

Strategic Japanese: Making a verb

1 Making a verb

You can use a Japanese noun as a verb as the followings.

1. NOUN + “suru” → VERB(III): tennis + suru = tennis suru; tenisu shite
2. NOUN + “ru” → VERB(I): Google + ru = guguru; gugutte

2 Task

Pick up a noun, such as the name of a musical instrument, the name of a cook, the name of a means, the name of a tool, the name of a food, etc., convert it into a verb, and write it down below. Then share those phrases with your partner.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

3 Activity

Share three-word phrases with classmates and write down them. Try to have a simple conversation using the verbs you have made up, as in the following example.

- A: a. Suzuki san ! b. Gugutta ? (Did you look it up on Google?)
B: c. Un gugutta. / Uun mada. (Yes I did / No, not yet)
A: a. Tanaka san ! b. Tenisu suru ? (Did you play tennis now?)
B: c. Un suru / Uun chotto ima wa (Yes I will / No, not now)
A: a. Tanaka san ! b. Tenisu shita ? (Have you ever played tennis?)
B: c. Un shita / Uun mada. (Yes, I have / No, not yet)

1. a. Suzuki b. Gugutta c. Un gugutta.
2. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
3. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
4. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
5. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
6. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
7. a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

4 Discussion

1. Discuss what kinds of nouns can be used as verbs.
2. Discuss when you think a verbalized noun is necessary.
3. Check verbalized nouns you made if there is a formal verb of that.