# A DICTIONARY OF BASIC JAPANESE GRAMMAR

### 日本語基本文法辞典

Seiichi Makino and Michio Tsutsui

The Japan Times

### Preface

This is a dictionary of basic Japanese grammar designed primarily for first and second year Japanese students and for teachers of Japanese. After having examined major textbooks being used in Japan and the United States we have chosen what we believe to be basic grammatical items. Our descriptions and explanations have incorporated the recent findings in Japanese linguistics which we felt were of practical significance.

We have spent three years and a half preparing this dictionary. Each of us initially prepared half of the original draft: approximately 200 entries. Upon completion of the first draft of the dictionary (i.e., Entries, Appendixes, Characteristics of Japanese Grammar, and Grammatical Terms), we closely examined, discussed and improved our individual drafts. Therefore, every part of this dictionary has virtually been written by both of us.

Naturally we owe a great deal to our predecessors whose works are listed in the references. Our heart-felt thanks go to them, although we could not acknowledge them individually in each entry where we used their insightful explanations. We would also like to acknowledge many profitable discussions with our colleagues at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and at the Summer Japanese School of Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont. For fear of omission, we would rather not attempt a comprehensive listing of names. Even so we would like to mention four individuals whose technical assistance has made it possible to publish this dictionary: First, Mr. Burr Nelson of the University of Illinois and Mrs. Sharon Tsutsui, who have edited our English and provided us with valuable comments and suggestions from the user's viewpoint; also, Mr. Mamoru Yoshizawa, who has patiently and conscientiously assisted with the proofreading; and, last but not least Mr. Masayuki Ishida of The Japan Times, who has done such conscientious editing: he has been a perfect midwife for the birth of our progeny and our special thanks go to him.

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Seiichi Makino Michio Tsutsui

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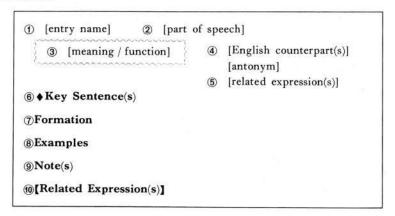
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### To the Reader

This dictionary consists of the following parts:

- A. Grammatical Terms contains brief explanations or informal definitions of the grammatical terms frequently used in this book. If the reader finds that he is not familiar with these terms, we suggest he read this section carefully.
- B. Characteristics of Japanese Grammar introduces the reader to the major characteristics of Japanese grammar and the important concepts involved. The reader should read through this section before he starts to consult the dictionary. Some entries from the Main Entries section refer the reader to topics in this section which provide broader perspectives on those entries.
- C. Main Entries constitutes the core of this book. Each entry is organized as follows:



- ① [entry name]: Each entry is given in romanized spelling followed by its hiragana version. Entries are alphabetically ordered based on their romanized spellings.
- 2 [part of speech]: Each entry is followed by its part of speech.
- ③ [meaning / function]: The general meaning or function of the entry is given in the box below the entry name.
- (4) [English counterpart(s)]: English expressions equivalent to the entry are given to the right of the box. When the entry has an antonym, it is provided, as in (ANT. xxx).

- [related expression(s)]: Items which are related semantically to the entry are listed as [REL. aaa; bbb; ccc (ddd)]. Expressions in non-bold type like aaa are explained in the entry under [Related Expression(s)] (\*\*\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{ecc}}}}} contain comparisons to the entry under [Related Expression(s)] for ccc. Parenthesized expressions like (ddd) are explained in the ccc entry.
- Tormation: The word formation rules / connection forms for each item are provided with examples.
- 8 Examples: Example sentences are provided for each entry.
- 9 Note(s): Notes contain important points concerning the use of the item.
- (n) [Related Expression(s)]: Expressions which are semantically close to the entry are compared and their differences are explained.
- D. Appendixes contains information such as tables of verb / adjective conjugations, a list of connection rules for important expressions and a list of counters.
- E. Indexes contains three indexes: the grammar index, the English index and the Japanese index. The reader, therefore, has three means of access to the word he is looking up.

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### List of Abbreviations

```
Adj(i)=i-type adjective (e.g. takai 'high, expensive', yasui 'inexpensive')
Adj(na)=na-type adjective (e.g. genkida 'healthy', shizukada 'quiet')
Adv. = adverb
Aff. = affirmative
ANT. = antonym
Aux. = auxiliary
Conj. = conjunction
Cop. = copula (=da / desu, datta / deshita)
Fml. = formal (= -des-, -mas-)
Gr. = Group
Inf. = informal
Irr. = Irregular (e.g. kuru 'come', suru 'do')
KS=Key Sentence
LSV = Location + Subject + Verb
N = Noun
Neg. = negative
Nom. = nominalizer (= no and koto)
NP=Noun Phrase
Phr. = phrase
Pl. = plural
Pot. = potential
Pref. = prefix (e.g. o-, go- 'politeness markers')
Pro. = pronoun
Prt. = particle
REL.=Related Expression
S = Sentence
Sinf=Sentence that ends with an informal predicate (e.g. Nihon ni iku of Nihon
  ni iku n desu 'It is that I am going to Japan.')
SLV = Subject + Location + Verb
S.o. = someone
S.t. = something
SOV = Subject + Object + Verb
SV = Subject + Verb
Str. = structure
```

Suf. = suffix (e.g. -sa '-ness', -ya 'store')

V = Verb

Vcond = conditional stem of Gr. 1 Verb (e.g. hanase of hanaseba 'if s.o. talks')

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Vinf=informal form of verbs (e.g. hanasu 'talk', hanashita 'talked')

Vmasu=masu-stem of Verb (e.g. hanashi of hanashimasu 'talk')

Vneg=informal negative stem of Gr. 1 verb (e.g. hanasa of hanasanai 's.o. doesn't talk')

Vstem=stem of Gr. 2 Verb (e.g. tabe of taberu 'eat')

Vte=te-form of Verb (e.g. hanashite 'talk and ~', tabete 'eat and ~', kite 'come and ~', shite 'do and ~')

Vvol=volitional form of Verb (e.g. hanasō 'let's talk', tabeyō 'let's eat', koyō 'let's come', shiyō 'let's do it')

WH-word = an interrogative word (e.g. nani 'what', doko 'where', dare 'who', itsu 'when', dō 'how', naze 'why')

### List of Symbols

⇒=See or refer to.

?=The degree of unacceptability is indicated by the number of question marks, three being the highest.

\*=ungrammatical or unacceptable (in other words, no native speaker would accept the asterisked sentence.)

 $\{A \mid B\}C = AC \text{ or } BC \text{ (e.g. } \{V/Adj(i)\}\inf = V\inf \text{ or } Adj(i)\inf\}$ 

ø=zero (in other words, nothing should be used at a place where ø occurs. Thus, Adj(na) {ø / datta} kamoshirenai is either Adj(na) kamoshirenai or Adj(na) datta kamoshirenai.)

### 1. Word Order

Japanese is typologically classified as an SOV (Subject+Object+Verb) language, whereas English is classified as SVO. An important fact about Japanese word order is that each sentence ends in a verb, an adjective or a form of the copula, and that the order of the other sentence elements is relatively free, except for the topic noun or noun phrase, which normally comes at sentence-initial position. A sample sentence follows.

Subject (topic)	Location	Direct Object	Verb (transitive)	
スミスさん た	1	日本語 を	勉強している。	
Sumisu-san w		nihongo o	benkyōshite iru.	

The Location and the Direct Object can be switched, but the Subject (topic) and the Verb must normally be in sentence-initial and sentence-final positions, respectively.

The word order principle for Japanese is the modifier precedes what is modified. This principle holds whether the modified word is dependent or fully independent. The function of the modifier is to specify the meaning of the modified word. Thus, in (1), the verb benkyōshite iru 'is studying' is modified by the preceding elements Subject, Location and Direct Object. Observe the following phrases and clauses.

)	Adjective	Noun
	赤い	車
	akai	kuruma
	(a red car)	)

	Noun Phra	se
Rela	tive Clause	Noun
	ぶきのう 読んだ a kinō yonda	本 hon

### CHARACTERISTICS OF JAPANESE GRAMMAR 17

(5)

Noun	Particle
スミスさん	は
Sumisu-san	wa
(Mr. Smith (t	opic))
スミスさん	24
Sumisu-san	ga
(Mr. Smith (s	ubject))
スミスさん	を
Sumisu-san	0
(Mr. Smith (c	object))
スミスさん	4
Sumisu-san	mo
(Mr. Smith al	so)
スミスさん	K
Sumisu-san	ni
(to / by / from	Mr. Smith)
スミスさん	から
Sumisu-san	kara
(from Mr. Sm	nith)
スミスさん	より
Sumisu-san	vori

(4)

Sentence	Conjunction
日本 ~ 行く	から
Nihon e iku	kara
(Because I go to	Japan)
日本 へ 行く	けれど
Nihon e iku	keredo
(Although I go t	o Japan)
日本 ~ 行く	٤
Nihon e iku	to
(When I go to J	apan)
日本 へ 行く	なら
Nihon e iku	nara

Note: A subordinate clause precedes a main clause.

Sentenc	e	Nominalizer	
音楽を	聞く	の/こと	
ongaku o	kiku	no   koto	

In (2) and (3) where the modified word is an independent noun the basic principle holds; in (4) (5) and (6) where the second element is a dependent word, such as a particle, conjunction, or nominalizer, the basic modificational principle also holds, because the meaning of the modified word is fully specified by the modifier. Unlike independent words, however, dependent words require modifiers.

It is important for students of Japanese to recognize and understand some of the most basic Japanese sentence types and their word order. Examples of these basic sentence types are given below:

## A DICTIONARY OF BASIC JAPANESE GRAMMAR

(Main Entries)

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日本語基本文法辞典

ageru<sup>1</sup> 63



### ageru<sup>1</sup> あげる v. (Gr. 2)

S.o. gives s.t. to a person who is not a member of the giver's in-group but whose status is about equal to that of the giver.

give [REL. kureru<sup>1</sup> (morau<sup>1</sup>)]

### ♦ Key Sentence

Topic (sul	bject)	Indirect (	Object	Direct	Object	
私	li	良子	に	花	を	あげた / あげました。
Watashi	wa	Yoshiko	ni	hana	0	ageta / agemashita.

### Examples

- (a) 大野さんは山本さんに本をあげた。 *Ōno-san wa Yamamoto-san ni hon o ageta*. (Ms. Ono gave Mr. Yamamoto a book.)
- (b) 君はアンに何をあげましたか。 Kimi wa An ni nani o agemashita ka. (What did you give to Ann?)

### Notes

- Ageru is one of a set of giving and receiving verbs; the meaning is 'give'. However, ageru cannot be used when the indirect object is the first person (i.e., I or we) or a person with whom the speaker empathizes (usually a member of the speaker's in-group). Thus, (1a) and (1b) are ungrammatical.
  - (1) a. \*花子は私に本をあげた。 \*Hanako wa watashi ni hon o ageta. (Hanako gave me a book.)
    - b. \*花子は私のむすこに本をあげた。
      \*Hanako wa watashi no musuko ni hon o ageta.
      (Hanako gave my son a book.)

The reason for this is as follows: Ageru requires the giver's point of view or a neutral point of view when describing an event. When an event involves the first person or a person the speaker empathizes with,

however, the event is normally described from that person's point of view. (See Characteristics of Japanese Grammar, 9. Viewpoint.) Therefore, if the first person or a person the speaker empathizes with is a recipient in ageru-sentences, a viewpoint conflict arises, making the sentences ungrammatical. The grammatical sentences for (1a) and (1b) are (2a) and (2b), respectively. (⇒ kureru1)

- (2) a. 花子は私に本をくれた。 Hanako wa watashi ni hon o kureta. (Hanako gave me a book.)
  - b. 花子は私のむすこに本をくれた。 Hanako wa watashi no musuko ni hon o kureta. (Hanako gave my son a book.)
- 2. The humble polite version of ageru is sashiageru. Example:
  - (3) 私は先生に本をさしあげました。 Watashi wa sensei ni hon o sashiagemashita. (I gave my teacher a book.)

The degree of politeness expressed in sashiageru is higher than that of kudasaru and itadaku, which are the polite versions of kureru and morau, respectively. (⇒ kureru¹, REL. II)

- 3. When the giver is in a higher position than the recipient or the recipient is a person very close to the speaker, varu is used instead of ageru. Examples:
  - (4) a. 私は弟に本をやった。 Watashi wa ototo ni hon o vatta. (I gave my little brother a book.)
    - b. ひろしは猫にミルクをやった。 Hiroshi wa neko ni miruku o vatta. (Hiroshi gave milk to the cat.)
    - c. [Tom is the speaker's intimate friend.] 私はトムにケーキをやりました。 Watashi wa Tomu ni keki o yarimashita. (I gave a cake to Tom.)

ageru<sup>2</sup> あげる

aux. v. (Gr. 2)

S.o. gives some action as a favor to a person who is not a member of the giver's in-group but whose status is about equal to that of the giver.

do s.t. for s.o.; do s.o. a favor by doing s.t.

[REL. kureru<sup>2</sup> (morau<sup>2</sup>)]

### **♦ Key Sentences**

(A)

Γopic (st	ıbject)	Indirect Obj	ect	Direct Obje	ect	Vte	
							あげた   あげました。 ageta   agemashita.

(B)

Topic (subject)		Direct Obj	Direct Object		
僕	lt	春子さん	を	なぐさめて	あげた / あげました。
Boku	wa	Haruko-san		nagusamete	ageta   agemashita.

### Formation

Vte あげる ageru

話して あげる (talk for s.o.'s sake)

hanashite ageru

食べて あげる (eat for s.o.'s sake)

tabete ageru

### Examples

- (a) 君はお母さんに何をしてあげましたか。 Kimi wa o-kā-san ni nani o shite agemashita ka. (What did you do for your mother?)
- (b) 田中さんはスミスさんに本を貸してあげた。 Tanaka-san wa Sumisu-san ni hon o kashite ageta. (Mr. Tanaka lent a book to Mr. Smith.)

### Appendixes

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### Appendixes

### Appendix 1 Basic Conjugations

	inf., neg., nonpast	formal, nonpast (masu- form) <sup>2</sup>	inf., nonpast (dictionary form)	condi- tional	voli- tional	te-form
Group 1 verbs <sup>1</sup>						
書く (write) kaku	書かない ka <b>ka</b> nai	書きます ka <b>ki</b> masu	書く ka <b>ku</b>	書けば ka <b>ke</b> ba	書こう ka <b>kō</b>	書いて kaite
行く (go) iku	行かない i <b>ka</b> nai	行きます i <b>ki</b> masu	行く i <b>ku</b>	行けば i <b>ke</b> ba	行こう i <b>kō</b>	行って³ i <b>t</b> te
話す (talk) hanasu	話さない hana <b>sa-</b> nai	話します hana <b>shi</b> - masu	話す hana <b>su</b>	話せば hana <b>se</b> ba	話そう hana <b>sō</b>	話して hana <b>shi</b> te
待つ (wait) matsu	待たない ma <b>ta</b> nai	待ちます ma <b>chi</b> - masu	待つ ma <b>tsu</b>	待てば ma <b>te</b> ba	待とう ma <b>tō</b>	待って ma <b>t</b> te
死ぬ (die) shinu	死なない shi <b>na</b> nai	死にます shi <b>ni</b> - masu	死ぬ shi <b>nu</b>	死ねば shi <b>ne</b> ba	死のう shi <b>nō</b>	死んで shi <b>n</b> de
読む (read) yomu	読まない yo <b>ma</b> nai	読みます yo <b>mi</b> - masu	読む yo <b>mu</b>	読めば yo <b>me</b> ba	読もう yo <b>mō</b>	読んで yo <b>n</b> de
乗る (ride) noru	乗らない no <b>ra</b> nai	乗ります no <b>ri</b> - masu	乗る no <b>ru</b>	乗れば no <b>re</b> ba	乗ろう no <b>rō</b>	乗って no <b>t</b> te
ある (exist) aru	ない³ nai	あります a <b>ri</b> masu	ある aru	あれば a <b>re</b> ba	(あろう)' (a <b>rō</b> )	あって a <b>t</b> te
買う (buy) <i>kau</i>	買わない ka <b>wa</b> nai	買います ka <b>i</b> masu	買う ka <b>u</b>	買えば ka <b>e</b> ba	買おう <i>ka<b>ō</b></i>	買って ka <b>t</b> te
泳ぐ (swim) oyogu	泳がない oyo <b>ga</b> nai	泳ぎます oyo <b>gi-</b> masu	泳ぐ 0y0 <b>gu</b>	泳げば oyo <b>ge</b> ba	泳ごう oyo <b>gō</b>	泳いで oyo <b>i</b> de
呼ぶ (call) yobu	呼ばない yo <b>ba</b> nai	呼びます yo <b>bi</b> - masu	呼ぶ yo <b>bu</b>	呼べば yo <b>be</b> ba	呼ぼう yo <b>bō</b>	呼んで yo <b>n</b> de
おっしゃる(say (Honorific))	らない	おっしゃい ます <sup>5</sup>	おっしゃる	おっしゃ <b>れ</b> ば	(おっしゃ ろう)*	おっしゃ <b>っ</b> て
ossharu	ossha <b>ra</b> - nai	ossha <b>i</b> - masu	ossha <b>ru</b>	ossha <b>re</b> - ba	(ossha- <b>rō</b> )	ossha <b>t</b> te

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highway. But after having driven about an hour I became used to the speed, and every now and then I almost fell asleep. Before we reached Kyoto, I stopped at service areas about five times and drank coffee. Because I drove while talking a lot with Hanako sitting next to me, I didn't feel that Kyoto was that far. If the trip is this pleasant, I would like to make it again.)

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0 8		first words. . 一時間					-		

### GRAMMAR INDEX

Note: X (Y) indicates that X is found under Y.

exhaustive listing ga1, to

adverb amari, dō, ichiban, mada, mő, sekkaku, yahari auxiliary darō, mashō, sōda1 auxiliary adjective hoshii2, mitaida (yōda), nikui, rashii, sōda2, tai, yasui, yōda, yōni2 auxiliary verb ageru<sup>2</sup>, aru<sup>2</sup>, dasu, garu, hajimeru, iku2, iru2, kudasai, kureru2, kuru2, miru, morau2, nasai, oku, owaru, rareru<sup>1,2</sup>, shimau, sugiru causative saseru, sasu (saseru) causative passive saserareru (rareru1> cause de3, kara3, node, tame (ni), te cleft sentence ~ no wa ~ da command ⇒ imperative comparison hō ga ~ yori, yori conditional ba, nara, tara, to4 conjecture darō, rashii, sōda², yōda conjunction ato de, ba, ga2, kara2,3, keredo (mo), mae ni, nagara, nara, node, noni<sup>1,2</sup>, shi, sore de, sore de wa, sore kara, sore nara, soretomo, soshite, suru to, tara, tatte, te mo, to4, toka, uchi ni, va, vōni1 contrastive wa1, jibun2 coordinate conjunction copula da dependent noun ⇒ noun direct object marker o1 ellipsis Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 3 empathy ⇒ viewpoint

existence aru1, iru1 experience koto ga aru1 gerund giving and receiving verb ageru1,2, kureru<sup>1,2</sup>, morau<sup>1,2</sup> honorific expression o ~ ni naru **honorifics**  $o-, o \sim ni naru, o \sim suru,$ Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 6 humble expression 0-, 0 ~ suru imperative na, nasai, Appendix 1 indefinite pronoun  $no^2$ inexhaustive listing ~ tari ~ tari suru, ya infix -shinominalizer koto2, no3 hazu, koto¹, mama, mono (da), noun tame (ni), toki, tsumori particle bakari, dai, dake, de1,2,3,4, demo, e, ga1, goto ni, hodo, ka1,2, ka (dō ka), kai, kara¹, kashira, kurai, made, made ni, mo<sup>1,2</sup>, na, nado, nanka (nado), ne, ni<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup>, ni shite wa, no1,4, o1,2,3,4, shika, to1,2,3, to shite, to shite wa, tte1,2, wa1,2, yo, yori1,2, zutsu passive rareru1, Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 5 phrase aida (ni), ba yokatta, dake de (wa) naku ~ (mo), hō ga ii, hō ga ~ yori, kawari ni, koto ga aru1,2, koto ga dekiru, koto ni naru, koto ni suru, koto wa, nai de, nakereba nara-

nai, naku naru, nakute, ni chigainai,

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ni suru, no da, o  $\sim$  ni naru, o  $\sim$  suru, tara dō desu ka, tamaranai,  $\sim$  tari  $\sim$  tari suru, te mo ii, to ieba, to iu, tokoro da<sup>1,2</sup>, wa ikenai, wake da, yōni iu, yōni naru, yōni suru, yō to omou, zu ni  $\langle$ nai de $\rangle$ 

plural -tachi polite expression ⇒ honorifics possessive  $no^1$ potential kikoeru, koto ga dekiru, mieru, rareru<sup>2</sup> prefix go- (o-), mai-, opronoun iibun<sup>1,2</sup>, no<sup>2</sup> purpose ni5, noni2, tame ni to3, tte2 quotation question marker dai, ka2, kai de3, kara3, node, tame (ni), te relative clause Relative Clause request kudasai Semantic Derivations De. Ni. To sentence-final particle dai, ka2, kai, kashira, na, ne, no4, wa2, vo, Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 7

structure ~ mo ~ mo, ~ no wa ~ da, ~ wa ~ da, ~ wa ~ ga subject marker ga¹ subordinate conjunction aida (ni), ato de, ba, kara²,³, keredo (mo), mae ni, nagara, nara, node, noni¹,², tame (ni), tara, tatte, te mo, to⁴, toki, uchi ni, yōni¹ suffix -chan ⟨-sama⟩, -goro, -kata, -kun, -sa, -sama, -san⟨-sama⟩ -tachi,

-kun, -sa, -sama, -sam ⟨-sama⟩ -tachi, -ya superlative ichiban

superlative ichiban tag question ne te-form te

topic to ieba, to ittara (to ieba), to kitara (to ieba), ttara (to ieba), tte<sup>1</sup>, wa<sup>1</sup>, Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 2

viewpoint ageru<sup>1,2</sup>, iku<sup>1,2</sup>, jibun<sup>1</sup>, kureru<sup>1,2</sup>, kuru<sup>1,2</sup>, morau<sup>1,2</sup>, passive, tai, Characteristics of Japanese Grammar 9

volitional mashō

### **ENGLISH INDEX**

Note:  $X \langle Y \rangle$  indicates that X is found under Y.

### A

a(n) ga1 about bakari, -goro, gurai (kurai), kurai  $o^2$ across after ato de, kara<sup>2</sup> after all kekkyoku (yahari), yahari after that sore kara almost did s.t. tokoro da<sup>2</sup> 02 along a lot of ōi, ōzei (ōi), takusan (ōi) already mō mo1, vahari also although keredomo, noni<sup>1</sup>, te mo and de3, ni (to), soshite, te, to1, toka, ya and so on nado and the like nado and then sore kara and what is more any  $mo^2$ appear sõda², yõda approximately bakari, gurai (kurai), hodo, kurai around goro as to shite, yōni2 as expected yahari, yappari (yahari) as far as made wa1 as for as it is mama as many / much / long as ~  $mo^2$ de1,4, ni1,6

at the time when toki
audible kikoeru

### B

be aru1, iru1 be -able rareru2 be able to koto ga dekiru, rareru<sup>2</sup> be about to do s.t. tokoro da<sup>2</sup> because kara3, mono (da), node because ~ not ~ nakute because of de3, tame (ni) be done aru2 be -ed rareru1 before mae ni, uchi ni begin to dasu, hajimeru, kuru<sup>2</sup> be in a place where it takes ~ to get tokoro da<sup>1</sup> be -ing iru2 be in the midst of doing s.t. tokoro da<sup>2</sup> be like voda be ready to do s.t. bakari both ~ and ~ mo ~ mo ~ but daga (ga2), dakedo (ga2), demo (ga2), ga2, keredomo, shikashi (ga2) de2, made ni, ni3 by (the time when) made ni

### C

called to iu
can do s.t. koto ga dekiru, rareru²
can hear kikoeru
cannot do s.t. wa ikenai