

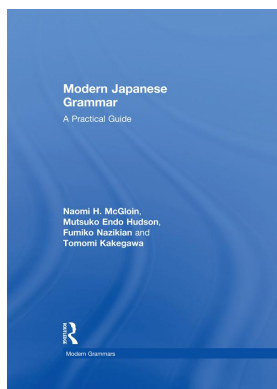
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 03 Oct 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

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Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

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Ordering

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch88>

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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, *Ordering from: Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 03 Oct 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch88>

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Ordering

There are two major formulaic expressions used in ordering food or other items such as books: **onegai shimasu** and **kudasai**. **O-negai shimasu** means ‘I would like to make a request’ and is used in making a request for the addressee’s services or actions. The other expression is **kudasai**, which means ‘please give me X.’ This expression is normally used when making a request for specific items or objects rather than for the addressee’s services.

88.1 Ordering food in a restaurant

In ordering food at a restaurant, either **o-negai shimasu** or **kudasai** can be used because the speaker is requesting the addressee’s service or action (i.e. preparing and bringing food) as well as specific food. In response to the waiter or waitress taking the order, **X ni shimasu** ‘I will have X’ may also be used.

てんぷらをお願いします。

Tenpura o o-negai shimasu.

Can I order tempura?

てんぷらをください。

Tenpura o kudasai.

Tempura, please.

私はてんぷらにします。

Watashi wa tenpura ni shimasu.

I will have tempura.

In natural conversations the particle **o** tends to be omitted.

てんぷら、お願いします。

Tenpura, o-negai shimasu.

May I order tempura?

てんぷら、ください。

Tenpura, kudasai.

Tempura, please.

Counters can be added to indicate the number of orders. Again, the particle **o** tends to be omitted in natural conversation.

てんぷら1つと、そば1つ、おねがいします。

Tenpura hitotsu to, soba hitotsu, o-negai shimasu.

May I have one order of tempura and one order of soba?

てんぷら1つと、そば2つ、ください。

Tenpura hitotsu to, soba futatsu, kudasai.

Please give me one order of tempura and two orders of soba.

88.2

Ordering food for delivery over the telephone

When ordering food for delivery over the phone **o-negai shimasu** should be used instead of **kudasai**, because the speaker is making a request for delivery service rather than for specific items. To make the request less assertive and more polite, the sentence pattern **V-tai n desu ga/ke do** 'I would like to order' is often used. Again the particle **o** tends to be omitted. There are multiple ways of ordering food over the phone. For delivery, words such as **demae** and **haitatsu** are used. In addition to the use of the expression **o-negai shimasu**, the **V-te morau** structure is also often used in making a request.

もしもし、すし3人前、お願いしたいんですが。

Moshi moshi, sushi sannin mae, o-negai shitai n desu ga.

Hello. I would like three orders of sushi.

もしもし、出前、お願いしたいんですが。

Moshi moshi, demae, o-negai shitai n desu ga.

Hello. I would like to have a delivery.

もしもし、ピザ、配達してもらえますか。

Moshi moshi, piza, haitatsu shite moraemasu ka.

Hello, can I have pizza delivered?

もしもし、ピザ、配達してもらいたいんですが。

Moshi moshi, piza, haitatsu shite moraitai n desu ga.

Hello, I would like to have pizza delivered.

▶ 19.2.8; 63.1.3; 73.1

88.3

Ordering other things

The phrase **o-negai shimasu**, as well as the **V-tai** structure and the combination of **onegai shimasu** and **V-tai**, can be used to order other things. To make the request sound less blunt, **V-tai** can be followed by the expression **n desu ga**.

本の注文、お願いします。

Hon no chuumon, o-negai shimasu.

An order for a book, please.

本の注文、お願いしたいんですが。

Hon no chuumon, o-negai shitai n desu ga.

I would like to put in an order for a book.

本を注文したいんですが。

Hon o chuumon shitai n desu ga.

I would like to order a book, please.

注文したい本があるんですが。

Chuumon shitai hon ga aru n desu ga.

There is a book that I would like to order.