

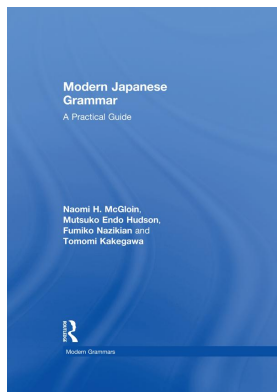
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Reporting

33.1 Direct and indirect quotations

In written Japanese, the direct quotation is generally marked by Japanese quotation marks (「 」) followed by the particle **to** as in the following sentence.

▶ 26.2

スミスさんは「初めまして」と日本語で言いました。

Sumisu-san wa 'Hajimemashite' to Nihongo de iimashita.

Mr/Ms Smith said, 'How do you do,' in Japanese.

In spoken Japanese, direct and indirect quotations are sometimes difficult to distinguish. However, it is generally the case that if what is quoted has characteristics of an independent utterance, such as polite endings, sentence-final particles, interjections, etc., then it is a direct quote. Indirect quotations generally end in plain forms and do not contain sentence-final particles such as *yo*, *ne*, etc.

田中さんは「月曜日に持ってきます」と言いました。(direct quotation)

Tanaka-san wa 'Getsuyoobi ni motte kimasu' to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said, 'I will bring it on Monday.'

田中さんは月曜日に持ってくると言いました。(indirect quotation)

Tanaka-san wa getsuyoobi ni motte kuru to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said that he/she will/would bring it on Monday.

田中さんが「フランスのお菓子はおいしいよ」と言いました。(direct quotation)

Tanaka-san ga 'Furansu no okashi wa oishii yo' to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said, 'French confectionery is good, I tell you.'

田中さんがフランスのお菓子はおいしいと言いました。(indirect quotation)

Tanaka-san ga Furansu no okashi wa oishii to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said that French confectionery is good.

In changing a direct quotation to an indirect quotation, some other adjustments in pronoun and time phrases might have to be made.

田中さんは「私がやります」と言いました。

Tanaka-san wa 'Watashi ga yarimasu' to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said, 'I will do it.'

田中さんは自分がやると言いました。

Tanaka-san wa jibun ga yaru to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said that he/she will/would do it.

Here the first-person pronoun **watashi** is changed to **jibun** 'self.'

田中さんは「あした宿題を出します」と言いました。

Tanaka-san wa 'Ashita shukudai o dashimasu' to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said, 'I will hand in homework tomorrow.'

田中さんは次の日に宿題を出すと言いました。

Tanaka-san wa tsugi no hi ni shukudai o dasu to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said that he/she will hand in homework the next day.

Here, a time word has to be changed from 'tomorrow' to 'the next day.'

33.2 Reporting statements

In reporting what others said, the quotation particles such as **to** or its informal variant **tte** are used, followed by verbs of reporting such as **iu** 'to say', **noberu** 'to state', **kaku** 'to write' and the like.

友達の手伝ってくれると言いました。

Tomodachi ga tetsudatte kureru to iimashita.

My friend said that (she) will help me.

友達の手伝ってくれるって言いました。

Tomodachi ga tetsudatte kureru tte iimashita.

My friend said that (she) will help me.

台風で停電になったと新聞に書いてありました。

Taifuu de teeden ni natta to shinbun ni kaite arimashita.

It was written in the newspaper that there was a blackout because of a typhoon.

When the speaker is not quite certain of the exact content of the speech, particles such as **toka** 'something like' or **nante** 'things like' can be used. These particles are sometimes used simply to make one's speech more indirect.

田中さんはアメリカに行くとか言っていました。

Tanaka-san wa Amerika ni iku toka itte imashita.

Mr/Ms Tanaka said something like he/she will go to America.

助詞の間違が多いなんて言われました。

Joshi no machigai ga ooi nante iwaremashita.

I was told things like I make a lot of mistakes in using particles.

In reporting what someone said, the verbs of saying are often in the **-te iru** form. When these verbs are in simple past tense, the act of saying is focused on rather than the reported fact.

(a) スミスさんは日本に留学すると言っていました。

Sumisu-san wa Nihon ni ryuugaku suru to itte imashita.

Mr/Ms Smith said that he/she will go to Japan to study.

(b) スミスさんは日本に留学すると言いました。

Sumisu-san wa Nihon ni ryuugaku suru to iimashita.

Mr/Ms Smith said that he/she will go to Japan to study.

Sentence (a) is more appropriate as a hearsay report of what Smith said. Sentence (b) emphasizes Smith's act of actually saying it at a specific time.

In reporting what one has heard or read, other expressions such as [(plain form) **soo da**], **to no koto da/desu** 'I hear that' can be used. Expressions which indicate the source of information include **ni yoru to** 'according to,' ... **no hanashi de wa** 'according to what ... says,' ... **kara kiita n da kedo** 'I heard it from ...,' or the like.

天気予報によるとあしたは雨だそうです。

Tenkiyohoo ni yoru to ashita wa ame da soo desu.

According to the weather forecast, it is going to rain tomorrow.

新聞の記事によると働く女性が増えているそう。

Shinbun no kiji ni yoru to hataraku josee ga fuete iru soo da.

According to the newspaper article, the number of working women is increasing.

ある調査によると国際結婚が増えているとのこと。

Aru choosa ni yoru to kokusai kekkon ga fuete iru to no koto.

According to one survey, international marriage is on the rise.

As the English translations show, in English hearsay, information is not marked with any hearsay marker (except a phrase such as ‘according to’). In Japanese, information that one obtains from external sources (i.e. what one has heard, what one has read, etc.) has to be clearly distinguished from the information one knows first-hand, and such information has to be marked by hearsay markers such as (plain form), **soo da** ‘I hear.’

33.3 Reporting questions and answers

In reporting questions, embedded questions can be followed by a verb such as **kiku** ‘to ask,’ **tazuneru** ‘to inquire,’ **ukagau** (humbling form of **kiku**), or the like. The quotation particle **to** is optional in these cases.

▶ 26.3

友達に宿題があるかどうか（と）聞いたが、友達も知らなかった。

Tomodachi ni shukudai ga aru ka doo ka (to) kiita ga, tomodachi mo shiranakatta.

I asked my friend if we had homework or not, but my friend did not know (the answer) either.

どんな日本食が好きか（と）聞かれて、答えに困った。

Donna Nihonshoku ga suki ka (to) kikarete, kotae ni komatta.

I was asked what kind of Japanese food I like, and I did not know how to answer.

おすしを食べたことがあるかどうか（と）聞かれた。

O-sushi o tabeta koto ga aru ka doo ka (to) kikareta.

I was asked if I had ever eaten sushi.

試験はいつか先生に伺いましょう。

Shiken wa itsu ka sensee ni ukagaimashoo.

Let’s ask (our) teacher when the exam is.

Questions and answers can also be reported with appositive clauses **X to yuu Y**, where **Y** is **shitsumon** ‘question,’ **kotae** ‘answer’ or **henji** ‘reply.’

日本人にも敬語が難しいかという質問をよくされる。

Nihonjin ni mo keigo ga muzukashii ka to yuu shitsumon o yoku sareru.

I often get the question whether Japanese also find honorifics difficult.

暇な時どこに行くかと友達に聞いたら、「猫カフェ」という返事がかえってきた。

Hima na toki doko ni iku ka to tomodachi ni kiitara, ‘neko kafe’ to yuu henji ga kaette kita.

I asked my friend where she goes when she has free time, and her reply was ‘a cat café.’

招待状を出した友達から、出席できないという返事もらった。

Shootaijoo o dashita tomodachi kara, shusseki dekinai to yuu henji o moratta.

From a friend I sent an invitation to, I received a reply that she cannot attend.

33.4 Reporting commands and requests

33.4.1 As a direct quotation

Commands and requests can be reported by embedding them as a direct quotation of verbs of saying (**iu**), requesting (**tanomu**, **onegai suru**), warning/advising (**chuui suru**), etc.

▶ 26.2; 73; 75

「たばこをやめろ」と言われた。

'Tabako o yamero' to iwareta.

I was told, 'Quit smoking.'

「たばこをやめなさい」と言われた。

'Tabako o yamenasai' to iwareta.

I was told, 'Quit smoking.'

「もう少し静かにしてください」と隣の部屋の人に頼んだ。

'Moo sukoshi shizuka ni shite kudasai' to tonari no heya no hito ni tanonda.

I asked my next door neighbor, 'please be a little quieter.'

「もう少し静かにしてくれませんか」と隣の部屋の人に頼んだ。

'Moo sukoshi shizuka ni shite kuremasen ka' to tonari no heya no hito ni tanonda.

I asked my next door neighbor, 'Won't you please be a little quieter?'

Kudasai is often omitted in a casual request, and so in reporting a request, **V-te** or **V-naide** can be used.

「お金かして」と頼まれた。

'O-kane kashite' to tanomareta.

Someone asked me, 'lend me some money.'

「見ないで」と言った。

'Minaide' to itta.

(I) said, 'Don't look.'

33.4.2 As an indirect quotation

In reporting commands and requests indirectly, plain forms are used (e.g. **ike**, **tabero**, **-te kure**).

もっと野菜を食べろと言われた。

Motto yasai o tabero to iwareta.

I was told to eat more vegetables.

ルームメイトに掃除をしてくれと頼んだ。

Ruumumeeto ni sooji o shite kure to tanonda.

I asked my roommate to clean (the room).

英語で話さないでくれと頼んだ。

Ego de hanasanaide kure to tanonda.

I asked (him/her) not to speak in English.

Another way of reporting commands and requests indirectly is to use **yoo ni**.

子供に早く帰ってくるように言った。

Kodomo ni hayaku kaette kuru yoo ni itta.

I told my child to come back home early.

先生に作文を直して下さるようお願いした。

Sensee ni sakubun o naoshite kudasaru yoo ni onegai shita.

I asked my teacher to correct my composition.

先生に「あなた」と言わないように注意された。

Sensee ni 'anata' to iwanai yoo ni chuui sareta.

I was advised by my teacher not to say 'anata you.'