

1. Situation

University students Yusuke and Kota are talking.

Dialogue

ユウスケ：^{かえ} 帰る^{まえ}前に、何か^{なに}食^たべてく？

コウタ：うん。^{なに} 何食^たべる？

ユウスケ：ラーメンは？よく行く^い店^{みせ}があるんだよ。

コウタ：いいね！行く、行く！

Breakdown

ユウスケ：^{かえ} 帰る^{まえ}前に、何か^{なに}食^たべてく？

Yusuke: Do you want to go eat something before going home?

- ^{かえ} 帰る to return; to go home; to go back
- ^{まえ} 前 forward; front; before
- ^{なに} 何か something; things like ..., or something like that ...; conversation filler: ^{なんか}、^{さむ} 寒い。

Well, it's cold; emphasises noun, often in a deprecating way: ^{さかな} 魚 ^{きら} なんか嫌^{きら}い。I don't like something like fish.

- ^た 食^たべて te-form of ^た 食^たべる; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; ^た 食^たべて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: ^{きのうがっこうい} 昨日学校行って、^{べんきょう} 勉強して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- ^た 食^たべる to eat
- ~ていく、てく __ and go; describes an additional action along with the other action; may imply that you are leaving where you are; may imply continuity of action: ^{はんた} ご飯食^{はんた}べていく。I'll eat (and go somewhere else.); indicates what you are going to do in the future: ^{ひとり} ^{しごと} これから一人で仕事^{ひとり}していきます。From now on, I'm going to work alone.

コウタ：うん。^{なに た}何食べる？

Kota: Yeah. What should we eat?

- うん (casual, non-keigo) yes; yeah
- ^{なに}何 what

ユウスケ：ラーメンは？よく行く店があるんだよ。

Yusuke: How about ramen? There's a place (restaurant) I often go to.

- ラーメン ramen (Japanese noodle soup)
- よく good; well; often: ^{にほん}日本によく^い行きます。 I go to Japan often.
- ^い行く to go
- ^{みせ}店 store; shop; restaurant
- ある to be (existence); to have (possession); to happen; use ある for objects and いる for people and animals
- ~のです、んです、のだ、んだ、の actually, as a matter of fact: ^{あした}明日、^{えいがみ}映画見たいんですよ/だよ
ね。 I actually want to watch a movie tomorrow; often used with けど: すいません、トイレ^いに行きたい
んですけど/だけど。。。 Excuse me, I'd like to go to the bathroom; used to ask for a reason: なん
で^{あした}明日、^{かいしゃ}会社^こ来ないんですか/^こ来ないの? Why are you not coming to work tomorrow?; used to confirm
or react to your observation: ^{かえ}もう帰るんですか/^{かえ}帰るの? Are you going home already?; emphasizes
discontentment or anger: ^{なに}何^い言^いって^いんだよ/^いんですか。 what the heck are you talking about?; ~なんだ
with nouns, na-adjectives, and adverbs: ^{あしたあめ}明日雨^いなんだ。 It will rain tomorrow.
- ~よ introduces new information; emphasises a sentence: ^{あさ}朝だよ! It's morning!

コウタ：いいね！行く、行く！

Kota: Nice! I'll go, I'll go!

- いい good: ^{えいが}映画よかった! The film was great!; you may use this to indicate your preference or
choice: ^{わたし}私、ラーメンがいい。 I'd like to choose ramen; いいね is the Japanese version of "like"
on social media.
- ~ね shares information or experiences; softens a sentence; expects an agreement; isn't it?;
don't you?: ^{あめ}雨だね。 Oh, it's raining (as you can see).

2. Situation

Students Yuki and Risa are talking.

Dialogue

ユキ：この問題、もう1時間やってるけど、全然わかんない。

リサ：私もだよー。

ユキ：やっぱり？

リサ：もう、わかんない！先生に聞いてくる！

Breakdown

ユキ：この問題、もう1時間やってるけど、全然わかんない。

Yuki: I've been doing this question for an hour already, but I don't understand at all.

- これ this, these; この this, these (possessive): この車 this car
- 問題 problem; question
- もう already; soon; again; more; strengthens expression of an emotion; filler word: なんか、もう、帰ろうよ。 Like, let's go home already?
- 時間 time; hour: 一時間 one hour, 二時間 two hours
- やって te-form of やる; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日学校行って、勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- やる to do; to give; often more casual than する
- ~ている、てる verb form to express continuation; 食べる + ている = 食べている eating; てる is a colloquial version of ている; some verbs such as 知る uses this form to express the present situation 知っている (I know) but uses the present native form to say the opposite: 知らない (I don't know); often てん in spoken Japanese: それ、知ってるの? Do you know that?

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- けれど、けど but; however; although; though; a lot of people finish a sentence with (だ)けど because it makes the sentence less direct.
- 全然 (not) at all; utterly; completely; usually used with a negative form: 全然分からない。I don't understand at all; (a lot of people use it with affirmative forms lately): 全然できるよ。I can easily do it.
- ～んない a colloquial form of ～らない; 分かんない = 分からない I don't understand
- わからない negative form of わかる
- わかる to understand; to see

リサ: 私 もだよー。

Risa: Me too...

ユキ: やっぱり？

Yuki: Just as I thought?

- やっぱり as (one) expected; still; either way; after all; nonetheless; やっぱり and やっぱ are colloquial versions of やはり

リサ: もう、わかんない！先生に聞いてくる！

Risa: Oh, I don't know! I'm going to go ask the teacher!

- 先生 teacher; professor; doctor
- 聞いて te-form of 聞く; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食べて！Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日学校行って、勉強して。。。I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- 聞く to hear; to listen; to ask; to obey
- ～てくる [1] go and ___; indicates that you will do something and come back to the original place; indicates you are doing something in addition to coming to a place: 学校に行ってくる。I'll go to school (and come back.) [2] indicates a gradual process: 空が赤くなってくる。The sky is becoming red. [3] indicates something you've been doing in the past. 今まで一人で仕事してきた。I've been working alone up until now.

3. Situation

Tanaka-san and Sato-san are talking at work.

Dialogue

たなか さいきんかえ
田中：最近帰るのはやいですね。

さとう こども あ
佐藤：はやく子供に会いたいから。

たなか
田中：へー！やっぱりかわいいですか？

さとう
佐藤：うん！すごいかわいいよー！

Breakdown

たなか さいきんかえ
田中：最近帰るのはやいですね。

Tanaka: You go home early these days, don't you?

- さいきん 最近 recently; lately
- ~の の can make other words, such as verbs or adjectives, function like a noun: た 食べるのはやめる。I will stop eating. ほ 欲しいのはどれ? Which is the one you want?
- はや 早い early; soon; はや 速い fast

さとう こども あ
佐藤：はやく子供に会いたいから。

Sato: Because I want to meet my kid quickly.

- こども 子供 child
- あ 会いたい たい form of あ 会う; ~たい expresses desire; I want to __
- あ 会う to meet; to see
- ~から because; since: あめ い 雨だから行きません。I won't go because it's raining.; use だから with nouns and na-adjectives.

たなか
田中：へー！やっぱりかわいいですか？

Takana: Huh! They're cute, as expected?

- へー oh, yes?; really?

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- かわいい cute; nice; lovely

さとう
佐藤：うん！すごいかわいいよー！
Sato: Yeah! Really cute!

- すごい i-adj fantastic, wonderful, terrible; adv awfully, very, immensely

4. Situation

Ueno-san and Yamaguchi-san are talking.

Dialogue

うえの き ほん か
上野：聞きましたよ。本を書いたんですね！

やまぐち か
山口：はい。書いてみました。

うえの ぼく よ
上野：僕、読みます！

やまぐち
山口：ほんとですか？ありがとうございます。

Breakdown

うえの き ほん か
上野：聞きましたよ。本を書いたんですね！

Ueno: I heard. You wrote a book, didn't you!

- 聞きました past form of 聞きます
- 聞きます ます form of 聞く; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- 本 book
- 書いた past form of 書く
- 書く to write

やまぐち か
山口：はい。書いてみました。

Yamaguchi: Yes. I tried writing.

- 書いて te-form of 書く; te-form is often used to connect to other expressions; te-form may indicate a command; 食べて! Please eat!; it's common to end a sentence with a te-form. Japanese people often don't finish a sentence completely: 昨日学校行って、勉強して。。。 I went to school yesterday, studied, and...
- ~てみました past form of ~てみます
- ~てみます ます form of ~てみる; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence

- ~てみる to try and ___; to try something; to attempt to do something: ^た食べてみる。I'll try eating.

うえの ぼく よ
上野：僕、読みます！

Ueno: I'll read it!

- ^{ぼく}僕 I (used by male speakers)
- ^よ読みます ます form of ^よ読む; ~ます makes a keigo (polite) sentence
- ^よ読む to read

やまぐち
山口：ほんとですか？ありがとうございます。

Yamaguchi: Really? Thank you very much.

- ^{ほんとう}本当、ほんと truth; right; really