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ちゃった chatta

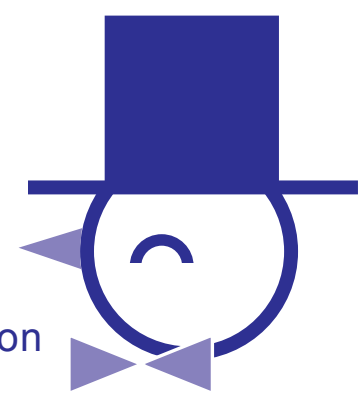
Jekyll and Hyde form

Recently, my friend Miss Hayashi spotted me in the parking lot of a store after I had bought a lot of stuff that I would need in an emergency, such as a major earthquake. When she saw me putting my purchases into my car, she said, "It looks like you bought quite a bit, eh?" I replied, "**sō nan desu. takusan katchattan desu.** (lit. Yes, I bought too much.)" She then asked, "Well, shall I buy some of it from you?" "**ie,**" I said "**watashi wa takusan taberu node mada tarinaikurai nan desu.** (No, thanks, I eat a lot, so I'll probably still need to buy more.)" She gave me a puzzled look and walked off. Ms. Hirayama, why did she want to buy my food?

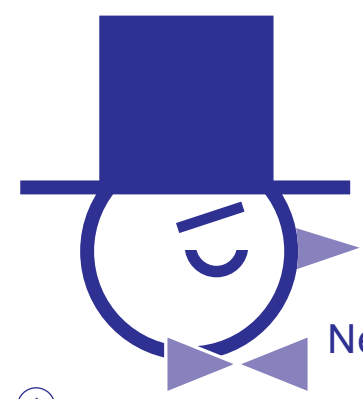
■■■ It wasn't that she wanted to buy the items from you, Mr. Pole. It was that she felt she needed to help you out. You used the "chatta" form, didn't you? That's why she assumed you were in trouble for having bought too much. I refer this type of phrase as a "heart expression," as it contains emotional undertones. Your use of "chatta" is a typical mistake made by learners of Japanese who can hold simple conversations in the language.

~~て~~ **ちゃった chatta**
(te form)

~~で~~ **じゃった jatta**
(te form)



Positive situation



Negative situation

Many learners of Japanese often use "...**cha (ja) tta**" in place of the present perfect form. But if you use this in conversation, a Japanese listener will instead assume negative connotations. This clearly explains why Mr. Pole was misunderstood by his friend. In addition, this usage has two "faces," as it can have a positive meaning as well. For this reason, I call this grammatical form "Jekyll and Hyde."

Women, it should be noted, are inclined to use this form in a colloquial manner. The grammatical form is often thought to convey only regret over something you've done or that has happened, but it can express two feelings that are opposite in nature. Let's take a look at the following exercises to become more familiar with the form. Enter the correct Japanese word into the squares.

- ① (implying joy)
I quit my job.
仕事を **shigoto o** to quit
I'll be making twice as much at my new job!
今度の新しい会社は 給料が2倍!
kondo no atarashi kaisha wa kyūryō ga 2-bai!
- ② (implying delight)
I really wanted this, so I finally bought it.
これずっと欲しかったので思い切って to buy
kore zutto hoshikatta node omoikitte
- ③ (implying joy)
I drank a bottle of vintage wine with my friends.
友達とビンテージワインを to drink
tomodachi to vintage wine o
It was delicious!
おいしかった!
oishikatta!
- ④ (implying happiness)
I slept a whole 10 hours last night.
夕べは10時間も to sleep
yūbe wa jū-jikan mo

Answers: ① yamechatta ② katchatta ③ nonjatta ④ nechatta

- ① (implying regret)
My boss and I got in a fight, so I quit.
社長とけんかをして会社を to quit
shachō to kenka o shite kaisha o
I don't have a new job, yet.
まだ、次の会社が決まっていない。
mada tsugi no kaisha ga kimatteinai
- ② (implying regret)
I've got so many clothes, and yet I bought some more.
洋服はたくさん持っているけどまた to buy
yōfuku wa takusan motteiru kedo mata
- ③ (implying regret)
I drank 10 bottles of beer.
ビールを10本 to drink
beer o juppon
I have a terrible hangover.
二日酔いで気持ち悪い
futsuka-yoi de kimochi warui ...
- ④ (implying failure)
I fell asleep during the meeting.
会議中に to sleep
kaigichū ni

防災品 (ぼうさいひん **bōsaihin**) Emergency supplies
It is highly recommended that you make a list of emergency supplies in case of earthquakes and other disasters. You should include emergency rations (dry biscuits, instant food, canned food, and so on), bottled water, a first aid kit, work gloves, masks, a portable radio, batteries, a lighter, clothes, coins and identification. You should change the contents of your kit once a year.

非常食 Emergency rations

hijōshoku

Select the reading and the meaning for the words below.

A) 非常階段 B) 非常口 C) 非常事態
D) 非常手段 E) 非常ベル

1) **hijōshudan** 2) **hijōjitai** 3) **hijōguchi** 4) **hijōbell**
5) **hijōkaidan**

a) Emergency exit b) Emergency measures
c) State of emergency d) Fire escape e) Fire alarm

Answers: A) - 5) - d) B) - 3) - a) C) - 2) - c) D) - 1) - b) E) - 4) - e)

Complete the sentence by using the words from A) to D).

If you hear a fire alarm, don't panic. Please evacuate from the building through the emergency exits or fire escape.

もし、(1) が鳴ったら、慌てないで (2) か **moshi** **ga nattara awatenaide** **ka**

(3) から 建物の外に出て下さい。
kara tatemono no soto ni detekudasai

Answers: (1) 非常ベル (2) 非常口 (3) 非常階段