SESSION 1

Poor Dr. Takeda Takeshi, former professor and current employee of Sony Electronics, has a poor memory. He introduces himself to Jane Doe twice!

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Takeda:    hajimemashite. Takeda desu. onamae wa nan desu ka.
DOO  :     hajimemashite. JEEN DOO desu. yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
Takeda:    douzo yoroshiku.

Takeda:    sumimasen, DOO-san desu ka.
DOO  :     ee, JEEN DOO desu.
Takeda:    hajimemashite. Takeda desu. yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
DOO  :     yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
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Dr. Takeda also has poor eyesight. He mistakes his former student Ueno Maria, current employee of Mitsubishi Motors for Ms. Doe!

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Takeda:    sumimasen, DOO-san desu ka.
Ueno :     iie, Ueno desu.
Takeda:    shitsurei shimashita.
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Dr. Takeda has a hard time due to his poor eyesight and memory.

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Dr. Takeda asks someone who is blocking his way to move:
Takeda:    sumimasen.
DOO  :     douzo.

Dr. Takeda has knocked over someone's drink:
Takeda:    gomen nasai.
Ueno :     ki ni shinaide kudasai.

Dr. Takeda is apologizing to his boss for an error:
Takeda:    moushiwake arimasen.
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Ms. Ueno, however, is having a great day.

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Ueno receives a gift from a colleague:
Ueno :     doumo arigatou gozaimasu
Takeda:    iie, dou itashimashite

Ueno receives a compliment:
Ueno :     iie, iie
```

Ms. Ueno and Dr. Takeda meet while on their morning commute:

Ueno :   Takeda-sensei, ohayou gozaimasu.
Takeda: ohayou, Ueno-kun. ogenki desu ka.
Ueno :   okagesama de, genki desu. sensei wa ikaga desu ka.
Takeda: okagesama de. ii otenki desu ne.
Ueno :   sou desu ne.

The train arrives at their destination and they part ways.

Ueno :   shitsurei shimasu.
Takeda: dewa, mata.

Ms. Doe and Ms. Ueno meet at a cafe for lunch:

DOO   :   MARIA, konnichiwa! hisashiburi!
Ueno :   sashiburi desu ne!
DOO   :   genki desu ka.
Ueno :   ee, genki desu. JEEN wa?
DOO   :   genki desu.
Ueno :   ii tenki desu ne.
DOO   :   ee, ii desu ne.

They talk for a while, then Ueno returns to work.

Ueno :   jaa, mata ne!
DOO   :   mata ne!

Ms. Doe and Dr. Takeda meet on the late train:

Takeda: sumimasen, DOO-san desu ka.
DOO   :   aa! Takeda-sensei desu ne. konbanwa.
Takeda: konbanwa. ikaga desu ka.
DOO   :   okagesama de, genki desu. sensei wa?
Takeda: genki desu. dewa, shitsurei shimasu.
DOO   :   oyasumi nasai.
Takeda: oyasumi.

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SESSION 2
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Ms. Doe remembers the name, but not which company Dr. Takeda works for. Once again, he has forgotten who Ms. Doe is, so she introduces herself once more.

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DOO   :   sumimasen! Mitsubishi no Takeda-sensei desu ka.
Takeda:   iie, SONII no Takeda desu. dochira-sama desu ka.
DOO   :   KONKOODIA daigaku no JEEN DOO desu.
Takeda:   hajimemashite. douzo yoroshiku.
DOO   :   yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
```

Ms. Doe has bought a new bag, but Ms. Ueno thinks it's a little strange.

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Ueno  :   nan desu ka, sore?
DOO   :   watashi no kaban desu. shitsurei na.
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Ms. Doe has left her bag with Ms. Ueno! An unusually sharp Dr. Takeda notices something is amiss!

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Takeda:   aa. Ueno-kun. kore wa DOO-san no kaban desu ka.
Ueno  :   aa! Sou desu! JEEN no desu. Shitsurei shimasu!
Takeda:   iie, iie.
```

Ms. Ueno returns the bag to her friend Ms. Doe.

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Ueno  :   JEEN! anata no kaban...!
DOO   :   ee?! sore wa watashi no kaban desu! Arigatou gozaimasu!
Ueno  :   dou itashimashite.
```

31 words/phrases to study

watashi - me
anata - you
kare - he/him
kanojo - she/her
kono hito - this person
sono hito - that person
ano hito - that person over there (or not present)
hito - person
tachi - suffix to make a group of people or animals
no - a particle sometimes denoting ownership
san - a suffix showing normal respect
kun - a suffix for someone who relies on you
sama - a suffix showing great respect, usually after a title
chan - a suffix used primarily towards children and amongst young
girls
sensei - a title for a teacher/doctor/leader in one's field (can be a
suffix)
senpai - a title for someone above the speaker in an organization
(can be a suffix)
kouhai - a title for someone below the speaker in an organization
(not a suffix)
hon - book
PEN - pen
kaban - bag
NOOTO - notebook
kami - paper
enpitsu - pencil
seito - primary school student
gakusei - secondary school student
kyoushitsu - classroom
tsukue - desk
seki - (ex. assigned) seat
eigo - English language
nihongo - Japanese language

Session 5: Plain and て-form verbs

Using verbs from last time, we will start breaking down some fundamentals of Japanese grammar. Plain and て-form verbs are introduced and we will learn how to use last session's particles to make requests.

Plain Form

Last time we were introduced to many verbs in what's known as their "Plain Form." These verbs end in る or sounds ending in the "u" vowel sound. Previously, we learned that there are three verb groups: Group 1 or る-verbs, Group 2 or "u"-verbs, and Group 3 or "irregular" verbs. As a refresher, the following slide will list the verbs we learned last time as well as their groupings.

Verbs - Group 1, Group 2, Group 3

- desu* - is / to be
- suru - to do
- kuru - to come
- dekiru - to be able to do
- aru - to be (inanimate object)
- iru - to be (living thing)
- iu - to say
- wakaru - to understand
- matsu - to wait
- tojiru - to close

- akeru - to open
- miru - to see
- kiku - to hear / listen
- iku - to go
- yomu - to read
- kaku - to write
- kurikaeru* - to do over
- dasu - to take out
- ireru - to put inside

Sentences with Plain Form

The "Plain Form" can be used in the same way as the polite, "masu" form in a sentence.

- toukyou ni ikimasu   - I go (or will go) to Tokyo.
- toukyou ni iku   - I go (or will go) to Tokyo.

Plain versus Polite Form

Like many other things in Japanese, we use polite, "masu" form in order to show deference to the person to whom we are speaking. It's entirely fine to use plain form in extremely casual conversations, such as between long time friends. With strangers or acquaintances, even when they are below our social position, we will always want to use polite, "masu" form.

Plain form is also used in polite settings when using more than one verb in a sentence. In this scenario, we only use "masu" form for the last verb in the sentence.

Plain versus Polite Form

So, if "masu" is polite, the same must be true for "masen," "mashita," and "masen deshita." If that's the case, there should be a plain form for negative, past tense, and past-negative verb forms as well.

	Present/Future	Negative	Past Tense	Past Negative
Polite:	masu	masen	mashita	masen deshita
Plain:	[plain form]	nai	ta	nakatta

Group 1 Plain Negative Form

Do you think we can use the same conjugation rules as last time to conjugate these verbs? It would be wonderful if that was true. In fact, where Group 1 verbs are concerned, negation works the same for plain form as it does for polite form.

Plain	Polite Neg	Plain Neg
miru	mimasen	minai
ireru	iremasen	irenai
akeru	akemasen	akenai

Group 2 Plain Negative Form

However, there's a small change to conjugating Group 2 verbs. We first have to change the "u" vowel katakana at the end of the verb to a "a" vowel hiragana from the same column, then we add "nai." (If the ending hiragana is う, we change it to wa, as an exception.) This is different from polite form, where we changed the trailing "u" hiragana to a "i" hiragana.

Plain	Polite Neg	Plain Neg
yomu	yomimasen	yomanai
matsu	machimasen	matanai
iu	iimasen	iwanai

Group 3 Plain Negative Form

Group 3 verbs do their own thing. Thankfully, as there are only two of them, you don't have to memorize much. Note that although "suru" conjugates the same for polite and plain negative forms, "kuru" changes completely when conjugated to plain negative form.

Plain	Polite Neg	Plain Neg
suru	shimasu	shinai
kuru	kimasu	konai

Group 1 Plain Past Form

Past tense similarly stays remarkably similar for Group 1 verbs. We still drop the る from the verb, but this time instead of adding "mashita," we just add "ta".

Plain	Polite Neg	Plain Neg
tojiru	tojimashita	tojita
akeru	akemashita	aketa
dekiru	dekimashita	dekita

Group 2 Plain Past Form

Group 2 verbs have no real similarity to their polite form conjugation. To conjugate a Group 2 verb, we have to first drop the last hiragana in the verb, then add a new one using the below rule.

u, tsu, ru	— tta
bu, mu, nu	— nda
ku	— ita
gu	— ida
su	— shita

Let's sing a song!

Thankfully there's a little song to help you memorize the groupings and how they change. Sing this to the tune of "Oh, My Darlin' Clementine."

Come along now, everybody, there's a rule you ought to know
"u,"   "tsu,"   "ru"   — "tta"
"bu,"   "mu,"   "nu"   — "nda"
"ku"   — "ita"
And "gu"   — "ida"

You'll have to remember "su" becomes "shita" on your own, though.

Group 3 Plain Past Form

Group 3 verbs are irregular, so let's just remember how they conjugate. They're very similar between plain and polite past forms.

Plain	Polite Past	Plain Past
suru	shimashita	shita
kuru	kimashita	kita

Plain Past-Negative Form

Whereas polite past-negative form required us to take the negative form and add "deshita," the plain past-negative form uses the same method as changing い-adjectives to past negative form. We first change the verb to negative form, then treat the "nai" as an い-adjective and conjugate it to "nakatta."

Plain	Polite Past-Negative	Plain Past-Negative
iru	imasen deshita	inakatta
dasu	dashimasen deshita	dasanakatta
kuru	kimasen deshita	konakatta

Group 1 conjugations

	Plain Tense	Plain Negative	Plain Past	Plain Past-Negative
G1:	deki**ru**	dekinai	dekita	dekinakatta
	i**ru**	inai	ita	inakatta
	Toji**ru**	tojinai	tojita	tojinakatta
	ake**ru**	akenai	aketa	akenakatta
	mi**ru**	minai	mita	minakatta
	ire**ru**	irenai	ireta	irenakatta

Group 2 conjugations

Plain Tense	Plain Negative	Plain Past	Past Negative
aru	nai*	atta	nakatta*
iu	iwanai	itta	iwanakatta
wakaru	wakaranai	wakatta	wakaranakatta
matsu	matanai	matta	matenakatta
kiku	kikanai	kiita	kikanakatta
iku	ikanai	itta*	ikanakatta
yomu	yomanai	yonda	yomanakatta
kaku	kakanai	kaita	kakanakatta
kurikaeru	kurikaeranai	kurikaeta	kurikaeranakatta
dasu	dasanai	dashita	dasanakatta

G2:

Group 3 conjugations

	Plain Tense	Plain Negative	Plain Past	Past Negative
G3:	suru	shinai	shita	shinakatta
	kuru	konai	kita	konakatta

Irregularities

In the previous lists, you'll notice a couple of irregular verbs. Here they are, with explanations of how they work.

- "aru" means "to be (inanimate object)," so it makes sense that "nai", (as in "ja nai"), is the negative form, "to not be."
- "iku" when changed to past tense becomes "itta" instead of "iita," as we would expect from the conjugation rules. This is the only exception to this rule for Group 2 verbs.

Practice: Verb conjugation

Let's practice what we've learned so far. Conjugate these verbs:

Group 1
- toji**ru**
- mi**ru**
- ie**ru**

Group 2
- kurik**ae**ru
- iu
- wak**a**ru

Group 3
- suru
- kuru

Into these tenses:

- Plain present/future
- Plain negative
- Plain past
- Plain past-negative

Practice: Verbs and particles

Let's practice what we've just learned by translating the following English sentences into Japanese:

- I listen.
- He wrote.
- Mrs. Ueno isn't here.
- Dr. Takeda and his group didn't come.
- I read the textbook.

て-form

Now that we're familiar with plain forms of verbs, let's talk about て-form. This form is so named because the function of て-form has no English equivalent. <mark>It's used for requesting someone do something, chaining verbs together, and all sorts of other things.</mark> It's very useful, and we'll see it a lot in our studies, so let's work hard to remember how to do this conjugation.

て-form and plain past tense form

To conjugate to て-form, we use the same rules as for plain past tense form for all three verb groups. We can modify the song to remember Group 2 verbs as below:

Come along now, everybody, there's a rule you ought to know

"u,"	"tsu,"	"ru"	— "tte"
"bu,"	"mu,"	"nu"	— "nde"
"ku"			— "ite"
And "gu"			— "ide"

Once again, you'll have to remember that "su" becomes "shite" and the verb "iku" is irregular on your own.

Negating て-form

Where there is light, there must also be darkness. Where there is て-form, there is negative て-form. To create this form, we take the negative form of the verb, and add で to the end.

Plain	Plain Past	Negative て-form
akeru	akenai	akanaide
kurikaeru	kurikaeranai	kurikaeranaide
suru	shinai	shinaide

Group 1 conjugations

Plain Tense	て-form	Negative て-form
G1: dekiru	dekite	dekinaide
iru	ite	[doesn't make sense]
Tojiru	tojite	tojinaide
akeru	akete	akenaide
miru	mite	minaide
ireru	irete	irenaide

Group 2 conjugations

Plain Tense	て-form	Negative て-form
G2: aru	atte	[doesn't make sense]
iu	itte	iwanaidei
wakaru	wakatte	wakaranaide
matsu	matte	matenaide
kiku	kiite	kikanaide
iku	itte*	ikanaide
yomu	yonde	yomanaide
kaku	kaite	kakananaide
kurikaeru	kurikaete	kurikaeranaide
dasu	dashite	dasanaide

Group 3 conjugations

	Plain Tense	**て-form**	**Negative て-form**
G3:	suru	shite	shinaide
	kuru	kite	konaide

Irregularities

The same irregularities appear for the same reasons as before. Unlike before, there are a few negative て-form conjugations that don't exist, because they would make no sense.

- "aru" means "to be (inanimate object)," and "iru" means "to be (living thing)," so it makes sense that you can't request that someone or something "don't be/exist."
- "iku" when changed to past tense becomes "itte" instead of "iite," just as we saw before with its plain past tense conjugation.

Please do something

Let's do something really simple with て-form verbs before we end our lesson. While, as stated before, て-form is used in all sorts of ways in Japanese, a common one is to ask people to do things using "[verb in て-form] kudasai."

- tojite kudasai   - Please open it.
- akenaide kudasai   - Please don't open it.

Please [verb] an [object]

We can use the particles we learned in our last session to request things from people, too.

- hon wo yonde kudasai   - Please read the book.
- kyouto ni ikanaide kudasai   - Please don't go to Kyoto.

A white lie: ni vs de

Last time, I said that "de" is used when we're doing something at a location, and that we can't substitute "ni" to mean the same thing. That wasn't a lie, but it wasn't entirely true, either. When we use "de," we are focusing on the action (the verb), and when we use "ni" we are focusing on the location (the prepositional phrase.)

- toukyou de matanakatta   - (The important part is that I didn't wait.)
- toukyou ni matanakatta   - (The important part is that I was in Tokyo.)

Requesting things: ni vs de

When asking someone to do something, they may already be where you need them to be, they may be on their way there, or they may be somewhere else entirely. If they'll be there anyway, the important part of the sentence is the action (verb), so use "de." If they're going to have to go out of their way, the location (the prepositional phrase) is important, so use "ni."

- kyoushitsu de matte kudasai
  - (Since you're already there, wait in the classroom.)
- kyoushitsu ni matte kudasai
  - (Please go to the classroom and wait.)

The person may also be heading to the classroom already, instead of already being there. Either way, they were going to be there soon, so the classroom isn't important, them waiting is.

Practice: Verbs and particles

Let's practice what we've just learned by translating the following English sentences into Japanese:

- Please listen.
- Please read the chalkboard.
- Please don't write your name.
- Please go to the classroom.
- Please don't walk to Kyoto.
- Please wait in Shibuya. (You're already there.)
- Please wait in the classroom. (You're nowhere near the classroom.)

Summary

- Plain form verbs are used when they are not the last verb in a sentence, and are used as the last verb in a sentence when we are speaking very casually.
- Group 1 verbs conjugate the same way in plain form as in "masu" form.
- Group 2 verbs have many rules to follow in plain form, especially for plain past tense.
- -form verbs are used for many grammatical functions in Japanese.
- Group 1 and Group 2 verbs both conjugate to て-form the same as when conjugating to plain past tense. (Group 2 has a lot of rules to follow.)
- Negative て-form is used when asking someone not to do something.
- To conjugate to negative て-form, first conjugate to negative plain tense, then add to the end of the verb.
- We can request people to do or not do something using "[て-form or negative て-form verb] kudasai"
- We can use articles we've previously learned to ask requests with objects and prepositional phrases.

Characters for this Session

ひ   -   hi

ふ   -   fu

ほ   -   ho

ま   -   ma

み   -   mi

む   -   mu

め   -   me

も   -   mo

∗ Only one more set of characters before we're done with hiragana! ∗