

Irregular verbs

- Japanese has a strikingly small number of irregular verbs

(1) Two verbs that are quite irregular

- What might we propose for the roots of these verbs? This is a hard question...

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'do'	suru	çinai	sureba	çiyoo	çiro	çimasu	çita
b	'come'	kuru	konai	kureba	koyoo	koi	kimasu	kita

(2) Two verbs that are mostly regular, except for a few conjugational forms

- Can you find the unexpected forms?

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>volitional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'exist' (inanimate)	aru	nai	areba	aroo	are	arimasu	atta
b	'go'	iku	ikanai	ikeba	ikoo	ike	ikimasu	itta

(3) Five "special polite" verbs whose roots end in /...ar-/ and are somewhat irregular

- Can you find the unexpected forms?
- Verbs (a)-(d) are used to show honorific politeness to the subject of the verb
- Verb (e) shows extra social distance or formal politeness

		<i>nonpast</i>	<i>negative nonpast</i>	<i>provisional</i>	<i>imperative</i>	<i>formal nonpast</i>	<i>past</i>
a	'give'	kudasaru	kudasaranai	kudasareba	kudasai	kudasaimasu	kudasatta (or kudaçita)
b	'be/go/ come'	iraççaru	iraççaranai	iraççareba	iraççai	iraççaimasu	iraççatta (or iraçita)
c	'say'	oççaru	oççaranai	oççareba	oççai	oççaimasu	oççatta
d	'do'	nasaru	nasaranai	nasareba	nasai	nasaimasu	nasatta
e	'exist' (inanimate)	gozaru	—	gozareba	—	gozaimasu	—