

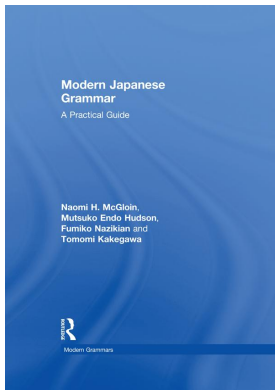
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## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

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### **Explanation, reason and purpose**

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# 47

## Explanation, reason and purpose

This chapter covers expressions related to asking and explaining reasons and purposes.

### 47.1 Asking about and expressing/explaining reasons

To ask about a reason for what has been expressed by your interlocutor, use one of the following questions.

どうしてですか。	<b>Dooshite desu ka,</b>	Why (or why not)? (F)
どうして?	<b>Dooshite?</b>	Why (or why not)? (I)
なぜですか。	<b>Naze desu ka.</b>	Why (or why not)? (F)
なんでですか。	<b>Nande desu ka.</b>	Why (or why not)? (F)
なんで?	<b>Nande?</b>	Why (or why not)? (I)

To ask for a detailed explanation of the reason, one may say:

どういうわけでしょうか。(F)

**Doo yuu wake deshoo ka.**

What may be the reason?

理由は何ですか。(F)

**Riyuu wa nan desu ka.**

What is the reason?

理由を説明していただけませんか。(VF)

**Riyuu o setsumee shite itadakemasen ka.**

Could you explain the reason?

どうしてか説明してくれませんか。(F)

**Dooshite ka setsumee shite kuremasen ka.**

Will you explain why?

#### ▶ 18.6

### 47.2 *no/n* + copula

When asking for an explanation, it is common to end the sentence with a formal noun **no/n** followed by **desu ka**. The formal noun **no/n** follows the plain form of a predicate.

#### ▶ 18.2.2; 32.2

どうして会社を辞めたんですか。(F)

**Dooshite kaisha o yameta n desu ka.**

Why did you quit your company?

なんで来なかったの? (I)

**Nande konakatta no?**

Why didn't you come?

To express a reason as a response to a why-question in informal speech, use **no**, **n da** or **kara** at the end of the reason statement.

A: どうして来なかったの？

**Dooshite konakatta no?**

Why didn't you come?

B: 疲れていたの or 疲れていたんだ or 疲れていたから。

**Tsukarete ita no** or **Tsukarete ita n da** or **Tsukarete ita kara.**

It's that I was tired. / It's that I was tired. / Because I was tired. The statement with **no** sounds feminine, but **n da** or **kara** are neutral.

In formal speech, ... **n desu** may be used in place of **no** or **n da** when responding to a why-question.

疲れていたんです。

**Tsukarete ita n desu.**

It's that I was tired.

時間がなかったんです。

**Jikan ga nakatta n desu.**

It's that I didn't have time.

Expressions with ... **n desu/da** are often called explanation modes of speech, as they are often used to either explain something or to seek an explanation. They are also frequently used when asking for a reason or stating a reason. However, ... **n desu/da** does not really assert the statement as a reason: it merely suggests a reason.

In writing or when asserting a reason, **kara desu** may be used.

A: どうして怒って (い) るんですか。

**Dooshite okotte (i)ru n desu ka.**

Why are you angry?

B: 約束をやぶったからです。

**Yakusoku o yabutta kara desu.**

Because you broke a promise.

To respond to a why-question in formal speech, the formal noun **mono + desu kara** can also be used.

### ▶ 18.3

A: どうして京都にいらっしゃったのですか。(VF)

**Dooshite Kyooto ni irasshatta no desu ka.**

Why did you go to Kyoto?

B: 京都の姉が入院したものですから。(F)

**Kyooto no ane ga nyuuin shita mono desu kara.**

It's because my older sister in Kyoto was hospitalized.

**Mono desu kara** is often used when apologizing.

三木: どうしていらっしゃらなかったんですか。(VF)

**Miki: Dooshite irassharanakatta n desu ka.**

Miki: Why didn't you come?

杉: すみません、ちょっと体調が良くなかったものですから。(VF)

**Sugi: Sumimasen, chotto taichoo ga yoku nakatta mono desu kara.**

Sugi: Sorry, I was feeling a bit unwell.

In colloquial speech, the formal noun **mono** is often pronounced as **mon**. It is used to express a reason, as follows.

- A: もう食べないの？ (I)  
**Moo tabenai no?**  
 Aren't you going to eat any more?
- B: もうお腹いっぱいだもん。(I)  
**Moo onaka ippai da mon.**  
 Because I'm full already.

### 47.3 Expressing reason and consequence

To express reason and consequence in one sentence, the reason is stated first, followed by the conjunctive particles **kara** or **node**, and finally by the consequence.

具合が悪かったから/ので、会社を休んだ。  
**Guai ga warukatta kara/node, kaisha o yasunda.**  
 I missed work because I was feeling ill.

時間がなかったから/ので、掃除しなかった。  
**Jikan ga nakatta kara/node, sooji shinakatta.**  
 I didn't clean because I didn't have time.

**Kara** and **node** are more or less interchangeable. A subtle difference is that **node** simply states a fact without emphasizing it as a reason, while **kara** emphasizes a statement as a reason. In general, sentences with **node** sound softer and more polite, and therefore it is preferred when asking for a favor.

今日は体調がよくないので、休ませていただきます。  
**Kyoo wa taichoo ga yokunai node, yasumasete itadakimasu.**  
 I'm not feeling well, and so I would like to take a day off.

一人だと心細いので一緒に行ってくださいませんか。  
**Hitori da to kokorobosoi node issho ni itte kuremasen ka.**  
 I don't feel comfortable alone, so could you go with me?

When adding a reason to one's previous statement, use connectives such as **nazenara** 'to say why,' **dooshite ka to yuu to** 'to state the reason' and **sono riyuu wa** 'the reason is that' and add **kara desu/(da)** at the end of the sentence.

#### ▶ 22.5

私は引っ越ししたくありません。どうしてかという、今のアパートがすごく気に入っているからです。

**Watashi wa hikkoshi shitaku arimasen. Dooshite ka to yuu to, ima no apaato ga sugoku kiniitte iru kara desu.**  
 I don't want to move. The reason is that I really like my current apartment.

このプロジェクトは失敗すると思う。なぜなら、みんな始めからやる気がないから(だ)。

**Kono purojekuto wa shippai suru to omoo. Nazenara, minna hajime kara yaruki ga nai kara (da).**  
 I think this project will fail. The reason is that from the beginning no one has been making an effort.

### 47.4 Asking about and expressing purpose

A question with **dooshite** 'why' is ambiguous between asking for a reason and asking for someone's purpose, so it can be answered with either a reason or a purpose, as in the following example.

## Expressing purpose and consequence

- A: どうして日本語を勉強しているんですか。  
**Dooshite Nihongo o benkyoo shite iru n desu ka.**  
 Why are you studying Japanese?
- B: おもしろいからです。(Reason)  
**Omoshiroi kara desu.**  
 Because it's interesting.
- C: 日本に留学したいからです。(Reason and purpose)  
**Nihon ni ryuugaku shitai kara desu.**  
 Because I want to study abroad in Japan.

To ask for someone's purpose specifically, **tameni** 'for' or **mokuteki** 'purpose' may be used.

- |          |                             |                           |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 何のために？   | <b>Nan no tame ni?</b>      | For what?                 |
| どういう目的で？ | <b>Doo yuu mokuteki de?</b> | For what kind of purpose? |
| 何の目的で？   | <b>Nan no mokuteki de?</b>  | For what purpose?         |

何のために日本語を勉強しているんですか。  
**Nan no tame ni Nihongo o benkyoo shite iru n desu ka.**  
 For what purpose are you studying Japanese?

どういう目的でインターネットをつかっていますか。  
**Doo yuu mokuteki de intaanetto o tsukatte imasu ka.**  
 For what kind of purpose have you been using the Internet?

## ▶ 18.4; 18.9.3

To state purpose, **tame (ni)** 'in order to' or **yoo ni** 'so that' are commonly used.

- A: 何のためにお金を貯めて (い) るんですか。  
**Nan no tame ni okane o tamete (i)ru n desu ka.**  
 For what purpose are you saving money?
- B: 海外旅行をするため (に) です。  
**Kaigai ryokoo o suru tame (ni) desu.**  
 It is for making oversea trips.
- C: 将来困らないようにです。  
**Shoorai komaranai yoo ni desu.**  
 It is so that I won't have trouble in the future.

▶ See 47.5 on the differences between **tame ni** and **yoo ni**.

With a motion verb like **iku** 'go' and **kuru** 'come,' the purpose of going to or coming to a place is expressed by the verb-stem + **ni**.

コンビニに飲み物を買に行きました。  
**Konbini ni nomimono o kai ni ikimashita.**  
 I went to a convenience store to buy drinks.

友達がDVDを借りに来た。  
**Tomodachi ga DVD o kari ni kita.**  
 My friend came to borrow a DVD.

## 47.5

## Expressing purpose and consequence

While **tame ni** 'in order to' expresses the purpose of an action, **yoo ni** 'so that' indicates that a certain consequence will be realized as the result of an action. A **tame ni** clause represents what the speaker thinks he/she can bring about with his/her volition, and hence verbs in **tame ni** clause are action verbs. A **yoo ni** clause, on the other hand, represents a condition, state or events that cannot be controlled by one's will, and the verbs in this construction are usually stative, including potential verbs, negative forms, and **wakaru** 'to understand.'

部屋を暖めるためにヒーターをつけた。

**Heya o atatameru tame ni hiitaa o tsuketa.**

(I) turned the heater on in order to warm the room.

部屋が暖かくなるようにヒーターをつけた。

**Heya ga atatakaku naru yoo ni hiitaa o tsuketa.**

(I) turned the heater on so that the room gets warm.

These sentences basically describe the same situation. However, **heyu o atatameru** ‘to warm up the room’ (a transitive verb) is a volitional action and hence it indicates the purpose of an action. On the other hand, **heyu ga atatakaku naru** ‘the room becomes warm’ (an intransitive verb) is a state which obtains as a result of one’s action.

The following are some more examples.

風邪が治るように一日中寝ていました。

**Kaze ga naoru yoo ni ichinichi-juu nete imashita.**

I was sleeping all day long so that my cold would get better.

忘れないようにメモをしておいた。

**Wasurenai yoo ni memo o shite oita.**

I made a note (for myself) so that I wouldn’t forget.

早く起きられるように目覚まし時計をかけて寝た。

**Hayaku okirareru yoo ni mezamashi-dokee o kakete neta.**

I set my alarm clock before I went to sleep so that I could get up early.

新しい車を買うために貯金しています。

**Atarashii kuruma o kau tame ni chokin shite imasu.**

I’m saving money in order to buy a new car.

体重を減らすためにダイエットを始めました。

**Taijuu o herasu tame ni daietto o hajimemashita.**

I went on a diet in order to lose weight.

When the purpose is expressed with a noun phrase, Noun + **no tame ni** is used.

父は家族のために一生懸命はたらいしています。

**Chichi wa kazoku no tame ni isshookenmee hataraite imasu.**

My father is working hard for (the sake of) his family.

世界平和のために働きたいです。

**Sekai heewa no tame ni hatarakitai desu.**

I want to work for world peace.

## 47.6 Expressing the means by which to achieve a purpose

To state the means or what is needed to achieve a certain purpose, the formal noun **no** followed by the postposition **ni** ‘for’ can be used instead of **tame ni**. The **no ni** combination follows the plain form of a verb.

瓶を開けるのに、栓抜きが要りますね。

**Bin o akeru no ni, sennuki ga irimasu ne.**

You need a bottle opener in order to open the bottle, right?

皮を剥くのに、皮むき器を使った。

**Kawa o muku no ni, kawamukiki o tsukatta.**

I used a peeler to peel the skin.

## 47.7

## Expressing how to achieve a purpose

To state what one should do or needs to do in order to achieve a goal, the statement which expresses the goal is topicalized using **tame ni wa** or **ni wa**, followed by suggestions, advice, or instructions. Both **tame ni wa** and **ni wa** follow the plain form of a verb.

留学するためには、いろいろな準備をしなければいけません。

**Ryuugaku suru tame ni wa, iroirona junbi o shinakereba ikemasen.**

In order to study abroad, you must prepare in various ways.

お金を貯めるには、まず節約から始めるべきだ。

**O-kane o tameru ni wa, mazu setsuyaku kara hajimeru beki da.**

To accumulate money, you should start saving first.