

IV. Grammar Explanation

1. Vて-form います

Vて-form います expresses the state which results as a consequence of the action expressed by the verb.

1) Nが Vて-form います

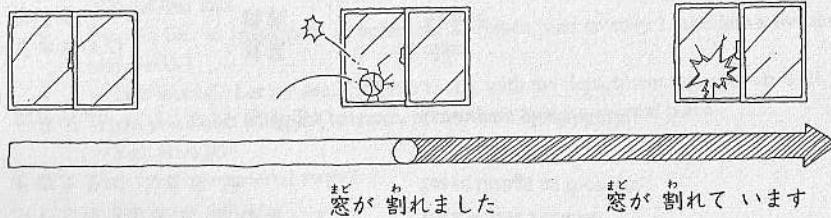
① 窓が 割れています。

The window is broken.

② 電気が ついています。

The light is on.

As in the examples above, when the speaker describes the state he/she sees in front of him/her as it is, the subject of the action is indicated with が. Example ① shows that "the window was broken in the past and at present its consequence remains (=it is broken)." Verbs which are used with this expression are intransitive verbs, and most of them indicate an instantaneous act or action. Examples of such verbs include こわれます, きえます, あきます, こみます, etc.



When describing states in the past, Vて-form いました is used.

③ けさは 道が 込んで いました。 The road was crowded this morning.

2) Nは Vて-form います

When the subject of an act or action is taken up as a topic, it is indicated with は. In example ④, with the use of a demonstrative, この, the speaker clearly identifies the chair as the topic and describes the state of it to the listener.

④ この いすは 壊れて います。 This chair is broken.

2. Vて-form しまいました／しまいます

Vて-form しまいました is an expression which emphasizes that an action or event has been completed.

⑤ シュミットさんが 持って 来た ワインは 全部 飲んで しまいました。

We drank all the wine that Mr. Schmidt brought.

⑥ 漢字の 宿題は もう やって しまいました。

I have done my kanji homework already.

Though Vました can also indicate the completion of an action, the use of Vて-form しまいました emphasizes the actual completing of the action. Therefore, the latter is often accompanied by such adverbs as もう and/or ぜんぶ. Because of this feature of the expression, example ⑤ implies the resultant state, i.e., there is no wine left, and example ⑥ that the speaker's state of mind is one of relief.

Also, Vて-form しまいます expresses that the speaker will complete an action in the future.

⑦ 昼ごはんまでに レポートを 書いて しまいます。

I intend to finish writing the report by lunch time.

3. Vて-form しまいました

This expression conveys the speaker's embarrassment or regret in a difficult situation.

⑧ パスポートを なくして しまいました。 I lost my passport.

⑨ パソコンが 故障して しまいました。 My personal computer's broken.

Though the fact of losing one's passport or the trouble with the computer can be expressed with なくしました or こしょうしました, these sentences above add the speaker's feeling of regret or embarrassment about the fact.

4. ありました

⑩ [かばんが] ありましたよ。

I've found [the bag].

ありました here is used to indicate that the speaker has found the bag, not to indicate that it existed some place in the past.

5. どこかで／どこかに

In the examples shown in Lesson 13, you learned へ in どこかへ and を in なにかを could be omitted. However, で in どこかで (⑪) or に in どこかに (⑫) cannot be omitted.

⑪ どこかで 財布を なくして しまいました。

I've lost my wallet somewhere.

⑫ どこかに 電話が ありませんか。

Is there a pay phone somewhere nearby?