

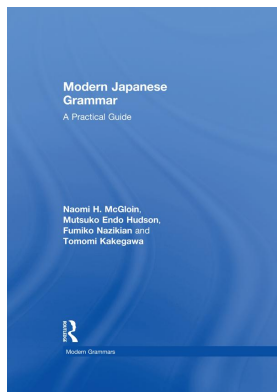
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On: 21 Sep 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

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## **Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide**

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### **Choosing and deciding**

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch86>

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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, *Choosing and deciding from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch86>

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# 86

## Choosing and deciding

### 86.1 Asking about and expressing choice

The most common expression to ask about choice is **X to Y to, dochira (no hoo) ga ii desu ka** (formal) ‘Which is better, A or B?’ or **X to Y to, dotchi ga ii?** (informal). **Dotchi** is an informal form of **dochira** ‘which.’ The second **to** ‘and’ is often dropped in informal conversation, while it is kept in formal contexts.

- A: 冷たい飲み物と温かい飲み物とどちら (の方) がいいですか。  
**Tsumetai nomimono to atatakai nomimono to dochira (no hoo) ga ii desu ka.**  
 Which would you prefer, a hot drink or a cold drink?
- B: 今日はちょっと寒いから、温かい飲み物の方がいいです。  
**Kyoo wa chotto samui kara, atatakai nominono no hoo ga ii desu.**  
 Since it is a bit chilly today, I prefer a hot drink.
- B: 今日はちょっと寒いから、温かい飲み物をお願いします。  
**Kyoo wa chotto samui kara, atatakai nominono o onegai shimasu.**  
 Since it is a bit chilly today, something warm please.
- A: コーヒーと紅茶 (と) どっちがいい? (I)  
**Koohii to koocha (to) dotchi ga ii?**  
 Which do you want, coffee or tea?
- B: コーヒー、お願い。  
**Koohii, o-negai.**  
 Coffee, please.

The other common expression **... ni shimasu** (formal), **... ni suru** (informal) can also be used in asking about or giving a choice.

- 赤と白 (と) どちらにしますか。  
**Aka to shiro (to) dochira ni shimasu ka.**  
 Would you like red (wine) or white?
- 赤と白とどちらになさいますか。(VF)  
**Aka to shiro to dochira ni nasaimasu ka.**  
 Would you like red (wine) or white?
- ホットとアイスとどちらにしますか。/ なさいますか。  
**Hotto to aisu to dochira ni shimasu ka. / nasaimasu ka.**  
 Would you like hot or iced (coffee)?
- 和食と中華とどっちにする? (I)  
**Washoku to chuuka to dotchi ni suru?**  
 Japanese or Chinese food, which would you like?

## 86.2

## Asking about and expressing decisions

In expressing decisions, V(plain nonpast) **koto ni shimashita** and V(plain nonpast) **koto ni kettee shimashita** (or **kimemashita**) are commonly used. V **koto ni kettee shimashita** expresses a formal rather than a personal decision.

## ▶ 18.1

来年日本に留学することになりました。

**Rainen Nihon ni ryuugaku suru koto ni shimashita.**

I have decided to study in Japan next year.

いろいろ考えて、日本の大学院に行くことに決めました。

**Iroiro kangaete, Nihon no daigakuin ni iku koto ni kimemashita.**

After much thought, I've decided to go to a graduate school in Japan.

就職するか、大学院に行くか、迷った、んですが、大学院に行くことにしました。

**Shuushoku suru ka, daigakuin ni iku ka, mayotta n desu ga, daigakuin ni iku koto ni shimashita.**

I was not sure whether I should go to graduate school or get a job, but I have decided to go to graduate school.

会議の結果、来年から税率を5%引き上げることに決定した。

**Kaigi no kekka, rainen kara zeeritsu o gopaasento hikiageru koto ni kettee shita.**

At the conference, it was decided to increase the tax rate by 5 percent.

国会は消費税の引き上げを決定した。

**Kokkai wa shoohizee no hikiage o kettee shita.**

The National Diet decided to increase the sales tax.

議会は軍を引き上げることを決定した。

**Gikai wa gun o hikiageru koto o kettee shita.**

Congress/Parliament decided to withdraw the military.

**Koto ni shimashita** is similar to **koto ni narimashita** in that both indicate a decision. When one decides to study abroad, one can state this with either of the following sentences.

(a) 日本に留学することになりました。

**Nihon ni ryuugaku suru koto ni shimashita.**

I have decided to study in Japan.

(b) 日本に留学することになりました。

**Nihon ni ryuugaku suru koto ni narimashita.**

It has been arranged that I will study in Japan.

Sentence (a) indicates the speaker's volitional decision making, and hence indicates that whether he/she studies in Japan or not depends only on his personal decision. Sentence (b), on the other hand, implies that the decision was made by someone else or by circumstances, and seems to imply that the speaker did not have control over the decision. Even in cases where the speaker did make a personal decision, using **-ni naru** gives the impression that the speaker recognizes that other forces were at work, and hence sounds more indirect and humble.

## ▶ 21.6.3

## 86.3

## Changing one's mind

V **koto ni shimashita** or V(neg.) **koto ni shimashita** can be used to indicate that you have changed your mind. The expression is often preceded by a clause which explains the situation.

よく考えて、来年は留学しないことにしました。

**Yoku kangaete, rainen wa ryuugaku shinai koto ni shimashita.**

After thinking carefully, I have decided not to study abroad.

大学院に行こうと思ったんですが、やっぱり就職する事にしました。

**Daigakuin ni ikoo to omotta n desu ga, yappari shuushoku suru koto ni shimashita.**

I thought I would go to graduate school, but I have decided to get a job after all.

Other expressions such as **yamemashita** ‘have given up’ or **ki ga kawarimashita** ‘I changed my mind’ may also be often used to indicate that one has changed one’s mind.

今年新しい車を買おうって思ったんですが、やっぱりやめました。

**Kotoshi atarashii kuruma o kaoo tte omotta n desu ga, yappari yamemashita.**

I thought of buying a new car, but I gave up the idea.

最初はスペインに行こうかなって思ったんですが、気が変わりました。

**Saisho wa Supein ni ikoo ka na tte omotta n desu ga, ki ga kawarimashita.**

Initially I thought I would go to Spain, but I changed my mind.