

Full Form vs. Plain Form

Full Form—your friend for all situations. Using this form will guarantee that you are always appropriate and polite. You will not annoy your Japanese friends and hosts. Granted, if you use it all the time with close friends, you will come off as a bit stiff or reserved, but otherwise, this style is where you focus your efforts on mastery. Beware! You cannot use these forms with most other grammar patterns. If you want to attach grammar patterns to these items, you will need to shift to.....PLAIN FORM!!

Verbs	Meaning	Nouns/な adjectives	Meaning	い adjectives	Meaning
たべます	I will eat...	しずかです	It is quiet	おいしいです	It is delicious
たべました	I ate...	しずかでした	It was quiet	おいしかったです	It was delicious
たべません	I will not eat...	しずかじゃありません	It is not quiet	おいしくありません	It is not delicious
たべませんでした	I did not eat...	しずかじゃありませんでした	It was not quiet	おいしくありませんでした	It was not delicious
たべて	I eat and.... Please eat...	しずかで	It is quiet and...	おいしくて	It is delicious and...
たべましょう	Let's eat...				

Plain Form—used by most Japanese in everyday interactions with their friends and family. You will hear it all the time in anime and in movies/TV shows. More casual and faster than full form—its other main benefit is that you can connect all sorts of grammar patterns onto it to create much more complex and advanced language. Once you leave Japanese 1, mastery of plain forms becomes necessary if you want to progress. The tough point is that you need more rules for the verbs to make the correct plain forms.

Verbs*	Meaning	Nouns/な adjectives	Meaning	い adjectives	Meaning
たべる	I will eat...	しずかだ	It is quiet	おいしい	It is delicious
たべた	I ate...	しずかだった	It was quiet	おいしかった	It was delicious
たべない	I will not eat...	しずかじゃない	It is not quiet	おいしくない	It is not delicious
たべなかった	I did not eat...	しずかじゃなかった	It was not quiet	おいしくなかった	It was not delicious
たべよう	Let's eat...				

* Be careful with verb plain forms, because the endings are the same, but you will need to tweak things based on Group 1, Group 2, or Group 3 status. I am showing a Group 2 verb here because it is the easiest version to turn into Plain Form.