

# Congratulations on Reaching Level 9 of Crystal Hunters Japanese!

Level 9 marks a new milestone! For the first time, the majority of this guide is explaining things you already know with more nuance instead of bringing up new grammar points. You've gotten to the point where new grammar is no longer essential! You're no longer a complete beginner, Hurray! So welcome to the land of learning more natural Japanese. We hope you like it here.



## New Vocabulary

Chapter 25			
Japanese Word	English Spelling	Kanji	Meaning in English
あつい	a-tsu-i	熱い	hot
ドンッ	do-n'		THUMP!/WHAM!
どの	do-no		which
かつ	ka-tsu	勝つ	to win
こども	ko-do-mo	子供	child/children
おそい	o-so-i	遅い	slow
リュック	ryu-k-ku		backpack/rucksack
やる	ya-ru		to do*
よわい	yo-wa-i	弱い	weak

Chapter 26			
Japanese Word	English Spelling	Kanji	Meaning in English
ける	ke-ru	蹴る	to kick
こわれる	ko-wa-re-ru	壊れる	to break (passive)
むち	mu-chi	鞭	whip
おねえさん	o-ne-e-sa-n	お姉さん	older sister
させる	sa-se-ru		to make happen/to let*

Chapter 27			
Japanese Word	English Spelling	Kanji	Meaning in English
あそぶ	a-so-bu	遊ぶ	to play*
はたらく	ha-ta-ra-ku	働く	to work
へや	he-ya	部屋	a room
いかり	i-ka-ri	怒り	anger
じゆう	ji-yu-u	自由	free/freedom
かなしむ	ka-na-shi-mu	悲しむ	to be sad*
たのしむ	ta-no-shi-mu	楽しむ	to have fun/to enjoy*

*\*means there will be further clarification in the sections below.*

## Compound Words

We thought it was fitting that the compound words section came right after to vocab section, so it's here to stay! Sometimes it's not just you dear reader who levels up, sometimes we level up as guide makers too!

### Mo' Time, Mo' Money

Kicking off this guide, we have a compound word with もう. And while this word normally means "already" or "(not) anymore", we can combine it with <sup>すこ</sup>少し and have it mean "a bit more".



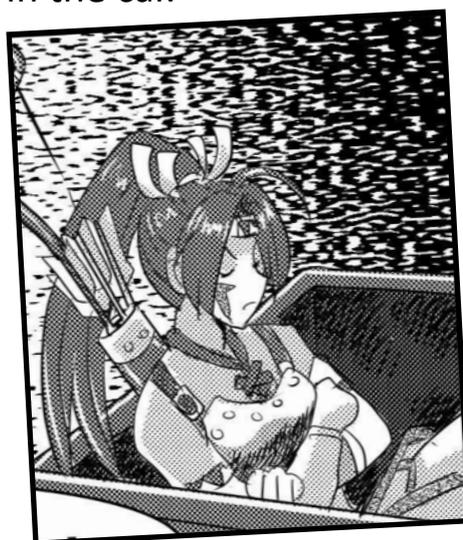
もう<sup>すこ</sup>少し is super useful, and it can be used a bunch of different ways. For example, let's say we're taking a long family car trip and the kids are tired of being in the car.

こどもたち 子供達：まだ<sup>まち</sup>町に<sup>つ</sup>着いていないの？

= We still haven't arrived at the city?

とう お父さん：もう<sup>すこ</sup>少し<sup>ま</sup>待って。

= Wait a little bit more.



Useful and easy! Our favourite combination.

However! Some words don't mix well with just the base form. They need a preposition! And that preposition is で. Just add で on the end of <sup>すこ</sup>もう少し with these words and you're set to go.

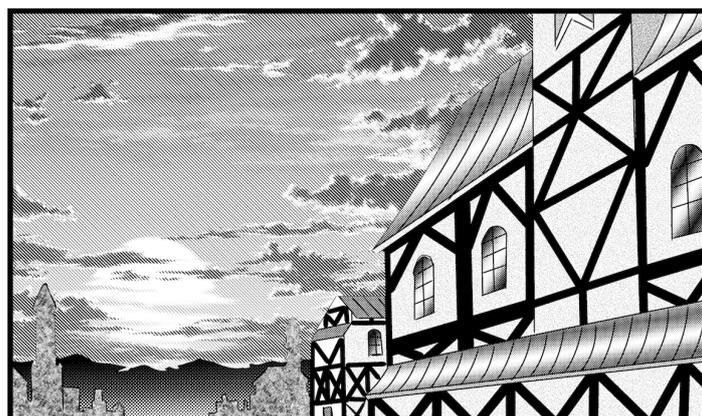
For example:

こどもたち 子供達：まだ<sup>まち</sup>町に<sup>つ</sup>着いていないの？

= We still haven't arrived at the city?

とう お父さん：もう<sup>すこ</sup>少しで<sup>つ</sup>着くよ。

= We'll arrive in a little bit.



While it's unfortunate that we can't always use the easy version, you'll usually know which words to add the preposition with, because they'll be weird in English without a preposition too. Just look at the example above, "we'll arrive a little bit" is super unnatural in English too.

And last but not least, we can go full easiness by using <sup>すこ</sup>もう少し all by itself! Some great times to do this are when you're in class and staring at the clock waiting for the last few minutes until you're free. Or when you're reaching behind the couch for something stuck back there and it's just out of reach. Just keep saying 「<sup>すこ</sup>もう少し...<sup>すこ</sup>もう少し...」 and hopefully you'll get it!

### **Review, But New!**

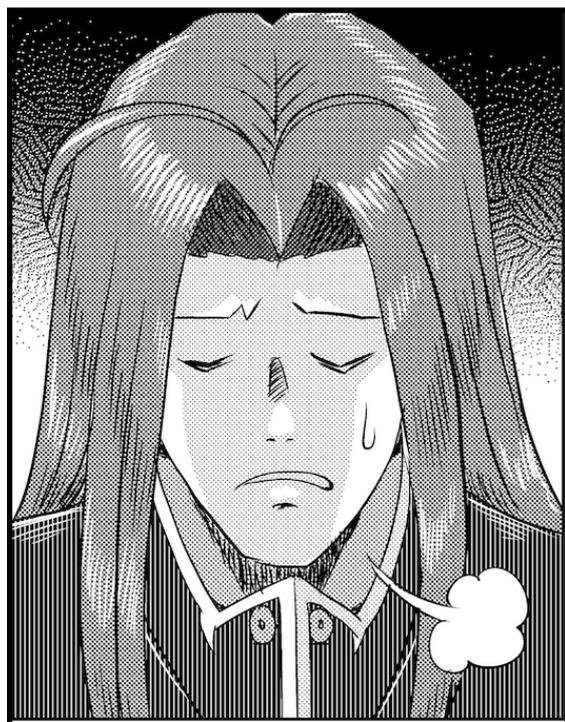
This book we use a lot of words we already know, but in different ways! Sometimes it's not just the size of your vocabulary, it's how you use it.

### **Sorry...**

And the first of these is a new way to apologize. Just like English, there are varying degrees of apologies. For small apologies you can just say

「<sup>わる</sup>悪い。」 and it's pretty similar to saying "My bad."

Perfect for those situations when you want to apologize with a touch of manliness, where you didn't mess up that bad, and you're with a person you don't need to be polite to.



## See You Again Tomorrow!

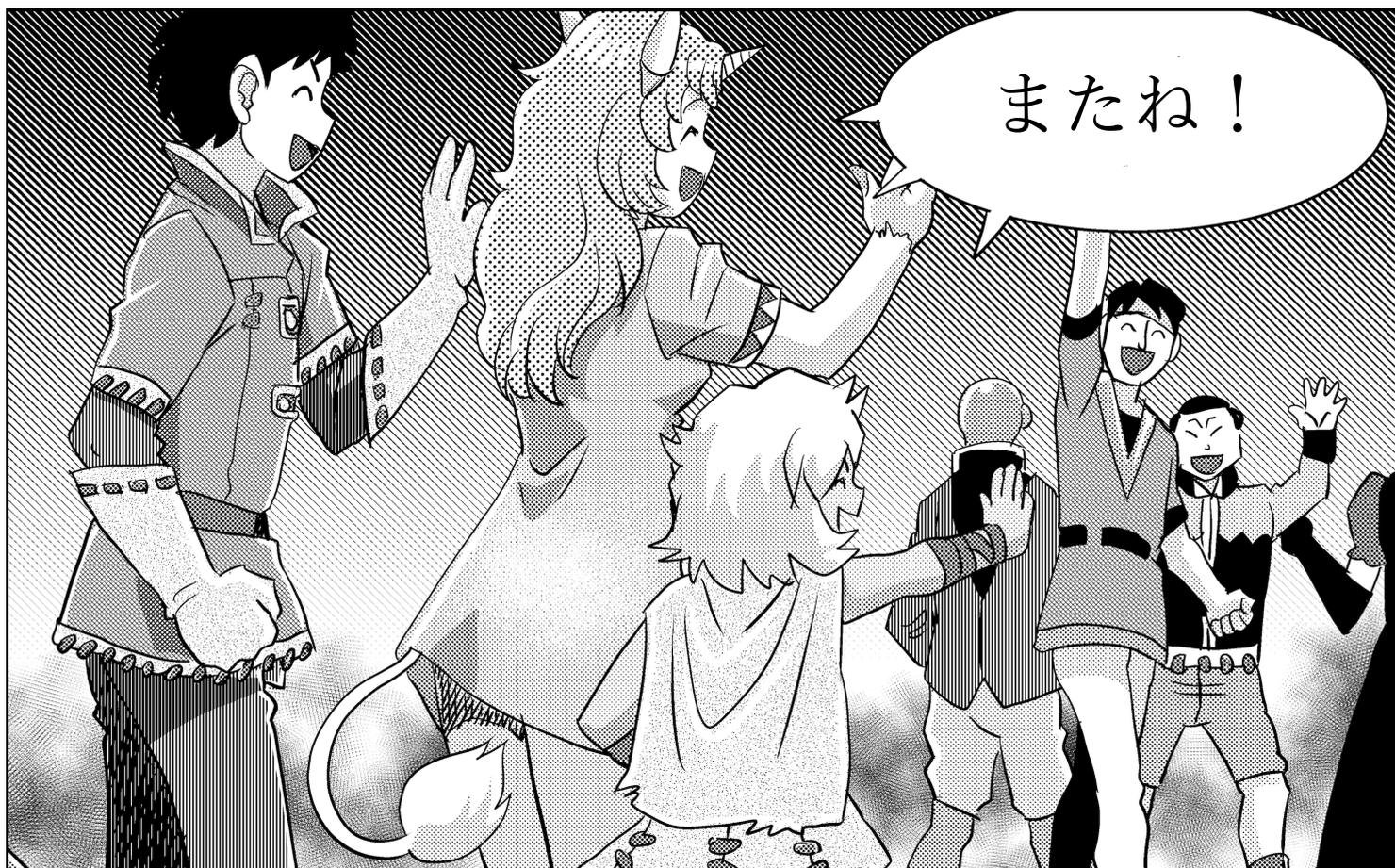
There are ninjas in this language! Ninjas everywhere! And this time it's a "See you" ninja. So when you use *また* to say goodbye to people for a bit, you just have to assume that the "See you" part is hiding in a bush.

So, if you want to say "See you again tomorrow" you just say:

また<sup>あした</sup>明日! = (See you) again tomorrow!

Or you can ninja even more words! You don't even need to say <sup>あした</sup>明日!

またね! = (See you) again!



## Ready or Not, Here I Come!

So we've talked about extending vowel sounds at the end of words, screaming at the top of your lungs being a prime example of this.

だめええええええええええ！

But we haven't done mid-word extensions yet! And since they come up this book, let's go over them quick.

When we do mid-word extensions. We have a couple options. We can go for the baseline extension, which is 「—」. Even if we're writing in hiragana, we can use the katakana 「—」 to extend vowels sounds.

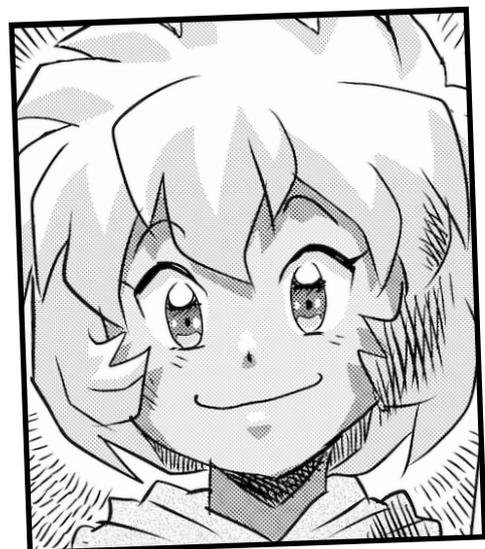
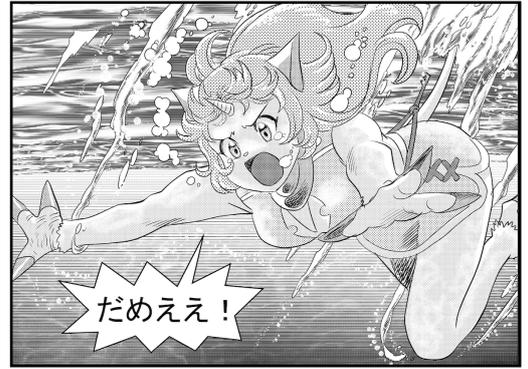
Or we can use 「～」. And with this one we're not just extending the vowel, we're also adding some singsongy flavour to it.

To give an idea of how these two extensions differ, here are some examples:

ど—こだ? = Where aaarree youuuu? (said by a serial killer)

ど～こだ? = ♪ Where aaarree youuuu? ♪ (said by a little sister)

Of course, there is a lot of room between a serial killer and a little sister, you'll just have to decide which one you're most like when using this .



## たら Combo Time!

Just like all verb conjugations in Japanese, たら (“if”) combos with lots of things.

The first of which is with “can” form. Just treat “can” form like a normal verb and slap a たら on at the end like normal. Easy!

かいぶつ ころ かね  
怪物を殺せたら、お金をもらう。 =

If I can kill the monster, I will get money.

あしたあそ うれ  
明日遊べたら、嬉しいな。 =

If I can play tomorrow, (I’ll be) happy.



Now, this looks a bit similar to a normal verb with たら, but there’s an easy way to check which one it is. Just look at the letter before たら。 If it’s “i” (し or び), then it’s normal. If it’s “e” (せ or べ), then it’s can.

## What Should I Do? Times Three!

We already know how to say “What should I do?” (どうしよう?). And now we’ll learn how to say it not one, but two other ways using たら + いい! Hurray for nuance!

So, doing this with たら + いい, we get:

どうしたらいい? = What should I do?

And of course, this “What should I do?” is different than the

どうしよう version. In the どうしよう

version, you’re just like

“I have no idea what to do”.



With どうしたらいい, it's more like "I have some ideas, but I still don't know what to do".

And then there's version #3! <sup>なに</sup>何 with したら + いい! This time you're asking for a specific thing to do.

<sup>なに</sup>何をしたらいい? =

What should I do? (Tell me what I need to do)

So let's summarize these three versions of "What should I do?" real quick to make sure we don't confuse our nuance!

どうしよう? = I have no idea.

どうしたらいい? = I have some ideas, but they're all bad.

<sup>なに</sup>何をしたらいい? = Tell me what to do.

And there you have it, easy nuance! Hurray! Honestly though, we wonder why these meanings are all the same phrase in English...



## We Blame English for This Section

We've already touched on the noun form of verbs, and we've even shown an example of one that needed a little bit of explaining (魔法使い<sup>まほうつか</sup> = magic user = wizard). Really, you should be an expert at this by now.



However, it's English's fault we have to explain the two words below. For some reason, English makes things difficult and because of that we have to explain the simplicity of Japanese here. Silly English.

### かんが 考え

This one seems straightforward, right? Even in English, the noun form of "think" is "thought" right? Easy peasy!



Well yes, but also no.

The difficult part is that かんが 考え can also mean "idea". And if you encounter a sentence like this: 「いいかんががある。」



You might think that maybe that person is just having nice thoughts, but no. They've come up with something cool!

### あそ 遊び

This one really is English's fault. You'd think that if "play" the verb meant playing games, then "play" the noun must be those games you're playing... but yeah... English decided for whatever reason to make it mean a story acted on stage. Why English? Why?

We feel for you people learning English, we really do.



Anyway, in Japanese, あそ 遊び means those games you're playing. So while あそ 遊ぶ means "to play", あそ 遊び means "a game" or "playing around".

## New Grammar

### The Two Primary Emotions

In Japanese, “fun” and “sad” are like salt and pepper, like peanut butter and jelly, like a king and queen. And this gives them status. They are THE superstars, and because of this they get special treatment.

What this means is that you can just take their adjective forms

(<sup>たの</sup>楽しい、<sup>かな</sup>悲しい) and replace the い at the end with む to make their verb forms!

<sup>たの</sup>  
楽しむ = to have fun/enjoy  
<sup>かな</sup>  
悲しむ = to be sad



And likewise, the noun forms work just like normal noun forms of verbs work.

<sup>たの</sup>  
楽しみ = pleasure/enjoyment  
<sup>かな</sup>  
悲しみ = sadness



And these conjugations are very nice, because they’re easy to remember. Unfortunately, this is the last you’ll see of this niceness. All the other emotions do other random things, which we’ll explain later. So enjoy this moment of ease with emotion verbs, because it will never come again.





## は Upgrade! This Time with More Contrast!

It's a good thing that the guide has been pretty easy until now, because from here on out things are getting real.

So until now, we've learned that は has a *function*. It marks the subject in a sentence when we're not using が to talk about new noteworthy news or something exclusive.

Well now we're upgrading は! Now は doesn't just have a function, it has a *meaning*.

Let's review real quick our subject markers of は and が, and the *meanings* they have.

みずかいぶつ                      た  
水怪物は人を食べる。 = Water monsters eat people.

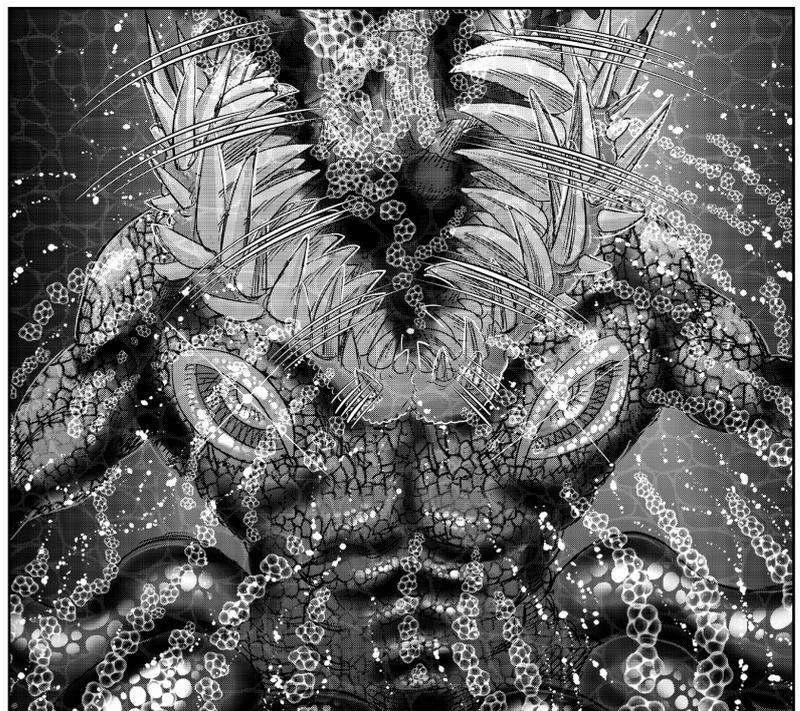
→ は means this is a general statement. It's something they do.

みずかいぶつ                      ひと                      た  
水怪物が人を食べる! = Water monsters are gonna eat people!

→ New Noteworthy News が means this sentence is a report.

みずかいぶつ                      ひと                      た  
水怪物が人を食べる。 = The water monster will eat the people.

→ Exclusive が means that specific water monster will eat the people. Maybe you're doing a sacrifice to the water monster god or something.



## Contrastive は

は joins the mix with a new meaning! Now は can also mean: “This thing (but not that/other things)”.

At a glance, contrastive は looks just like general は, but just like the different が meanings, what separates them is context.

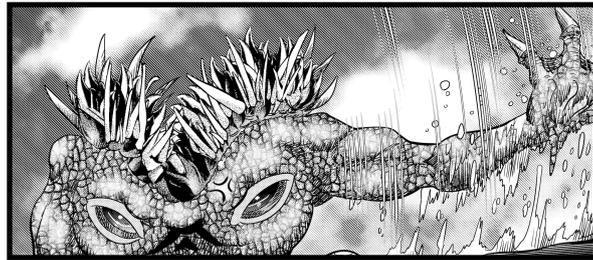
For example, let’s say someone is asking a question about monsters:

A: <sup>かいぶつ</sup>怪物<sup>は</sup> <sup>ひと</sup>人<sup>を</sup> <sup>た</sup>食べるの? =

Do monsters eat people?

B: <sup>みずかいぶつ</sup>水怪物<sup>は</sup> <sup>ひと</sup>人<sup>を</sup> <sup>た</sup>食べる。 =

Water monsters eat people (but not other monsters).



As you can see, contrastive は is used here to clarify or highlight a specific group. “These monsters do, but not all.” And this clarification can extend to other situations as well.

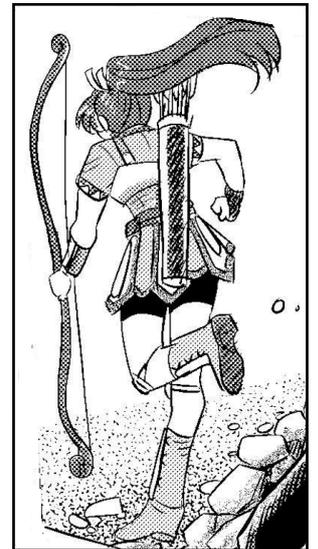
For example:

A: <sup>おれ</sup>俺<sup>は</sup> <sup>けん</sup>剣<sup>を</sup> <sup>つか</sup>使う。 <sup>あなた</sup>あなた<sup>も</sup> <sup>けん</sup>剣<sup>が</sup> <sup>ほ</sup>欲しい? =

I’m gonna use a sword. Do you want a sword too?

B: いいえ、<sup>わたし</sup>私<sup>は</sup> <sup>ゆみ</sup>弓<sup>を</sup> <sup>つか</sup>使う。 =

(You use swords, but) No, I will use a bow.



And with this example, you’ve unlocked another fun fact! While

many <sup>わたし</sup>私<sup>は</sup> can ninja and disappear, contrastive <sup>わたし</sup>私<sup>は</sup> DOES NOT.

<sup>わたし</sup>私<sup>は</sup> with contrastive は is not ninja! It is a samurai, and firmly holds its ground!



## Super は!

Contrastive は is not only a new kind of は, contrastive は has superpowers! It can upgrade が and を into は and make them contrastive!

For example:

けん つか  
剣を使わない。 = (I) won't use a sword.

けん つか  
剣は使わない。 = (I) won't use a sword (I'll use something else).

ナイツが好き。 = (I) like Knites.

ナイツは好き。 = (I) like Knites (but not other people).



So this in itself isn't so hard to understand, but when you think of the whole sentence, that's when it gets tricky. In fact, this leads us straight to:

## Double は!

There are now two types of は. One which is a general subject, and one which is contrastive and can be both subject or object. This means if we use general は for the subject, and contrastive は for the object, we can use two は in one sentence!

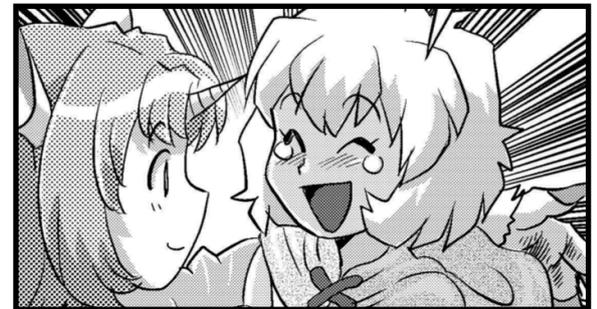
For example:

ねえ じゅん び  
お姉さんは準備をしない。

= My older sister doesn't make preparations.

ねえ じゅん び  
お姉さんは準備はしない。

= My older sister doesn't make preparations (but she does other things.)



And with that, we start to have a sort of musical chairs situation with は and が. は can be both a subject and an object. が can be both a subject and a が-set が. (If you forgot what a が-set is, check out the book 1 guide, pages 15-18.)

Because of this it is very important to remember what the base sentence forms are. Everything which gets modified on top of that means there is a *meaning change*.

And one last time to review. The base sentences are:

A は B を C (general は)

A が B を C (exclusive or news が)

A は B が C (は with a が-set)



If you see something other than the patterns above, some kind of meaning change (contrastive, exclusive, etc) is happening. We'll explain this in detail more later, but that's enough strain on your sanity for now.

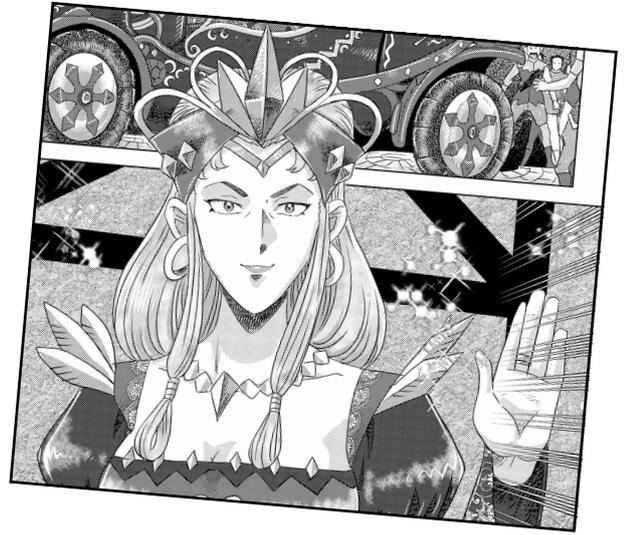
So congratulations! You've made it through another round of は vs が!  
More to come in the future!



## Look at Me! I'm the Boss Now!

は isn't the only thing that gets an upgrade this book, する gets an upgrade too! In fact, it gets two even!

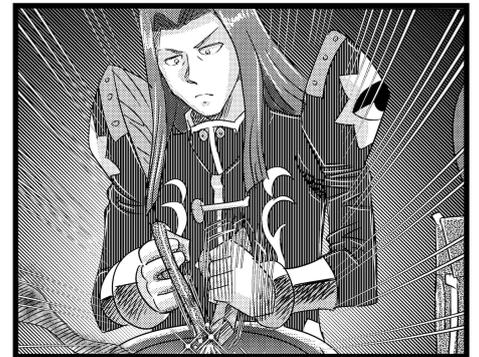
The first of these upgrades is the upgrade from する → させる.



させる is all about power. Want to make people do things? You use させる. Want people to get your approval before they do things? Yup, that's させる too. It is the ultimate word for controlling other people.

じょおう                      たち    じゅん   び  
女王はハンター達に準備をさせた。 =

The queen made the hunters prepare.



Notice how the people being forced to prepare are marked with に? That's because you're using your power *on* them!

Now here's another situation. This time we'll use it with the approval/permission side of its meaning.

So let's say the big bad evil boss reveals all their evil plans:

「この町の人を殺す！」 = I will kill the people of this city!

But then the hero makes an appearance. Using their power for good!

「させないぞ！」 = (I) won't let (you)!



And this approval/permission usage extends to asking as well. For example, let's say an employee cares for an authority figure, and wants to do some work for them. Gotta respect their authority even when taking on extra work!

あなたはもう<sup>つか</sup>疲れた。<sup>じゅんび</sup>準備をさせてください。 =

You're already tired. Please let (me) do the preparations.

So there you have it. That's a good starter on させる. It certainly gets more complex, but we'll let you study it more in future guides.



## Japanese Language Quirks

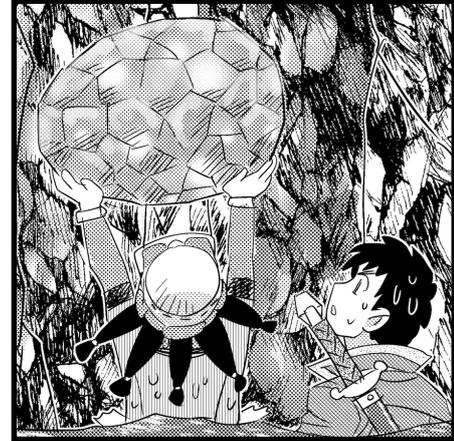
### する vs やる

And we're finishing the guide with する's second upgrade. If させる is the power version of する, then やる is the hero version of する。

Are you being an awesome team player? Use やる!

Are you being super productive? Use やる!

Are you putting your own energy and drive into it?  
Use やる!

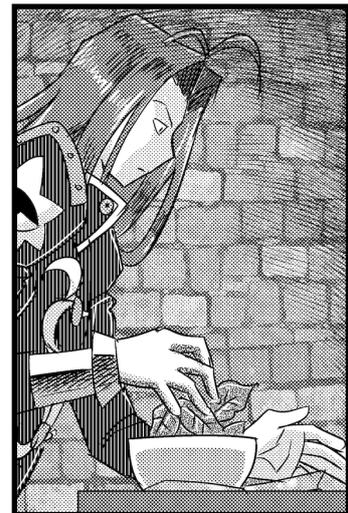


And here's an example of our hero in action vs normal everyday する:

おれ がっこう じゅん び  
俺が学校の準備をする。 = I'll do the school preparations.  
(yeah I'll do them I guess)

Vs.

おれ がっこう じゅん び  
俺が学校の準備をやる。 = I'll do the school preparations  
(I'm making it my responsibility to get them done.)



Thank you school preparations hero! You've made your school proud!

There are however, a few things you need to watch out for when using やる. We haven't learned these words in Crystal Hunters yet, but if you're talking about breathing, blinking, or other unconscious things, you don't want to use やる. It would imply that you're in rehabilitation or something and doing them is this great effort.

Also, don't replace する with やる if する is making a noun a verb. That's kind of a confusing sentence, so we'll just explain with examples.

So, if the を comes before Noun+する then don't replace する.

For example:

かいぶつ こうげき  
怪物を攻撃する。 = (I'll) attack the monster.

こうげき  
(攻撃 and する are now a set. Do not change する to やる.)



If the を comes between the noun and する, then its OK to replace with やる。

あした こうげき  
明日の攻撃をする。 = I'll do tomorrow's attack.

あした こうげき  
明日の攻撃をやる。 = I'll do tomorrow's attack (with vigor!)

## Tutorial Complete!!

You've learned 21 new words, know how to be more natural with 9 more, and you're only a couple steps away from mastering は vs が! You're ready for all the craziness in Book 9! Happy Reading!

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**Book 10 of Crystal Hunters is available now!**

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