

- **Tense, aspect, and verb classes**

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*Background preparation:*  
*(no preparation)*

# 0. Today's plan

- Intro to tense and aspect
- Some differences between Japanese and English

# 1. Tense — Relationships between times

- In many languages, verbs inflect for **tense**
  - Categories: past, future, present; +remote
    - WALIS map: [Past tense](#)(s)
    - WALIS map: [Future tense](#)(s)
  - Japanese has...?

# 1. Tense — Relationships between times

## Group discussion

- Data set - [Tense and aspect in Japanese vs English](#)
  - Try examples (1) – (3)
    - Everybody try them first without conferring (non-Japanese speakers guess!)
    - Then check answers: What are some differences between Japanese and English?

# 1. Tense — Relationships between times

## Debriefing

- Handout - [Tense, aspect, and verb classes](#)
  - Parts (I)–(II)

## 2. Aspect — Internal temporal structure

- Aspect can involve looking at an event or situation as a “point” or a “state”, as “completed” or not, ...
  - Categories include:
    - WALS map: [Perfective/imperfective](#)
    - Progressive
    - Resultative
  - Japanese has...?

## 2. Aspect — Internal temporal structure

### Group discussion

- Data set - [Tense and aspect in Japanese vs English](#)
  - Try examples (4), (5)
    - Japanese speakers: Guide the discussion
    - What are some differences between Japanese and English?

## 2. Aspect — Internal temporal structure

### Debriefing

- Handout - [Tense, aspect, and verb classes](#)
  - Part (III) (focus on *te+i-* and related concepts)
- Supplement to the *te+i-* discussion: Other dialects
  - Grammar Atlas of Japanese Dialects

*sakana-no*            *hana-ga*            *tit-te+i-ru*  
cherry.tree-GEN    flower-NOM        fall-TE+I-NONPAST

- [Progressive](#) — ‘are falling’
- [Resultative](#) — ‘have fallen’



## 2. Aspect — Internal temporal structure

### Debriefing

- Handout - [Tense, aspect, and verb classes](#)
  - Part (III)
    - Which **verb classes** allow which **interpretation(s)** of the *te+i-* construction?  
**Why?** — what is the internal structure of the event?
    - What other characteristics are “stative” predicates predicted to have in Japanese?
    - Can we check these with a corpus search?

### 3. Today's key points

- **Tense** has to do with the relationship between times referred to in an utterance
  - Utterance time, reference time, event time, ...
  - English has **absolute** tense (relation to utterance time); Japanese has **relative** tense (relation to a salient time)
- **Aspect** has to do with how internal temporal structure is represented
  - Predicates belong to different **lexical aspect classes**
  - How concepts are assigned to lexical aspect classes can differ between languages