



Design : Masako Ban

# しあさって? shiasatte?

Wanting to dine with a friend of mine, I sent to him an e-mail in which I said: "**asatte aimashō!** (Let's meet the day after tomorrow!)"  
Replying, he said "**yanasatte ni shimashō.**" Although I didn't understand "**yanasatte,**" I agreed to meet him "then." Hirayama-san, when should I go?

■ One theory is that people used "**shiasatte**" in western Japan in the old days, while people in eastern Japan used "**yanasatte**" to communicate "in three days." According to the theory, the Meiji government adopted "shiasatte," which was used in Kyoto, to mean "in three days" as a standard word when it unified the state, while it adopted "**yanasatte**" for "in four days." However, people in eastern Japan — except for in Tokyo — still use "**yanasatte**" to mean "in three days." Today, the flow of traffic between the regions is busier than before, making the usage of the words above far more complicated depending on who uses the words and where they are used.  
So when you talk about "three days from now," it would be better to clarify yourself with concrete dates or saying "in \_\_\_\_ days."

SAFE STYLE: **ashita** (tomorrow), **asatte** (the day after tomorrow),  
**mikka-go** (in three days' time), **yokka-go** (in four days' time)...

	before last せんせん <b>sensen</b>	last せん <b>sen</b>	this こん <b>kon</b>	next らい <b>rai</b>	after next さらい <b>sarai</b>
week しゅう <b>shū</b>	week before last せんせんしゅう <b>sensenshū</b>	last week せんしゅう <b>senshū</b>	this week こんしゅう <b>konshū</b>	next week らいしゅう <b>raishū</b>	week after next さらいしゅう <b>saraisshū</b>
month げつ <b>getsu</b>	month before last せんせんげつ <b>sensengetsu</b>	last month せんげつ <b>sengetsu</b>	this month こんげつ <b>kongetsu</b>	next month らいげつ <b>raigetsu</b>	month after next さらいげつ <b>saraigetsu</b>
year ねん <b>nen</b>	year before last おとし <b>ototoshi</b>	last year きょねん <b>kyonen</b>	this year ことし <b>kotoshi</b>	next year らいねん <b>rainen</b>	year after next さらいねん <b>sarainen</b>
	day before yesterday おととい <b>ototoi</b>	yesterday きのう <b>kinō</b>	today きょう <b>kyō</b>	tomorrow あした <b>ashita</b>	day after tomorrow あさって <b>asatte</b>

Step 3

# やなさって? yanasatte?

■■■ Paul-san, you can find "**yanasatte**" written as "**yanoasatte**" in dictionary. It means "in three days." But in some regions, it is used to mean "in four days." "**Shiasatte,**" however, also means "in three days," and is more common. The word used depends on the region and the person. So, be careful when using those words, or you and your friend may show up on different days.

- Step 1: Memorize the basic words from **kon** to the right.  
**(kon, rai, sarai)**
- Step 2: Memorize the basic words from **kon** to the left.  
**(kon, sen, sensen)**
- Step 3: Memorize the basic words in the leftmost row.  
**(shū, getsu, nen)**
- Step 4: Memorize the variation of time expressions by combining a word from the horizontal row with one from the vertical row.
- Step 5: Memorize the irregular forms highlighted in green.

Note: Generally, the particle "ni" is not used with the words in the table to specify when a certain action takes place.  
e.g., 昨日 ㊦ 仕事をしました。  
**kinō ni shigoto o shimashita** (I worked yesterday.)

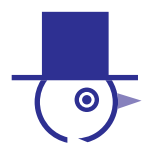
- There are three different pronunciations for the word 明日 (tomorrow), with a slightly different nuance.  
明日 **ashita** : most common pronunciation, used in daily conversation to mean tomorrow.  
明日 **asu** : A polite form, used in greetings and speeches.  
\* "asu" also is used to refer to the near future.  
明日 **myōnichi** : Politer than "asu."
- There are three ways of saying "today."  
今日 **kyō** : General form, used in daily conversation.  
今日 **konnichi** : Used to mean "now" or the present day.  
本日 **honjitsu**: Often used in greetings, speeches and in writing.

Quiz: Put a Japanese word or phrase into the squares to complete the sentence so it matches the meaning of the English sentence.

- は晴れでしょう。(天気予報)  
**wa hare deshō (tenki yohō)**  
 will be sunny. (Weather news)
- に人間ドックを受けます。  
**ni ningen-dokku o ukemasu**  
I will have a complete physical .

# Pera Pera Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama  
**Vol. 96**



c. 皆様は  の日本を築く若い力です。  
**minasama wa no Nihon o kizuku wakai chikara desu**  
You are the youth with the power that will build 's Japan. (Speech)

d. 昔の伝統が  まで受け継がれている。  
**mukashi no dentō ga made uketsugarete iru**  
The old traditions have been passed down to .

e.  休業  
**kyūgyō**  
We are closed .

f. 息子が  あるのは先生方のお陰です。  
**musuko ga aru no wa sense-gata no okage desu**  
It is thanks to you that my son is as good as he is .

g.  の地球温暖化の要因の一つは環境汚染です。  
**no chikyū-ondanka no yōin no hitotsu wa kankyō-osen desu**  
Environmental pollution is one of the factors linked to global warming .

h. 心配してもしようがない。、ですね。  
**shimpai shitemo shōganai desu ne**  
It is no use worrying.  Tomorrow is another day, isn't it?

i.  には結果が出ます。  
**niwa kekka ga demasu**  
The result will come out .

j.  はお忙しい中、お越しいただきありがとうございます。  
**wa oisogashi naka okoshi itadaki arigatō gozaimasu**  
Thank you for coming on such a busy day like . (Greeting)

Answers:  
a : **asu** b : **mikka-go** c : **asu** d : **konnichi** e : **honjitsu** f : **konnichi**  
g : **konnichi** h : **ashita wa ashita no kaze ga fuku** i : **yokka-go** j : **honjitsu**

