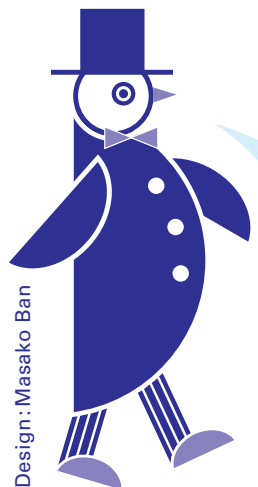


Design: Masako Ban

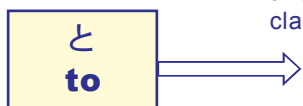


「.....tara」 「.....ba」 「.....to」 「.....nara」

I went to play golf with my colleagues, and we had a meal together afterward. One of them said, "**motto renshū-shiteitara...**" and "**asokoni ki ga nakareba...**," and another person said, "**mō sukoshi migi ni tobeba...**" and a third person said, "**honto kaze ga nakareba motto tondeita noni...**" Ms. Hirayama, is there a special golf style for conversations? Everyone used "**tara-reba**" in their sentence, and I could not join in the conversation. I'm going to play golf again, so please tell me how to speak before I go.

■■■ I see. We could use "**tara-reba**" when the result is not as good as we expect. They said, "If I had more practiced...", "If there was no tree over there...", "If the ball flew a little bit to the right." How true! If there was no wind, the ball would have gone much further. When you studied grammar, you learned subjunctive forms, right? These forms are very similar to each other, so it is confusing.

There are four Japanese forms, "**tara / ba / nara / to**," to indicate the subjunctive. The usages of these forms are very similar to each other, and each usage overlaps some of the other usages grammatically and vary depending on one's occupation, locality, surroundings, gender and so on. Thus, it can be very complicated. If I try to explain everything at once, it will confuse you. So, I will only show you the typical classifications, and you will learn how to use them in more detail in Vol. 85.



(1) **Automatically**: The result (Y) of general condition (X) "always" or "certainly" occurs. Speculation is not called for.



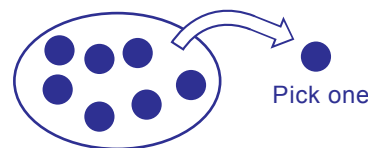
- ★ Instruction: e.g., **button o osu to monitor ga tsuku** (When you press the button, the monitor is turned on.)
- ★ Giving directions: e.g., **migi ni magaru to hashi ga aru** (When you turn right, you will see a bridge.)
- ★ Natural phenomena/science: e.g., **natsu ni naru to atsukunaru** (When the summer comes, it gets hotter.)
- ★ Same results
 1. General: e.g., **satō o ireru to amakunaru** (When you put sugar in it, it becomes sweeter.)
 2. Personal: e.g., **onaka ga suku to iraira suru** (When I get hungry, I get irritated easily.)

(2) **Reality**
e.g., **tabesugiru to futoru** (When you eat too much, you become fat.)

(3) **Narration**: Describing the facts of a situation chronologically. (When empathy is needed, "**tara**" is used.)
e.g., **haha wa shigoto ga owaru to dekaketa** (When the mother finished her job, she went out.)



(1) **Pick one**: Judging or describing by category



- ★ Selection: e.g., **getsuyōbi nara ikemasu** (If it is Monday, I can go.)
- ★ Introduction or suggestion: e.g., **kome nara Nihon no ga oishi desu** (If you want to eat rice, Japan's is excellent.)
- ★ Answer with one example: e.g., **sashimi nara tabeta koto ga arimasu** ("sashimi," I've tried eating it.)
- ★ Of course: e.g., **Nihon-jin nara kanji ga yomemasu** (If they are Japanese, they can read kanji.)

(2) **Seesaw**: Choosing by comparison



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

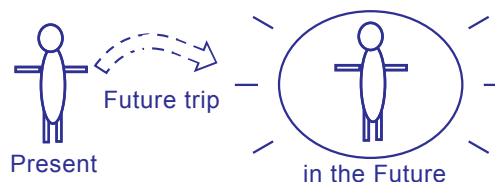
- e.g., Mr. A: **Yada-san doko?** (Where is Mr. Yada?)
Mr. B: **Yada-san nara yasumi desu** (If it is about Mr. Yada, he is on holiday.)



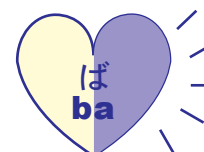
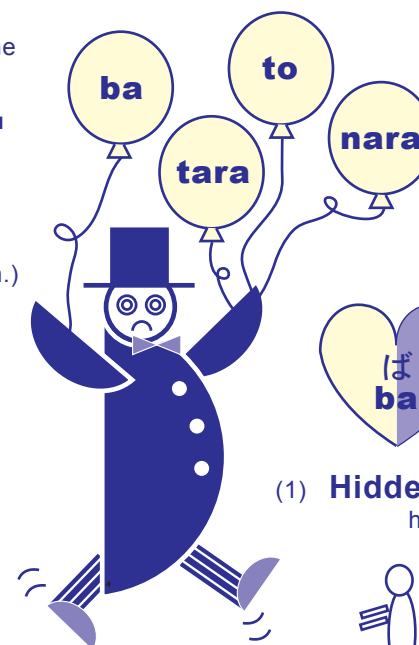
(Jump to the future)

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

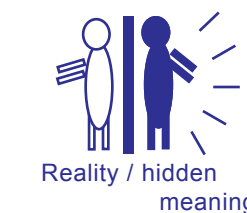
Talking about a future event while in the present. When talking about the future, "**tara**" is most frequently used among "**tara / ba / nara / to**."



- e.g., **kaettara mail no check o shimasu** (When I get home, I will check my e-mails.)
- (2) **Advice**: e.g., **dō shitara ī desu ka?** (What should I do?)
- (3) **Weak suggestion**: Listener has an option.
e.g., **sukoshi yasundara?** (Why don't you take a rest?)



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



Supposition that is different from reality **ば** _____。

e.g., **okane ga areba kaemasu** (If only I had money, I would buy it.) (In reality, he/she has no money.)

→ **okane ga attara kaemasu** (If I have money, I will buy it.) (There is no hidden meaning, it is just supposition.)

(2) **Strong suggestion**: Listener has no option.
e.g., **kore ni sureba** (Why don't you take this one?) (In reality, he or she must take it.)

(3) **Past habit**
e.g., **gakusē-jidai wa tomodachi to aeba uta no hanashi o shita** (When I was a student, I talked about songs with my friend whenever I saw him.)

(4) **Proverbs**:
e.g., **san nin yoreba monju no chie** (Two heads are better than one.)