

Irregular verbs

- Japanese has a strikingly small number of irregular verbs

(1) Two verbs that are quite irregular

- What might we propose for the roots of these verbs? This is a complex question...

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'do'	suru	sinai	sureba	siyoo	siro	simasu	sita
b	'come'	kuru	konai	kureba	koyoo	koi	kimasu	kita

(2) Two verbs that are mostly regular, except for a few conjugational forms

- Can you find the unexpected forms?

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'exist' (inanimate)	aru	nai	areba	aroo	are	arimasu	atta
b	'go'	iku	ikanai	ikeba	ikoo	ike	ikimasu	itta

(3) Five "special polite" verbs (term from E. Jordan) whose roots end in /...ar-/ and are somewhat irregular

- Can you find the unexpected forms?
- Verbs (a)-(d) are used to show honorific politeness to the *subject* of the verb
- Verb (e) shows extra *social distance* or formal politeness

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'give'	kudasaru	kudasaranai	kudasareba	kudasai	kudasaimasu	kudasatta (or kudasita)
b	'be/go/ come'	irassyaruru	irassyanai	irassyareba	irassyai	irassyaimasu	irassyatta (or irasita)
c	'say'	ossyaru	ossyanai	ossyareba	ossyai	ossyaimasu	ossyatta
d	'do'	nasaru	nasaranai	nasareba	nasai	nasaimasu	nasatta
e	'exist' (inanimate)	gozaru	—	gozareba	—	gozaimasu	—