

Typology of Natural Languages

1. **Inflectional languages** ([Indo-European languages](#))
In general, all the word classes may change their form according to their functions and roles in a sentence.
2. **Isolated languages** (Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Khmer, Burmese etc.)
Contrary to inflectional ones, each word keeps its form unchanged regardless its function and role in a sentence.
3. **Agglutinative languages**
These languages have many kinds of affixes (prefixes and suffixes), and principally, all the word classes may be extended with them unlimitedly. Consequently, components of a sentence are not words, but rather “one-word-phrases”.

Japanese language may be classified to the third type of language, and has many kinds of affixes (mainly suffixes). Furthermore, two word classes of Japanese language have inflectional systems, namely verbs and adjectives.

Word Classes of Japanese (“Lexeme”)

1. Verb	(V)
2. Adjective (い-Adjective)	(A, A い)
3. Nominal Adjective (な-, or の-Adjective)	(A な or A の)
4. Noun	(N)
5. Adnominal	(D)
6. Adverb *)	(M)
7. Interjection	(I)

*) Not only genuine Adverbs, but also other word classes may have function as Adverb, especially, **Verbs**, **Adjectives** and **Nouns**. Japanese language has no “Conjunctives”, but special nouns and adverbial forms of verbs and adjectives work as “Conjunctives”.

Affixes of Japanese (“Morphemes”)

Words which belong to “Word classes” are core words (“Lexeme”). In an agglutinative language, these core words may be extended with “Affixes”, namely “Prefixes” and “Suffixes”. Japanese Affixes have following arts:

Affixes	Prefixes		(q-)
	Suffixes in a broad sense	Flexives (for V and A)	(-f)
		Suffixes in a narrow sense	(-s)
		Particles	(=p)

“One-Word-Phrase”

q-	Lexeme	-s	-s	-f	=p	-f	=p	... Etc.
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q+L+s+s+f=p+f=p

Classes of Suffixes in narrow sense

Suffixes in a narrow sense	Suffix Verbs	(-v)
	Suffix Adjectives	(-a)
	Suffix Nominal Adjectives	(-a な)
	Suffix Nouns	(-n)
	Suffix Adverbs	(-m)
	Suffix Adnominal	(-d)

Practical Inflection Tables of Verb

A-a. *Genuine Inflection Table of Verb (Vv)*

(Type Vv)

		Stem + f		Basis + f
Finite Forms	Present	見る MI.ru	Perfect	見た MI.ta
	Future	見よう MI.yoo	Perfect-Future	見た(だ)ろう MI.ta (.da)roo
	Imperative	見ろ MI.ro		
Adverbial Forms	Conditional	見れば MI.reba	Perfect-Conditional	見たら MI.tara
	Neg.Participle	見ず MI. zu	Participle	見て MI.te
			Exemplative	見たり MI.tari

A-b. *Special Inflection Table of Verb (Vv)*

(Type S)

Fin.	Imperative	見なさい MI.nasai *)	
Adv.	Neg.Participle	見ないで MI. na.i.de **)	

*) ⇒ 「なさい」 is the result of euphonic change of pronunciation of 「なされ」 /-nasar.e/

**) ⇒ See the Inflection Tables of Negation.

B-a. *Genuine Inflection Table of Verb (Vc)*

(Type Vc)

Finite Forms	Present	聞く KIK.u	Perfect	聞いた KII.ta
	Future	聞こう KIK.oo	Perfect-Future	聞いた(だ)ろう KII.ta (.da)roo
	Imperative	聞け KIK.e		
Adverbial Forms	Conditional	聞けば KIK. eba	Perfect-Conditional	聞いたら KII.tara
	Neg.Participle	聞かず KIK.azu	Participle	聞いて KII.te
			Exemplative	聞いたり KII.tari

B-b. *Special Inflection Table of Verb (Vc)*

(Type S)

Fin.	Imperative	聞きなさい KIKI.nasai *)	
Adv.	Neg.Participle	聞かないで KIK.ana.i.de **)	

*) ⇒ 「なさい」 is the result of euphonic change of pronunciation of 「なされ」 /-nasar.e/

**) ⇒ See the Inflection Tables of Negation.

C. *Genuine* Inflection Table of Verb (Vu)

(Type Vu)

Finite Forms	Present	する 来る	S. <i>uru</i> K. <i>uru</i>	Perfect	した 来た	Sl. <i>ta</i> Kl. <i>ta</i>
	Future	しよう 来よう	Sl. <i>yoo</i> KO. <i>yoo</i>	Perfect-Future	した(だ)ろう 来た(だ)ろう	Sl. <i>ta (.da)roo</i> Kl. <i>ta (.da)roo</i>
	Imperative	しろ 来い	Sl. <i>ro</i> KO. <i>i</i>			
Adverbial Forms	Conditional	すれば 来れば	S. <i>ureba</i> K. <i>ureba</i>	Perfect-Conditional	したら 来たら	Sl. <i>tara</i> Kl. <i>tara</i>
	Neg.Participle	せず 来ず	SE. <i>zu</i> KO. <i>zu</i>	Participle	して 来て	Sl. <i>te</i> Kl. <i>te</i>
				Exemplative	したり 来たり	Sl. <i>tari</i> Kl. <i>tari</i>

C-b. *Special* Inflection Table of Verb (Vv)

(Type S)

Fin.	Imperative	しなさい 来なさい	Sl. <i>nasai</i> *) Kl. <i>nasai</i> *)	
Adv.	Neg.Participle	しないで 来ないで	Sl. <i>na.i.de</i> **) KO. <i>na.i.de</i> **)	

*) ⇒ 「なさい」 is the result of euphonic change of pronunciation of 「なされ」 /-nasar.e/

**) ⇒ See the Inflection Tables of Negation.

Changing Rules of Pronunciation for “Vc-Basis+て/た”

	Stem	Classical form		Modern form	
①	<i>b-</i>	あそびて・あそびた	/...bi.t.../	あそんで・あそんだ	/...n.d.../
	<i>m-</i>	よみて・よみた	/...mi.t.../	よんで・よんだ	
	<i>n-</i>	しにて・しにた	/...ni.t.../	しんで・しんだ	
②	<i>g-</i>	およぎて・およぎた	/...gi.t.../	およいで・およいだ	/...i.d.../
③	<i>k-</i>	ききて・ききた	/...ki.t.../	きいて・きいた	/...i.t.../
④	<i>r-</i>	かえりて・かえりた	/...ri.t.../	かえって・かえった	/...t.t.../
	<i>t-</i>	まちて・まちた	/...ti.t.../	まって・まった	
	<i>{w}-</i>	あいて・あいた	/...{w}i.t.../	あって・あった	
	<i>ar-</i>	くださりて・くださりた	/...ari.t.../	くださって・くださった	
⑤	<i>s-</i>	はなして・はなした	/...si.t.../	はなして・はなした	/...si.t.../
	<i>mas-</i>	~まして・~ました	/...masi.t.../	~まして・~ました	
⑥	<i>k-</i>	行きて・行きた	/...ki.t.../	行って・行った	/...t.t.../

Practical Inflection Tables of Polite Forms of Verb with 「～ます」

A. *Genuine* Inflection Table of Verb (V-Basis + mas.u)

(Type V)

Finite Forms	Present	聞きます ...mas. u	Perfect	聞きました ...masi. ta
	Future	聞きましょう ...mas. yoo	—	
	—			
Adverbial Forms	—		Perfect Conditional	聞きましたら ...masi. tara
	—		Participle	聞きまして ...masi. te
			—	

B. *Special* Inflection Table

(Type S)

Finite Forms				
			Perfect-Future	聞いたでしょう ...ta. des.yoo
	Imperative	聞いて ください ...te KUDASI *)		
		お聞きください o... KUDASI *)		
Adverbial Forms				

*) ⇒ 「ください」 is the result of euphonic change of pronunciation of 「くだされ」 /KUDASAR.e/