

- (6) *Soo shitai nara soo shimashoo.*
 そうしたいならそうしましょう。
 (If you want to do so, let's do so.)
- (7) *Yamada-san ga soo yuu nara sore ga tadashii n ja-nai-deshoo ka.*
 山田さんがそう言うならそれが正しいんじゃないでしょうか。
 (If Yamada-san says so, wouldn't that be correct?)
- (8) *Kimi ga tadashii to omou nara, soo suru yo. ☺M*
 君が正しいと思うなら、そうするよ。
 (If you think it right, I will do it.)

Practice

question, inquiry	N	<i>shitsumon</i>	質問
answer	N	<i>kotae</i>	答え
to be solved	V	<i>wakaru</i>	わかる

Complete the following with the conditions given below.

1. If you come this far, . . .
2. If you ask this question to an American teacher, . . .
3. If it is not expensive, . . .

Some Sample Answers

1. *Koko made kureba Hujisan ga yoku miemasu yo.*
 ここまで来れば富士山がよく見えますよ。
2. *Amerika-jin no sensei ni tazunereba kono shitsumon no kotae ga wakarimasu yo.*
 アメリカ人の先生にたずねればこの質問の答えがわかりますよ。
3. *Takakunakereba katte-ikimashoo ne.*
 高くなければ買っていきましょね。

Additional Information

The conditional phrase *nara(ba)* may also be used to introduce topics as shown in the following examples. Unlike the topic marker *wa* which introduces the topic originating from the speaker, *nara(ba)* introduces topics which have often been suggested by the addressee. The speaker picks up the topic suggested by the addressee and continues by offering his or her personal opinions on the topic.

- (a) A: *Kyooto daigaku ni ikoo to omotte-imasu.*
 京都大学に行こうと思っています。
 (I'm thinking about going to Kyoto University.)

- B: *Ano daigaku nara(ba) ii benkyoo ga dekimasu yo.*
 あの大学なら(ば)いい勉強ができますよ。
 ([lit. if that university] As for that university, you can study well.)
- (b) A: *Tashiro-san doo shite-ru-deshoo nee . . .*
 田代さんどうしてるでしょうねえ……
 (How is Ms. Tashiro doing, I wonder . . .)
- B: *Tashiro-san nara genki desu yo.*
 田代さんなら元気ですよ。
 (Oh, Ms. Tashiro, she's fine.)

The [-*ba*] conditional is also used in the structure [V + *-ba yokatta*]—with *yokatta* being informal past tense of the [Adj-*i*] *yoi* (or *ii*) 'good'—meaning 'I wish I had done so . . .' For example:

- (c) *Paatii ni ikeba yokatta.*
 パーティーに行けばよかった。
 (I wish I went to the party.)
- (d) *Denwa-shinakereba yokatta.*
 電話しなければよかった。
 (I wish I had not called.)

93. Conditional—2. Tara

Target Expression

If and when you have read this letter, please call right away.
Kono tegami o yondara sugu denwa-shite-kudasai.
 この手紙を読んだらすぐ電話してください。

[-*tara*]

Grammatical Explanation

The conditional [-*tara*] has both a temporal and conditional function. [-*Tara*] is formed by [V/Adj informal past + *-ra*] structure. For negation, use *tabenakattara* 'if you don't eat,' which is the product of the same process by changing *nai* to past informal *nakatta*. The [-*tara*] conditional of-

fers several interpretations depending on the types and the tense of the verbs.

1. When the situation expressed in the [-*tara*] clause is certain to happen, temporal interpretation 'when . . .' is appropriate. For example:

(1a) *Rokuji ni nattara kaerimashoo.*
六時になったら帰りましょう。
(When it becomes six o'clock, let's go back.)

2. When the situation expressed in the [-*tara*] clause is uncertain, use a conditional interpretation. Thus:

(2a) *Jikan ga attara nomi ni ikimashoo.*
時間があつたら飲みに行きましょう。
(If there's time, let's go out drinking.)

3. When the main clause is in past tense, temporal reading is appropriate.

(3a) *Eki ni tsuitara sugu Yamamoto sensei ga irasshaimashita.*
駅についたらすぐ山本先生がいりました。
(When I arrived at the station, soon Professor Yamamoto came.)

4. When the verb in the [-*tara*] clause is stative, or [-*tara*] occurs with an adjective, only the conditional reading is appropriate.

(4a) *Kaitai hon ga attara, kaimashoo.*
買いたい本があつたら、買しましょう。
(If there are books you'd like to buy, let's buy some.)

(4b) *Takakattara kawanaide-kudasai.*
高かったら買わないでください。
(If it is expensive, please do not buy it.)

When the stative verb is used in the [-*tara*] clause, the main verb is normally non-past.

5. When the action referred to in the main clause is in the past tense, that action must be uncontrollable by the speaker. Thus:

(5a) **Uchi e kaettara benkyoo-shita.*

(5b) *Uchi e kaettara sugu tomodachi ga kita.*
家へ帰ったらすぐ友だちが来た。
(When I returned home a friend came right away.)

When using the [-*tara*] clause, two events are always interpreted in the chronological order in which they appear; the [-*tara*] clause event occurs prior to the main clause event, as shown in (5b). However, if the stative verb is involved, the two events may occur simultaneously as in (5c).

(5c) *Uchi e kaettara haha ga ita.*
家へ帰ったら母がいた。
(When I returned home, my mother was there.)

Additionally, the [-*tara*] clause can be used independently to express desire. For example, *okane ga attara naa/nee* 'I wish I had money . . .' It describes a situation contrary to facts. We will discuss the subjunctive expressions later under a separate entry.

The difference between the [-*tara*] conditional and the [-*ba*] conditional is found in the degree which the speaker assumes that the condition will be realized. Compare the following sentences.

(a) *Haruko-san ga kaette-kitara kore o watashite-kudasai.*
Ms. Haruko S return this O please hand
春子さんが帰ってきたらこれをわたしてください。
(If and when Haruko returns, please hand this to her.)

(b) *Haruko-san ga kaette-kureba kono mondai no kotae wa wakaru n desu ga . . .*
春子さんが帰ってくればこの問題の答えはわかるんですが……
(If Haruko should return, this problem would be solved.)

In (a) the speaker feels that the condition (of Haruko returning) is likely to be met. In (b), the speaker is less committed as to the possibility of the condition to be met, and communicates that 'if Haruko returns at all,' expressing a greater sense of doubt.

Examples

yoroshiku yuu	V	to give regards
よろしく言う		
tamaru たまる	V	to accumulate, to be saved
kokoa ココア	N	cocoa
zehi ぜひ	Adv	by all means
yoru 寄る	V	to stop by, to visit

- (1) *Jakuson-san ni attara yoroshiku itte-kudasai.*
ジャクソンさんに会ったらよろしく言ってください。
(If and when you see Mr. Jackson, please give my regards.)

- (2) *Uchi ni kaettara sugu denwa ga kimashita.*
家に帰ったらすぐ電話が来ました。
(When I came home, the phone call came immediately.)
- (3) A: *Okane ga tamattara Ahurika ryokoo o shitai naa.* ☺
お金がたまったらアフリカ旅行をしたいなあ。
(If and when I save [enough] money, I want to make a trip to Africa.)
B: *Soo nee, watashi mo Ahurika e ikitai wa.* ☺F
そうねえ、私もアフリカへ行きたいわ。
(Yeah, I want to go to Africa, too.)
- (4) *Sumimasen ga, kokoa ga nakattara koohii o onegaishimasu.*
すみませんが、ココアがなかったらコーヒーをお願いします。
(If there is no cocoa, I will take coffee, please.)
- (5) A: *Shikago ni irasshattara zehi oyorikudasai.*
シカゴにいらっしゃったらぜひお寄りください。
(If and when you come to Chicago, please stop by.)
B: *Haa, arigatoo gozaimasu.*
はあ、ありがとうございます。
(Yes, thank you.)

Practice

more	Adv	<i>motto</i>	もっと
younger	Adj	<i>motto wakai</i>	もっと若い

- How would you express the following in Japanese?
 - If and when you have a lot of money, what do you want to do?
 - If and when you arrive in New York, please give us a call.
 - If you have time, please call me.
- How will you express your unrealizable desires?
 - to have more money
 - to be younger
 - to be living in Colorado

Answers

- Okane ga takusan attara nani ga shitai-desu ka.*
お金がたくさんあったら何がしたいですか。
- Nyuuyooku ni tsuitara denwa-shite-kudasai.*
ニューヨークに着いたら電話してください。

- c. *Jikan ga attara denwa-shite-kudasai.*
時間があったら電話してください。
- 2a. *Motto okane ga attara naa . . .*
もっとお金があつたらなあ……
- b. *Motto wakattara nee . . .* もっと若かつたらねえ……
- c. *Kororado ni sunde-itara naa.* コロラドに住んでいたらなあ。

Additional Information

The [-*tara*] conditional has an idiomatic use as shown below.

- (a) *Atama ga itai nara kaettara doo desu ka.*
頭が痛いなら帰ったらどうですか。
(If you have a headache, [lit. how about returning home] why don't you go home?)
- (b) *Kon'ya wa hayaku netara doo?* ☺
今夜は早く寝たらどう?
(How about going to bed early tonight?)

As shown here, *-tara doo (desu ka)?* is an expression of mild invitation and suggestion. In its colloquial version, the main clause may be totally deleted, as in *hayaku netara doo?*, which can be shortened further to *hayaku netara?*

94. Greetings—2. Formulaic Expressions for Special Occasions

Target Expression

Take care of yourself.

Odaiji ni.
お大事に。

Strategic Explanation

A number of formulaic phrases are used for greetings at special occasions in Japan. Greeting with appropriate phrases is important for smooth social interaction. The following expressions are useful.