

## ■ Verbs and Case Particles

### ● Case Governance by Verbs

Verbs form the predicate of a sentence, and govern components that require and subordinate other components. For a verb as the predicate, the combination (sentence pattern) of noun phrases and the accompanying case particles is basically predetermined in order for the verb to complete the movement, state, or relationship it expresses. This function of verbs, with which they selectively require the noun phrase combination that is necessary for the formation of a sentence, is called case governance by verbs (the valency of verbs). Verbs perform this function based on the types of lexical meaning that they possess. For example, *shinu* requires only a *ga*-noun to form a sentence, as in *Otoko ga shinda* ‘A man died.’ In contrast, *korosu* ‘kill’ requires a *ga*-noun and an *o*-noun to form a sentence, as in *Hannin ga otoko o koroshita* ‘The culprit killed the man.’ A deviant sentence is formed when *shinu* takes *o* or when *korosu* takes *ni*.

### ● Verb Types Based on Sentence Patterns

In Japanese language instruction, it is important to know which type (group) of verbs combines with which kind of noun phrase/case particle combinations.

The labels described in Chart 2-9, such as reciprocal action, adhesion, and giving, are used for the shared lexical meaning that is extracted from the verbs. Examples: *arasou* ‘fight’, *kekkon suru* ‘get married’, *kaidan suru* ‘have a conference’(reciprocal action); *oku* ‘put down’, *tsumu* ‘pile’, *sueru* ‘lay’(adhesion); *ataeru* ‘give’, *okuru* ‘send’, *uru* ‘sell’ (giving). These labels are called categorical meanings of words.

#### Chart 2-9: Examples of Patterns of Collocational Case Particle Combinations

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- [N *ga*] (Expressing the movement and change of a thing itself)
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*abareru* (*otoko ga abarete iru* ‘a man lashes out’), *ikiru* ‘live’, *sawagu* ‘make a noise’, *naku* ‘cry’, *warau* ‘laugh’, *teru* ‘the sun/light shines’, *hikaru* ‘sparkle, glisten’, *yureru* ‘undulate’: *kareru* ‘wither’, *kudakeru* ‘break into pieces’, *kireru* ‘disconnect’, *hageru* ‘peel off, go bald’, *katamaru* ‘solidify’, *tokeru* ‘melt’, *atatamaru* ‘warm up’, *sameru* ‘cool off’, *nigoru* ‘become murky’, *yurumu* ‘loosen’, *midareru* ‘become disordered’, *magaru* ‘bend’, etc.

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- [N *ga*, N *ni*] (Psychological or physiological activity that requires a cause/reason)
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*yowaru* ‘be perplexed’ (*A-kun ga B-kun no gōinsa ni yowatteiru* ‘A is perplexed by B’s stubbornness’), *komaru* ‘be in a fix’, *yorokobu* ‘be delighted’, *obieru* ‘be scared’, *awateru* ‘be flustered’, *kurushimu* ‘suffer’, *odoroku* ‘be surprised’, *mairu* ‘be defeated’ (*haha ga atsusa ni mairu* ‘my mother succumbs to heat’), (*kanbyō ni* ‘from tending a sick person’) *tsukareru*, ‘get worn out’, etc.

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- [N *ga*, N *to*] (Mutual action, mutual state)

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asou ‘fight’ (*Genji ga Heike to arasotta* ‘the Genji fought with the Heike’), *kekkon suru* ‘get married’, *kenka suru* ‘quarrel’, *riikon suru* ‘get a divorce’, *konyaku suru* ‘get engaged’, *kaidan suru* ‘have a talk/conference’, *to kōsai suru* ‘have a friendly relationship with someone’, *zureru* ‘is out of sync’ (*kare no kangae wa jōshiki to zurete iru* ‘his ideas are out of step with common sense’), *au* ‘meet with someone’, etc.

• [N *ga*, N *ni*] (Directed at the other party)

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*Ibaru* ‘domineer’ (*kare wa buka ni ibatte iru* ‘he domineers over his subordinates’), *hoeru* ‘bark’, (*kare ni*) *shitagau* ‘obey (him)’, *sakarau* ‘disobey’, *tsukusu* ‘devote oneself’, *tsukaeru* ‘attend on’, *amaeru* ‘presume on someone’s goodwill’, *tayoru* ‘depend on’, (*kare/gian ni*) *hantai suru* ‘oppose (him/the bill)’, *sansei suru* ‘agree’, *somuku* ‘betray’, *teikō suru* ‘resist’, etc.

• [N *ga*, N *o*] (Conation toward others)

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*arau* ‘wash/clean’ (*haha wa fuku o aratta* ‘my mother washed/cleaned the clothes’), *yurasu* ‘shake, rock’, *nigiru* ‘hold, grab’, *momu* ‘crumple, wrinkle’, *furu* ‘shake’, *naderu* ‘pat’, *osu* ‘push’, *tataku* ‘knock, slap’, *keru* ‘kick’, *utsu* ‘hit’, *osaeru* ‘hold down’: *atatameru* ‘warm’, *hiyasu* ‘cool’, *oru* ‘break, fold’, *katameru* ‘solidify’, *tokasu* ‘dissolve’, *kudaku* ‘break into pieces’, *sodateru* ‘raise, grow’, *tasukeru* ‘help, rescue’, *shizumeru* ‘sink’, *niru* ‘boil’, *midasu* ‘disturb’, *yogosu* ‘soil’, *yaku* ‘burn, broil’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *o*] (Passing through)

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*noboru* ‘climb’ (*otoko ga yama o nobotta* ‘a man climbed the mountain’), *oriru* ‘get off, go down’, *korogaru* ‘roll over’ (*bōru ga rōka o korogaru* ‘a ball rolls down the corridor’), *wataru* ‘go across’, *yokogiru* ‘cross by’, *tōru* ‘pass by’, *mawaru* ‘go around’ (*chikyū ga taiyō no mawari o mawaru* ‘Earth goes around the sun’): *aruku* ‘walk’ (*kodomo ga hodō o aruku* ‘a child walks on the sidewalk.’), *tobu* ‘fly’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *ni*] (Getting attached)

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*haneru* ‘splatter’ (*doromizu ga zubon ni haneta* ‘muddy water splattered on my pants’), *tsuku* ‘attach’, *hittsuku* ‘attach, cling’, *kakaru* ‘hang’ (*fuku ga hangaa ni kakatte iru* ‘Some clothes are hanging on clothes hangers’), *sasaru* ‘stick’, *ataru* ‘hit, bump’, etc.

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*ga*, [N *kara*] (Getting removed)

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*Hazureru* ‘unhook, come off’ (*ude kara tokei ga hazureta* ‘the watch came off the wrist’), *hagareru* ‘peel off’, *chigireru* ‘get ripped off’, *toreru* ‘come off’, *nukeru* ‘pop/come/fall out’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *o*, N *ni*] (Attaching something to something else)

*oku* ‘put down, place, lay’ (*kodomo ga tsukue no ue ni hon o oita* ‘a child put his books down on the desk’), *tsumu* ‘pile’, (*kōjō ni kikai o* ‘a piece of machinery in the factory’) *sueru* ‘set down, install’, *noseru* ‘put on, load’, *ageru* ‘put, raise’, *tsukeru* ‘attach’, *haru* ‘paste’, (*shorui ni han o* ‘stamp the paper’) *osu* ‘push, press’, *sasu* ‘stab, stick’, *nuru* ‘paint, smear’, *kakeru* ‘hang’, (*uwagi o hangaa ni* ‘a jacket on a hanger’) *tsurusu* ‘hang’, (*butsudan ni hana o* ‘flowers on the Buddhist altar’) *sonaeru* ‘offer’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *o*, N *kara*] (Removing something from something else)

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*hazusu* ‘unhook, remove’ (*otoko wa ude kara tokei o hazushita* ‘the man removed his watch from his wrist’), *toru* ‘take, remove’, (*ita kara kugi o* ‘the nail from the board’) *nuku* ‘pull out’, *hagasu* ‘peel off’, (*eda kara kaki o* ‘a persimmon from the branch’) *chigiru* ‘rip’, etc.

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[N *ga/kara*, N *o*, N *ni*] (Giving)

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*ageru* ‘give’ (*kodomo ga inu ni esa o ageta* ‘the child gave food to the dog’), *ataeru* ‘give, endow’, (*boku kara kanojo ni hanataba o* ‘a bouquet from me to her’) *okuru* ‘give, send’, *uru* ‘sell’, *megumu* ‘bestow’, *kasu* ‘lend, loan’, *yaru* ‘give’, (*kinjo ni miyagemono o* ‘gifts to the neighbors’) *kubaru* ‘distribute’, (*kare ni shikin o* ‘funds to him’) *dasu* ‘offer, spend’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *o*, N *kara*] (Taking away)

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(*kaikei ga kaiin kara kaihi o* ‘the treasurer from the members the membership dues’) *atsumeru* ‘collect’, *toru* ‘take’, *ubau* ‘take away’, *nusumu* ‘steal’, *azukaru* ‘keep’, (*kare kara kane o* ‘money from him’) *uru/eru* ‘receive, gain’, etc.

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[N *ga*, N *o*, N *kara/ni*] (Receiving)

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(*boku ga kare {kara/ni} hon o* ‘I from him books’) *morau* ‘receive’, *kariru* ‘borrow, get a loan’, *itadaku* ‘receive’, *tamawaru* ‘be awarded with’, etc.

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→日本語の格 Case in Japanese (2-D), 格 Case (7-D)

● References

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