

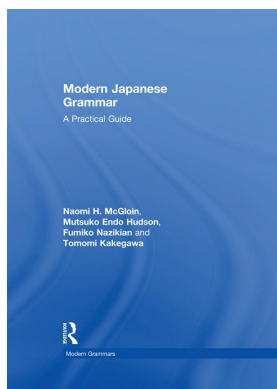
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 21 Sep 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG, UK



## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa, Sarah Butler

### **Temporal relations**

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch46>

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa

**Published online on: 04 Oct 2013**

**How to cite :-** Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa.

04 Oct 2013, *Temporal relations from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch46>

**PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT**

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms>

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

# 46

## Temporal relations

### 46.1 Expressing sequence

#### 46.1.1 Expressing the relationship 'before'

##### 46.1.1.1 *mae (ni)*

The word **mae** 'before' is used to indicate that one event occurs before another event occurs. The particle **ni** may optionally be dropped. In Japanese, the 'before' clause must come first in the sentence.

旅行の前にホテルを探さなくちゃならない。

**Ryokoo no mae ni hoteru o sagasanakucha naranai.**

I have to look for a hotel before traveling.

仕事に行く前に新聞を読みました。

**Shigoto ni iku mae ni shinbun o yomimashita.**

I read a newspaper before going to work.

##### 46.1.1.2 *V(neg.) uchi ni*

V(neg.) **uchi ni** also expresses that one event occurs before another event occurs.

暗くならないうちに帰りましょう。

**Kuraku naranai uchi ni kaerimashoo.**

Let's go home before it gets dark.

忘れないうちにメモをしておこう。

**Wasurenai uchi ni memo o shite okoo.**

I will make a note before I forget.

Compared with **mae ni**, **-nai uchi ni** carries the connotation that one does something before some unfavorable event happens, with the sense of doing something before it is too late.

#### 46.1.2 Expressing the relationship 'after' in a single sentence

##### 46.1.2.1 *ato (de)*

The word(s) **ato (de)** is/are used to indicate that one event occurs after another event occurs. The verb that precedes **ato (de)** has to be in the past tense form.

あしたは映画を見たあと（で）レストランで食事をします。

**Ashita wa eega o mita ato (de) resutoran de shokuji o shimasu.**

Tomorrow after (we) watch a movie, (we) will have dinner at a restaurant.

大学を卒業したあとすぐ会社に就職した。

**Daigaku o sotsugyoo shita ato sugu kaisha ni shuushoku shita.**

I got a job at a company right after I graduated from college.

A noun phrase that represents an event can be used with **ato (de)** as well. It needs the pre-nominal copula **no** before **ato (de)**.

会議の後（で）飲みに行こう。

**Kaigi no ato (de) nomi ni ikoo.**

Let's go drinking after the meeting.

#### 46.1.2.2 V-te form + *kara*

V-te form followed by the particle **kara** also expresses the sense of 'after doing something.'

##### ▶ 22.1

日本に行ってから日本語を勉強する人もいる。

**Nihon ni itte kara Nihongo o benkyoo suru hito mo iru.**

There are people who study Japanese after they go to Japan.

手を洗ってから食べなさい。

**Te o aratte kara tabenasai.**

Wash your hands and then eat.

NOTE

It is important to distinguish this expression from **V-ta kara**, which means 'because.'

#### 46.1.2.3 Expressions that indicate 'as soon as'

Adverbs such as **sugu** 'soon,' **totan ni** 'the minute ...' and phrases such as V(plain, nonpast) **ya ina ya** 'as soon as' are used to indicate that an event occurs 'as soon as' another event occurs. **Sugu** is the most colloquial expression, while **ya ina ya** has a more literary flavor.

家に帰ってすぐ宿題をした。

**Uchi ni kaette sugu shukudai o shita.**

I went home and right away I did my homework.

「ハリーポッター」は出版されるやいなやベストセラーになった。

**'Harii Pottaa' wa shuppan sareru ya ina ya besuto seraa ni natta.**

'Harry Potter' became a best seller as soon as it was published.

娘は私の顔を見たときたんに泣き出した。

**Musume wa watashi no kao o mita totan ni nakidashita.**

My daughter started crying the minute she saw me.

#### 46.1.2.4 *-tara* 'when'

When the sequential conditional form **-tara** is used to describe a past event, the consequence clause describes an event that occurred unexpectedly.

##### ▶ 24.3

コンサートに行ったら大学時代の同級生に会った。

**Konsaato ni ittara daigaku jidai no dookyuusee ni atta.**

I went to a concert, and what do you know? I met a college classmate.

In this sentence, meeting a college classmate was something totally unexpected.

#### 46.1.3 Expressing the relationship 'after' in a separate sentence

Conjunctions such as **soshite** 'and then' and **sorekara** 'and then; afterwards' can be used to indicate that one event occurs after another event.

##### ▶ 22.3

## 46.2 Expressing simultaneous actions and situations

### 46.2.1 Indicating that two actions occur at the same time

To express that one person does two actions at the same time,  $V_1$ (stem) **nagara**  $V_2$  is used.  $V_1$  indicates an action which implies a duration. Non-durative verbs such as **kau** 'to buy,' **au** 'to meet,' **tsuku** 'to arrive,' **deru** 'to leave,' **katsu** 'to win,' etc. cannot be combined with **nagara**, because such verbs imply momentary actions, not duration.

テレビを見ながら勉強してはいけません。

**Terebi o minagara benkyoo shite wa ikemasen.**

Do not watch TV while studying.

私は音楽を聞きながら散歩するのが好きです。

**Watashi wa ongaku o kikinagara sanpo suru no ga suki desu.**

I like listening to music while taking a walk.

田中さんは仕事を三つしながら、子供を大学に送った。

**Tanaka-san wa shigoto o mittsu shinagara, kodomo o daigaku ni okutta.**

Mr/Mrs Tanaka had three jobs while supporting his/her child going to college.

The person who does the two actions in this construction has to be the same person. Hence, the following sentence is ungrammatical.

\*一郎が掃除しながら、よしこが料理をした。

**\*Ichiroo ga sooji shinagara, Yoshiko ga ryoori o shita.**

Ichiro cleaned the room while Yoshiko cooked.

NOTE

In  $V_1$  **nagara**, when  $V_1$  is stative, it means 'although  $V_1$ .'

### ▶ 22.5.8

### 46.2.2 Expressing that two situations hold during the same time frame

To express that two situations hold simultaneously, CLAUSE1 **aida** CLAUSE2 can be used. Both clauses have to describe a state or continuing situations. The predicate in CLAUSE1 generally takes the nonpast tense form regardless of the tense of CLAUSE2.

雪が降っている間一歩も外に出なかった。

**Yuki ga futte iru aida ippo mo soto ni denakatta.**

While it was snowing (I) did not step outside.

先生が話している間学生は静かに聞いていた。

**Sensee ga hanashite iru aida gakusee wa shizuka ni kiite ita.**

While the teacher was talking the students listened quietly.

Since **aida** is a noun, it can be modified by N + **no**.

盆休みの間東京は静かだ。

**Bonyasumi no aida Tookyoo wa shizuka da.**

Tokyo is quiet during the Bon holiday.

The particle **wa** attached to **aida** indicates contrast.

日本語で話している間は静かだが、いったん英語になるとよくしゃべる。

**Nihongo de hanashite iru aida wa shizuka da ga, ittan eego ni naru to yoku shaberu.**

(They) are quiet while (they) talk in Japanese, but once the language shifts to English, (they) talk a lot.

### 46.2.3 Expressing that a situation is the background of an action

To indicate that an action occurs while a situation holds, use **aida ni** ‘while’ or **uchi ni** ‘while.’ In CLAUSE1 **aida ni/uchi ni** CLAUSE2, CLAUSE1 provides a time frame during which CLAUSE2 takes place. The predicate in CLAUSE1 is stative or a verb in **-te iru** form. It is also in the nonpast pre-nominal form regardless of the tense of the main clause.

ルームメイトが寝ている間に、コンピューターを使った。

**Ruumumeeto ga nete iru aida ni konpyuutaa o tsukatta.**

I used the computer while my roommate was sleeping.

日本にいる間にたくさん旅行をしたいと思っている。

**Nihon ni iru aida ni takusan ryokoo o shitai to omotte iru.**

I would like to travel a lot while I am in Japan.

休みの間に論文を書き上げてしまいたい。

**Yasumi no aida ni ronbun o kakiagete shimaitai.**

I would like to finish writing my paper during the break.

暇があるうちに好きなことをやっておくといい。

**Hima ga aru uchi ni suki na koto o yatte oku to ii.**

One should do what one likes while one (still) has free time.

若いうちにいろいろなことに挑戦するべきだ。

**Wakai uchi ni iroirona koto ni choosen suru beki da.**

One should try various things while one is still young.

Compared with **aida ni**, the use of **uchi ni** carries a sense of urgency, the sense of ‘let’s do it before it is too late, before the situation changes.’ In the above sentence, for example, **wakai uchi ni** gives the sense that one is not going to be young forever, so ‘while one is still young, challenge oneself.’

This sense of urgency, however, is not felt when the main clause expresses a gradual change, as in the following.

毎日少しずつ練習しているうちに上手になった。

**Mainichi sukoshizutsu renshuu shite iru uchi ni joozu ni natta.**

(I) became better while practicing a little every day.

In the situation described in this section, the **toki** ‘when’ clause can also be used.

ルームメイトが寝ている時 (に)、コンピューターを使った。

**Ruumumeeto ga nete iru toki (ni) konpyuutaa o tsukatta.**

I used the computer when my roommate was sleeping.

### 46.2.4 ... *mama*

The expression V(past) **mama** indicates that the situation (described in the **mama** clause) continues unchanged.

昨日は疲れてしまって、服を着たまま寝てしまった。

**Kinoo wa tsukarete shimatte, fuku o kita mama nete shimatta.**

I was so tired yesterday that I ended up sleeping with my clothes on.

In the above sentence, the speaker went to sleep with his/her clothes on. In other words, two situations – having clothes on and sleeping – occurred concurrently. The implication, however, is that one normally changes clothes before going to sleep. This expression is also often used with nouns and demonstrative adjectives such as **sono**, **kono** and **ano**.

## Expressing simultaneous actions and situations

靴をはいたまま、入らないでください。

**Kutsu o haita mama hairanaide kudasai.**

Please do not enter with shoes on.

お金を借りたまま返さないのはよくありません。

**O-kane o karita mama kaesanai no wa yoku arimasen.**

It is not good to have borrowed money and not return it.

これは、生のまま、食べられます。

**Kore wa, nama no mama taberaremasu.**

You can eat this raw.

そのままにしておいてください。

**Sono mama ni shite oite kudasai.**

Please leave it as it is.

NOTE When  $V_1$  represents a controllable action, **nai mama** is not used. The **-naide** form is the appropriate form.

かぎをかけないで出かけた。(not \*かぎをかけないまま出かけた。)

**Kagi o kakenaide dekaketa.** (not \***Kagi o kakenai mama dekaketa.**)

(I) went out without locking the door.

## ▶ 15.3