

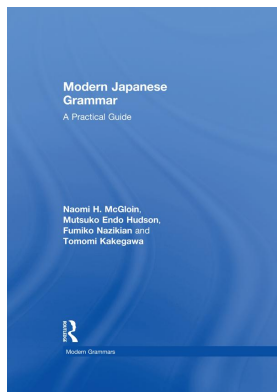
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## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

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### **Changes**

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# 50

## Changes

While English has many verbs used with adjectives to express changes, such as ‘become’, ‘get’, ‘turn’, ‘grow’, etc., the most usual way of expressing changes in Japanese involves the verb **naru** ‘to become.’

### 50.1 Talking about changes

The verb **naru** indicates change and it can be used with nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Forms preceding **naru** vary as follows:

Noun:	N <b>ni naru</b>
Na-adjective:	<b>na</b> -adj.(stem) <b>ni naru</b>
I-adjective:	<b>i</b> -adj <b>ku naru</b>
Verb:	V (plain) <b>yoo ni naru</b>

It should be noted that **i**-adjectives are in adverbial form (e.g. **atarashiku**, **yasuku**) and the verb has to be followed by **yoo ni**.

#### ▶ 14.2; 18.4

弁護士になった。

**Bengoshi ni natta.**

I became a lawyer.

インターネットで便利になった。

**Intaanetto de benri ni natta.**

It has become convenient with the Internet.

物価が高くなった。

**Bukka ga takaku natta.**

The cost of living has become expensive.

漢字が書けるようになった。

**Kanji ga kakeru yoo ni natta.**

I have become able to write kanji.

大学に入ってよく勉強するようになった。

**Daigaku ni haitte yoku benkyoo suru yoo ni natta.**

After entering college, (he) came to study hard (i.e. started to study hard).

In general, **naru** constructions can express either a sudden change or a gradual change, but it is more common that these changes are conceived as gradual.

## 50.2 Change in a negative direction

Negative forms can precede the verb **naru** to indicate that a change has been from an affirmative situation to a negative situation. Since the negative form **-nai** is an adjective, it changes to **-naku (naru)**.

卒業して学生じゃなくなった。

**Sotsugyoo shite gakusee ja naku natta.**

(I) graduated and so I am not a student any more.

まわりに建物がたくさん立って、静かじゃなくなった。

**Mawari ni tatemono ga takusan tatte, shizuka ja naku natta.**

Many buildings went up around us, and it is no longer quiet (Lit. has become not quiet).

壁が汚れて白くなくなった。

**Kabe ga yogorete shirokunaku natta.**

The wall got dirty and it is no longer white (Lit. has become not-white).

言葉は話していないと、話せなくなる。

**Kotoba wa hanashite inai to, hanasenaku naru.**

If you don't keep speaking a language, you become unable to speak it.

With verbs, there is also a **-nai yoo ni naru** 'become not V' in addition to **-naku naru**.

ご飯が食べられなくなった。

**Gohan ga taberarenaku natta.**

It has come to be that I cannot eat food.

ご飯が食べられないようになった。

**Gohan ga taberarenai yoo ni natta.**

It has come to be that I cannot eat food.

These two constructions are similar in meaning. However, the **-nai yoo ni naru** construction might imply that the change occurred gradually over time, while the **-naku naru** construction implies either a gradual change or a sudden change. If the change happened suddenly, therefore, **-naku naru** is the form to be used.

## 50.3 Verbs of coming and going to express changes

Verbs of coming and going in **te**-form (i.e. **-te kuru** and **-te iku**) can express changes that take place. **-Te kuru** expresses that a certain change has been taking place up to now, and **-te iku** indicates that a change will continue to take place from now on into the future. Both indicate that changes are taking place over some time, whether at a gradual pace or at a rapid pace.

### ▶ 19.2.6; 19.2.7

寒くなってきましたねえ。

**Samuku natte kimashita nee.**

It has become cold (don't you think?).

日本語がだいぶ話せるようになってきました。

**Nihongo ga daibu hanaseru yoo ni natte kimashita.**

I have come to be able to speak Japanese pretty well.

これから生活はどんどん便利になっていくでしょう。

**Korekara seekatsu wa dondon benri ni natte iku deshoo.**

Our daily lives will keep getting more and more convenient (at a rapid pace).

## 50.4

## Other ways of expressing changes

## 50.4.1

## Change caused by evolving events or situations

To indicate that one change causes another change, the **-ba** V(plain nonpast) **hodo** ‘the more . . . , the more . . . ; the less . . . , the less . . . ’ construction can be used. **Ba** is the conditional form.

## ▶ 24.2

日本語は勉強すればするほど面白くなります。

**Nihongo wa benkyoo sureba suru hodo omoshiroku narimasu.**

The more you study Japanese, the more interesting it becomes.

考えれば考えるほど分からなくなる。

**Kangaereba kangaeru hodo wakaranaku naru.**

The more I think about it, the more confusing it becomes.

Other expressions, such as V(plain) **to tomo ni**, V(plain) **ni tsurete** and V(plain) **ni shitagatte**, all meaning ‘as V happens,’ can also express that a change leads to another change concurrently.

時代が変わるとともに言葉も変わる。

**Jidai ga kawaru to tomoni kotoba mo kawaru.**

As time changes, language also changes.

電子メールの普及とともに手紙を書くことが少なくなった。

**Denshi meeru no fukyuu to tomo ni tegami o kaku koto ga sukunaku natta.**

With the spread of email there is less letter writing.

女性の社会進出が進むにつれて経済力のある女性が増えた。

**Josee no shakai shinshutsu ga susumu ni tsurete keezairyoku no aru josee ga fueta.**

As women’s position in society (i.e. workplace) advanced, the number of women with economic power increased.

年を取るにつれて忘れっぽくなるのは普通だ。

**Toshi o toru ni tsurete wasureppoku naru no wa futsuu da.**

It is natural that one becomes forgetful with age (i.e. as one gets older.)

女性の晩婚化が進むに従って出産率も減っている。

**Josee no bankonka ga susumu ni shitagatte shussanritsu mo hette iru.**

As women get married later and later, the birth rate is decreasing.

## 50.4.2

## Nouns and verbs that express change

The verb **kawaru** is a general verb that means ‘to change.’ There are many other verbal nouns which, combined with the verb **suru**, express various types of change. Examples include **henka suru** ‘to change,’ **henshin suru** ‘to transform oneself, metamorphose,’ **henkee suru** ‘to change form,’ **henkan suru** ‘switch.’

最近天気がよく変わる。

**Saikin tenki ga yoku kawaru.**

The weather changes often / is changeable these days.

時代が変わると、人々の考えも変化する。

**Jidai ga kawaru to, hitobito no kangae mo henka suru.**

When times change, people’s ways of thinking change too.

日本の昔話には動物が人に変身する話が多い。

**Nihon no mukashi-banashi ni wa doobutsu ga hito ni henshin suru hanashi ga ooi.**

There are many Japanese folktales where animals change into people.

日本人の生活は戦後大きく変化した。

**Nihonjin no seekatsu wa sengo ookiku henka shita.**

The Japanese people's way of life changed a lot after the war.

ワープロではローマ字から日本語に簡単に変換できる。

**Wapuro de wa roomaji kara Nihongo ni kantan ni henkan dekiru.**

With a word processor you can easily change romanized letters into Japanese characters.

Certain compound verbs can express change. Some examples include V(stem) **dasu** 'to start V-ing,' V(stem) **hajimeru** 'to begin V-ing,' V(stem) **owaru** 'to finish V-ing,' V(stem) **kaeru** 'to change (clothing, shoes, etc.).'

### ▶ 17.3

急に泣き出した。

**Kyuu ni naki-dashita.**

(He) started crying all of sudden.

家に帰ったら、すぐ雨が降り出した。

**Uchi ni kaettara, sugu ame ga furi-dashita.**

When I went home, immediately it started raining.

論文を書き始めてから書き終わるまで二年かかった。

**Ronbun o kaki-hajimete kara kaki-owaru made ninen kakatta.**

It took two years from the time I started writing a thesis to the time I finished writing it.

寝る前はパジャマに着替えます。

**Neru mae wa pajama ni ki-kaemasu.**

(I) change into pajamas before I go to sleep.

東京駅で地下鉄に乗り換えてください。

**Tookyoo eki de chikatetsu ni nori-kaete kudasai.**

Please change to the subway at Tokyo Station.