

ONI DOJO 鬼道場

N3

JLPT N3 Workbook

The bridge to real Japanese

Nuance, explanations, passive and causative, and the grammar of news, notices and conversation.

30

LESSONS

89

GRAMMAR POINTS

384

WORDS

12

READINGS

813

EXERCISES

with Kurenai 紅 · Slettvoid Security · slettvold.org

How to use this workbook

“Welcome to my dojo. I am Kurenai, your sensei, and yes, I am an oni. Don't worry, I only bite lazy students. Work through one lesson at a time, write your answers by hand, and check them at the back. Then do it again in a week. That's the whole secret.”

1. **Read the grammar.** Each point has a short explanation and examples. Read the examples aloud.
2. **Learn the words.** Tick the box when you know a word without looking.
3. **Read the dialogue** and cover the English to see how much you understand.
4. **Do the practice** on paper without looking back, then check your answers in the answer key.
5. **Read the stories** placed between the lessons. They only use what you have learned so far.
6. **Review.** Come back to a lesson after a few days and a week. Spaced review is what makes words stick.

Furigana (small kana above kanji) is shown in grammar, dialogues and stories. Try reading without it first. In the practice sections there is less help, as in the real test.

This workbook follows the N3 course in the **Oni Dojo** app (slettvoid.org/onidojo), where every sentence also has audio, flashcards and typed answers. You can use the book on its own or together with the app.

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FREE SAMPLE
slettvold.org/onidojo/workbooks.html

N3 · LESSON 1

Trying and refusing ようとする・まい



In this lesson you will

- Describe an attempt with ～ようとする
- Say "be about to" with ～ようとしたとき
- Express firm will not with ～まい and ～ようしない

Grammar

① ～ようとする *try to ..., be about to ...*

Volitional form + とする. It describes an attempt, often one that doesn't succeed: 起きようとしたが、起きられなかった. With とき / ところ it means "just as I was about to": 家を出ようとしたとき、電話が鳴った.

Compare てみる (N4): てみる means trying something out to see what happens; ようとする means making an effort to do it.

何度も思い出そうとしたが、名前が出てこない。

I tried again and again to remember, but the name won't come.

家を出ようとしたとき、雨が降り出した。

Just as I was about to leave the house, it started to rain.

ドアを開けようとしても、開かない。

Even when I try to open the door, it won't open.

② ～ようしない *refuse to ..., won't ...*

Used about other people: they show no intention of doing something. 息子は野菜を食べようしない "My son won't eat vegetables". For yourself, use ～つもりはない.

弟は何度言っても、謝ろうとしない。

No matter how many times I tell him, my brother refuses to apologise.

彼は人の意見を聞こうとしない。

He won't listen to other people's opinions.

③ ～まい *will not (firm resolve) / probably not*

A written, slightly old-fashioned negative will: dictionary form + まい (group 2 verbs also ます-stem + まい: 食べまい; する → するまい/しまい). 二度と遅刻するまい "I will never be late again".

It can also guess a negative: 彼は来るまい "he probably won't come" — in speech, ないだろう is more common.

もう二度とあの店には行くまいと決めた。

I decided I would never go to that shop again.

こんな失敗は二度とするまい。

I will never make a mistake like this again.

Vocabulary

WORD	READING	MEANING	✓
思い出す	おもいだす	remember, recall	☐
鳴る	なる	ring, sound	☐
謝る	あやまる	apologise	☐
二度と	にどと	never again (with neg.)	☐
遅刻	ちこく	being late	☐
失敗	しっぱい	failure, mistake	☐
努力	どりょく	effort	☐
無理に	むりに	forcibly	☐
我慢する	がまんする	endure, hold back	☐
素直	すなお	honest, obedient	☐
頑固	がんこ	stubborn	☐
決心	けっしん	determination	☐
 降り出す	ふりだす	start to rain	☐

Dialogue: The stubborn pupil

A new pupil refuses to practise.

紅 あたら で し ぜんぜんれんしゅう
あの新しい弟子、全然練習しようとししないの。
That new pupil won't practise at all.

あなた はな
話してみしょうか。
Shall I try talking to him?

紅 ねが きのう かえ つか はな
お願い。昨日、帰ろうとしたところを捕まえて話したんだけど……。
Please. Yesterday I caught him just as he was about to go home and talked to him, but...

あなた ぼく さいしょ かんじ おぼ
僕も最初は漢字を覚えようとしませんでしたよ。
At first I didn't try to learn kanji either.

紅 そうだったわね。でも、あなたは「もう諦めまい」って言ったじゃない。
That's right. But you said, "I won't give up anymore."

あなた せんせい
先生がこわかったからです。
That was because you were scary.

Kurenai's culture corner

N3 is the "bridge" level: the JLPT describes it as understanding everyday Japanese "to a certain degree". It's where textbook Japanese starts meeting real Japanese — newspaper headlines, casual speech, and the emotional nuance of grammar like ようとししない.

Practice

1.1 Match the word to its meaning

Match each Japanese word with its English meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. ____ 二度と | a forcibly |
| 2. ____ 降り出す | b remember, recall |
| 3. ____ 頑固 | c ring, sound |
| 4. ____ 鳴る | d failure, mistake |
| 5. ____ 意見 | e never again (with neg.) |
| 6. ____ 決心 | f opinion |
| 7. ____ 我慢する | g stubborn |
| 8. ____ 無理に | h start to rain ☔ |
| 9. ____ 思い出す | i determination |
| 10. ____ 失敗 | j endure, hold back |

1.2 Choose the right word

Choose the word that fills the blank ____.

- いえ で ____ としたとき、あめ ふ だ。 (Just as I was about to leave, it rained.)

a ない **b** る **c** よう **d** た
- なん ど おも で ____ としたが、だめだった。 (I tried to remember, but couldn't.)

a す **b** せ **c** そう **d** し
- おとうと あやま ____。 (My brother refuses to apologise.)

a いない **b** しない **c** ならない **d** できない
- に ど みせ い ____。 (I will never go to that shop again.)

a ず **b** ない **c** よう **d** まい
- こんな しっぱい に ど ____ まい。 (I will never make such a mistake again.)

a し **b** さ **c** する **d** せ
- かれ ひと いけん き ____ しない。 (He won't listen to others.)

a を **b** と **c** に **d** が

1.3 Translate into Japanese

Write each sentence in Japanese (kana is fine), then check against the model answer.

1. Just as I was about to leave, the phone rang.

2. My son won't eat vegetables.

3. I tried to remember his name.

4. I will never be late again.

1.4 Understand the dialogue

Match each line from the dialogue to its meaning.

1. _____ あの新しい弟子、全然練習しようとな
ないの。

2. _____ はな
話してみませんか。

3. _____ ねが きのう かえ つか
お願い。昨日、帰ろうとしたところを捕
まえて話したんだけど……。

4. _____ ぼく さいしょ かんじ おぼ
僕も最初は漢字を覚えようとしませんでしたよ。

5. _____ そうだったわね。でも、あなたは「もう
あきら 諦めまい」って言ったじゃない。

6. _____ せんせい
先生がこわかったからです。

a At first I didn't try to learn kanji either.

b Shall I try talking to him?

c That's right. But you said, "I won't give up anymore."

d That new pupil won't practise at all.

e Please. Yesterday I caught him just as he was about to go home and talked to him, but...

f That was because you were scary.

N3 · LESSON 2

The logic of わけ わけだ・わけではない・わけにはいかない

In this lesson you will

- Draw conclusions with ～わけだ
- Soften statements with ～わけではない
- Say "can't possibly" with ～わけがない and ～わけにはいかない

Grammar

① ～わけだ *so that's why / no wonder / that means ...*

わけ means "reason, logic". ～わけだ states a natural conclusion from facts: 十年もアメリカに住んでいたので、英語が上手なわけですね "No wonder your English is good". Nouns take な/の: 学生なわけだ。

三時間も歩いたのか。疲れたわけだ。

You walked for three hours? No wonder you're tired.

一日五時間勉強している。上手になるわけだ。

She studies five hours a day. Naturally she's improving.

つまり、明日は休みというわけですね。

So, that means tomorrow is a day off.

② ～わけではない *it's not that ..., not necessarily*

A partial denial — it avoids sounding absolute: 嫌いなわけではない "It's not that I dislike it". With 全部/いつも/必ず it means "not all / not always": 日本人がみんな寿司が好きなわけではない。

肉が嫌いなわけではないが、あまり食べない。

It's not that I dislike meat, but I don't eat much.

高いものがいつもいいわけではない。

Expensive things aren't always good.

③ ～わけがない／～わけにはいかない *there's no way ... / I can't (because of duty)*

わけがない (= はずがない) denies something strongly: あの人がうそをつくわけがない "There's no way he'd lie".

わけにはいかない means you can't do something because of social or moral reasons, even if you physically could: 明日は試験だから、遊びに行くわけにはいかない。ない form + わけにはいかない = "have to": 行かないわけにはいかない "I can't not go".

こんな簡単な問題がわからないわけがない。

There's no way you don't understand such an easy question.

大事な会議があるので、休むわけにはいかない。

There's an important meeting, so I can't take the day off.

先生に頼まれたら、断るわけにはいかない。

If Sensei asks, I can't refuse.

友だちの結婚式だから、行かないわけにはいかない。

It's my friend's wedding, so I have to go.

Vocabulary

WORD	READING	MEANING	✓
わけ		reason, meaning	☐
つまり		in other words	☐
必ず	かならず	certainly, always	☐
断る	ことわる	refuse, decline	☐
うそをつく		tell a lie	☐
大事	だいじ	important	☐
当然	とうぜん	natural, of course	☐
結論	けつろん	conclusion	☐
理解	りかい	understanding	☐
責任	せきにん	responsibility	☐
義理	ぎり	social obligation	☐
簡単	かんたん	simple	☐
嫌う	きらう	dislike	☐
いつも		always	☐

Dialogue: Obligation chocolate

It's February 14th at the office.

あなた せんせい 先生、どうしてチョコを二十個も買ったんですか。
Sensei, why did you buy twenty chocolates?

紅 ぎり 義理チョコよ。神社の神様たちに渡さないわけにはいかないの。
Obligation chocolate. I can't not give some to the shrine gods.

あなた ぜんぶ す ひと じゃあ、全部好きな人にあげるわけじゃないんですね。
So it's not that you're giving them all to people you like.

紅 ほんめい ひと もちろん。本命は一つだけ。
Of course. Only one is the real one.

あなた だれ えっ、誰ですか。
What, who?

紅 い 言うわけがないでしょう。
As if I'd tell you.

Kurenai's culture corner

On Valentine's Day in Japan, women traditionally give chocolate: 本命チョコ (^{ほんめい} "true feeling") to a loved one, 義理チョコ (^{ぎり} "obligation chocolate") to male colleagues, and 友チョコ to friends. 義理 — social obligation — runs deep in Japanese relationships, and many offices have now banned obligation chocolate.

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Practice

2.1 Match the word to its meaning

Match each Japanese word with its English meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. ____ うそをつく | a natural, of course |
| 2. ____ わけ | b simple |
| 3. ____ 頼む | c important |
| 4. ____ 当然 | d refuse, decline |
| 5. ____ 義理 | e ask, request |
| 6. ____ 大事 | f in other words |
| 7. ____ 簡単 | g always |
| 8. ____ つまり | h social obligation |
| 9. ____ いつも | i tell a lie |
| 10. ____ 断る | j reason, meaning |

2.2 Choose the right word

Choose the word that fills the blank ____.

1. ^{さんじ かん}三時間も歩いたのか。^{つか}疲れた____だ。(No wonder you're tired.)
a よう **b** はず **c** こと **d** わけ
2. ^{にく きら}肉が嫌いな____ではない。(It's not that I dislike meat.)
a わけ **b** はず **c** の **d** もの
3. ^{ひと}あの人がうそをつく____がない。(There's no way he'd lie.)
a ため **b** もの **c** わけ **d** よう
4. ^{だいじ かいぎ}大事な会議があるので、^{やす}休む____にはいかない。(I can't take the day off.)
a わけ **b** こと **c** ため **d** はず
5. ^{たか}高いものがいつもいい____ではない。(Expensive isn't always good.)
a そう **b** よう **c** わけ **d** はず
6. つまり、^{あした やす}明日は休みという____ですね。(So tomorrow is a day off.)
a わけ **b** つもり **c** はず **d** ため

2.3 Translate into Japanese

Write each sentence in Japanese (kana is fine), then check against the model answer.

1. No wonder you're tired.

2. It's not that I dislike it.

3. I can't take the day off.

4. There's no way he would lie.

2.4 Understand the dialogue

Match each line from the dialogue to its meaning.

1. _____ 先生、どうしてチョコを二十個も買った
んですか。

2. _____ 義理チョコよ。神社の神様たちに渡さな
いわけにはいかないの。

3. _____ じゃあ、全部好きな人にあげるわけじゃ
ないんですね。

4. _____ もちろん。本命は一つだけ。

5. _____ えっ、誰ですか。

6. _____ 言うわけがないでしょう。

a Obligation chocolate. I can't not give some to the shrine gods.

b What, who?

c So it's not that you're giving them all to people you like.

d Of course. Only one is the real one.

e As if I'd tell you.

f Sensei, why did you buy twenty chocolates?

続く...

That was lessons 1 and 2 of 30 lessons.

“Not bad, pupil. The full JLPT N3 workbook has every lesson, every reading, the complete answer key and the word list. Come and get it, I'll be waiting.” — Kurenai

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