

Exploring verb and adjective morphology

(1) Japanese speakers: Help fill in these charts. (Practice kunrei romanization.)

Verbs and adjectives, informal:

nonpast informal	past informal	negative nonpast informal	negative past informal	
taberu				'eat'
yomu				'read'
aru				'exist'
takai				'high/tall'

Verbs and adjectives, formal:

nonpast formal	past formal	negative nonpast formal	negative past formal	
tabemasu				'eat'
yomimasu				'read'
arimasu				'exist'
takai desu				'high/tall'
<i>(try to think of two ways to form the negative formal forms of /taka-/)</i>				

(2) For group discussion (no answers required, but you may make notes if you like):

- One of the verbs is irregular — which one is it? What is the irregularity?
- Adjectives take tense and negation like verbs. Should we consider them a third class of verbs? Or is 'adjective' a distinct word class (part of speech) in Japanese?
- Is there any evidence here about whether adjective negation involves one single suffix -*kuna-*, or is built from the adverbial suffix -*ku*?
- Is there any evidence here about whether the (apparently) various *na-* negation morphemes we see here are one single morpheme, or distinct?