

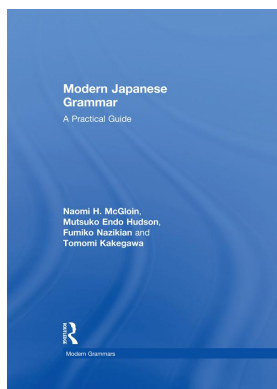
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

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

Gratitude

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch59>

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, *Gratitude from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch59>

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.

59

Gratitude

59.1 General remarks on expressions of gratitude

The basic expression of gratitude is **arigatoo** ‘thanks.’ This phrase alone can be used to one’s social subordinates and equals, such as one’s friends and family members, and to any children. When speaking to one’s social superiors, such as one’s boss at work and older people and to any adults one does not know well, the formal phrase **gozaimasu** is added to thank them for their kind acts. The past tense form **arigatoo gozaimashita** is used to express thanks for a kind act that the addressee performed in the past. The addition of the adverb **doomo** ‘indeed, for some reason’ to **arigatoo** phrases make them sound more heartfelt. In casual situations, one may just say (with a bow) **doomo** to express one’s appreciation.

The deed or act for which gratitude is expressed appears in a verb phrase preceding **arigatoo** (**gozaimasu/gozaimashita**). The verb phrase consists of the main verb in the **te** form followed by one of the giving and receiving verbs functioning as an auxiliary verb, also in the **te**-form; e.g. V-**te** + **kurete**, **kudasatte**, **itadaite**. In a very polite situation, the auxiliary appears in the formal (**desu/masu**) style; e.g. verb-**te** + **kudasaimashite**, **itadakimashite**.

To a friend:

(手伝ってくれて) ありがとう。

(Tetsudatte kurete) arigatoo.

Thanks (for your help).

To a colleague who is older:

A: お宅まで送りますでしょうか。

O-taku made okurimashoo ka.

Shall I drive you home?

B: どうもありがとうございます。とても助かります。

Doomo arigatoo gozaimasu. Totemo tasukarimasu.

Thank you very much. I would really appreciate it (Lit. I will be rescued).

To a professor:

推薦状を書いて下さって (or 下さいまして) ありがとうございます。

Suisenjoo o kaite kudasatte (or kudasaimashite) arigatoo gozaimashita.

Thank you very much for having written a recommendation letter for me.

In Japanese culture it is important to express one’s gratitude to the benefactor multiple times, usually three times. The first time is when the kind act is done (e.g. receiving a gift, being taken out to dinner), the second is when parting with the person on that occasion, and the third is the next time one sees him/her.

先日はどうもありがとうございました。
Senjitsu wa doomo arigatoo gozaimashita.
 Thank you very much for the other day.

59.2 Expressions of apology used to express gratitude

Expressions of apology are often used instead of, or in addition to, **arigatoo**, especially to express gratitude for the trouble the addressee went to; e.g. **sumimasen**, **mooshiwake arimasen**. The expression appears in the past tense when thanking (and apologizing) for a kind deed that occurred in the past; e.g. **sumimasen deshita**. As with **arigatoo**, the form varies according to the closeness and the relationship between the speakers, and the significance of the deed. Again, a verb + giving and receiving verbs, both in the **te**-form, may precede the expression of apology; e.g. verb **te** + **itadaite**.

From a sick person to a friend:

お見舞いに来てもらって悪いね。

O-mimai ni kite moratte warui ne.

Thanks for coming to see me; I feel bad/I'm sorry for the trouble you took to come to see me, and I am grateful.

To a neighbor:

昨日はお土産をいただいてありがとうございました。いつもすみません。

Kinoo wa o-miyage o itadaite arigatoo gozaimashita. Itsumo sumimasen.

Thank you for the souvenir yesterday. I always appreciate it (Lit. I'm sorry always).

To a boss:

お招きいただきまして誠に恐れ入ります。

O-maneki itadakimashite makoto ni osore irimasu.

I'm extremely grateful (Lit. I'm extremely sorry) for the invitation.

59.3 Other common expressions

One of the other common expressions of gratitude is **otsukare-sama (deshita)** 'thank you for your hard work (Lit. It must have been tiring).' It was traditionally thought to be appropriate only to one's social subordinates and equals, but its use to one's social superiors is becoming more acceptable recently. Another is **go-kuroo-sama (deshita)** 'thank you for your hard work (Lit. It must have been a lot of work).' This expression is still deemed inappropriate if it is said to one's social superiors. Literally, **tsukareru** means 'get tired,' and **go-kuroo** 'hardship.' The polite ending **deshita** is added to someone with whom one feels social or psychological distance.

To one's social subordinate or equal:

お疲れ様 (でした)。

O-tsukare-sama (deshita).

Thank you for your hard work (Lit. It must have been tiring).

To one's social subordinate or equal:

ご苦労様 (でした)。

Go-kuroo-sama (deshita).

Thank you for your work (Lit. It must have been a lot of work).

Another type of common expressions of gratitude is one with the phrase **o-sewa** ‘care.’ **O-sewa ni narimashita** ‘thank you for having taken care (of me); Lit. (you) took care of (me)’ is appropriate after the kind act is done, especially when parting from the benefactor. **O-sewa ni natte orimasu** ‘thank you for (your) care; I am indebted to (you)’ expresses appreciation for ongoing care one is receiving. When the benefactor is the addressee, and the beneficiary the speaker, neither is explicitly stated as such. To specify other benefactors (e.g. addressee’s family member), the particle **ni** is used. To indicate a beneficiary other than the speaker (e.g. his/her family member), the particle **ga** for subject is used. It is customary in Japan to thank the benefactor on behalf of one’s family or other in-group members. These expressions are often combined with **arigatoo gozaimasu/gozaimashita** ‘thank you.’

To host family parents:

大変お世話になりました。

Taihen o-sewa ni narimashita.

Thank you very much for having taken such good care of me.

To a boss who helped you with work:

先日は大変お世話になりまして、ありがとうございました。

Senjitsu wa taihen o-sewa ni narimashite.

Thank you very much for your help the other day.

To one’s younger sister’s co-worker:

妹がいつもお世話になっております。

Imooto ga itsumo o-sewa ni natte orimasu.

Thank you very much for having been kind to my younger sister.

To one’s teacher’s spouse:

加藤先生にはいつもお世話になっております。

Katoo-sensee ni wa itsumo o-sewa ni natte orimasu.

Prof. Kato has been very kind to me, and I appreciate it.

59.4

Responding to an expression of gratitude

One may respond to an expression of gratitude in various ways depending on the relationship with the other party and the situation. A simple ‘no’ is an acceptable response in Japanese; **i(i)e** to one’s boss or someone one does not know well, and **iya** or **uun** to someone with whom one is close. **Uun** sounds more gentle and feminine than **iya**.

A passerby thanks you for giving him/her directions:

A: どうもありがとうございます/どうもありがとうございました。

Doomo arigatoo gozaimasu/doomo arigatoo gozaimashita.

Thank you very much.

B: (いえ、) どういたしまして。

(Ie,) doo itashimashite.

You’re welcome.

A friend thanks you for giving him/her a gift:

A: プレゼントありがとう。

Purezento arigatoo.

Thanks for the gift.

B: え? 気に入ってもらえた?

E? Ki ni itte moraeta?

Did you like it?

A male boss thanks you for fixing a computer problem:

- A: いや、どうも。直してくれてほんとありがたいよ。
Iya, doomo. Naoshite kurete honto arigatai yo.
Thanks. I'm really grateful you fixed it.
- B: あ、いえ、とんでもありません。
A, ie, tondemo arimasen.
Oh, it's nothing.