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No!

だめ
dame

あかん
akan

いけん
iken



*In front of the station the other day, I saw a guide dog (**mōdōken**) and its trainer participating in a fund-raiser to promote a guide dog foundation. I like dogs, so I donated some money and said to the sitting guide dog, "**īko ne**," but the dog did not react. But when the trainer said, "Good boy," the dog wagged its tail gladly. Why didn't the guide dog understand my Japanese?*

■■■ It doesn't mean "your" Japanese didn't make sense, Pole-san. The guide dog simply didn't understand Japanese. In Japan, there are a lot of training centers that train guide dogs in the imperative form of English. That's because the Japanese language has many different expressions for the words, depending on the differences in gender or age. There are also honorifics and dialects. For example, there are various imperative expressions such as "**dame**," "**me**," "**akan**," "**iken**," etc. that mean "no," but would completely confuse the guide dogs. That's why they use English when training, because the dogs can more easily understand simple words like "No"—the expression is the same no matter who says it. For today's lesson, I will introduce a variety of Japanese as well as some of the usages of the imperative form.

Dialect 方言 hōgen

There are lots of dialects in Japan. I will introduce some examples.

	Standard	Kyōto ben Kyoto dialect	Ōsaka ben Osaka dialect	Hakata ben Hakata dialect	Okinawa ben Okinawa dialect
delicious	おいしい oishi	おいしい oishi	うまい umai	うまかあ umakā	まーさん māsan
I like	好きです suki desu	好きや suki ya	好きやねん suki yanen	すいとおー suitō	しちゅっさー shichussā
It's good.	いいですね ī desu ne	よろしいなあ yorosi nā	ええですね ēdesu ne	よかですね yoka desu ne	ゆたさんやいびーんね yutasanyaibinne

Sentence-ending particle

Japanese sentences can sound masculine or feminine, depending on the sentence-ending particle. Keep in mind the masculine/feminine particles are at times used interchangeably among men and women. Listen to the Japanese around you talk to learn more.

	Giving information	Requesting agreement	I wonder ~?
Masculine	— ぞ zo	— だろ? darō?	— かな? kana?
Feminine	— わよ wayo	— でしょ? desho?	— かしら? kashira?

e.g., I wonder when... いつかしら?
itsu kashira?
(Feminine)

いつかな?
itsu kana?
(Masculine)



Imperatives

Imperatives used in daily conversation → Imperative form + よ **yo**

A man uses this form for his children and wife, and boys begin to use it among friends as they grow up. It is not polite, and must not be used toward someone older than you or in a working environment.

e.g., Fathers say to their children, "Study more." → 「もっと勉強しろよ」
motto benkyōshiroyo

[Exercise] Give the imperative expression in Japanese.

- 1) A woman takes a lot of time to prepare for a night out. → Her husband says, "Hurry!"
- 2) A couple have a fight and the girl is about to leave. → The boyfriend says, "Wait!"
- 3) Your friend playfully taps your head many times. → You say, "Stop it!"
- 4) A father wakes up his child in the morning. → "It's time to get up! Wake up!"

Answers: 1) **hayaku shiroyo** 2) **mateyo** 3) **yameroyo** 4) **jikandazo okiroyo**

She / He said to me " _____ " = Imperative form + って **tte**

This form is used when you explain to someone what another person said. "**Tte**" is a casual form for "**to**"—the particle, which is used as quotation mark or "that" in "He said that ~." The subject and verb in the main clause are often omitted.

e.g., He told me to come. → 「来いって」
koitte

[Exercise] Interpret underlined sentences into Japanese.

- Paul went to the hospital and had a checkup.
Friend : What did the doctor say?
Paul : The doctor told me to quit smoking. ①
Friend : And what else?
Paul : He told me to exercise more. ②
Friend : That's all?
Paul : He told me to cut back on sake and sweets. ③
Friend : Is that all?
Paul : He told me to take my medicine every day. ④
Then he said, if you can't do all of this on your own, check yourself into a hospital. ⑤

Answers: ① **tabacco o yamerotte** ② **motto undō shirotte** ③ **osake to amaimono o hikaerotte**
④ **mainichi kusuri o nomette** ⑤ **nyūin shirotte**