

# PLAIN FORMS OF VERBS

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## WHAT IS “PLAIN FORMS OF VERBS?”

- Plain forms
- Dictionary forms
- Casual forms
- Short forms
- Example: たべます (-masu form)  
たべる (plain form)



## WHY LEARNING PLAIN FORMS?

- First of all, among close friends and families, plain/casual forms are used to talk to each other.
- For examples:  
     “がっこうに いきますか” becomes “がっこうに いく?”
- “Plain forms of verbs + -----” means “-----.”  
     Example:  
     **verb plain form + の** (Nominalizing a verb) たべるのは すきです。  
     I like eating.  
     **verb plain form + つもりです** I am planning to do...  
     **verb plain form + Conditional と**        **If you do ..., you will**
- This semester, we will only focus on learning the Plain forms of verbs to talk casually.



## FIRST STEP

- Do not try to change the form from –masu forms to Plain forms.
- Just re-memorize how to say those verbs in plain forms.
- Go to the web site “ [Plain/dictionary forms of verbs](#)”



## JAPANESE VERBS INTO THREE GROUPS

- Class 1, 2, 3 (other explanation--- ru-verb, u-verb, etc.)
- Class 3 verbs: Irregular verbs “to do ” and “to come”
- Class 2 verbs: “i-ru” and “e-ru” verbs  
 たべる、ねる、みる、おきる  
 Ta **be**ru, **ne**ru, **mi**ru, o**ki**ru
- Class 1 verbs: everything else

If you are confused at this point, just accept and remember these rules of categorization.



## る VERBS

- Class 2 verbs: “i-ru” and “e-ru” verbs

みる、おきる、たべる、ねる  
**mi**ru, o**ki**ru, ta**be**ru, **ne**ru

- Class 1 verbs: “a-ru”, “u-ru” and “o-ru” verbs

わかる、かかる、ある、つくる、のる  
 wa**ka**ru, ka**ka**ru, **a**ru, tsu**ku**ru, **no**ru

- Class 2 exceptions:

Yakuza story: When a Japanese mob member makes a serious mistake, they traditionally have to cut their pinky off (see a film called “Black Rain”) so please refer to a story for you to remember the exception verbs. It is on the web site with illustrations.



## NEXT STEP

- After memorizing the plain forms of verbs, and understand (be able to categorize) which verbs are class 3, 2, & 1.
- Take a quiz on Blackboard and take it until you get more than 80% correct.
- Print out the verb chart from the web site to see the conjugation of positive and negative plain forms.



## AFTER BEING ABLE TO CATEGORIZE 1,2, 3 HOW TO MAKE THEM INTO NEGATIVE FORMS

- Class 3: Irregular so just memorize them.
- Class2: Change る ending to ない
- Class 1: Change...
  - u sound ending of positive plain forms to
  - a sound and then add ない

- く ku becomes か ka then add ない. いく → いかない
- む mu becomes ま ma then add ない. よむ → よまない
- In case of just う add “w” and make it “wa” then add ない。かう → かわない
- Class 1 る ru becomes ら ra then add ない。つくる → つくらない  
(Do not confuse class 2 る and class 1 る verbs)

