

MURIKURI

ADVERB 1

MU-RI-KU-RI
むり

無理くり

So slowly

Doing something with maximum time and effort. Maybe you're getting it done right. Maybe you're just slow.

Nande murikuri kaite iru no?
何でも無理くり書いてるの?
Why are you writing that so slowly?

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GEKI

ADVERB 1

GE-KI
げき

激

very very

Place before a verb, adjective, or adjectival noun to intensify. Dropping that word's last syllable becomes an option: get super angry → geki-oko (oroku = get angry); way spicy → geki-kara (karai = spicy)

Ano gekiyasui kyandii wa mazui.
あの激安いキャンディーはまずい。
That very, very inexpensive candy tastes awful.

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ENJOU

NOUN 1

E-N-JO-U
えんじょう

炎上

up in flames

This is internet slang; you'll mostly encounter it online. It refers to someone's social media or blog being flooded with (usually) negative posts. Add する to make it into a verb.

Burogu wa enjou ni natta.
ブログは炎上になった。
(Our) blog's gone up in flames.

INANIMATE

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SSU

COPULA 1

S-SU

っす

Is

The lazy way to say "desu." It's still polite, but colloquial. You wouldn't use it in speaking to your boss, but you might to your team captain. Sounds like "sss."

Kono batto ssu.
このバットっす。
It's this bat.

PREDICATE 述

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NAU

COPULA 1

NA-U

なう

(doing) now

Place なう after any noun to say "I'll be doing [noun] now." This slang from Twitter is an approximation of English but amusingly is written in hiragana. Best used in very short sentences.

Sutaba nau.
スタバなう。
(I'm at) Starbucks right now.

PREDICATE 述

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SHACHIKU

NOUN 1

SHA-CHI-KU
しゃちく

社畜

wage slave

This employee works all day long very hard. SHA means company; CHIKU means domesticated animal. More of a social criticism than slang per se.

Ore shachiku dakara shougatsu mo shigoto dayo.
俺社畜だから正月も仕事だよ。
I'm a company slave so I even work on New Years Day.

ANIMATE

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GODAN VERB 1

K O K U R U

KO-KU-RU
こく

告る

confess attraction

Confess that you like someone else. This is a shortened version of the word kokuhaku suru, to confess.

Kokuru nara miru yo.
告るなら見るよ。
If you tell him you like him, you'll see (what I mean).

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 2

G U G U R U

GU-GU-RU

ググる

google

They took the modern English verb "google" and just started conjugating it like any other godan verb. Pretty clever if you ask me.

Gugureba shiru yo.
ググれば知るよ。
If you google it, you'll know.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE 1

Y A B A I

YA-BA-I

やばい

awful

The word usually means "dangerous," "unfavorable," or "inconvenient". The younger generation, mainly in Tokyo, uses it as slang to also mean "awesome."

Kono aisu yabai ne?
このアイスやばいね?
Isn't this ice cream awesome?

PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE 1

N E M I I

NE-MI-I

ねみー

sleepy

The original Japanese word is Nemui. It's easier to yawn while saying it this way.

Ikitai kedo nemii.
行きたいけど眠い。
I want to go, but I'm sleepy.

PREDICATE 述

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ADVERB 2

M A J I

MA-JI

マジ

for reals

Seriously/really/extremely. Akin to the word majime: earnest/sober. Maji. = I'm serious. Maji? = Are you serious? Maji samui(cold) = really cold.

Omae, maji uzai.
お前、マジウザイ。
You are seriously annoying, dude.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

I K E T E R U

I-KE-TE-RU

イケてる

cool

A verb meaning to be cool--not in the teperature sense but in the "I appreciate that thing" sense.

Nante iketeru kosupure da!
なんてイケてるコスプレだ!
What a cool cosplay!

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE 1

K I M O I

KI-MO-I

キモい

gross

Short for "kimochi warui." When something is creepy or yucky and you don't want to think about it, that's kimoi. Don't wash my clothes with your underwear. Ew. Kimoi.

Kono heya ni itakunai. Kimoi kara.
この部屋にいたくない。キモイから。
I don't want to be in this room. 'Cause it's gross.

PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

H E K O M U

HE-KO-MU
へこ

凹む

feel down

The literal meaning is "get dented." A Japanese person may also use Hekomu to describe feeling down, daunted, or snubbed.

Kubi natchatte kara taihen hekonda yo.
首なっちゃってから大変凹んだよ。
After I lost my job I got real depressed.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

S H I C H A U

SHI-CHA-U

しちゃう

do

This is a short version of "shite shimau" which means to do something completely or irreversibly. Can be used just like Suru to make certain nouns in to "suru verbs" that have more finality.

Kyoukatsu shichau, kanarazu.
恐喝しちゃう、必ず。
They're going to blackmail the heck out of you, definitely.

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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PARTICLE 1

T O

TO

と

quote marker

Marks information (such as quotes) and sounds (such as onomatopoeia). You can use と to mark anything including a whole sentence if your verb indicates it was said, written, thought, etc.

"Sappari shiran" to yutta.
「さっぱり知らん」とゆった。
He said, "I haven't a clue."

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NOUN 2

Y A N D E R E

YA-N-DE-RE

ヤンデレ

love*

Mentally unhealthy love. The love either starts from a mentally unhealthy place or gets there over time. This manga slang has made its way into anime and games.

Yandere no ato de amari deito shinai.
ヤンデレの後であまりデイトしない。
After that unhealthy romance, I don't really date much.

INANIMATE

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INTERJECTION 1

O O I

O-O-I

おい

Hey

A great way to get someone's attention before you start talking informally. Gotta prime their ears for forthcoming syllables. This is exactly like the usage of "oi" in British English.

Ooi, kiite yo.
おい、聞いてよ。
Oi, listen up.

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NOUN 1

BURAKKU KIGYOU

BU-RA-K-KU·KI-GYO-U きぎょう

ブラック企業

Evil Corp

Black Corporation" in which your boss will verbally abuse you and restrict any privileges deemed unnecessary for productivity, such as talking to co-workers and bathroom breaks. Avoid!

Kono burakkukigyō wa jigoku da kamo.
このブラック企業は地獄だかも。
This evil company might be hell.

INANIMATE

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INTERJECTION 1

SAASEN

SA-A-SE-N

さーせん

Sorry

Means "Sumimasen" (excuse me). Can be a stand-alone sentence or an interjection. To use as a stand-alone sentence, just play the card by itself.

Saasen, otoshite gomen yo.
さーせん、落としてごめんよ。
Excuse me, I'm sorry I dropped that.

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PARTICLE 1

TTE

T-TE

って

Versatile marker

Takes the place of topic marker は, subject marker が, object marker を, or quote marker と. It's a catch-all particle, popular when you need to pause your sentence on a particle.

Nante yutta, ima?
何てゆった、今？
What did you say just now?

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INTERJECTION 1

HEE

HE-E

へえ

Whaaa

The sound you make when you find out something new that's believable but surprising.

Hee, shirarenakatta, hontou ni.
へえ、知られなかった、本当に。
Whaaaa? I did not know that, honest.

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PARTICLE 1

NA

NA

な

Copular particle

This particle lets adjectival nouns function like adjectives. (Some use the particle の instead; it'll say so on the card). Place the adjectival noun before this card and the noun you want to modify after it.

Fukuzatsu na mondai tte itta.
複雑な問題っていった。
(He) said it's a complicated problem.

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ADJECTIVAL NOUN 1

BIMYOU

BI-MYO-U

びみょう

微妙

Iffy

Border-line. Questionable. Not good enough for whole-hearted approval, but perhaps you don't want to say so.

Bimyou na sushi. Ayashii.
微妙な寿司。怪しい。
Borderline sushi. It's dodgy.

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PARTICLE 1

∅

∅

Ninja particle

This particle represents all the times Japanese speakers omit a particle when proper grammar demands one. Also called the Null Particle. Plop it in anywhere you should use a particle but don't want to.

Ore yaru.
俺やる
I'll do it.

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COPULA 1

∅

Is

Similar to the Ninja Particle, this copula represents all the times when a Japanese speaker simply chooses not to use a copula. It happens all the time.

Kare wa keisatsukan.
彼は警察官。
My boyfriend (is) a police officer.

PREDICATE 述

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NOUN 1

ME-SHI-TE-RO

メシテロ

Food Terrorism

Culinary torture. Posting images of delicious food online that will indiscriminately cause great suffering to viewers who are hungry.

Meshitero no sei de ni-kiro futotta.
飯テロのせいで二キロ太った。
I gained two kilograms thanks to all the food images posted online.

INANIMATE

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NOUN 1

BA-KA-P-PU-RU

バカカップル

Lovebirds

Sickeningly sweet couple, a combination of the words Baka (fools) and couple. Used in disgust, envy, or jealously. Be considerate of the less romantically fortunate or you will achieve this label.

Bakappuru wa Megumi no koto o omoidasaseru.
バカカップルはめぐみのことを思い出させる。
These lovebirds make me think of Megumi.

ANIMATE

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COPULA 1

DE GO-ZA-RU

で御座る

Is

De gozaru was used in the samurai era, so now it's an amusing archaism. In modern polite speech, we conjugate with -masu and say "de gozaimasu" as a very polite copula.

Omae no kao de gozaru.
お前の顔で御座る。
It's your face.

PREDICATE 述

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ADVERB 1

GA-CHI

ガチ

Seriously

Just a slang adverb that means "seriously."

Can be used alone or followed by the means marker particle で.

Gachi taihen datta sa.
ガチ大変だったさ。
It was seriously dreadful.

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

S
H
A
R
E
T
E
R
U

SHA-RE-TE-RU
しゃれ

洒落てる
Stylin'

Dressing well. Doing it right. Making it look good. "O-share" means "a dandy" or a snappy dresser. This slang verb uses that meaning and applies it to anything you do well or stylishly.

Shareteru kaban, Mori-san.
洒落てる鞆、森さん。
Nice bag, Miss Mori.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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NOUN 1

M
A
I
B
U
U
M
U

MA-I- BU-U-MU

マイブーム
Personal fad

From the not-actual-English phrase, "My boom." It means any sort of momentary obsession.

Bekku wa maibuumu da.
ベックはマイブームだ。
Beck is my thing right now.

を INANIMATE

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

N
A
E
R
U

NA-E-RU

なまえる
Be lame

A legitimate verb, meaning to wither, droop, or be lame. And just as we've repurposed "lame" to mean not-fun or unimpressive, so have the Japanese.

Enka o kiku to naeru.
演歌を聞くと萎える。
When I listen to Enka music, it bums me out.

を INTRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ADJECTIVE 1

S
H
O
B
O
I

SHO-BO-I

しょぼい
Underwhelming

Shabby, weak, lacking, a drag.

Kotoshi no hanabi shoboku nakatta?
今年の花火しょぼくなかった?
Weren't the fireworks weak this year?

を PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

P
A
K
U
R
U

PA-KU-RU

パクる
Steal

Can refer to filching objects or to committing plagiarism.

Pakuru na yo.
パクるなよ。
Don't steal (my answers)!

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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NOUN 1

O
M
A
E

O-MA-E
まえ

お前
You

When used jokingly this is a derogatory, second-person pronoun. When not used jokingly it can express contempt. Be careful!

Omae wa nande sonna kao o shite iru?
お前は何でそんな顔をしている?
Why are you making that face?

を ANIMATE

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