

The polite form of verbs using the “masu” ending:

Using the “masu” ending on verbs will make them neutrally polite.

Whereas using the plain form of verbs is less polite and is used among friends. There is an honorific form but we’ll get to that a lot later. The stem of the verb is outside the parentheses. If there is a “ru” in the parentheses then the verb is a “ru” verb meaning the “ru” is dropped when conjugating. If there is an “u” then the “u” is dropped and the consonant before the “u” is kept. One thing that makes the “masu” form useful is the ease of conjugation and that the “masu” form will point out whether the verb is an “u” or a “ru” verb.

First the forms	Positive	Negative
present	do	do not
past	did	did not
sodate(ru) – to rear, educate		
present	sodatemasu	sodatemasen
past	sodatemashita	sodatemasendeshita
mise(ru) – to show		
present	misemasu	misemasen
past	misemashita	misemasendeshita
tabe(ru)		
present	tabemasu	tabemasen
past	tabemashita	tabemasendeshita
ik(u)		
present	ikimasu	ikimasen
past	ikimashita	ikimasendeshita
hashir(u)		
present	hashirimasu	hashirimasen
past	hashirimashita	hashirimasendeshita
aruk(u)		
present	arukimasu	arukimasen
past	arukimashita	arukimasendeshita

kaer(u)		
present	kaerimasu	kaerimasen
past	kaerimashita	kaerimasendeshita
mi(ru)		
present	mimasu	mimasen
past	mimashita	mimasendeshita
Nom(u)		
present	nomimasu	nomimasen
past	nomimashita	nomimasendeshita
suru – to do (irregular)		
present	shimasu	shimasen
past	shimashita	shimasendeshita
kuru – to come (irregular)		
present	kimasu	kimasen
past	kimashita	kimasendeshita

Plain conjugations of suru and kuru:

suru	positive	negative
present	suru	shinai
past	shita	shinakatta
kuru		
present	kuru	konai
past	kita	konakatta

Some phrases and dialogues:

A: Nani wo shimashita ka.

B: Terebi wo mimashita.

What did you do?

I watched TV

A: Kore ha(wa) nan desu ka.

B: Sore ha obi desu.

What is this?

That is a belt.

A: Are ha hikouki desu ka.

B: iie, are ha hikouki janai desu.

Is that a plane over there?

No, that is not a plane.

A: Sore ja... nan desu ka.

Ok then, what is it?

B: fune desu.

A ship.

A: ano hito ha shinsetsu na hito deshous. Is that person over there a nice person.

B: amari shinsetsu janai hito desu. That person is not really nice.

A: Kono hito ha watashi no tomodachi desu. This is my friend.

B: Hajimemashite. onamae ha nan desu ka. Nice to meet you. What's your name.

C: Hajimemashite. Rie desu, douzo yoroshiku. How do you do. I'm Rie.

B: Riesan ha daigakusei desu ka. Are you a college student, Rie?

C: Hai. Yes.

A: Doko ni ikimasu ka.

Where are you going?

B: Mise ni ikimasu.

To the store.

A: Nani wo kaimasu ka.

What are you going to buy?

B: Imo wo kaimasu.

I'm going to buy potatoes.

A: Kinou, nomimono wo kaimasendeshita. Yesterday, I didn't buy any drinks.

B: Sou desu ka. Ima, kai ni ikimasu. Alright, I go to buy some now.

A: Donna tabemono ga suki desu ka. What kind of foods do you like.

B: Banana ga suki desu. I like bananas.

A: Sou desu ka. sukiyaki ga suki desu ka. Really. Do you like sukiyaki.

B: Sukiyaiki ga suki janai desu. I don't like sukiyaki.