

Things You Can Do With ~て Form

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The ~て form is an important part of Japanese grammar, and is necessary for creating many other forms. The first one we will introduce here is the ~てみる form, which indicates you will try the verb out.

To drink

のむ のんで のんでみる

Polite
のんでみます。

To do

する して してみる

Polite
してみます。

Let's look at some examples!

せんせいにきいてみるね！
[I'll try asking the teacher.]

なっとうをたべてみましたか。
[Did you try eating natto (for the first time)?]

やってみてください。 やってください。
[Please give it a shot!] [Please do it.]

~てみる cannot mean "try" as in "making efforts"

にほんごをべんきょうしてみる。
[I'll give Japanese a go (for the first time).]

にほんごをべんきょうしようとしている。
[I'm making efforts to study Japanese.]

As a norm, you do not write this みる using kanji.

たべてみる！
[I'll try eating it!]

たべて見る！
[I'll eat it... and then look at it.]



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The ~て form is an important part of Japanese grammar, and is necessary for creating many other forms. The second form is then ~ておく, which indicates that something is done in advance/in preparation.

To drink

のむ のんで のんでおく

Polite

のんでおきます。

To do

する して しておく

Polite

しておきます。

Let's look at some examples!

ふくをあらっておいた。
[I washed the clothes in preparation.]

でかけるまえにじゅうしょを
しらべておきましょう。
[Let's be sure to look up the address before
we head out (so we are prepared).]

あしたのランチをつくっておくね。
[I'll get tomorrow's lunch ready early okay?]

まいしゅう、クラスのためにいろいろな
ほんをよんでおきます。
[Every week, I read many books in order
to be ready for class.]

As a norm, you
do not write this
おく using kanji.

たべておく!
[I'll eat in advance!]

たべて置く!
[I'll eat it... and
then put it down.]



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The ~て form is an important part of Japanese grammar, and is necessary for creating many other forms. The third form is ~てほしい, which means you want the verb done. **Avoid this** when requesting from superiors.

To drink

のむ のんで のんでほしい

Polite

のんでほしいです。

To do

する して してほしい

Polite

してほしいです。

Let's look at some examples!

これをかたづけ**てほしい**。
[I **want** you to **tidy** this **up**.]

い**ってほしく**な**かった**です。
[I **didn't want** (someone) to **go**.]

To mark the specific person you want to do something, use the particle に

あなた**にあ**やま**ってほ**しい。
[I **want you** to apologize (to me).]

かれ**にい**われ**てほ**しか**った**です。
[I **wanted** to be **told** by **him**.]

To request politely, use ~もらえませんか instead

もう**い**っ**か**い**せ**つ**め**い**し**て**も**ら**え**ま**せ**ん**か**。
[Could I **receive the favor** of another **explanation**?]
[Could you **please explain** it again?]



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The ~て form is an important part of Japanese grammar, and is necessary for creating many other forms. Finally, the ~てくる form indicates that something is arriving, is done, or has continued up until now.

To drink

のむ のんで のんできくる

Polite
のんできます。

To do

する して してくる

Polite
してきます。

Let's look at some examples!

つかれてきた！
[I have become tired.]

ますますおとうさんになてくる。
[They're looking more and more like dad.]

やまがみえてきますよ。
[The mountain will come into view now.]

ひつようになてきました。
[It's become a necessity these days.]

The final verb determines tense.

じゅうねんかんすんできた！ [As of now I've lived here for a total of ten years!]

じゅうねんかんすんできた！ [I lived somewhere for 10 years, and then I came here.]

Writing this in kanji can imply literal movement so be careful!