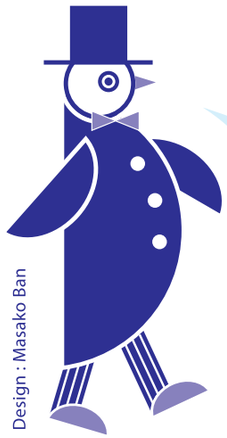


Design : Masako Ban

たら tara

(Jump to the future)

ば ba

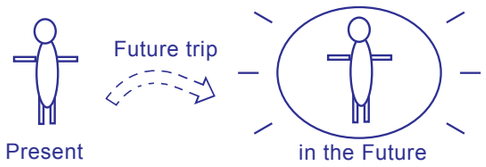
Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

Vol. 86

*I think I'm getting used to using "**nara**" and "**to**" in my daily conversation. Even though I sometimes get confused and make mistakes, I still try to use them. What I would like to do now is to learn how to use "**tara**" and "**ba.**" I will then become an expert on the subjunctive form. It will help me enjoy daily conversation much more, and I hope to make a lot of friends!*

■■■ Until today, I think most of you have studied and understood the grammatical explanations of the subjective form by reading various textbooks. But I think it's true that you may be distressed, and saying, "But I cannot say anything because I don't know how to use them." I hear this kind of thing from a lot of students. I explained the subjunctive form in the past two lessons (vols. 84 and 85), and you may be puzzled on some points because I focused on explaining usage, rather than grammar. It is really important to understand my explanations first and use the subjunctive form like Mr. Pole, who makes mistakes but tries to use them.



1. Future trip: Future / Hope / Emergency / Happening / As soon as / ___ then ___, etc.:

When talking about a future event, "**tara**" is most frequently used among "**tara** / **ba** / **nara** / **to**."

・future: When my schedule is fixed, I'll let you know.
スケジュールが決まったら連絡します。
***schedule* ga kimattara renraku shimasu**

・hope: (Frequently asked question of children)
What would you like to be when you grow up?
大人になったら何になりたい？
otona ni nattara nani ni naritai ?

・emergency: Please call 119 in case of fire.
火事になったら１１９番に電話して下さい。
kaji ni nattara 119-ban ni denwa shite kudasai.

・advice: If you drink, don't drive.
お酒を飲んだら運転しないで下さい。
osake o nondara unten shinaide kudasai

・as soon as: As soon as I confirm your payment, I'll send you the item.
入金が確認出来たら品物を送ります。
nyūkin ga kakunin dekitara shinamono o okurimasu

・--- then ---: If I make a copy, I will bring it to you.
コピーをしたら持って行きます。
***copy* o shitara motte-ikimasu**

2. Advice: Asking for advice

Where should I put this?
これはどこに置いたらいいですか？
kore wa doko ni oitara ī desu ka?

3. Weak suggestion: If there is something you find that is difficult to say, you may put it in question form, so that the listener can answer Yes or No. That makes a suggestion less forthright. The tone rises at the end of a question.

Why don't you save some money?
少し節約したら？↗
sukoshi setsuyaku shitara?

Why don't you wait for a while?
もう少し待ったら？↗
mō sukoshi mattara?

Why don't you take a rest?
休んだら？↗
yasundara?

4. Unrealistic dream: When something is highly unlikely to become reality, "**moshi**" (if) is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

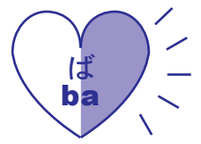
If there were 30 hours a day, I would sleep for 15 hours.
もし１日が30時間あったら15時間寝ます。
moshi ichi-nichi ga 30-jikan attara 15-jikan nemasu

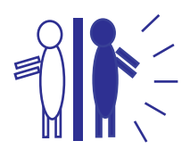
5. Surprise (when surprised) / Emergency / Discovery!

_____ たら / **tara** (Past tense)

When I was about to pay, I didn't have enough money!
支払おうとしたらお金が足りなかった！
shiharaō to shitara okane ga tarinakatta

When I input the password, it was incorrect.
パスワードを入力したら違っていた。
***password* o nyūryoku shitara chigatteita**





1. Hidden meaning: Although " **ba**" can be replaced by " **tara**," a "hidden meaning behind the reality" is emphasized by using "**ba**."

If only I repair it, I can use it. → It's not repaired at this moment, so I cannot use it.
修理すれば使えます。
shūri sureba tsukaemasu

If only you were experienced, I would want you to work here.
→You are not experienced, so I cannot hire you.
経験があれば働いてもらいたいのですが。
kēken ga areba hataraite-moraitai no desu ga

2. Strong suggestion: It sounds pushy, so most likely people at a higher level would use this phrase to people of a lower level. The tone drops at the end of a question.

Why not think more deeply?
もっとよく考えれば↘
motto yoku kangaereba

(If you don't feel good) Why not go home?
帰れば↘
kaereba

3. Past habit

When I had a free time, I used to play video games.
暇さえあればゲームをしていた。
hima sae areba *game* o shiteita

4. Proverbs:

More haste, less speed.
急がば回れ
isogaba maware

Life is not all beer and skittles.
楽あれば苦あり
raku areba ku ari

To every bird his own nest is best.
住めば都
sumeba miyako

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga

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