

#### IV. Grammar Explanation

1. 

V dictionary form Vて-form いる Vた-form	ところです
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The word ところ originally means "place," but it is also used to indicate a temporal position. The ところ that you learn in this lesson is the latter and is used to stress a certain point in time during the course of an action.

1) 

V dictionary form	ところです
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This sentence pattern shows that a person is about to start doing something or something is about to start. It may be used together with これから, [ちょうど] いまから, etc., which makes the meaning clearer.

- ① 昼ごはんは もう 食べましたか。  
…いいえ、これから 食べる ところです。  
Have you had lunch yet?  
…No, I'm going to have it now.
- ② 会議は もう 始まりましたか。  
…いいえ、今から 始まる ところです。  
Has the meeting begun yet?  
…No, it's just beginning now.

2) 

Vて-form いる	ところです
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This sentence pattern shows that a person is now doing a certain action or a certain action is now being done. It is often used with いま.

- ③ 故障の 原因が わかりましたか。  
…いいえ、今 調べて いる ところです。  
Do you know what caused the breakdown?  
…No. We are investigating it now.

3) 

Vた-form	ところです
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This sentence pattern shows that a person has just finished a certain action or a certain action has just been completed. It is used together with たったいま, etc.

- ④ 渡辺さんは いますか。  
…あ、たった今 帰った ところです。  
まだ エレベーターの 所に いるかも しれません。  
Is Ms. Watanabe here?  
…Oh, she's just left.  
She may be somewhere near the elevator.
- ⑤ たった今 バスが 出た ところです。  
The bus left just now.

[Note] ～ところです is a noun sentence and is used in various structures. See ⑥ below.

- ⑥ もしもし 田中ですが、今 いいでしょうか。  
…すみません。今から 出かける ところなんです。  
Hello. This is Tanaka speaking. May I talk to you now?  
…Sorry. I'm just going out.

2. 

Vた-form	ばかりです
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This sentence pattern means that not much time has passed since a certain action or event occurred. It is the expression of the speaker's feeling and can be used regardless of the real length of time that has passed if the speaker feels it is short. In this respect, this sentence pattern is different from Vた-form ところです, which can only indicate the time when a certain action has just been completed.

- ⑦ さっき 昼ごはんを 食べた ばかりです。  
I had lunch only a while ago.
- ⑧ 木村さんは 先月 この 会社に入った ばかりです。  
Ms. Kimura joined this company only a month ago.

[Note] ～ばかりです is a noun sentence and is used in various structures. See ⑨ below.

- ⑨ この ビデオは 先週 買った ばかりなのに、調子がおかしいです。  
I bought this video only a week ago, but it isn't working well.

3. 

V dictionary form Vない-form ない い-adj(～い) な-adjな Nの	はずです
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The speaker uses this sentence pattern to show he/she is convinced of what is stated before はずです. By using this sentence pattern, the speaker implies that he/she has grounds to think so, that it is his/her own judgement, and that he/she is quite sure of it.

- ⑩ ミラーさんは きょう 来る でしょう。  
…来る はずですよ。きのう 電話がありましたから。  
Do you think Mr. Miller will come today?  
…I'm sure he'll come. I received a phone call from him yesterday.

In ⑩, the grounds for the speaker's judgement is yesterday's phone call. Based on this call, the speaker himself judges that Mr. Miller will come today. The speaker shows his/her firm belief in this judgement by using ～ はずです.