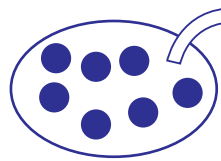


Design : Masako Ban

と  
to

Automatically → same result

I learned the "tara/nara/ba/to" subjunctive forms in the Vol. 84 column, and I tried to use them in conversation, but wasn't very confident. I get confused over which one to use. The other day, when talking to a friend, I stammered, "Akihabara ni ittara... iku to... (If I go to.... When I go to **Akihabara**....." and stopped in confusion. She then asked me, "What are you trying to say?" I just threw up my hands in frustration. What should I have said?



Pick one  
なら  
nara

# Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

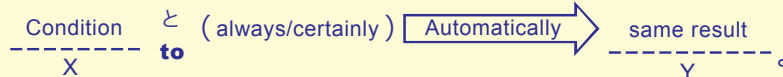


Vol. 85

■■■I know it is confusing. Just as I wrote in the previous lesson, the "tara/nara/ba/to" subjunctive form is complicated and hard to understand for beginners. That is why I chose frequently used expressions of such forms in the previous lesson. Also, I tried to explain them in such a way to impress the main points on your memory. For this lesson, let me choose "to/nara" and explain the details in a simple way. For the next lesson, I will explain the "tara/ba" subjunctive form.

と  
to Something that cannot be controlled.

### (1) Automatically:



The result (Y) of general condition (X) always or certainly occurs. Speculation is not called for.

- a) Instruction b) Giving directions c) Natural phenomena/science d) Same results (1. General 2. Personal habit)

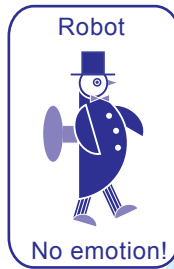
### (2) Reality

(3) Narration: Describing the facts of a situation chronologically.

電源を入れると→動く。(1-a)  
**dengen o ireru to → ugoku**  
(When you turn it on, it moves.)

右に曲がると→銀行がある。(1-b)  
**migi ni magaru to → ginkō ga aru**  
(When you turn right, there is a bank.)

手を切ると→痛い！(2)  
**te o kiru to → itai**  
(When you cut your hand, it hurts.)



3に2を足すと→5になる。(1-d-1)  
**san ni ni o tasu to → go ni naru**  
(When 2 is added to 3, it makes 5.)

植物は水がないと→枯れる。(1-c)  
**shokubutsu wa mizu ga nai to → kareru**  
(When a plant doesn't receive water, it withers.)

ストレスがたまると→食べる。(1-d-2)  
**stress ga tamaru to → taberu**  
(When I become stressed, I eat.)

トンネルを抜けると→そこは海だった。(3)  
**tunnel o nukeru to → soko wa umi datta**  
(When I came out of the tunnel, I saw the sea in front of me.)

When "to" is replaced with "tara," the empathy is emphasized, and it sounds more conversational.

e.g., **3 ni 2 o tasu to 5 ni narimasu**  
(It sounds mathematical.)

**3 ni 2 o tashitara 5 ni narimasu**  
(It sounds as if the speaker is trying to help the listener understand.)



Coffee break

なら  
nara The speaker's subjectiveness (judgment, intention, hope, request, order, advice, opinion, etc.)

1. Pick one : Judging or describing by category. In general, "nara" is used when responding to what the recipient said. a) Selection b) Introduction or suggestion (Caution: the selected item comes after "nara.") c) Answer with one example d) Of course

Q : When can I see you?  
A : Any time next week is OK.  
来週ならいつでも。(1-a)  
**raishū nara itsudemo**

Q : Where can I go to get cheap electric appliances?  
A : If you want cheap appliances, you should visit **Akihabara**.

電化製品なら秋葉原かな。(1-b)  
**denkashihin nara Akihabara kana**

Q : Have you tried sushi?  
A : No, but I have eaten **sashimi**.  
いいえ、でも刺身なら食べました。(1-c)  
**ie, demo sashimi nara tabemashita**

Q : Children are half price?  
A : Yes, for primary school students.  
はい、小学生なら。(1-d)  
**hai, shōgakusē nara**

2. Seesaw : Choosing by comparing A to B. It may be best to use "nara" in order to describe what is happening right now in front of one's eyes, or the current situation. The decision varies according to the situation or personal opinion.

A: cold 寒い **samui**      Now      B: hot 暑い **atsui**



When it becomes hot, let's turn off the heater.  
暑いなら暖房を消しましょう。  
**atsui nara danbō o keshimashō**

A: understand わかる **wakaru**      B: Don't understand わからない **wakaranai**



If you don't understand, please ask me.  
わからないなら聞いて下さい。  
**wakaranai nara kīte-kudasai**



Coffee break

If you want to add your empathy to phrases 1 (Pick one) and 2 (Seesaw), use "i-adj. / verb + **n / no nara**." If you want to put more feeling into it, use "i-adj. / verb + **ndattara**" or "na-adj. / noun + **dattara**."

e.g., **wakaranai nara kīte-kudasai**.  
(It sounds businesslike.)

**wakaranai n / no nara kīte-kudasai**.  
(It sounds empathetic.)

**wakaranai ndattara kīte-kudasai**.  
(It sounds like the speaker's feeling is emphasized more.)

3. Playing catch: Playing catch in conversation (Picking up what a speaker says, and describing one's knowledge or opinion.)

ケーキ cake  
ケーキ cake  
Huh? I can't find my cake!  
あれ? ケーキがない!  
**are? cake ga nai!**  
Oops, I ate the cake.  
あ、ケーキなら食べちゃった。  
**a cake nara tabechatta**

上田さん Ueda-san  
Ms. Ueda  
Ms. Ueda!  
上田さん!  
**Ueda-sān!**  
Ms. Ueda has gone home.  
上田さんなら帰りましたよ。  
**Ueda-san nara kaerimashita yo**

本 hon  
book  
Where is the book that I left here?  
ここにあった本は?  
**koko ni atta hon wa?**  
I threw it away.  
あの本なら捨てました!  
**ano hon nara sutemashita**