

CURE DOLLY

GRAMMAR NOTES

1. Core Japanese sentence structure, and が particle

- A is B sentence:
 - 桜「さくら」 **が**日本人**だ**。(Sakura is Japanese / Sakura is a Japanese person).
- A does B sentence:
 - 桜「さくら」 **が**歩く「あるく」。(Sakura walks).
- **が** is the main particle attached to A (subject)
 - が is always there
- 3 core sentence structures:
 - A is B sentence ending with **だ**
 - A is B sentence ending with **い** adjective - 「桜がきれい。」 (Sakura is
 - A does B sentence ending with **U** sound (verb)

2. Invisible carriages, and を particle

- In Japanese, both A & B are not always visible. A might be invisible.
- Extra carriages (C, D, etc) carry additional information.
- を is particle attached to nouns.
 - を provides extra structure/logical information to the sentence, but it is not part of the core sentence.
- Use of を:
 - 肉「にく」を食べる「たべる」。(I eat meat). - が is invisible here, but exists.
 - **0**が肉を食べる。 - 0 is the subject ("I" in this case) inferred from context.

3. は、に and logical vs non-logical particles

- **は** is a flag that marks the topic of a sentence.
 - ▶ は can be attached to nouns.
 - ▶ は is a non-logical particle.
- Use of **は**:
 - ▶ 私**は**アメリカ人だ。(As for me, I am American). - Important to distinguish that 「私は」 literally means “As for me”, not “I am”.
 - ▶ 私は**〇が**アメリカ人だ。 - The A (が carriage) part is still there, just not visible.
 - ▶ In this case, 私 is the subject of the sentence, but it is not necessarily the case for every sentence. For example saying 私は肉「にく」だ。 when asked for a restaurant order doesn't mean “As for me, I am meat”, it means “As for me, I'll have meat.” (important to distinguish that “order”/“meal” is the subject here, inferred from context). The が version of this would be 私は飯「めし」が肉だ。
- **に** is a logical particle that marks the indirect object.
 - ▶ に tells us about the destination of the action.
- Use of **に**:
 - ▶ 私がボールを桜**に**投げる「なげる」。(I throw the ball to/at Sakura).
- Logical vs non-logical particles:
 - ▶ The logical particles が, を, and に tell us about what's happening in the sentence. They directly affect the meaning of the sentence.
 - ▶ Non-logical particles can't change the meaning of a sentence:
 - 私は桜にボールを投げる。(As for me, I throw the ball to/at Sakura).
 - ボールは私が桜に投げる。(As for the ball, I throw it to/at Sakura).
 - The meaning of the sentences don't change even though we switch the は particle from 私 to ボール。 This is because non-logical particles cannot change the meaning of a sentence. が is marking the subject, に is marking the indirect object/destination, and を is marking the object. は is used here simply to put emphasis on either the subject (私) or the object (ボール).
 - を is still present in the second sentence, just invisible. - ボールは私が桜に **〇** を投げる。(object is inferred from context established by the topic marker は).

4. Tenses in Japanese

- Japanese has 3 tenses.
- The base form of a verb is the non-past tense, same as the dictionary form of an English word.
- The 'ru'/'u' ending of a verb is the non-past tense. So, 犬「いぬ」が食べる means “The dog will eat / The dog eats”.
- To make the sentence continuous, we can use the いる particle. So, 犬が食べている would mean “The dog is eating”. Here いる is a state-of-being particle, and 食べて is considered a white engine. White engine meaning it's not carrying the sentence, but it does provide logical information to the main engine 「いる」。
- To make a verb past tense, we add た to the end. So, 犬が食べた means “The dog ate”.
- To make a sentence future tense, we add a time noun to the beginning. So, 明日「あした」ケーキを食べる。 means “Tomorrow, I will eat cake”.
 - ▶ 明日「あした」 here means “tomorrow”, and it is a relative-time noun.
 - ▶ Relative-time nouns do not require a particle when prefacing a sentence.
 - ▶ For absolute-time nouns, we have to use the に particle. So, 6 時にケーキを食べる。 means “At 6 o'clock, I will eat cake”.
 - This is the same as when we use “on”, “at”, or “in” in English for absolute time nouns.

5. Japanese verb groups and the て form

- Ichidan verbs (一段動詞) or one-step verbs - ending in いる・える。
 - ▶ いる・える -> いて・えて or いた・えた
- Godan verbs (五段動詞) or five-step verbs - can end in any of the following:
 - ▶ う・つ・る (utsuru group) -> って・った > This includes some verbs ending in いる・える although most are ichidan.
 - ▶ め・ぶ・む (new boom group/ dull sounds group) -> んで・んだ
 - ▶ く・ぐ (KU-GU group, combined) -> いて・いた (for く) or いで・いだ (for ぐ) > If there is a dakuten in the original, add the dakuten to the morphed.
 - ▶ す (su group) -> して・した (shifting the su to the 'i' column - 'shi')
- Irregular verbs - just 2 verbs くる (come) and する (do):
 - ▶ くる -> きて・きた
 - ▶ する -> して・した
 - ▶ いく (go) -> 行って (exception from godan く ending)

6. Adjectives

- The い ending adjectives work the same as adjectives in English.
 - ▶ Adjectives can be used as the main engine like: ペンが赤い「あがい」。
 - ▶ They can also be used as modifiers for nouns as a white engine like: 赤いペンが。。。「赤いペンが地裁」(The red pen is small).
- Any verb in any tense can be used like an adjective. Example: 症状が歌った「しょうじょがうたった」。(The girl sang) -> 歌った症状。。。(The girl who sang...)
 - ▶ Entire verb trains can be adjectival. 犬がじしよを食べた (The dog ate the dictionary) -> じしよを食べた犬が。。。(The dog who ate the dictionary...). For example: 「じしよを食べた犬がやんちゃだ」(The dog who ate the dictionary is naughty).
- Nouns can be made adjectival by converting the だ to a な. 犬がやんちゃだ (The dog is naughty) -> やんちゃな犬が。。。(The naughty dog...). For example: やんちゃな犬がねている (The naughty dog is sleeping).
 - ▶ Not all nouns are adjectival nouns.
 - ▶ の is the possessive particle. It can be used like an apostrophe-s in English.
 - ▶ Non-adjectival nouns can be modified using の. So for something like ピンクいろ (pink color), we use の to make it adjectival. So, ピンクいろのデレスが (The pick dress...)

7. Negative words, and adjective conjugations

- Fundamental basis of negatives is the adjective ない。
 - All actions are represented with verbs, but negatives are represented with an adjective because it is a state (state of inaction), not an action.
- Nouns can be turned into the negative using replacing だ with では and adding ない。
 - For example: これはペンだ -> これはペンではない。 (As for this, as for pen, not).
 - で is the て-form of だ. では is sometimes abbreviated to “じゃ”.
- Verbs can be turned negative by shifting the ending from the U-stem to the A-stem, and adding ない:
 - Ichidan verbs can just drop the いる・える and add ない.
 - For example: 食べる -> 食べない, 飲む -> 飲まない。
 - The only exception for shifting any verb stem is that う turns into わ, and not あ. For example: 合う -> 合わない。
- For adjective-stem replace the い ending with く for all conjugations.
 - For example: かわいい -> かわいくない, 面白い -> 面白くない。
 - The て form can be achieved by replace い with くて: 赤い「あかい」 -> 赤くて。
 - Past tense (た form) can be achieved by replacing い with かった: こわい -> こわかった。
 - As ない is also an adjective, the past tense would be: なかった。
- There are two irregularities:
 - The polite helper verb ます becomes ません for negative instead of ません。
 - The adjective いい becomes よく for conjugations instead of いく。
- Example sentence: さくらが水を飲む (Sakura drinks water).
 - Negative: さくらが水を飲まない (Sakura does not drink water).
 - Past: さくらが水を飲んだ (Sakura drank water).
 - Past negative: さくらが水を飲まなかった (Sakura did not drink water).
 - Continuous: さくらが水を飲んでいる (Sakura is drinking water).
 - Past continuous: さくらが水を飲んでいた (Sakura was drinking water).
 - Negative continuous: さくらが水を飲んでいない (Sakura is not drinking water).
 - Past negative continuous: さくらが水を飲んでいなかった (Sakura was not drinking water).

Japanese Conjugations and Stemming

- ichidan verb: always remove the る
 - 食べる「たべる」 -> 食べ「食べます・食べたい・食べよう」
- Base stem (う row): Used as dictionary form (non-past form).

Example word	Meaning
買う「かう」	buy
聞く「きく」	hear
話す「はなす」	speak
持つ「もつ」	hold
死ぬ「しぬ」	die
飛ぶ「とぶ」	fly
飲む「のむ」	drink
取る「とる」	take
食べる「たべる」	eat

- I-stem (い row): attach helpers → ます (verb) · たい (adjective) · そう, and form nouns

Base (う)	え-stem	ます (polite)	たい (negative)	Noun
買う	買い	買います	買いたい	買い物 (shopping)
聞く	聞い	聞きます	ききたい	
話す	話し	話します	話したい	話し方 (way of speaking)
持つ	持ち	持ちます	持ちたい	
死ぬ	死に	死にます	死にたい	
飛ぶ	飛び	飛びます	飛びたい	
飲む	飲い	飲みます	飲みたい	飲み物 (a drink)
取る	取り	取ります	取りたい	
食べる		食べます	食べたい	食べ物 (food)

- A-stem (**あ** row): attach helpers → ない・れる・られる・せる・させる

Base (う)	あ-stem	ない adjective	れる (receptive)	せる (causative)
買う	買わ	買わない	買われる	買わせる
聞く	聞か	聞かない	聞かれる	聞かせる
話す	話さ	話さない	話される	話させる
持つ	持た	持たない	持たれる	持たせる
死ぬ	死な	死なない	死なれる	死なせる
飛ぶ	飛ば	飛ばない	飛びれる	飛びせる
飲む	飲ま	飲まない	飲みれる	飲みせる
取る	取ら	取らない	取りれる	取りせる
食べる		食べない	食べられる	食べさせる

- E-stem (**え** row): attach helpers → る・らる verbs

Base (う)	え-stem	る (potential)
買う	買え	買える
聞く	聞け	聞ける
話す	話せ	話せる
持つ	持て	持てる
死ぬ	死ね	死ねる
飛ぶ	飛べ	飛べる
飲む	飲め	飲める
取る	取れ	取れる
食べる		食べられる

- O-stem (**お** row): attach う・よう to form volitional forms
 - Volitional for polite form (ます) is formed by adding う to ます「ましょう」 instead of the base verb → たべる → たべます → たべましょう。

Base (う)	お-stem	う (volitional)
買う	買お	買おう
聞く	聞こ	聞こう
話す	話そ	話そう
持つ	持と	持とう
死ぬ	死の	死のう
飛ぶ	飛ぼ	飛ぼう
飲む	飲も	飲もう
取る	取ろ	取ろう
食べる		食べ よう