

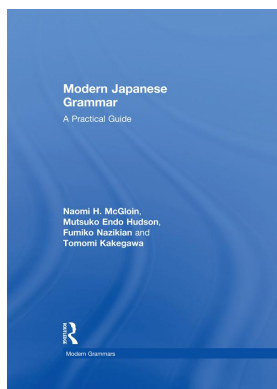
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Contrast

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39

Contrast

This chapter covers various words and phrases that are used to express contrast.

39.1 Expressing contrast with conjunctive particles

The conjunctive particle **keredo(mo)** ‘but, though’ and its more colloquial form **kedo** are most commonly used. Either is placed at the end of the first clause, followed by the second clause. The form of the predicate preceding **keredo(mo)/kedo** can be either plain form or polite form when the second clause is in the polite form.

▶ 22.5

疲れて (い) たけれど (も) 宿題をしました。

Tsukarete (i)ta keredo(mo) shukudai o shimashita.

Although I was tired, I did my homework.

皆さんに聞いてみましたけれど (も) よく分かりませんでした。

Minasan ni kiite mimashita keredo(mo) yoku wakarimassen deshita.

Although I asked everyone, I still couldn’t figure it out.

The form of the predicate preceding **keredo(mo)/kedo** is usually in the plain form when the second clause is in the plain form.

つまらなかつたけれど (も) 文句は言わなかつた。

Tsumaranakatta keredo(mo) monku wa iwanakatta.

Although it was boring, I didn’t complain (about it).

In formal speech or in writing, the conjunctive particle **ga** ‘but, though’ is more commonly used. The predicate preceding **ga** takes the plain form when the second clause is in the plain form. It takes the polite form when the second clause is in the polite form.

私は日本人ですが、日本語が話せません。

Watashi wa Nihonjin desu ga, Nihon go ga hanasemasen.

I’m Japanese, but I cannot speak Japanese.

父は日本人だが、母はアメリカ人だ。

Chichi wa Nihonjin da ga, haha wa Amerikajin da.

My father is Japanese, but my mother is American.

Using the plain form with **ga** makes the sentence sound rather blunt when speaking, but it is often used in writing.

Another connective particle, **noni** ‘although,’ is also often used to express contrast when the sentence expresses the speaker’s various feelings such as surprise, frustration, irritation, or complaint. See the sections on surprise (68.2) and complaints (81.2) for examples.

39.2 Expressing contrast with connectives

The connective **demo** ‘but’ is also commonly used in speaking. **Demo** is placed between two sentences that express contrast.

田中さんは背が高い。でも佐藤さんは背が低い。

Tanaka-san wa se ga takai. Demo Satoo-san wa se ga hikui.

Mr/Ms Tanaka is tall. But Mr/Ms Sato is short.

A: 遊びに行こうよ。

Asobi ni ikoo yo.

Let's go to play.

B: でも、まだ宿題が終わってない。

Demo, mada shukudai ga owatte nai.

But, I haven't finished my homework.

Other common connectives used to express contrast are:

だけど **dakedo** ‘but’ (I)

自信はない。だけど、やってみる。

Jishin wa nai. Dakedo, yatte miru.

I'm not confident. But I will try.

しかし **shikashi** ‘however’

可能性はある。しかし、かなり難しい。

Kanosee wa aru. Shikashi, kanari kibishii.

There is a possibility. However, it is very difficult.

だが **daga** ‘however’

みんな疲れていた。だが、あきらめなかった。

Minna tsukarete ita. Daga, akiramenakatta.

Everyone was tired. However, nobody gave up.

ところが **tokoroga** ‘nonetheless’

誰も期待していなかった。ところが、その商品はよく売れた。

Dare mo kitai shite inakatta. Tokoroga, sono shoohin wa yoku ureta.

Nobody expected it. Nonetheless, that product sold well.

39.3 Connectives used with conjunctive particles

The following connectives also express contrast. They are often used in addition to a conjunctive particle.

その反面 **sono hanmen** ‘on the other hand’

ツアー旅行は安くて便利だが、その反面、団体行動のストレスも多い。

Tsuaa ryokoo wa yasukute benri da ga, sono hanmen, dantaikoodoo no sutoresu mo ooi.

Escorted tour packages are inexpensive and convenient but, on the other hand, group activities can be stressful.

一方 **ippoo** ‘on the other hand’

京都は、夏はひどく暑いけど、一方、冬は寒さが厳しい。

Kyoto wa, natsu wa hidoku atsui kedo, ippoo, fuyu wa samusa ga kibishii.

In Kyoto, summer is terribly hot, but on the other hand, winter is bitterly cold.

逆に **gyaku ni** ‘on the contrary’

私は好きなものから先に食べるが、逆に、娘は嫌いなものから先に食べる。

Watashi wa suki na mono kara saki ni taberu ga, gyaku ni, musume wa kirai na mono kara saki ni taberu.

I eat things I like first, but, my daughter, on the contrary, eats things she hates first.

In general, conjunctive particles and connectives that express contrast can be used together in a sentence. A conjunctive particle is placed at the end of the first clause, followed first by a connective and then by the second clause.

学校でのいじめ問題は深刻さを増しているが、しかし、解決策はなかなか見つからない。

Gakkoo de no ijime mondai wa shinkokusa o mashite iru ga, shikashi, kaiketsusaku wa nakanaka mitsukaranai.

Though the problem of bullying at school is increasing in seriousness, solutions are not easily found.

よくわからないけど、でも、間違っていると思う。

Yoku wakaranai kedo, demo, machigatte iru to omou.

Though I'm not sure, I think it's wrong.