we went out together occasionally.

■ Adjective *toki (ni)*

若い時（に）いろいろな経験をした。

Wakai toki (ni) iroiro na keeken o shita.

I had various experiences when I was young.

みんながひまな時（に）集まりましょう。

Minna ga hima na toki (ni) atsumarimashoo.

Let’s get together when everyone is free.

■ Stative verb *toki (ni)*

▶ 12.3

試験がある時（に）徹夜で勉強した。

Shiken ga aru toki (ni) tetsuya de benkyoo shita.

I studied all night when I had exams.

両親がいる時（に）相談した。

Ryooshin ga iru toki (ni) soodan shita.

I consulted my parents when they were home.

■ Non-stative verb *toki (ni)*

When the predicate of the temporal clause is a non-stative verb, the form of the predicate is determined as follows: if the event in the temporal clause is completed before the event expressed in the main clause, the past tense (in pre-nominal form) is used; if not completed, the nonpast form is used in the temporal clause regardless of the tense of the main clause. See 27.4.2.2 for more examples and explanations about the tense in the **toki** clause.

ちょうど家に着いた時（に）電話が鳴った。

Choodo uchi ni tsuita toki (ni) denwa ga natta.

The phone rang right when I got home.

本を読む時 (に) 眼鏡をかけます。

Hon o yomu toki (ni) megane o kakemasu.

I put on my glasses when I read.

23.2 'Before,' 'after,' and 'while'

There are various expressions that indicate the temporal meaning 'before,' 'after,' and 'while.' See 46 for detailed explanations and example sentences.

前に	mae ni	'before'
あとで	ato de	'after'
あいだ (に)	aida (ni)	'while, during'
うちに	uchi ni	'while, before'

23.3 tokoro (o/e/ni) 'when (and where)'

The noun **tokoro** literally means 'place.' When it is used to form a clause, the interpretation is similar to **toki (ni)** 'when X,' but the focus of the **tokoro** clause is more on the situation or the state than when it occurs. What particle follows **tokoro** depends on the main clause.

■ Clause + tokoro o

The particle **o** follows **tokoro** when the event expressed in the main clause directly interrupts or intervenes in the event expressed in the temporal clause.

私たちが道に迷っているところを、親切な人が助けしてくれた。

Watashi-tachi ga michi ni mayotte iru tokoro o, shinsetsu na hito ga tasukete kureta.

A kind person helped us when we were lost.

たばこをすっているところを母にみつかってしまった。

Tabako o sutte iru tokoro o haha ni mitsukatte shimatta.

My mother found me smoking (unfortunately.)

帰ろうとしたところを呼び止められた。

Kaeroo to shita tokoro o yobi-tomerareta.

I was stopped right when I was about to go home.

■ Clause + tokoro ni/e

The particles **ni** or **e** follow **tokoro** when the main clause expresses that something or someone comes into existence where the event in the temporal clause is taking place. Verbs that are often used in the main clause in this structure are **kuru** 'to come,' **V-te kuru** 'to come to be,' **arawareru** 'to appear,' and so on.

皆で相談しているところに田中さんが現れた。

Minna de soodan shite iru tokoro ni Tanaka-san ga arawareta.

Mr/Ms Tanaka showed up when we were having our discussion.

寝ようとしているところに電話がかかって来た。

Neyoo to shite iru tokoro ni denwa ga kakatte kita.

The telephone rang when I was about to go to sleep.

▶ 18.5