

IV. Grammar Explanation

1. plain form そうです I hear that ...

This is an expression for conveying information you have obtained from another source without adding your own point of view. When the source of the information is given, it is indicated by ~に よると (according to ~), placed at the beginning of the sentence.

① 天気予報に よると、あしたは 寒くなるそうです。
According to the weather forecast, it will be cold tomorrow.

② クララさんは 子どもの とき、フランスに 住んで いたそうです。
I heard that Klara lived in France when she was a child.

③ バリ島は とても 美しいだそうです。
I hear that Bali is very beautiful.

[Note 1] Note that this expression is different in meaning and construction from ~そうです used for describing an apparent state that you learned in Lesson 43. Compare the following sentences.

④ 雨が 降りそうです。 It looks like rain. (L. 43)

⑤ 雨が 降るそうです。 I heard that it will rain.

⑥ この 料理は おいしそうです。 This food looks delicious. (L. 43)

⑦ この 料理は おいしいそうです。 I heard that this food is delicious.

[Note 2] The difference between ~そうです (expression of hearsay) and ~と いって いました (L. 33):

⑧ ミラーさんは あした 京都へ 行くそうです。
I hear that Mr. Miller is going to Kyoto tomorrow.

⑨ ミラーさんは あした 京都へ 行くと 言って いました。
Mr. Miller said that he is going to Kyoto tomorrow.

In example ⑨ the information source is Mr. Miller himself, while in example ⑧ it is highly possible that the information source is not necessarily Mr. Miller but somebody else. Another difference is that in example ⑨ the words which Mr. Miller said can be quoted directly or indirectly. In example ⑧ on the other hand, only the plain form may be used.

V	plain form	そうです
い-adj	plain form ~だ→~な	な-adj plain form ~だ→~の
N	plain form ~だ→~の	

It seems that ...

~ようです conveys the speaker's subjective conjecture, which is based on the information obtained through his/her sensory organs.

A sentence that ends in ようです sometimes accompanies どうも which suggests the speaker cannot be certain if what he/she is saying is a fact.

⑩ 人が 大勢 集まつて いますね。

…事故の ようですね。パトカーと 救急車が 来て いますよ。

Look, there is a big crowd.

…It looks like there's been an accident. A patrol car and an ambulance are there.

⑪ せきも 出るし、頭も 痛い。どうも かぜを ひいたようだ。

I have a cough and a headache. It looks like I've caught a cold.

[Note] The difference between ~そうです (L. 43, describing an apparent state) and ~ようです:

⑫ ミラーさんは 忙しそうです。 Mr. Miller seems to be busy. (L. 43)

⑬ ミラーさんは 忙しい ようです。 It seems that Mr. Miller is busy.

Example ⑫ indicates an intuitive judgement based on what the speaker has seen of Mr. Miller's condition or behavior, and example ⑬ indicates the speaker's judgement based on what he has read, heard or been told.

3. 声/音/におい/味が します

⑭ へんな 音が しますね。 There's a strange sound, isn't there?

A phenomenon that is perceptible by the senses is described by using ~が します. Expressions in this category are こえが します, においが します, and あじが します. All these expressions mean that these things have been perceived or sensed regardless of the speaker's intention.