



Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

Podcast 26: Japanese verbs for daily life

In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ Learn verbs to talk about your daily routine
- ✓ Learn how to use verbs naturally in casual conversation
- ✓ Learn the how plain form verbs and -TE form verbs are used together to talk about lists of actions you do.

LEVEL: Upper Beginner



Introduction - What you are going to learn

In this podcast you're going to learn useful verbs to talk about your daily routine. These verbs are very commonly used in casual conversation throughout the day so they are well worth learning. You will also study a little grammar related to plain form verbs and -TE form verbs which are the most common type of verb used in casual speech. You will also learn how they are used together when describing actions in a sequence.

Also, the dialogue in this lesson will teach you particles which are sounds that usually go at the end of sentences to change the nuance of what you are saying. Learning these will help you sound a lot more natural when speaking Japanese.

How to study

Use the links below to help you study this lesson. There are various ways to study this lesson but I suggest listening to the main podcast first to get a general idea of the topic.

Main Podcast Lesson - Ami sensei and Alex demonstrate the main dialogue, briefly explain the grammar and talk about other Japan related topics.

Then you can use these show notes to read through and study in more depth. We include grammar and vocabulary explanations to better understand the main lesson dialogue.

Finally, you can use the Japanese dialogue only audio to file to practice your listening. You can listen to the audio phrase by phrase and then repeat afterwards to practice your speaking and listening skills.

[Main Podcast Download](#) - This is the full podcast with Japanese dialogues, explanations in English and free conversation.

[Japanese Dialogue Only Audio Download](#) - Just listen to Japanese dialogues and phrase without the English explanations.



Main Vocabulary for the lesson

Here is the main vocabulary from the lesson in one easy to use list.

Japanese	Pronunciation	English
平日	<i>Heijitsu</i>	Weekday
週末	<i>Shuumatsu</i>	Weekend
過ごし方	<i>Sugoshikata</i>	How you spend time
教えて	<i>Oshiete</i>	Tell me
7時に	<i>Shichi ji ni</i>	At 7 o'clock
起きて	<i>Okite</i>	Wake up
顔を洗って	<i>Kao wo aratte</i>	Wash one's face
朝ごはんを食べる	<i>Asagohan o taberu</i>	Eat breakfast
その後	<i>Sono ato</i>	After that
着替えて	<i>Kigaete</i>	Get dressed
メイクして	<i>Meiku shite</i>	Put on makeup
仕事に行く	<i>Shigoto ni iku</i>	Go to work
休憩時間	<i>Kyuukeijikan</i>	Break time



お弁当を食べて	<i>Obentō o tabete</i>	Eat a bento lunch
携帯	<i>Keitai</i>	Mobile phone
時間を潰す	<i>Jikan o tsubusu</i>	Kill time / Waste time
仕事が終わったら	<i>Shigoto ga owattara</i>	When work is finished
うちに帰って	<i>Uchi ni kaette</i>	Go home
晩御飯を食べて	<i>Bangohan o tabete</i>	Eat dinner
お風呂に入る	<i>Ofuro ni hairu</i>	Have a bath
何をするの？	<i>Nani o suru</i>	What do you do?
寝る	<i>Neru</i>	Sleep
忙しい	<i>Isogashii</i>	Busy
まあね	<i>Maa ne</i>	I guess so / I suppose so



Main Dialog 1 - Japanese verbs for daily life (Japanese)

へいじつ す かた おし
A: Amiの平日の過ごし方を教えて！

じ お かお あら あさ た
B: 7時に起きて、顔を洗って、朝ごはんを食べるよ。

あときが しごと い
その後着替えて、メイクして、仕事に行くよ。

きゅうけいじかん
A: 休憩時間は？

きゅうけいじかん べんとう た けいたい じかん つぶ
B: 休憩時間はお弁当を食べて、携帯で時間を潰すよ。

しごと お
A: 仕事が終わったら？

かえ ばんごはん た ふろ はい
B: うちに帰って、晩御飯を食べて、お風呂に入るよ。

あと なに
A: その後は何をするの？

ねる
B: 寝る！

いそが
A: Amiは忙しいね！

B: まあね！



Main Dialog 1 - Japanese verbs for daily life (Pronunciation)

A: Ami no heijitsu no sugoshikata oshiete!

B: Shichi ji ni okite, kao o aratte, asagohan o taberu. Sono ato kigaete, meiku shite, shigoto ni iku yo.

A: Kyuukei jikan wa?

B: Kyukeijikan wa obentō o tabete keitai de jikan o tsubusu yo.

A: Shigoto ga owattara?

B: Uchi ni kaette, bangohan o taberu, ofuro ni hairu yo.

A: Sono ato nani suru no?

B: Neru!

A: Ami wa isogashii ne.

B: Maa ne.

Main Dialog 1 - Japanese verbs for daily life (English)

A: Ami, how do you spend your weekdays?

B: I wake up at 7, I wash my face and eat breakfast. After that I get dressed, put on my makeup and go to work.

A: What about your break time?

B: During my break time I eat a bento and kill time with my mobile phone.

A: And when work finishes?

B: I go home, I eat dinner and have a bath.

A: What do you do after that?

B: Sleep!

A: Ami, you're busy!

B: I guess so.



Extra Dialog Example - Japanese verbs for daily life (Japanese)

しゅうまつ す かた おし
A: Amiの週末の過ごし方を教えて！

み ひ なま
B: ユーチューブを見て、ピアノを弾いて、怠ける。

Extra Dialog Example - Japanese verbs for daily life (Pronunciation)

A: Ami no shuumatsu no sugoshikata oshiete!

B: Yuuchuubu o mite, piano o hiite, namakeru.

Extra Dialog Example - Japanese verbs for daily life (English)

A: Ami, tell me how you spend your weekends.

B: I watch Youtube, play the piano and be lazy.



Te form verbs - Te form verbs end with て (te) and are extremely useful as they have many different grammatical uses. However in this lesson we will focus on one use as was heard in the podcast. And that is to list a sequence of actions. For example:

7時に起きて、顔を洗って、朝ごはんを食べるよ。

Shichi ji ni okite, kao o aratte, asagohan wo taberu.

I wake up at 7, wash my face and eat breakfast.

Note the pattern here. The last verb in the sequence will be the plain form verb, but the actions before that will be in Te form. This is how native speakers naturally list things they do in casual conversation.

Here's another example:

週末はYoutubeを見て、ピアノを弾いて、怠ける。

Shuumatsu wa youtube wo mite, piano o hiite, namakeru.

On weekends I watch youtube, play the piano and be lazy.

Conjugating plain form to Te form verbs can be a little involved and we will cover that in a future episode.



For now here is a list of verbs used in the podcast in both plain form and Te form:

Plain form	Te form	Meaning
起きる Okiru	起きて Okite	Wake up
洗う Arau	洗って Aratte	Wash
食べる Taberu	食べて Tabete	Eat
着替える Kigaeru	着替えて Kigaete	To change clothes
メイクする Meiku suru	メイクして Meiku shite	Put on makeup
行く Iku	行って Itte	Go
時間を潰す Jikan o tsubusu	時間を潰して Jikan o ysubushite	Kill time
見る Miru	見て Mite	Watch / Look at / See
弾く Hiku	弾いて Hiite	Play (an instrument)
怠ける Namakeru	怠けて Namakete	To be lazy



Grammar Explanation - Particles

The particle を - O

The particle を doesn't translate into English and has various grammatical uses in Japanese. The most common use is when を comes after a noun, it becomes a direct object marker. In other words, it points to the thing you are doing an action to.

For example:

Noun + を + Verb

朝ごはんを食べる	Asagohan o taberu	Eat breakfast
晩御飯を食べる	Bangohan o taberu	Eat dinner
顔を洗う	Kao o arau	Wash one's face

Note: There are other uses of を. However, for this lesson this is the main use of this particle.

Insider tip!: What they never teach you in grammar textbooks is that native speakers will often drop particles such as を in casual speech. There's aren't any simple rules for this as it depends on the speaker and the situation. So, plenty of listening practice is key!

は vs が

This is an enormous subject in Japanese grammar. So here is a super slimmed down summary not including all the possible uses of these particles.

は Wa - This marks the topic of conversation and usually but not always comes after the subject of the sentence. It means something like "As for (so and so topic)". For example:

このお寿司は美味しいですよ - Kono osushi wa oishii desu yo.
(As for) this sushi, it's delicious.



休憩時間はお弁当を食べる - Kyuukei jikan **wa** obentō wo taberu
(As for) my break time, I eat a bento

は can also be used as a question to mean something like “How about...” or “What about...”. For example:

これは？ - Kore wa?

How about this?

休憩時間は？ - Kyuukei jikan wa?

What about your break time.

が Ga - Again this has many uses but for the purposes of this lesson here are basic one you need to know.

が replaces を - As we learned before **を** can go between a noun and a verb. For example:

朝ごはん**を**食べる Asagohan **o** taberu - To eat breakfast

However with special exceptions **が** replaces **を**, for example:

これが欲しい - Kore ga hoshii - I want this

これが好き - Kore ga suki - I like this

これが嫌い - Kore ga kirai - I dislike this

これが聞こえる - Kore ga kikoeru - I can hear this

これが見える - Kore ga mieru - I can see this

これが分かる - Kore ga wakaru - I can understand this

仕事が終わる Shigoto ga owaru - This grammar is a little technical but it did appear in the podcast so here an explanation.



The reason we say 仕事が終わる Shigoto ga owaru and we don't use を is because in this case 終わる is an intransitive verb. That means the action completes by itself and there is no direct. 仕事が終わる means work finishes (by itself) not I finish work, and in those cases you use が。

I know this is a lot more technical than we usually get in the podcast but it did appear so I hope that makes sense!

Yo - This is a particle that is a little hard to translate into English but will make you sound more natural if you can use it. It emphasises what the speaker is saying. It's also used when giving new information or the speaker wants to stress their opinion about something.

明日行くよ Ashita iku yo - I'm (really) going tomorrow
美味しいですよ Oishii desu yo - It's (really) delicious

Ne - This is another very common particle that goes at the end of sentences and means something like "isn't it?" or "Don't you think so". For example:

暑いですね Atsui desu ne - It's hot isn't it?
難しいですね Muzukashi desu ne - It's difficult isn't it?
いいね - Ii ne - It's good isn't it?



Random Phrase of the week

Random phrase of the week is where we teach you funny random phrases to make your Japanese friends chuckle and say “Where on earth did you learn that?!”

This week’s phrase is 微妙 *Bimyō*. This is made from two kanji, 微 which means a little or slightly and 妙 which means strange. So it is used to mean something like “doubtful”, “something is a little off”, “It’s so so (but there’s a problem).”

A typical example would be:

A: このドレスはどう？ *Kono doresu wa dō?* - What do you think about this dress?

B: 微妙！ *Bimyō* - It’s OK but...(there’s something not right)

You can also talk about slight differences between things:

A: これとそれはどう違う？ *Kore to sore, dō chigau?*

What’s the difference between this one and this one?

B: これの方が微妙に辛い。 *Kore no hō wa bimyō ni karai.*

This one is slightly more spicy.



Hi, this is Alex, the creator of Learn Japanese Pod. Thanks for downloading these show notes, I hope you find them useful. If you need any help with your Japanese or have any questions or comments please drop me a line at info@learnjapanesepod.com

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Enjoy!

Alex