

Verb morphology

- The Japanese data in this data set are given in transliteration, which is essentially equivalent to *phonemic* transcription. Watch out for alveolar consonant allophones if you pronounce these.
- Start by considering data sets (1)-(2) *separately*. For each, what morphemes can you identify?

(1) This is one of the two types of regular verb in Japanese — what morphemes can you identify?

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>negative past</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>
a	‘eat’	taberu	tabenai	tabenakatta	tabereba	tabeyoo	tabero	tabemasu
b	‘see’	miru	minai	minakatta	mireba	miyoo	miro	mimasu
c	‘praise’	homeru	homenai	homenakatta	homereba	homeyoo	homero	homemasu
d	‘fall’	otiru	otinai	otinakatta	otireba	otiyoo	otiro	otimasu

(2) Here is the other type of regular verb — what morphemes can you identify?

- Are there any systematic *phonological* differences between the morphemes in (1) and (2)?

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>negative past</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>
a	‘win’	katu	katanai	katanakatta	kateba	katoo	kate	katimasu
b	‘read’	yomu	yomanai	yomanakatta	yomeba	yomoo	yome	yomimasu
c	‘die’	sinu	sinanai	sinanakatta	sineba	sino	sine	sinimasu
d	‘call’	yobu	yobanai	yobanakatta	yobeba	yoboo	yobe	yobimasu
e	‘lend’	kasu	kasanai	kasanakatta	kaseba	kasoo	kase	kasimasu
f	‘write’	kaku	kakanai	kakanakatta	akeba	kakoo	ake	kakimasu
g	‘sharpen’	togu	toganai	toganakatta	togeba	togoo	toge	togimasu
h	‘take’	toru	toranai	toranakatta	toreba	toroo	tore	torimasu

(3) Are these verbs more like the verbs in (1), or the verbs in (2)? What is surprising here?

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>negative past</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>
a	‘buy’	kau	kawanai	kawanakatta	kaeba	kaoo	kae	kaimasu
b	‘think’	omou	omowanai	omowanakatta	omoeba	omooo	omoe	omoimasu
c	‘inhale’	suu	suwanai	suwanakatta	sueba	suoo	sue	suimasu
d	‘say’	iu	iwanai	iwanakatta	ieba	ioo	ie	iimasu

- For people with a background in linguistics: Can we make abstract proposals for URs of any of the *verb suffixes* in (1)-(3)? What phonological rules are needed to produce the surface forms?

- For data set (4):
 - (a) What is the past-tense morpheme? What is the gerund ('-ing') morpheme?
 - (b) Where do these morphemes change their shape? Propose a phonological rule.
 - (c) What effects do these morphemes have on the verb roots? Can we make any generalizations here based on what we know about Japanese phonology? (The details are somewhat complex, but there are broad generalizations to draw also.)

(4) Past-tense forms for the verbs in the groups above

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>	<i>gerund</i>
1a	'eat'	taberu	tabeta	tabete
1b	'see'	miru	mita	mite
1c	'praise'	homeru	hometa	homete
1d	'fall'	otiru	otita	otite
2a	'win'	katu	katta	katte
2b	'read'	yomu	yonda	yonde
2c	'die'	sinu	sinda	sinde
2d	'call'	yobu	yonda	yonde
2e	'lend'	kasu	kasita	kasite
2f	'write'	kaku	kaita	kaite
2g	'sharpen'	togu	toida	toide
2h	'take'	toru	totta	totta
3a	'buy'	kau	katta	katte
3b	'think'	omou	omotta	omotte
3c	'inhale'	suu	sutta	sutte
3d	'say'	iu	itta	itte