

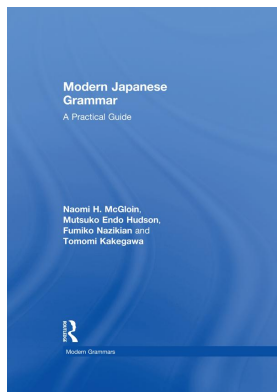
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Describing people, places, states and conditions

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37

Describing people, places, states and conditions

37.1 Describing people

When describing people (e.g. physical features), X **wa** Y **ga** adjective ‘Speaking of X, his Y is . . .’ is commonly used. When describing what someone is wearing, verbs of wearing, such as **kiru**, **haku**, **kaburu**, are used in **-te iru/imasu** form.

▶ 12.8

田中さんは目が大きいです。

Tanaka-san wa me ga ookii desu.

Speaking of Mr/Ms Tanaka, he/she has big eyes.

姉は髪が長いです。

Ane wa kami ga nagai desu.

Speaking of my big sister, she has long hair.

山田さんは性格がとてもいいですね。

Yamada-san wa seekaku ga totemo ii desu ne.

Speaking of Mr/Ms Yamada, he/she has a good personality, doesn't he/she?

吉田さんは赤いセーターを着ています。

Yoshida-san wa akai seetaa o kite imasu.

Speaking of Mr/Ms Yoshida, he/she is wearing a red sweater.

佐藤さんはサングラスをかけている人です。

Satoo-san wa sangurasu o kakete iru hito desu.

Mr/Ms Sato is the person who is wearing sunglasses.

37.2 Describing places

You can describe a place with an adjective, such as **ookii** ‘big,’ **kiree na tokoro** ‘beautiful place,’ or the like. To be more specific, however, the structure X (topic) **wa** Y (subject) **ga** adj. can be used.

A: オーストラリアはどんな所ですか。

Oosutoraria wa donna tokoro desu ka.

What kind of place is Australia?

B: オーストラリアは海がきれいです。

Oosutoraria wa umi ga kiree desu.

The sea is beautiful there (in Australia).

それから、シドニーオペラハウスが有名です。
Sorekara, Shidonii no Opera Hausu ga yuumee desu.
 Also, the Sydney Opera House is famous.

東京は人口が多いです。
Tookyoo wa jinkoo ga ooi desu.
 Tokyo has a large population (Lit. The population of Tokyo is large).

あのレストランはパスタがおいしいですよ。
Ano resutoran wa pasuta ga oishii desu yo.
 They serve very delicious pasta at that restaurant (Lit. Pasta is delicious at that restaurant).

37.3 Describing the weather

Dictionary form

-te imasu

曇る	kumoru	'become cloudy'	曇っている	kumotte iru	'be cloudy'
降る	furu	'rain/snow'	降っている	futte iru	'raining/snowing'
晴れる	hareru	'become sunny'	晴れている	harete iru	'be sunny'
吹く	fuku	'blow'	吹いている	fuite iru	'blowing'

東京は今雨が降っています。
Tookyoo wa ima ame ga futte imasu.
 It is raining in Tokyo.

北海道は雪が降っています。
Hokkaidoo wa yuki ga futte imasu.
 It is snowing in Hokkaido.

今ちょっと曇っています。
Ima chotto kumotte imasu.
 It is a little cloudy now.

ニューヨークは今晴れています。
Nyuu Yooku wa ima harete imasu.
 It is sunny now in New York.

今風が吹いています。
Ima kaze ga fuite imasu.
 It is windy now.

The weather can be described by the use of various adjectives.

今日はちょっと寒いです。
Kyoo wa chotto samui desu.
 It is a little cold.

今日は春らしく、暖かいですね。
Kyoo wa haru rashiku, atataki desu ne.
 It is warm today like a spring day, isn't it.

今日は随分暑いんですね。
Kyoo wa zuibun atsui desu ne.
 It is very hot today, isn't it.

8月にしては涼しいですね。
Hachigatsu ni shite wa suzushii desu ne.
 It is cool for August, isn't it.

37.4

Describing the color, size, weight and condition of things

Here are various adjectives describing the color, size, and condition of things. Some colors may be described by a noun phrase (a color term followed by the particle **no**).

*Color***-i adjective**赤い **akai** 'red'青い **aoi** 'blue'黒い **kuroi** 'black'黄色い **kiroi** 'yellow'茶色い **chairoi** 'brown'白い **shiroi** 'white'**Noun phrase**緑の **midori no** 'green'オレンジの **orenji no** 'orange'紫の **murasaki no** 'purple'グレーの **guree no** 'gray'**Size and weight**大きい **ookii** 'big'小さい **chiisai** 'small'重い **omoi** 'heavy'軽い **karui** 'light'**Condition**よい/いい **yoi/ii** 'good'悪い **warui** 'bad'まあまあ **maamaa** 'so-so'

Here are some examples.

私の家はあの白いのです。

Watashi no uchi wa ano shiroi no desu.

My house is that white one.

Multiple adjectives can be combined with **te**-form to describe the color, size, and condition of things.

これ、小さくてかわいい鞆ですね。

Kore, chiisakute kawaii kaban desu ne.

This is a small and cute bag, isn't it.

私のラップトップは軽くて便利です。

Watashi no rapputoppu wa karukute benri desu.

My laptop is light and handy.

私のラップトップは重くて不便です。

Watashi no rapputoppu wa omokute fuben desu.

My laptop is heavy and inconvenient.

37.5

Describing actions and events in progress

In describing actions and events in progress, **-te iru** forms of action verbs are used.

▶ 19.2.1

ヘンリーは今勉強しています。

Henrii wa ima benkyoo shite imasu.

Henry is studying now.

母は今夕ご飯を食べています。

Haha wa ima yuugohan o tabete imasu.

My mother is eating dinner now.

まだセールが続いています。

Mada seeru ga tsuzuite imasu.

The sale is still continuing.

留学生の数が増えています。

Ryuugakusee no kazu ga fuete imasu.

The number of study-abroad students is increasing.

Expressions such as **saichuu** ‘in the middle of’ can be added to emphasize that the event is in progress.

今書いている最中です。

Ima kaite iru saichuu desu.

I am in the middle of writing (it).

37.6 Describing a state or condition

In describing a state or condition, **-te iru** forms of intransitive verbs are often used.

この花、枯れていますよ。

Kono hana, karete imasu yo.

This flower is withered.

水がこぼれていますよ。

Mizu ga koborete imasu yo.

Water is spilt.

The following are some examples of intransitive verbs which can be used to state the condition of an item.

<i>Dictionary form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>-te iru forms</i>	
枯れる kareru	wither, become withered	枯れている	karete iru be withered
腐る kusaru	rot, become rotten	腐っている	kusatte iru be rotten
こぼれる koboreru	spill, get spilled	こぼれている	koborete iru be spilled
壊れる kowareru	(something) breaks	壊れている	kowarete iru be broken
消える kieru	go off/out	消えている	kiete iru be turned off
つく tsuku	come/turn on	付いている	tsuite iru be turned on
汚れる yogoreru	get dirty	汚れている	yogorete iru be dirty
欠ける kakeru	chip, get chipped	欠けている	kakete iru be chipped
割れる wareru	(something) breaks	割れている	warete iru be broken
折れる oreru	(something) breaks	折れている	orete iru be broken
開く aku	(something) opens	開いている	aite iru be open
閉まる shimaru	(something) closes	閉まっている	shimatte iru be closed

Additional examples follow.

そのいす、壊れているから気をつけて。(I)
Sono isu, kowarete iru kara ki o tsukete.
 That chair is broken, so watch out.

この机、ちょっと曲がって (い) るね。(I)
Kono tsukue, chotto magatte (i)ru ne.
 This desk is a bit bent.

そのシャツ、汚れているから洗ってくれない？ (I)
Sono shatsu, yogorete iru kara, aratte kurenai?
 That shirt is dirty. Can you wash it for me?

あ、人形の腕、折れてる。(I)
A, ningyoo no ude, orete ru.
 Ah, one of this doll's arms is broken.

この茶碗、かけて (い) るよ。(I)
Kono chawan, kakete (i)ru yo.
 This cup is chipped.

37.7

Describing habitual and future actions and events

Habitual actions and events are described by the expression **V-te iru/imasu** or **V-ru/u/masu**.

Habitual

私は毎日自転車で学校に通っています。
Watashi wa mainichi jitensha de gakkoo ni kayotte imasu.
 I commute to school by bicycle every day.

私は健康のために毎朝ビタミンを飲んでいきます。
Watashi wa kenkoo no tame ni maiasa bitamin o nonde imasu.
 I take vitamins every morning for my health.

私は英語の勉強のために毎朝英語の新聞を読みます。
Watashi wa Eego no benkyoo no tame ni maiasa Eego no shinbun o yomimasu.
 I read English newspapers every morning for my English studies.

Future

In describing future actions or events, **-ru/-u/-masu** forms are used. The habitual form and future form can be distinguished by temporal adverbial phrases.

今日の6時頃電話します。(action)
Kyoo no rokuji goro denwa shimasu.
 I will give (you) a call at six o'clock today.

今晚8時から祭りが始まります。(event)
Konban hachiji kara matsuri ga hajimarimasu.
 The festival begins at eight o'clock tonight.

37.8

Describing past actions and events

V-mashita (formal) or **V-ta** (informal) is used to describe past actions and events.

昨日田中さんと映画を見に行きました。(action)
Kinoo Tanaka-san to eega o mi ni ikimashita.
 I went to see a movie with Mr/Ms Tanaka yesterday.

コンサートは水曜日にあった。 (event)

Konsaato wa suiyoobi ni atta.

The concert took place on Wednesday.

37.9 Describing the quantity of things

In describing the quantity of things, the following words can be used.

多い	ooi	many, much
少ない	sukunai	little, few
たくさん	takusan	many
すこし	sukoshi	a few

寮に入るより通学する学生の方が多い。

Ryoo ni hairu yori tsugaku suru gakusee no hoo ga ooi.

There are more students who commute than those who live in dormitories.

今の仕事はやりがいがあるが、給料は少ない。

Ima no shigoto wa yarigai ga aru ga, kyuuryoo wa sukunai.

The present job is rewarding, but the salary is not much.

▶ 13.4

この果物は栄養がたくさんある。

Kono kudamono wa eeyoo ga takusan aru.

This fruit is full of nutrition.

この仕事から期待される利益はほんの少しです。

Kono shigoto kara kitai sareru rieki wa hon no sukoshi desu.

The expected profit from this work is just a little.

37.10 Describing what something is made out of

Dekite imasu or **tsukurarete imasu** is used to describe what something is made (out) of/from. The particle **kara** is used when the material used is transformed in the process of making something; **de** is chosen when the material does not change during the process.

この机はさくらの木でできています。

Kono tsukue wa sakura no ki de dekite imasu.

This desk is made out of cherry wood.

このカードは和紙で作られています。

Kono kaado wa washi de tsukurarete imasu.

This card is made out of Japanese paper.

豆腐は大豆からできています。

Toofu wa daizu kara dekite imasu.

Tofu is made from soy beans.

37.11 Describing the current state of something as a result of a past action

V-te imasu is used to describe the current state of something as a result of a past action. Verbs in this category, such as **kekkon suru** 'to get married,' **iku** 'to go,' **shinu** 'to die,' etc., indicate actions which are viewed as occurring instantaneously. In other words, for these actions, one cannot specify a beginning point and an end point.

妹は10年結婚しています。

Imoto wa juunen kekkon shite imasu.

My younger sister has been married for ten years.

先週から京都に来ています。

Senshuu kara Kyooto ni kite imasu.

I have been in Kyoto since last week.

窓があいていますよ。

Mado ga aite imasu yo.

The window is open.

▶ 19.2.1

Verbs such as **sumu** ‘to live’ and **motsu** ‘to possess’ should also be used in the **-te iru** form to express current state.

去年からニューヨークに住んでいます。

Kyonen kara Nyuu Yooku ni sunde imasu.

She has been living in New York since last year.

最近はみんな携帯電話を持っています。

Saikin wa minna keetai denwa o motte imasu.

These days everyone has cell phones.