

IV. Grammar Explanation

1. Passive verbs

How to make passive verbs (See Main Textbook, Lesson 37, p. 96, 練習A1.)

		Passive verbs	
		polite form	plain form
I	かきます	かかれます	かかれる
II	ほめます	ほめられます	ほめられる
III	きます します	こられます されます	こられる される

All passive verbs are Group II verbs; they conjugate into the dictionary form, ない-form, て-form, etc.

e.g. かかれる, かかれ(ない), かかれて

2. N₁(person₁)は N₂(person₂)に V passive

When a person (person₂)'s action is directed to another person (person₁), person₁ can state it from his/her side by using this sentence pattern. In this case, person₁ becomes the topic of the sentence, person₂ is marked with に, and a passive verb is used.

先生は わたしを ほめました。 My teacher praised me.

① わたしは 先生に ほめられました。 I was praised by my teacher.

母は わたしに 買い物を 頼みました。

My mother asked me to go shopping.

② わたしは 母に 買い物を 頼まれました。

I was asked to go shopping by my mother.

Something that moves (animals, cars, etc.) can replace person₂ in this sentence pattern.

③ わたしは 犬に かまれました。 I was bitten by a dog.

3. N₁(person₁)は N₂(person₂)に N₃を V passive

When a person (person₂)'s action is directed to an object belonging to another person (person₁), and person₁ feels annoyed or troubled, person₁ uses this sentence pattern to express his/her feelings.

弟が わたしの パソコンを 壊しました。

My brother broke my personal computer.

④ わたしは 弟に パソコンを 壊されました。

I had my personal computer broken by my brother.

Like in sentence pattern 2. above, an animate object or something that moves can replace person₂.

⑤ わたしは 犬に 手を かまれました。 I had my hand bitten by a dog.

[Note 1] In this sentence pattern, the topic of the sentence is not the object (N₃) of the verb but person₁ (N₁), who feels annoyed or troubled by what person₂ does to the object belonging to him/her. Thus わたしの パソコンは おどろとに こわされました is not correct. You should use sentence ④ shown on the previous page instead.

[Note 2] As this sentence pattern is used when person₁ is troubled by what person₂ does, it cannot be used when person₁ is grateful for what person₂ does. ~て もらいます is used instead.

⑥ わたしは 友達に 自転車を 修理してもらいました。

I had my bicycle repaired by my friend.

× わたしは 友達に 自転車を 修理されました。

4. N(thing)が/は V passive

When you need not mention the person who does the action denoted by a verb, you can make the object of the verb the subject of the sentence. In this case, a passive verb is used.

⑦ フランスで 昔の 日本の 絵が 発見されました。

An old Japanese picture has been discovered in France.

⑧ 日本の 車は 世界中へ 輸出されています。

Japanese cars are exported all over the world.

⑨ 会議は 神戸で 開かれました。

The assembly was held in Kobe.

5. N₁は N₂(person)によって V passive

When something is created or discovered, and it is stated using a passive verb, the person who created or discovered it is indicated by によって instead of に. Verbs like かきます, はつめいします, はっけんします, etc., are used in this sentence pattern.

⑩ 「源氏物語」は 紫式部によって 書かれました。

"The Tale of Genji" was written by Murasaki Shikibu.

⑪ 電話は ベルによって 発明されました。

The telephone was invented by Bell.

6. Nから/Nで つくります

When something is made from a raw material, the material is marked with から. When it is obvious to the eye that something is made of a particular material, the material is marked with で.

⑫ ビールは 麦から 造られます。

Beer is made from barley.

⑬ 昔 日本の 家は 木で 造られました。

Japanese houses were made of wood in the past.