

## The Formation of てforms

Before studying てforms, please review how to classify verbs.

てform is a very important study item, related to many topics hereafter. However, since the formation rule is somewhat complicated, many learners feel difficulty,

We explain briefly the formation rule of てforms in advance. It will be helpful when watching movies.

Since we study constructions with てforms many times, there are many chances of exercising them. Please don't rush and keep your pace.

### A) 2nd and 3rd groups

たべます⇒たべて      みます⇒みて

Substitute 「て」 for 「ます」, similar to dictionary forms 「たべます/たべる」 「みます/みる」

As for てforms, same formation rule applies to the verbs of 3rd group.

します⇒して      きます⇒きて

### B) 1st group

There are 9 types of 1st group verbs, that is, C in Ciます are totally 9 kinds [k,g,s,t,m,n,b,r,w].(As we study next week, 「かいます」 has apparently no consonants, but [w] underlies and [w] disappears since [wi] does not exist in Japanese.

Please observe the table below where all the cases are illustrated. In てforms some of these 9 types of verbs are merged, there are only 5 types of てforms..

かきます	かいて	い	いそぎます	いそいで	い
かいます	かって		のみます	のんで	
もちます	もって	っ	よびます	よんで	ん
かえります	かえって		しにます	しんで	で
かします	かして	し			

1) The same principle as 2nd and 3rd group verbs is applicable to 「かします/かして」

2) 「Xきます/Xぎます」 are formed into 「Xいて/Xいで」 respectively. As you can see in the table, 「て/で」 is perfectly predictable by 「ます」 forms: with two dots in ますform, then also 2 dots in てform. Without dots in 「ます」 form, then also without dots in てform.

3) The remaining 6 cases are divided into only two types as the result of merger. [(w)l, ti(chi), ri] go into 「って」, [mi, bi, ni] go into 「んで」. In these cases, っ is always followed by て, while ん is followed by で.

We recommend to memorize [mi bi ni] at first, because the total number of [mi bi ni] is smaller and there is only one [ni] verb, 「死にます」 "to die". Consequently, there are almost two cases only for 「んで」. Thus if you remember these 6 cases (si ki gi mi bi ni) correctly, you can assume the remaining ones(ri wi ti) are formed as 「って」 even if you don't remember some of [ri wi ti] correctly.

4) The only exception to the above rules is 「いきます」. 「いって」 is used instead of 「いいて」

## Some Remarks for Further Study

Even if you memorize the formation rules, several weeks may be necessary for you to manage て forms. Here are some tips.

### 1) Confusion due to grouping error

As explained already in the section of grouping of the verbs, it is only 「XCiます」 (cases where more than two syllables before 「ます」 and the preceding vowel is [i]) that it cannot be grouped to 1st or 2nd automatically. Then we illustrate some examples of both 1st and 2nd group verbs.

2nd			1st		
おきます	おきて	wake up	おきます	おいて	put
すぎます	すぎて	pass	いそぎます	いそいで	hurry
none			しにます	しんで	die
none			よみます	よんで	read
あびます	あびて		はこびます	はこんで	carry
おります	おりて	get off	おります	おって	fold
おちます	おちて	fall	まちます	まって	wait
none			かいます	かって	buy

"none" =unfound in the elementary level

### 2) Other confusing ones

ますform	てform	group	
か <span style="color:blue">い</span> ます	か <span style="color:red">っ</span> て	1	buy
か <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	か <span style="color:blue">い</span> て	1	write
も <span style="color:red">っ</span> て <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	も <span style="color:red">っ</span> て <span style="color:red">き</span> て	3	bring
お <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	お <span style="color:red">き</span> て	2	wake up
お <span style="color:red">よ</span> <span style="color:red">ぎ</span> ます	お <span style="color:blue">よ</span> <span style="color:blue">い</span> て	1	swim
い <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	い <span style="color:red">っ</span> て	1	go

### 3) Table of the number of verbs

You may wonder which type is dominant and which type is exceptional. We show the number of each type of verbs which appear up to D30. General tendency can be observed here.

1st group			2nd group		3rd group	
<b>Ciます(two or more syllables before 「ます」)</b>						
か <span style="color:red">し</span> ます	か <span style="color:red">し</span> て	6	none		で <span style="color:red">ん</span> わ <span style="color:red">し</span> ます	8
か <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	か <span style="color:red">き</span> て	6	お <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	2	も <span style="color:red">っ</span> て <span style="color:red">き</span> ます	1
い <span style="color:red">そ</span> <span style="color:red">ぎ</span> ます	い <span style="color:red">そ</span> <span style="color:red">い</span> て	2	none			
の <span style="color:red">み</span> ます	の <span style="color:red">ん</span> で	3	none			
あ <span style="color:red">そ</span> <span style="color:red">び</span> ます	あ <span style="color:red">そ</span> <span style="color:red">ん</span> で	2	あ <span style="color:red">び</span> ます	1		
し <span style="color:red">に</span> ます	し <span style="color:red">ん</span> で	1	none			
の <span style="color:red">り</span> ます	の <span style="color:red">っ</span> て	15	か <span style="color:red">り</span> ます	2		
あ <span style="color:red">い</span> ます	あ <span style="color:red">っ</span> て	11	none			
ま <span style="color:red">ち</span> ます	ま <span style="color:red">っ</span> て	2	none			

#### Ciます(one syllable before 「ます」)

none	き <span style="color:red">ま</span> す	1	き <span style="color:red">ま</span> す	1
	し <span style="color:red">ま</span> す		し <span style="color:red">ま</span> す	1

#### Ceます

none	た <span style="color:red">べ</span> ます	17	none	
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