

■ *Ni, De* and *Kara* of Cause

There are three case particles that express the cause or reason of a situation: *ni*, *de*, and *kara*. The most common is *de*.

(1) *Jishin de ōku no ie ga tōkai shita* ‘Many houses were destroyed by the earthquake.’

(2) *Kaze de gakkō o yasunda* ‘I missed school because of the cold.’

Ni often expresses the cause of a psychological state or natural state, or what started a psychological change.

(3) *Kare wa kaisha no rifujin na atsukai ni okotte iru* ‘He is angry at the unreasonable treatment by his company.’

(4) *Kosumosu ga kaze ni yurete iru* ‘The cosmos is swaying in the wind.’

(5) *Kyōju no Nōberushō jushō no shirase ni yorokonda* ‘We were delighted at the news that the professor had received the Nobel Prize.’

Ni also expresses a cause that immediately precedes and triggers a general change or action.

(6) *Totsuzen osotta daijishin ni ōkuno ie ga tōkai shita* ‘Many houses were destroyed in the great earthquake that suddenly struck.’

(7) *Wagako no tanjō ni Tarō wa shūshoku o ketsui suru* ‘The birth of a child of his own made him decide to get a job.’

Please note that the noun expressing the trigger for the change or action must in itself have enough concreteness/materiality to express the incident.

(8) **Jishin ni ōkuno ie ga toukai shita*.

De does not possess such nuance of a trigger, and simply expresses causes in general as in (1).

Kara expresses the ultimate cause of the change that ensues.

(9) *Takibi no fushimatsu kara daisanji to natta* ‘Carelessness with an open-air fire led to a great disaster.’

De is appropriate for expressing the cause of a state.

(10) *Takibi no fushimatsu {de/?kara} yama ga moeteiru* ‘Carelessness with an open-air fire caused the forest fire that is currently going on.’

Kara expresses the ground for judgment, which is close to reason.

(11) *Kono jinkotsu wa hana no katachi kara Jōmonjin to kangaerareru* ‘Based on the shape of the nose, this human skeleton is seems to be that of a person from the Jomon Period.’

Complex forms expressing cause and reason include *ni yotte*, *no seide*, *no okagede*, *no tame*, *ni tsuki*, *to atte*, *yue (ni)*.

→格助詞の用法 Usage of Case Particles (2-D)

● Reference

Gengogaku Kenkyūkai, ed. (1983) *Nihongo bunpō, rengoron (shiryō hen)* (Japanese Grammar: Study of Collocation: Literature Compilation). Mugi Shobo.

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