

Adjectives: I adjectives & Na-Adjectives

1. Japanese adjectives differ from their English counterparts
2. Japanese adjectives
 - ◆ modify nouns like English adjectives (This is an **expensive car**)
 - ◆ function as **verbs** when used as predicates (This **is expensive**)

1. Modifying nouns: I and Na adjective

When used as modifiers of nouns, both I -adjectives and Na-adjectives take the basic form and precede nouns just like in English

I adjectives	Small cat	Chiisai neko
	Big apple	Ookii ringo
Na adjectives	Beautiful flower	Kireina hana
	Kind person	Shinsetuna hito

2. I adjectives as predicates (functioning as a verb)

	Informal	Formal
Present Negative	Replace the final ~ I with ~ kunai	Replace the final ~ I with ~ kunai <u>OR</u> ~ ku ariamsen
Past	Replace the final ~ I with ~ katta	Replace the final ~ I with ~ katta desu
Past Negative	Replace the final ~ I with ~ ku nakatta	Replace the final ~ I with ~ ku nakatta desu <u>OR</u> ~ ku arimasendeshita

For example: (Delicious = oishii)

	Informal	Formal
Present	Oishii	Oishii desu
Present Negative	Oishi kunai	Oishikunai desu <u>OR</u> Oishiku ariamsen
Past	Oishi katta	Oishikatta desu
Past Negative	Oishi ku nakatta	Oihikunakatta deshita <u>OR</u> Oishiku arimasendeshita

There is only one exception to the rule of I -adjectives, which is "ii = good ".
 "Ii" derives from "yoi," and its conjugation is mostly based on "yoi".

(Good = ii)

	Informal	Formal
Present	ii	ii desu
Present Negative	yoku nai	yoku nai desu <u>OR</u> yoku arimasen
Past	yokatta	yokatta desu
Past Negative	yoku nakatta	yoku nakatta desu <u>OR</u> yoku arimasen

3. Na adjectives as predicates (functioning as a verb)

Unlike I-adjectives, Na-adjectives cannot be used as predicates themselves.
 When a Na-adjective is used as a predicate, the final "na" is removed and followed by either "~ da", informal or "~ desu ", formal speech.

For examples:

Kanojyo wa kirei desu = she is beautiful

Kore wa totemo benri desu = This is very convenient

(Beautiful = Kireina)

	Informal	Formal
Present	Kirei da	Kirei desu
Present Negative	Kirei dewa nai	Kirei dewa arimasen
Past	Kirei datta	Kirei deshita
Past Negative	Kirei dewa nakatta	Kirei dewa arimasendeshita

(Convenient = benrina)

	Informal	Formal
Present	Benri da	Benri desu
Present Negative	Benri dewa nai	Benri dewa arimasen
Past	Benri datta	Benri deshita
Past Negative	Benri dewa nakatta	Benri dewa arimasendeshita

Common i-Adjectives

Atarashii new	Furui old *not used with people/animals	Atatakai warm	Suzushii cool *for weather or room temperature	Atsui hot	Samui cold
Oishii delicious	Mazui bad taste not delirious	Ookii big	Chisai small	Osoi late/slow	Hayai early/quick
Omoshiroi Interesting funny	Tsumaranai boring	Kurai dark	Akarui bright	Chikai near	Tooi far
Nagai long	Mijikai short	muzukashii difficult	Yasashii easy	Ii good	Warui bad
Takai tall, expensive	Hikui low	Yasui cheap	Wakai young	Isogashii busy	Urusai noisy
Kawaii pretty	Tanoshii fun	Ureshii happy	Tsumetai cold *used for tangible objects, food, drinks	Kanashii sad	Kurushii painful

Common Na-Adjectives

Shinsetsuna kind	Kiraina distasteful	Sukina favorite	Shizukana quiet	Nigiyakana lively
Kikenna dangerous	Anzena safe	Benrina convenient	Fubenna inconvenient	Kireina beautiful
Yuumeina famous	Shoujikina honest	Gankona stubborn	Kantan na easy, as in easy to do	Kechi na stingy not generous
Shizen na natural	Yutaka na full abundant	Kokusaiteki na international	Kagakuteki na scientific	Ippanteki na general
Binbou na poor destitute	Genkina healthy, well	Tanki na impatient quick-tempered	Rakkanteki na optimistic	

Making Adverbs from adjectives

Adverbs have to be placed: **before the verb and after the noun**

I adjectives: Replace the final “I” with “ku” before adding the verb

Na adjectives: Add particle, “ni”

For examples:

I speak Japanese quickly = watashi ha niongo o **hayaku** hanasu

She wakes up early = kanojyo wa **hayaku** okiru

He cleaned his room = Kare wa kare no haya o **kirei ni** shita
He did his own room toward clean

The verb, **naru** = to become is often used with adverbs:

The dog is becoming bigger = inu wa **ookiku naru**

I am getting/becoming sick = **byouki ni naru**

She became beautiful = kanojyo wa **kirei ni nattuta**

The verb, **suru** = to do is used with descriptive adverbs for “to make”:

Please make it small = chii saku **shite** kudasai

Please make it easy = Kantan ni **shite** kudasai

I made my dog very beautiful = watashi no inu o kirei ni **shimashita**

Adjectives + Sou desu

I hear that “something” is adjective: Express adjective based on someone’s impression

This “something” looks/sounds/seems adjective

I adjectives: Add **sou desu** to the I adjectives
Na adjectives: Add **nanda sou desu** to the Na adjectives

For examples:

Sono kutsu wa takai**sou desu** = I hear that this shoes is expensive

Ano yama wa kirei **nanda soudesu** = I hear that that mountain is beautiful

Something is adjective: Express adjective based on your own impression

I adjectives: Remove the I adjectives’ the last “I” add **sou**
Na adjectives: Add **sou** to the Na adjectives

For examples:

Oishis**sou** ! (looks/sounds delicious !!)

Omoshiros**sou** ! (looks/sounds fun/interesting !!)

Kanojyo wa waru**sou** na hito desu She seems like a bad person

Adjectives + Sugiru (sugiru = too much of something)

I adjectives: Remove the final i of I adjectives and add **sugiru**
Na adjectives: Add **sugiru** to the Na adjectives

For examples:

Kono ocha wa atsusugiru = This tea is too hot

Ano hako wa omosugiru = That box is too heavy

Kyou no tesuto wa muzukashisugita = Today's test was too difficult

Adjective Modifiers for I and Na adjectives 1

Comparatives: used to compare two things. Add **yor** after the object which is used for comparison.

1. the compared object, **yor** sits between the subject and adjective of the main idea

For examples:

Watashi no inu wa anata no inu **yor** ookii desu = my dog is bigger than your

Kare wa ringo **yor** osushi ga suki desu = I like sushi better than an apple

2. the compared object, **yor** sits before the subject in structures that follow other finalized statements

For examples:

Kare no inu wa ookii desu ga, Kanojyo no inu wa **yor** ookii = His dog is big, but her dog is bigger

Kyou wa atsukatta kedo, ashita wa **yor** atsukunaru sou desu = Today was hot, but they say it's going to get hotter tomorrow

*** Note: **Mo** is sometimes added to **yor + mo = "yorimo"**. However, this does not change the meaning of the sentence.

3. **Motto** = more sits directly before the adjective it modifies and it could be used to replace **yor**

For examples:

Kare no inu wa ookii desu ga, Kanojyo no inu wa **motto** ookii = his dog is big, but her dog is bigger

Kyou wa atsukatta kedo, ashita wa **motto** atsukunaru sou desu = Today was hot, but they say it's going to get hotter tomorrow

Adjective Modifiers for I and Na adjectives 2

Superlatives: used **Mottomo** or **ichiban** = number one, can be placed before adjectives to make them superlative. Ichiban without an adjective can be used to simply mean "the best"

For examples:

Kono hon wa **mottomo** takai desu = This book is the most expensive

Sore wa watashi no **ichiban** suki na kaban desu = This is my favorite bag

Osushi ga **ichiban!** = Oshishi is the best!

Negative Comparatives and Superlatives: this is not used frequently in Japanese. Since there is no equivalent to "the least", to convey something in a negative superlative way, use an adjective with that meaning, or make the adjective negative

For examples:

Kore wa **mottomo** yasui desu = This is the cheapest

Kore wa **ichiban** takakunai desu = This is the most inexpensive

*** For negative comparatives where "less" is implied, use **hodo = to the extent of** after the object of comparison. You must also make the adjective negative.

For examples:

Watashi no inu wa Anata no inu **hodo** ookikunai = My dog isn't as big as your dog

Especially = Toku ni OR Amari = not really: Very useful modifiers

Kyou wa **toku ni** isogashikatta = Today was especially busy

Kono eiga wa **amari** omoshirokunai = This movie is not really that interesting

Kyou wa **amari** samukunai = Today's not that cold