

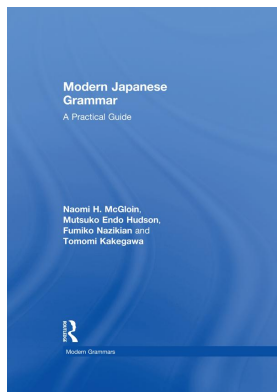
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Hopes and wishes

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Hopes and wishes

64.1 Expressing one's hopes and wishes

To express one's hopes and wishes, expressions such as . . . **to/-ba/-tara ii** 'it would be good if' can be used. This expression is often followed by **n desu ga/n da kedo** 'it is the case but' or **naa** (particle expressing exclamation).

日本で就職できるといいんですが。

Nihon de shuushoku dekiru to ii n desu ga.

I hope I can get a job in Japan.

かぜがはやく治るといいですね。

Kaze ga hayaku naoru to ii desu ne.

I hope your cold gets better soon.

戦争がなくなるといいなあ。

Sensoo ga nakunaru to ii naa.

It would be so nice if there were no wars!

あまり間違いがなければいいんですが。

Amari machigai ga nakereba ii n desu ga.

I hope I did not make too many mistakes.

When the expression contains the past tense form **yokatta** or the conjunction **noni** 'although,' it expresses wishes/hopes that are contrary to what happened or the current situation. With this counterfactual connotation, **to yokatta** is usually not used.

▶ 24.2

日本に行けばよかった。

Nihon ni ikeba yokatta.

I wish I had gone to Japan. (Lit. it would have been good if I went to Japan.)

言わなければよかった。

Iwanakereba yokatta.

I wish I did not say/had not said that.

Noni, moreover, cannot express a wish or regret about the speaker's own action – it is always a comment about someone else's action.

大学院に行けばいいのに。

Daigakuin ni ikeba ii noni.

I wish you/he/she would attend graduate school.

もっと早く寝たらいいのにねえ。

Motto hayaku netara ii noni nee.

It would be good if you/he/she went to bed earlier.

64.2 Other ways of expressing hopes and wishes

Nouns such as **kiboo** ‘hope,’ **nozomi** ‘hope,’ **mikomi** ‘prospect’ can be used to express hopes and wishes, although such expressions sound a little more formal.

日本で仕事をするのが私の望みです。

Nihon de shigoto o suru no ga watashi no nozomi desu.

It’s my hope/wish to work in Japan.

留学を希望しています。

Ryuugaku o kiboo shite imasu.

I wish to study abroad.

まだ助かる見込みはある。

Mada tasukaru mikomi wa aru.

There is still hope that he/she will survive.