Grammar:

Hello, in this video, we’ll be looking at tenses, how to form them and some examples to see how they are used in sentences.

So in English we have 3…

However in Japanese we technically only have 2

I say technically because while we can…

It is not considered an actual grammar point

So far, we’ve been using the present tense which you’ll see is defined by its ~ます　ending. Such as ikimasu

Or a う　sound ending if its in plain (causal) form, like iku

The past tense also follows the same consistent pattern. To say the past tense of…

Or in the plain form,…however there are exceptions when using this form

But lets delve a little deeper so we can fine-tune our use…

In English, the use of tense is determined relatively to the speaker, so

Which is to basically say that if Speaker 1 is intending on doing something in the future, both events will be in the future tense or has done something…

This is the same in Japanese, only for the main clause however.

If your unsure a main clause is a part of a larger sentence that can form a complete sentence by itself

So if grammar WW3 broke out this sentence…

While this sentence…

So the main clause is determined relative to the speaker, whilst the subordinate clause, whats left, is determined to where it is relative to the main clause

In this example, eating takes place before brushing our teeth, so the subordinate clause is expressed in the past-tense, not in the future tense like our main clause, as it happens before what occurs in the main clause:

So our construction will look like this if the sub clause occurs before the main clause:

Subject wa eventB maeni eventA

And like this if the sub clause occurs after the main clause:

Subject wa eventB ato eventA

Lets look at some examples:

A practical way of constructing tenses correctly all the time is to pretend that your main clause event such as:

Is occurring now, and then describe your subordinate clause:

from that perspective

So we get:

If the main clause event actually occurred in the past just change it to the past tense

Lets walkthrough some more examples:

I hope you understood this explanation, if not just remember the basic construction which will work fine in all situations. You’ll find that at first your ability to construct a sentence like this will be verrry slow, but the more you do it, the faster you’ll get till eventually it’ll be second nature. Learning a language half of the time is just persistence and having faith, not scientific but again language doesn’t truly obey any rules. If you’re still confused then comment down below and either me or somebody else will try to help you. Thank you for watching and see you in the next video.