

IV. Grammar Explanation

1. Volitional form

The volitional form of verbs is made as follows. (See Main Textbook, Lesson 31, p. 46, 練習A1.)

Group I : Replace the last sound of the ます-form with the sound in the お-line of the same row and attach よ。

Group II : Attach よう to the ます-form.

Group III : します becomes しよう, and きます becomes こよう.

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2. How to use the volitional form

1) In plain style sentences

The volitional form is used instead of ~ましょう in plain style sentences.

① ちょっと 休まない?

…うん、休もう。

② 少し 休もうか。

③ 手伝おうか。

Shall we take a rest?

…Yes, let's.

How about taking a rest for a while?

Shall I help you?

[Note] As you see in ② and ③, か at the end of the sentences is not dropped though they are plain style sentences.

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2) V volitional form と 思って います

This sentence pattern is used to express what the speaker is thinking of doing. V volitional form と おもいます can also express a similar meaning. V volitional form と おもって います implies that the speaker's decision was made some time ago.

④ 週末は 海に行こうと 思って います。

I'm thinking of going to the beach at the weekend.

⑤ 今から 銀行へ 行こうと 思います。

I'm going to the bank now.

[Note] V volitional form と おもって います can be used to express a third person's will or intention.

⑥ 彼は 外国で 働こうと 思って います。

He is thinking of working in a foreign country.

3. V dictionary form つもりです | つもりです Vない-form ない

V dictionary form つもりです is used to express the speaker's intention of doing something, and Vない-form ない つもりです is used to express the speaker's intention of not doing something.

⑦ 国へ 帰っても、柔道を 続ける つもりです。

Even when I go back to my country, I'll continue with my judo.

⑧ あしたからは たばこを 吸わない つもりです。

I'm determined not to smoke from tomorrow.

[Note] Compared with V volitional form と おもって います, V dictionary form つもりです sounds more determined.

4. V dictionary form 予定です | 予定です Nの

By using this sentence pattern, you can inform people of schedules.

⑨ 7月の 終わりに ドイツへ 出張する 予定です。

I'm scheduled to go on a business trip to Germany at the end of July.

⑩ 旅行は 1週間ぐらいの 予定です。

The trip is scheduled to last for a week.

5. まだ Vて-form いません

This sentence pattern means that something has not taken place or has not been done yet.

⑪ 銀行は、まだ 開いて いません。 The bank is not open yet.

⑫ レポートは もう 書きましたか。 Have you written the report yet?

…いいえ、まだ 書いて いません。 …No, not yet.

6. こ～/そ～

In writing, a demonstrative belonging to the そ-series is used when a word(s) or a sentence(s) mentioned before is referred to. Sometimes, however, a demonstrative belonging to the こ-series is used instead. In this case, the writer wants to describe something to the reader as though it really existed then and there.

⑬ 東京に ない 物が ひとつだけ ある。それは 美しい 自然だ。

There's one thing missing in Tokyo. And that's nature.

⑭ わたしが いちばん 欲しい 物は 「どこでも ドア」です。この ドアを開けると、どこでも 行きたい 所へ 行けます。

What I want most is a "magic door." When you open this door, you can go anywhere you want.

(L. 27)

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