

Japanese is Possible!
Week 15

Part 15

- The *Let's* Form
- What are you *Let's Do ing*?
- Example Sentences
- Very Popular Words

The *Let's* Form

I would rather give a form an easy to remember name instead of a textbook one. In this case, I'm calling this form the *Let's* form, because it would be used in sentences like:

Let's go.

Let's do it!

Let's eat.

Let's go back now.

The ending for this form is **-ou**. All the verbs will end with those two letters. (Sometimes you will see it spelled **-oo**, but it's the same thing when you write it in the Japanese alphabet)

We will now demonstrate how to add the *Let's* ending to all three types of verbs.

Irregular Verbs

We'll start with the two irregular verbs:

kuru - *koyou* (let's come)

suru - *shiyou* (let's do)

These are irregular, and have no pattern. Luckily, there are only 2 of them in Japanese! You'll just have to memorize these two. Luckily, they're both used a lot -- it shouldn't take you long.

Ichidan Verbs

Then we'll move to the second most popular category, the Ichidan verbs. These are the verbs that end in **-eru** or **-iru**. Remember, there are some Yodan verbs that try to masquerade as Ichidan verbs. Since they end in **-eru** or **-iru**, you can be fooled. A list of these verbs was given in Lesson 12.

Example:

miru - (to see)

First, remove the **-ru** from the dictionary form of the verb.

mi

Now, add **-you** to finish the job. (that was quick!)

miyou (let's see)

Yodan Verbs

The rest of the verbs fit in this category.

Example:

asobu - (to play)

Remove the **-u** from the dictionary form of the verb.

asob

Now, add **-ou** and you're done!

asobou - (let's play)

How to use the "Let's" Form

Here are some example sentences that use the new ending:

kore o tabeyou!

this (what) let's eat!

Let's eat this!

mou yameyou!

already let's quit!

Let's stop it already!

uchi ni kaette, benkyou shiyou yo!

home (location) return (and), study let's do !

Let's go home and study!

mamono o korosou!

monster (who) let's kill!

Let's kill the monster!

umi ni oyogou!

ocean (location) let's swim!

Let's swim in the ocean!

There isn't a lot to it. However, you can do more interesting things with this form. For instance, if you combine it with the particle *to*, you can make some very neat sentences.

What are you *Let's Do* ing?

This is actually one of my favorite bits of grammar. In other words, shown below is my favorite kind of sentence in Japanese. Everyone's different, so you may find a DIFFERENT bit of grammar more fun. ^_^

dare o korosou to shite iru?

who (answers 'who') let's kill and you're doing?

Who are you trying to kill?

I like to translate it, "who are you let's killing?"

I get a kick out of translating it that way, I don't know why! It is a valid translation, although it isn't proper English.

Another popular sentence is:

nani o shiyou to shite iru?

what (answers 'what') let's do and you're doing?

What are you "let's do" ing?

Although we don't say "what are you let's eating", that IS an example of a normal Japanese sentence. When you're making your own sentences, remember that you can't just take an English sentence and replace the English words with Japanese words.

Example Sentences

mou osoi kara, kaerou yo!

already late because, let's return !

It's late already, so let's return!

chotto nihongo ga dekiru yo!

little bit japanese (subject) can do !

I can speak a little Japanese.

ryo-ohki wa ninjin o tabeyou to shite iru.

ryo-ohki (subject) carrots (what) let's eat and is doing.

Ryo-ohki wants to eat the carrots.

ranma wa akane to kekkon shiyou to shite ita.

ranma (subject) akane (with) let's marry (and) was doing.

Ranma had a mind to marry Akane.

ryu wa ken o nageyoo to shite ita.

ryu (subject) ken (who) let's throw and he was doing.

Ryu wanted to throw Ken.

Very Popular Words

Misc

ippai - full of

mou - already

takusan - many

massugu - straight (ahead)

Nouns

ninjin - carrot
soba - nearby area
kazoku - family
hana - nose
kuchi - mouth
naka - center, inside

Adjectives

nigai - bitter
migi (no) - right
hidari (no) - left

Verbs

nageru - to throw
kekkon suru - to marry

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