

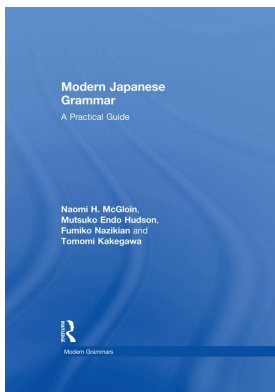
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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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

Likes and dislikes

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

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Likes and dislikes

62.1 Expressing one's likes and dislikes

The most common way of expressing likes and dislikes is to use the **na**-adjectives **suki** 'like' and **kirai** 'dislike.' These **na**-adjectives usually mark the object with the particle **ga**.

▶ 10.1.1

私は日本食が好きです。

Watashi wa nihonshoku ga suki desu.

I like Japanese food.

私が好きな日本食は、てんぷらです。

Watashi ga suki na nihonshoku wa tempura desu.

The Japanese food I like is tempura.

私はアメフットがきらいです。

Watashi wa amefutto ga kirai desu.

I do not like American football.

嫌いなスポーツはありません。

Kirai na supootsu wa arimasen.

There are no sports I don't like.

私は勉強があまり好きではありません。

Watashi wa benkyoo ga amari suki de wa arimasen.

I don't like studying that much.

肉はきらいじゃありませんが、好きでもありません。

Niku wa kirai ja arimasen ga, suki de mo arimasen.

I don't dislike meat, but I don't like it either.

When you want to say 'I like doing something,' use . . . **no ga suki/kirai desu**. **No** nominalizes a verb phrase.

▶ 18.2.1; 10.1

私は漢字を勉強するのが好きです。

Watashi wa kanji o benkyoo suru no ga suki desu.

I like studying **kanji**.

私は外食するのがきらいです。

Watashi wa gaishoku suru no ga kirai desu.

I don't like eating out.

Suki/kirai can also be used for people. **Hanako ga suki desu** or **Hanako no koto ga suki desu** can mean either 'I like Hanako' or 'I love Hanako.' The verb meaning 'to love' – **ai suru/ai shite iru** – is generally reserved for professing one's love for a person.

Strong likes/dislikes can be expressed by a prefix **dai-** as in **daisuki/daikirai**.

日本食が大好きです。

Nihonshoku ga dai-suki desu.

I like Japanese food very much.

人の前で話すのが大きらいです。

Hito no mae de hanasu no ga dai-kirai desu.

I very much dislike speaking in public.

Another way of expressing one's likes/dislikes is to use a phrase ... **ga ki ni itta/itte iru** '... suits my taste' or ... **ga ki ni iranai** '... does not suit my taste.'

新しいアパートが気に入りました。 / 気に入っています。

Atarashii apaato ga ki ni irimashita. / ki ni itte imasu.

I like my new apartment. (My new apartment suits my taste.)

教科書が気に入らない。

Kyookasho ga ki ni iranai.

I don't like the textbook.

62.2 Asking about likes and dislikes

Simply convert the statements in 62.1 into question form.

日本食はお好きですか。

Nihonshoku wa o-suki desu ka.

Do you like Japanese food?

どんな映画が好きですか。

Donna eega ga suki desu ka.

What kind of movies do you like?

何をするのが好きですか。

Nani o suru no ga suki desu ka.

What do you like doing?

何かきらいな食べ物ある？ (I)

Nanika kirai na tabemono aru?

Is there some food you don't like?

62.3 Reporting on others' likes and dislikes

If you are sure of someone else's likes and dislikes, you can use direct statements like **suki desu/kirai desu**, but preferably in ... **n desu** or in the **te**-form.

▶ 18.2.2; 22.1

主人はゴルフが好きなんです。

Shujin wa gorufu ga suki na n desu.

(It's that) my husband likes golf.

子供はビデオゲームが好きで...

Kodomo wa bideogeemu ga suki de...

My child likes video games, and...

Usually, however, you use a reportive style or evidentials in talking about someone else's likes/dislikes.

▶ 28

Reporting on others' likes and dislikes

先生はクラシック音楽がお好きだそうです。

Sensee wa kurasshikku ongaku ga o-suki da soo desu.

I hear that the Professor likes classical music.

田中さんは猫より犬の方が好きなようです。

Tanaka-san wa neko yori inu no hoo ga suki na yoo desu.

It seems that Mr/Ms Tanaka likes dogs more than cats.

ジョンは日本食が好きみたいだね。

Jon wa nihonshoku ga suki mitai da ne.

John seems to like Japanese food.