

文法第 5 課

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1. Sentence with a Verbal-Adjective as Predicate

1.1 Verbal-Adjective 形容詞

Unlike European languages where only *one* category of adjectives exists, there are **two** groups of adjectives in the Japanese language, which are identified by different inflexions and consequently by different *formal* appearances. The one group is called *nominal-adjective* (abbreviation: **NA**) and the other group is called *verbal-adjective* (abbreviation: **VA**). In Japanese the last one is called 形容詞 (けいようし). The nominal-adjective (NA) 形容動詞 (けいようどうし) will be discussed in lesson 6. The verbal-adjectives (VA) behave like *verbs*, i.e. they are **inflected** and are composed of an *unchangeable stem* and a *changeable (inflexional) ending*. The first modification of the VA we want to learn is the dictionary form:

The Dictionary Form of VA

In contrast to the verbs there are no subgroups of VA. The dictionary form of all VA always ends in the **vowel –i**. (For this reason some of the grammars use the expression *i-adjective*.)

Word Formation:

stem + い

Examples of VA:

安い	やすい	cheap
小さい	ちいさい	small
古い	ふるい	old (state of materials, not the age of beings)
暑い	あつい	hot (climate, but not fluids)
新しい	あたらしい	new
良い	よい／いい	good
悪い	わるい	bad

As the name already indicates, the lexicalized form is just responsible for the ascertainment of the word in a dictionary. It does not carry any information in respect of politeness.

notice:

- The VA 古い can not be used for the *age* of creatures, at most for the way of thinking of a person.
- 暑い is used for the climate, but not for hot things like fluids and solids.
- It depends on the phonetic surrounding how to pronounce the VA 良い. (see next chapters)

1.1.1 The Ordinary Polite Affirmative Form of VA

The first applicable form of the VA is the ordinary polite affirmative form.
This form is compounded of the stem, the sound い, and です:

Word Formation:

stem + い + です

dictionary form		ordinary polite affirmative form	
安い	→	安いです	cheap
小さい	→	小さいです	small
古い	→	古いです	old (materials, not the age of beings)
暑い	→	暑いです	hot (climate)
新しい	→	新しいです	new
良い	→	良いです (いいです)	good
悪い	→	悪いです	bad

notice:

In the ordinary polite affirmative form the VA 良い is pronounced as いい and *not* よい!

1.1.2 The Ordinary Polite Negative Form of VA

The **negation** of the VA is formed using the stem and the ending ～くありません:

Word Formation:

stem + くないです

dictionary form		ordinary polite negative form	
安い	→	安くないです	not cheap
小さい	→	小さくないです	not small
古い	→	古くないです	not old
暑い	→	暑くないです	not hot
新しい	→	新しくないです	not new
良い	→	良くないです (よくないです)	not good
悪い	→	悪くないです	not bad

notice:

The negative form of 良い is pronounced よくないです and *not* ~~い~~くありません!

Alternative Negation

The **negation** of the VA can also be formed using the stem and the ending ～くありません:

Word Formation:

stem + くありません

ordinary polite
negative form

alternative negation

安くありません	安くありません	not cheap
小さくありません	小さくありません	not small
古くありません	古くありません	not old
暑くありません	暑くありません	not hot
新しくありません	新しくありません	not new
良くありません	良くありません	not good
悪くありません	悪くありません	not bad

Quiz 1: Put the right forms into the spaces.

affirmative ～です

negation ～くありません

alternative negation ～くありません

高い (たかい)
大きい (おおきい)
寒い (さむい)
楽しい (たのしい)
小さい (ちいさい)



The answers will be discussed during the grammar lesson.

1.1.3 The Ordinary Polite Past Form of VA

The **past form** of the VA is made by using the stem, the information about the past 〜かった and the information about the ordinary polite level 〜です:

Word Formation:

stem + かったです

dictionary form		ordinary polite past	
安い	→	安かったです	it was cheap
小さい	→	小さかったです	it was small
古い	→	古かったです	it was old
暑い	→	暑かったです	it was hot
新しい	→	新しかったです	it was new
良い	→	良かったです (よかったです)	it was good
悪い	→	悪かったです	it was bad

1.1.4 Negation of the Past Form of VA

The **negation of the past form** (e.g. it *was not* cheap) is made by using the stem, the information about negation 〜くな, the information about the past 〜かった and finally the information about the ordinary polite level 〜です. On looking more carefully it becomes clear that that the ending 〜くない is modified exactly like a VA (because of its final sound い), i.e. it will be connected to the information about negation by changing the form of linkage, a fundamental attribute of every inflected word of Japanese.

Word Formation:

stem + くなかったです

dictionary form		ordinary polite negation of past	
安い	→	安くなかったです	it was not cheap
小さい	→	小さくなかったです	it was not small
古い	→	古くなかったです	it was not old
暑い	→	暑くなかったです	it was not hot
新しい	→	新しくなかったです	it was not new
良い	→	良くなかったです	it was not good
悪い	→	悪くなかったです	it was not bad

alternative form: stem + ありませんでした

1.1.5 Sentence with a VA as Predicate

Example:

日本語はおもしろいですか。

Nihon-go wa omoshiroi desu ka.
Is Japanese interesting?

Like verbs and nouns, an adjective can be used as a **predicate** of a sentence. The very basic types of sentences with a VA as predicate are:

Affirmative:

N は VA です。

e.g. 日本語はおもしろいです。 Japanese is interesting.

Question:

N は VA ですか。

e.g. 日本語はおもしろいですか。 Is Japanese interesting?

Negation:

N は VA くないです。／くありません。

e.g. パンは新しくないです。 The bread is not new. (fresh)

Past:

N は VA かったです。

e.g. 映画は長かったです。 The film was long.

Negation of the Past:

N は VA なかったです。／くありませんでした。

e.g. 映画は悪くなかったです。 The film was not bad.

The interrogative **how** used for adjectives is どう.

日本語はどうですか。やさしいですか。

How is Japanese ? Is it easy?

いいえ、やさしくありません。難しいです。

No, it is not easy. It is difficult.

でも、おもしろいです。

But it is interesting.

何が難しいですか。

What is difficult? (What in particular?)

漢字が難しいです。

The Kanji are difficult.

学食はどうですか。

How is the canteen (a common room)?

広いです。

It is roomy.

ご飯はどうでしたか。おいしかったですか。

How was the meal? Was it tasty?

いいえ、今日は良くなかったです。

No, today it was not good.

まずかったです。

It was unpalatable (tasteless).

肉はどうでしたか。大きかったですか。

How was the meat? Was it big (a big piece)?

いいえ、とても小さかったです。

No, it was very small.

Quiz 2: Answer the question by using the negation.



部屋は広いですか。
森さんは大きいですか。
弟さんは小さいですか。
ビールはおいしかったですか。
今日は寒いですか。
昨日は暑かったですか。
駅は遠いですか。
週末はたのしかったですか。
車は新しいですか。
セーターは古いですか。
日本語は難しいですか。
漢字はやさしいですか。
ごはんはまずかったですか。

Quiz 3: Answer the question freely.

日本語はつまらないですか。
日本語はやさしいですか。
部屋はどうですか。
家は近いですか。
映画はどうでしたか。
デューズブルクはおもしろいですか。
日曜日はどうでしたか。
学食は安いですか。
レストランはどうですか。
ご飯はどうでしたか。
先生はどうですか。
教室はどうですか。
何が古いですか。
何が難しいですか。
何がおいしいですか。
何がおもしろいですか。

1.2 Attributive Form of VA

Example:

古い車

furui kuruma
an old car

This sample phrase shows us a VA in its new function. The VA *furui* modifies the following noun *kuruma*. In this case, the VA does *not* play the role of a predicate (*the car is old*) but it elucidates the status of a noun. The VA is here just an appendix or **attribute** of the noun. That means that the noun is the dominant element, and the unit **VA+N** can be placed in all parts of a sentence where a noun can stay: VA+Nは (topic), VA+Nを (object), VA+Nです。 (predicate) etc. In order to become an attribute, the VA must be transformed to a special grammatical form which is logically called the **attributive form**.

Since in the Japanese language we cannot build a *relative clause* like *a car that is old*, the only possibility to express the elucidation of a noun is to use the attributive form. So, all constructions including a relative clause should be translated by using this form.

The general structure of an attributive form of the VA is as already mentioned:

VA + N

1.2.1 Modification of the Attributive Form

In this lesson *four* modifications of the attributive form of VA will be introduced.

Affirmative:

The first attributive form of the VA is affirmative. The affirmative version of the attributive form is extremely simple to build. It is identical with the *dictionary* form:

VAい + N

Examples:

新しい車	a new car
高いカメラ	an expensive camera
長いえんぴつ	a long pencil

important note:

The two VA 大きい(big) and 小さい (small) have an alternative (affirmative) attributive form which is made by adding the ending ~な :

大きい車 or 大きな車	a big car
小さい車 or 小さな車	a small car

further note:

The attributive forms should *not* contain any information in respect of *politeness*. So you can *not* say something like 古いです車. The information referring to politeness is always covered by the predicate:

これは古い車です。(This is an old car.)

Negation:

The negative version of the attributive form is made by adding the ending ～くない:

VA くない + N

Examples:

新しくない車	not a new car (a car that is not new)
高くないカメラ	not an expensive camera (a camera that is not expensive)
長くないえんぴつ	not a long pencil (a pencil that is not long)

These examples show us already the vagueness of a literal translation. It is recommendable to translate the attributive form by using the *relative clause*.

Past:

The past version of the attributive form is made by adding the ending ～かった:

VA かった + N

Examples:

新しかった車	a car that was new
高かったカメラ	a camera that was expensive
長かったえんぴつ	a pencil that was long

In these cases we have no other option than to translate the attributive form by using the *relative clause*.

Negation of the Past:

The negative past version of the attributive form is made by adding the ending ～なかった:

VA なかった + N

Examples:

新しくなかった車	a car that was not new
高くなかったカメラ	a camera that was not expensive
長くなかったえんぴつ	a pencil that was not long

Quiz 4: Translate the following sequences.

an old house

not an old house

a house that was old

a house that is old

a house that is not old

a house that was not old

a new house

a big house

a house that is not big

a small house

a house that was not small

an old book

a book which is not old

an expensive book

a book that is expensive

a book that is not expensive

a difficult foreign language

a cold room

a room that was not cold

a tasty apple

an apple that was tasty

a room that was old

the small Michael

Michael who was small

a meal that was tasty

a boring film

a film that was boring

a film that was not boring

a new friend

a good friend

a bad friend

an old friend

(not the age but the acquaintance)

a bicycle that is not old

a person who is not friendly

1.2.2 Attributive Form of VA used in a sentence

これは高いカメラです。

Kore wa **takai kamera desu.**
This is an expensive camera.

森さんは高いカメラを買いました。

Mori-san wa **takai kamera o** kaimashita.
Ms Mori bought an expensive camera.

As it was already mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the unit **VA+N** can be placed in *all* parts of a sentence where a noun can stay. (The noun, the word which is elucidated by a VA is in a manner of speaking the main actor, while the VA is merely an appendix of the noun.) The first sample sentence shows the attribute in the position of a predicate **VA+Nです**. In the second sample sentence the attribute is in the position of an object **VA+Nを**.

More sample sentences with the unit VA + N:

新しい喫茶店はあそこです。
Atarashii kissaten wa asoko desu.
The *new coffee shop* is there.

Topic: VA+Nは...

小さいりんごがおいしかったです。
Chiisai ringo ga oishikatta desu.
The small apple was tasty.

Subject: VA+Nが...

難しい漢字を覚えます。
Muzukashii kanji o oboemasu.
I am going to learn *difficult Kanji*.

Object: VA+Nを...

小さな町から来ました。
Chiisana machi kara kimashita.
I came from a *small town*.

Place: VA+Nから...

これは高い時計です。
Kore wa **takai tokei desu.**
This is an *expensive watch*.

Predicate: VA+Nです。

Interrogative どんな+N

どんな+N (*what kind of* + N...) can be used as an interrogative for the **quality**. In such case the answer should contain an attribute including a VA.

どんな本を読みましたか。
Donna hon o yomimashita ka.
What kind of a book did you read?

おもしろい本を読みました。
Omoshiroi hon o yomimashita.
I read an interesting book.

どんな漢字を書きましたか。
Donna kanji o kakimashita ka.
What kind of Kanji did you write?

難しい漢字を書きました。
Muzukashii kanji o kakimashita.
I wrote difficult Kanji.

森さんはどんな先生ですか。
Mori-san wa **donna sensei** desu ka.
What kind of teacher is Ms Mori?

やさしい先生です。
Yasashii sensei desu.
She is a friendly teacher.

中国はどんな国ですか。
Chuugoku wa **donna kuni** desu ka.
What kind of country is China?

とても大きな国です。
Totemo **ookina kuni** desu.
It is a very big country.

It is of course possible to answer a question including **どんな** with a simple enumeration of typical features without an attributive adjective. (To answer a question about reading books you can just enumerate the titles.)

Quiz 5: Answer the following questions by using an attribute including a VA.



それはどんなりんごですか。

りんごはどんな果物ですか。

森さんはどんな学生ですか。

どんな漢字を書きますか。

ドイツはどんな国ですか。

どんな週末でしたか。

どんな映画を見ますか。

ここはどんな教室ですか。

どんな車を買いますか。

Special numbers for financial transactions:

Some of the numbers are written in a unique way in support of an unequivocal identification.

This practise underlies the fact that particularly for financial transactions the amount should clearly indicate their values. It is comparable with the custom to fill in the amount in words. The following numbers of our lesson are in use:

1 = 壱 (instead of 一), 2 = 弍 (instead of 二), 3 = 参 (instead of 三), 5 = 伍 (instead of 五),
10 = 拾 (instead of 十), 100 = 佰 (instead of 百), etc.

Examples:

壹拾壹=11	壹拾弍=12	壹拾参=13	壹拾四=14	壹拾伍=15	壹拾六=16
弍拾=20	弍拾壹=21	弍拾弍=22	弍拾参=23	弍拾四=24	弍拾伍=25
参拾=30	伍拾=50	伍拾伍=55	六拾=60	六拾伍=65	九拾=90
九拾壹=91	九拾弍=92	九拾参=93	九拾伍=95	九拾九=99	壹佰=100

Quiz 6: Read the following numbers.

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
11,12,13,14,15
16,17,18,19,20
21,24,27,30
40,50,60,70,80,90,100

Quiz 7: Read the following numbers.

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十
十一 十二 十三 十四 十五
十六 十七 十八 十九 二十
二十一 二十四 二十七 三十
四十 五十 六十 七十 八十 九十 百

Quiz 8: Read the following numbers.

一 一 一 一 一 一
○ 一 二 三 四 五

二 二 二 二 三
○ 二 五 九 ○

五 六 七 八 九
五 ○ 七 九 ○

五 四 六 七 八
九 四 七 六 一

九 九 九 一
二 六 九 ○
○