

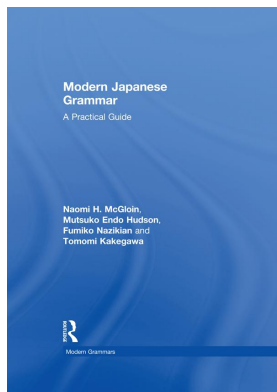
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On: 21 Sep 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Empathy

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch61>

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Published online on: 04 Oct 2013

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

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

Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch61>

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61

Empathy

61.1 Saying one is glad about something the other party has just said

The common way to express empathy is **yokatta desu ne** (formal) or **yokatta ne** (informal). **Yokatta** literally means ‘was good’ and is followed by the sentence final particle **ne**.

▶ 10.4

- (1) 学生： お蔭さまで大学院に受かりました！
Gakusee: **O-kagesama de daigakuin ni ukarimashita!**
 Student: Thanks to you, I got into graduate school!
- 先生： ああ、それはよかったですね。
Sensee: **Aa, sore wa yokatta desu ne! (F)**
 Teacher: Oh, that’s great!
- (2) 武： 彼女、明日来てくれるって。
Takeshi: **Kanojo, ashita kite kureru tte.**
 Takeshi: My girlfriend says she will be coming tomorrow.
- 友人： あ、ほんと。よかったね。
Yuujin: **A, honto. Yokatta nee. (I)**
 Friend: Really. That’s great!
- (3) 愛： カラオケコンテストで1位もらっちゃった。
Ai: **Karaoke kontesuto de ichi-i moratchatta.**
 Ai: I won the first prize at the karaoke contest!
- 友人： ええっ、すごいじゃない。よかったねえ。
Yuujin: **Eee, sugoi ja nai. Yokatta nee. (I)**
 Friend: Wow, that’s fantastic! I’m glad!

61.2 Saying one is sorry about something the other party has just said

There are some formulaic expressions to say that one is sorry about something the other party has just said.

- (1) 課長： 車のキー見つからないんだよ。
Kachoo: **Kuruma no kii ga mitsukaranai n da yo.**
 Section Chief: I can’t find my car key, you know.
- 私： そうですか。それは困りましたね。(F)
Watashi: **Soo desu ka. Sore wa komarimashita ne.**
 I: Really? That’s too bad/upsetting.

- (2) 渡辺 : 昨日は引っ越しでね、さすがに疲れた。
Watanabe: **Kinoo wa hikkoshi de ne, sasuga ni tsukareta.**
Watanabe: We moved yesterday, and we were exhausted.
- 同僚 : それは大変でしたね。
Dooryoo: **Sore wa taihen deshita ne. (F)**
Colleague: It must have been tiring.
- (3) 健 : 信じられる？ 今週、試験 3 つ。
Ken: **Shinjirareru? Konshuu, shiken mittsu.**
Ken: Can you believe it? I've got three exams this week.
- 友人 : 本当。大変だねえ。
Yuujin: **Hontoo. Taihen da nee. (I)**
Friend: Is that right? That's a bummer.
- (4) 私 : せっかくチケット買ったのに、コンサート、キャンセルになっちゃったんですよ。
Watashi: **Sekkaku chiketto katta noni, konsaato, kyanseru ni natchatta n desu yo.**
I: I went out of my way to buy the ticket, but the concert got canceled.
- 近所の人 : そうですか。残念ですねえ。(F)
Kinjo no hito: **Soo desu ka. Zannen desu nee.**
Neighbor: Is that right? That's too bad.