

IV. Grammar Explanation

1. V た-form
V ない-form ない

- ① 毎日 運動した ほうがいいです。
It is good to do some exercise everyday.
② 熱があるんです。
…じゃ、おふろに入らない ほうがいいですよ。
I have got a fever.
…So, you had better not take a bath.

This pattern is used to make suggestions or to give advice. Depending on the situation, this expression may sound like you are imposing your opinion on the listener. Therefore, consider the context of the conversation carefully before using it.

[Note] The difference between ~た ほうがいい and ~たらいい:

- ③ 日本の お寺が 見たいんですが……。
…じゃ、京都へ 行ったら いいですよ。
I would like to see some Japanese temples.
…So, it would be a good idea to go to Kyoto.

Example ③ illustrates a situation in which a simple suggestion is given. In such cases ~たらいい is used. ~た ほうがいい implies a comparison and a choice between two things even if it is not expressed in words.

2. V い-adj plain form
な-adj plain form でしょう
N ～だ

This pattern expresses the speaker's inference from some information he/she has. When used in a question like ⑤, the speaker asks for the listener's inference.

- ④ あしたは 雨が 降るでしょう。
It will rain tomorrow.
⑤ タワポンさんは 合格するでしょうか。
Do you think Mr. Thawaphon will pass the exam?

3. V い-adj plain form
な-adj plain form かも しません
N ～だ

～かも しません also expresses the speaker's inference, and means that there is a possibility that some event or state occurred/occurs/will occur. The degree of certainty however is much lower than with ~でしょう.

- ⑥ 約束の 時間に 間に 合わないかも しません。
We might not be in time for the appointment.

4.きっと／たぶん／もしかしたら

1)きっと

This adverb indicates that the speaker is quite certain of what he/she is saying. The probability ranges from quite high to the same level as that of ~でしょう.

- ⑦ ミラーさんは きっと 来ます。

Mr. Miller will surely come.

- ⑧ あしたは きっと 雨でしょう。
It will undoubtedly rain tomorrow.

2)たぶん

This adverb entails less certainty than きっと, and is mostly used with ~でしょう. As shown in ⑩, たぶん is very often used with ~と おもいます (see Lesson 21).

- ⑨ ミラーさんは 来るでしょうか。

…たぶん 来るでしょう。
Do you think Mr. Miller will come?
…I guess so.

- ⑩ 山田さんは この ニュースを たぶん 知らないと 思います。
I guess Mr. Yamada does not know this news.

3)もしかしたら

This adverb is used with ~かも しません in most cases. A sentence with もしかしたら expresses the idea that there is less of a possibility of some event or situation occurring (e.g., "I cannot graduate" in ⑪).

- ⑪ もしかしたら 3月に 卒業できないかも しません。
There is a possibility I might be unable to graduate in March.

5. 何か 心配な こと

- ⑫ 何か 心配な ことが あるんですか。
Is anything bothering you?

As shown in ⑫, you cannot say しんぱいな なにか, but you should rather say なにか しんぱいな こと. Other similar examples are なにか ～もの, どこか ～ところ, だれか ～ひと, いつか ～とき, etc.

- ⑬ スキーに行きたいんですが、どこかいい 所ありますか。
I want to go skiing. Could you recommend a good ski resort?

6. Quantifier で

で added to a quantifier indicates the limit of a price, time, quantity, etc., necessary for a state, an action or an event to be realized.

- ⑭ 駅まで 30分で 行けますか。

Can I reach the station in thirty minutes?

- ⑮ 3万円で ビデオが 買えますか。

Can I buy a video player for 30,000 yen?