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Do you want _? ーたいですか。 Would you like to _? ーtai desu ka

One of my colleagues went on a trip and brought me back a gift. In return, I wanted to take her out to dinner last night, so I said, "konban izakaya ni ikitai desu ka?" (Would you like to go to an izakaya pub tonight?) She then looked a little upset and said, "ie, ikitai toki wa, jibun de ikimasu yo." (No, but I will go there by myself when I want to.) How come? Did she want to go to another place?

Pera Pera Penguin's 5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama Vol. 54

■■■ No, it has nothing to do with food or the kind of establishment. The way you asked her out was not polite. You learned "want to ___ /would like to ___" is "___tai desu" in Japanese, but you turned it into a question. When you are asking someone out and say "___tai desu ka," it may sound rude and Japanese may feel offended. Please keep that in mind! I'll explain the details of properly asking someone out. Once you have studied them, ask her again if she still wants to go to an izakaya with you. I'm sure she will be happy to do so. Good luck, **Pole-san.**

When you want to invite someone/
When you want to make a suggestion

e.g., Would you like to/Do you want to eat **sushi** with me?

寿司を食べたいですか。 ← (It sounds very rude!)
sushi o tabetai desu ka

In this case, you say...
↓

* Very polite style

Why don't we/you _____, if you'd like to?
もしよかったら _____ませんか。
moshi yokattara _____ masen ka

e.g., もしよかったら 寿司を食べませんか。
moshi yokattara sushi o tabemasen ka
(If you like, why don't you/we eat some sushi?)

* Polite style

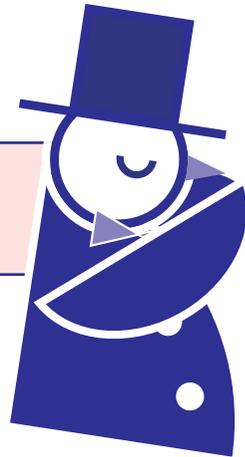
Why don't we (verb) ? _____ませんか。
_____ **masen ka**

e.g., 寿司を食べませんか。
sushi o tabemasen ka
(Why don't we eat some **sushi** ?)

* Very casual style

Don't you want to (verb) ? _____た ~~く~~ くない (ですか) ↗
_____ **ta** ~~く~~ **kunai (desu ka)**
(tai form)

e.g., 寿司 食べたくない。
sushi tabetakunai ↗
(Don't you want to eat some sushi?)



However, the questions that start with the interrogative, "what, who, etc." can be asked in the form of " ___tai desu ka."

e.g., Talking to a friend who is visiting Kyoto:
Which temple would you like to see in Kyoto?
京都のどのお寺を見たいですか。
Kyōto no dono otera o mitai desu ka

Translate the following sentences of "Would you like to..." from 1) through 7) by using either "___tai desu ka" or "___masen ka."

- Which would you like to eat, steak or tempura?
- Would you like to go to see a sumo tournament next week?
- Who would you like to see most right now?
- Would you like to come to a party the day after tomorrow?
- Would you like to have dinner with me sometime?
- Would you like to discuss it now, since we have time?
- When would you like to go to Japan?

Answers

- ステーキと天ぷらとどちらが食べたいですか。
steak to tempura to dochira ga tabetai desu ka
- 来週相撲を見に行きませんか。
raishū sumō o mi ni ikimasen ka
- 今一番誰に会いたいですか。
ima ichiban dare ni aitai desu ka
- あさってパーティーをするので来ませんか (いらっしゃいませんか)。
asatte party o suru node kimasen ka (irasshaimasen ka)
- いつか食事をしませんか。
itsuka shokuji o shimasen ka
- 時間があるので話し合いませんか。
jikan ga aru node hanashiaimasen ka
- いつ日本に行きたいですか。
itsu Nihon ni ikitai desu ka



wish 願 nega(u) / nega(i) / gan

Use the expressions marked from A) to E) to complete sentences 1) to 5) below.

- A) **他力本願**
ta riki hon gan Waiting for someone to help; a proverb that means "expecting and depending on help from others without making one's own effort"
- B) **念願**
nen gan A wish/one's heart's desire; a desire or wish one has had for a long time
- C) **志願**
shi gan An application made voluntarily (willingly); making an application without being forced by someone else
- D) **一生のお願い**
isshō no onegai The only request in one's whole life. It means that "this is the only request that I will ever make to you in my whole life, so please help me." Today, people use this phrase more often when they really want to ask someone to help them.
- E) **お願いがあるんですが...** "There is something I want to ask of you..."
o negai ga arun desu ga... A phrase commonly used when people want to ask for a favor.

- I made my own decision to apply for volunteer work overseas.
海外のボランティアに する。
kaigai no volunteer ni
- My younger brother is always expecting help from others, and has no desire to do anything by himself.
弟はいつも でやる気が全然ないです。
otōto wa itsumo **de yaruki ga zenzen nai desu**
- I finally bought a house of my own, which had been my desire for a long time.
 のマイホームをやっと買いました。
no my home o yatto kaimashita
- Ms. Kawatsu: I'm taking one week off, so please do this for me.
来週1週間休むのでこれお願い。
raishū isshūkan yasumu node kore onegai
Mr. Pole: What! All of this? I can't do this, you know that!
えっ!これ全部? いくらなんでも無理だよ。
ee! kore zenbu? ikura nandemo muri dayō
Ms. Kawatsu: Oh, please! This is the only request !
I will ever make of you!
- Hey, there's something I'd like to ask of you...If anyone calls me here, please tell them that I'm in the middle of a meeting.
あの～ もし私に電話がきたら「会議中」と言って下さい。
anō **moshi watashi ni denwa ga kitara "kaigichū" to ittekudasai**

Answers 1) - C) 2) - A) 3) - B) 4) - D) 5) - E)