

そうこうがくえん

Beginning 2

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Lesson 15 Notes

Talking about Someone's Likes and Skills; Verb Dictionary Form

1. Person は something (noun) が すきです

Person は something (noun) が じょうずです

- すきです and じょうずです are both な-adjectives.
- すきです should be thought of as “to be fond of” rather than “to like.” It expresses a state of mind and not an action. Thus, if you want to say “I saw this new movie and I liked it,” you cannot say すきでした. すきでした is more like you were fond of something for a period of time in the past (recent or distant).
- The thing that the person likes or the skill of the person takes the particle が.

e.g. チャンさんは ワインが すきです。

チャンさんは にほんごが じょうずです。

2. Verb dictionary form

Japanese verbs are classified into 3 categories.

- Regular 1 verbs (also known as う- verbs)

Steps to make the dictionary form from the --ます form

1. Write the pre ます portion of the verb

2. Change the vowel right in front of ます to “u”

Eg.

いきます → いく

ki → ku

はなします → はなす

si → su

(use just the “s” for this instead of “sh” that you are used to)

たちます → たつ

ti → tu

(use “t” instead of “ch” for ち and just the “t” instead of “ts” for つ that you are used to)

- Regular 2 verbs (also known as る – verbs)

To make the dictionary form of a Regular 2 verb, just replace ます with る

e.g. たべます → たべる

- Irregular verbs

There are only 2 irregular verbs: きます (to come) and します (to do)

きます → くる

します → する

V - ます (R I)	V dictionary form	V - ます (R II)	V dictionary form
いきます	いく	たべます	たべる
かいます	かう	みます	みる
あいます	あう	います	いる
のみます	のむ	おしえます	おしえる

V - ます (Irregular)	V dictionary form
きます	くる
します	する

3. Person は Verb [dictionary form] のが すきです。

- As we saw earlier, the thing that the person likes or the skill of the person must be a noun, but if you turn a verb/sentence into a noun, you can use this verb/sentence as the thing the person likes or the skill of the person.
- To turn the verb or the sentence into a noun, use の. This is called a nominalizer. By adding the nominalizer の to the dictionary form of the verb in place of a noun in the sentence “person は [NOUN] が すきです, you can express what someone likes to do.
e.g. かとうさんは [コーヒーを のむ] の が すきです。
スミスさんは [えいがを みる] の が すきです。
- Similarly, you can use this structure with じょうずです to express the person is good at doing something.
e.g. スミスさんは [えを かく] の が じょうずです。
よしださんは [にほんごを はなす] の が じょうずです。