Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

Vol. 59

行きます ikimasu　帰ります kaerimasu

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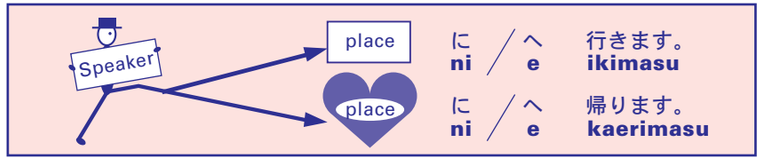
*I want to tell you what happened when one of my colleagues went to a customer's company on business. In the evening, he called me at 6:30 p.m. and said, "**ā, Pole-san, ima owarimashita. korekara kaerimasu**" (Hi, Mr. Pole, I'm done, so I'm going back now). Then, he hung up. I was done with my work, so I also went home. Now, listen what happened the next day! He said to me, "**yūbe 8-ji goro kaisha ni kaerimashita**. (I came back to the office about 8 o'clock last night.) **demo daremo imasendeshita**! (But, no one was here!)" So, I told him, "**datte kaeru to iimashita yo ne**." (But you said you were going back), but he said, "**sō! kaisha ni kaeru to iimashita**." (Right! I said, "I'm going back to office.") Do Japanese people say "**kaerimasu**" when they go back to a company, too?*

■■■ "**kaerimasu**" does not always mean going back "home." It can be used for going back to some other place, such as a company or a hometown. Let me explain it to you. In reality, Japanese words that relate to "moving" are not easily translated into exact English words. Not only "**kaerimasu**" but also "**ikimasu**" and "**kimasu**" can mean something else according to the situation. In my previous column, we discussed the particles of direction and movement, so it is quite timely to discuss the verbs of movement.

The following Japanese verbs are usually translated as:

行きます (**ikimasu**) = to go　　帰ります (**kaerimasu**) = to go back

The usage, however, varies depending on the situation, making it easy to make mistakes sometimes. Thus, it is better to find out in which situation the verb is used, rather than learning the translated words by rote. "**kimasu**" will be explained in the next column.



① 行きます **ikimasu**

The arrows indicate the "speaker" is moving to the particular place from where he is.

② 帰ります **kaerimasu**

Even though the usage is the same as "**ikimasu**," "**kaerimasu**" is more appropriate if the person has more affection for the place, to which he is going, than where he is.

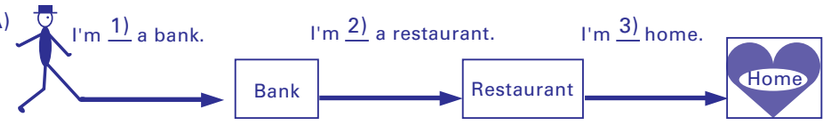
e.g., If you are staying in Japan and going back to your country (you have more affection for your country than for Japan)

e.g., If you are visiting your customer's company and going back to your company (you have more affection to your company, than the company you are visiting)

Practice

Enter either "**ikimasu**" or "**kaerimasu**."

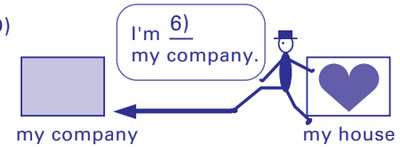
A) I'm 1) ____ a bank.　I'm 2) ____ a restaurant.　I'm 3) ____ home.



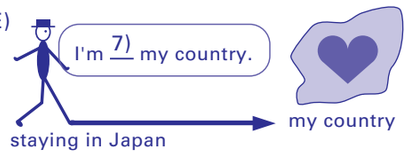
B)

C)

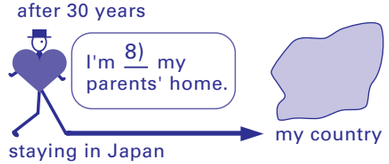
D)



E)

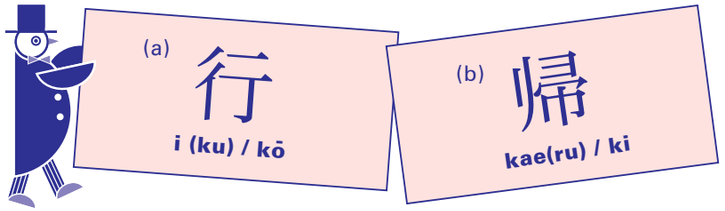


F) after 30 years



Answers

1) 2) 6) 8) 行きます **ikimasu**　4) (今) 行きます **(ima) ikimasu**　3) 5) 7) 帰ります **kaerimasu**



Choose the character of either (a) or (b) to make the words of (1) to (6), then make a complete sentence from ① through ⑥ by using one of (1)〜(6).

(1) return/comeback　復 ____ (return to, again)

(2) express/go in a hurry　急 ____ (urgent, be in a hurry)

(3) parallel lines　平 ____ 線 (flat) (line)

(4) return to one's mother country　____ 国 (country)

(5) action/practice　実 ____ (actual, real)

(6) return home　____ 省 (leave out)

① I was absent from the company for a long time because of illness, but I'm going back to work at the beginning of June.
病気で会社を長期休んでいたが、6月から ____ します。
byōki de kaisha o chōki yasundeita ga rokugatsu kara ____ shimasu

② It is easier said than done, isn't it?
言うのは簡単ですが ____ するのは難しいですね。
iu nowa kantan desu ga ____ suru nowa muzukashii desu ne

③ The express is not going to stop this station.
____ はこの駅にとまりません。
____ wa kono eki ni tomarimasen

④ I have to go back to my country all of a sudden.
急きょ ____ することになりました。
kyūkyo ____ suru koto ni narimashita

⑤ No matter how long we discussed it, we ended up as far apart as ever.
いくら話し合っても ____ でした。
ikura hanashiattemo ____ deshita

⑥ There's going to be heavy traffic at the end of the year because many people will be going back to their hometowns.
暮れは ____ ラッシュで激しい渋滞になります。
kure wa ____ *rush* de hageshī jūtai ni narimasu

Answers

(1) - (b) 復帰 **fukki**　(2) - (a) 急行 **kyūkō**　(3) - (a) 平行線 **hēkōsen**
(4) - (b) 帰国 **kikoku**　(5) - (a) 実行 **jikkō**　(6) - (b) 帰省 **kisē**
① - (1)　② - (5)　③ - (2)　④ - (4)　⑤ - (3)　⑥ - (6)

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga

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