

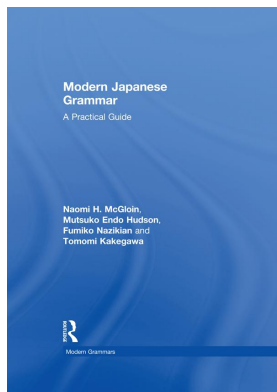
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Surprise

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68

Surprise

68.1 Spontaneous expressions of surprise

One's spontaneous feelings of surprise can be communicated by expressions including the following. These expressions are in the past tense form of a verb, even though what is being expressed is a current state. Also, when one is in the state of surprise, one often forgets the consideration of formality; therefore the plain form is used more often than the polite form.

びっくりしたあ！	Bikkuri shitaa!	I'm surprised!
おどろいたあ！	Odoroitaa!	I'm shocked!
たまげたあ！	Tamagetaa!	I'm flabbergasted!
びっくりしました！	Bikkuri shimashita!	I'm surprised!
驚きました！	Odorokimashita!	I'm shocked!
わあ！	Waa!	Wow!
うわ！	Uwa!	Ugh!
へえ？	Hee?	Really?
え？	E?	Huh?
うそ！	Uso!	You're kidding!
まさか！	Masaka!	That's impossible!
信じられない！	Shinjirarenai!	I can't believe it!
ほんと？	Honto?	Is it true?

▶ 31.11

68.2 Expressing surprise with regard to someone or something

To express what surprises one, various sentence structures may be used, including:

68.2.1 **N ni (wa) or V (plain)/Adj. (pre-nominal) no or koto ni (wa) bikkuri suru/bikkuri da/odoroku**

子供たちの成長の早さに (は) びっくりしています。

Kodomo-tachi no seechoo no hayasa ni (wa) bikkuri shite imasu.

I'm surprised how quickly the children grow.

今時の小学生に (は) びっくりする。

Ima doki no shoogakusee ni (wa) bikkuri suru.

I'm surprised by today's elementary school children.

田中さんが急に退職したのに (は) 驚きました。

Tanaka-san ga kyuu ni taishoku shita no ni (wa) odorokimashita.

I'm astonished that Mr/Ms Tanaka has resigned so suddenly.

子供たちが静かなことに（は）驚いた。

Kodomo-tachi ga shizukana koto ni (wa) odoraita.

I was amazed how quiet the children were.

68.2.2 *te*-form + *bikkuri suru/odoroku*

ケーキが大きくてびっくりしました。

Keeki ga ookikute bikkuri shimashita.

The cake was big and so I was surprised.

優勝できて、驚いています。

Yuushoo dekite, odorosite imasu.

We were able to win, and I'm astonished.

68.2.3 Expressing surprise with the connective *noni* 'although'

The connective **noni** 'although, in spite of,' which is used to express contrast, is often employed when the speaker is surprised by the event expressed by the clause following **noni**.

雪があんなに降ったのに、すぐに融けてしまった。

Yuki ga anna ni futta noni, sugu ni tokete shimatta.

Although it snowed so much, it melted right away.

ワインを三本も飲んだのに、酔っぱらいませんでした。

Wain o sanbon mo nonda noni, yopparaimasen deshita.

Despite the fact that I drank three bottles of wine, I didn't get drunk.