

Noun: 時 : "Time; occasion"

時 as a noun means "Time; occasion"

-When used as a pseudo noun, it introduces a subordinate time clause: "The time when..."

-Subject of the 時 and main clauses can be the same or different.

-When the subjects of the main and subordinate clause are different, the subject of the 時 clause takes が、subject of the main clause typically takes は

Phrase + 時 "The time when..."

Ex.

仕事しない時に音楽を聴いたり本を読んだりします。 It is WHEN I don't work that I listen to music, read books, etc.

学校行く時、バスを乗ります。(The time) When I go to school, I ride the bus.

時 can nominalize verbs :

1. V る + 時 : "Right before I do..."

2. V-ている + 時 : "When I am doing..."

3. V-た + 時 : "Right after I do..."

V る + 時 : "Right before I do..."

V る + 時 : "Right before I do..."

-The tense of the whole sentence depends on the tense of the main (second) clause.

!□!□Note: 時 already indicates time so に particle is not needed after it. However, when you attach に、 the meaning changes to emphasis.

V る + 前に / Noun + の前に : "Right before I do..."

-The tense of the whole sentence depends on the tense of the main (second) clause.

USAGES:

★To say something happened before [time]

★To say something happened in front of [space / position]

私は寝る時牛乳を飲みました。 I drank milk right before I slept.

日本旅行する前に日本語を勉強する。 I will study Japanese before traveling to Japan.

食べる時薬を飲みます。 I take my meds right before I eat.

30歳になる前に世界中を旅行したい。 Before turning 30, I want to travel all around the world.

食べる時薬を飲みました。 I took my meds right before I ate.

帰る前に、電気を消しました。 Before I went home, I switched off the lights.

トイレに行く時手を洗う。 I wash my hands right before I go to the washroom.

テストが始まる前に、トイレに行きませんか。 Aren't you going to the washroom before the test starts?

トイレに行く時手を洗った。 I wash my hands right before I went to the washroom.

!□!□NOTE: If the subject of the subordinate clause is different from the main clause, the subject in the subordinate clause takes the particle が。 The subject of the main (2nd) clause typically takes は particle.

YOU : Subject of the main (2nd) clause)



Vる + 時 : "Right before I do..." (cont)

TEST : Subject of the subordinate (1st) clause)

Noun + の前に "Before Noun"

晩御飯の前にテレビを見ましょう。 Let's watch TV before dinner.

テストの前に【復習】ふくしゅうしませんか。 Won't you review before the test?

彼は子全 8 女の前に来ました。 He came to school before 8AM.

【戦争】せんそうの前に、彼女は英語の先生だった。 Before the war, she was an English teacher.

Noun + の前に "In front of..."

コンビニの前に【自転車】じてんしゃがたくさんあります。 There are many bicycles in front of the convenience store.

私たちの学校の前には美しい公園があります。 There is a beautiful park in front of our school.

Note: A subordinate clause has a subject and verb but is not a complete sentence because it doesn't convey a complete idea. They usually start off with a conjunction.

Main clause is a complete sentence and a complete idea by itself because the subject of both the subordinate and main clauses are the same, "I". And because "I" is always the default subject, we don't mention it in Japanese translation.

食べてから (subordinate clause)、手を洗います (main clause)。

V-た時 "Right before"

V た + 時 : "Right after I do..."

!□!□Note: 時 already indicates time so に particle is not needed after it. However, when you attach に、 the meaning changes to emphasis.

-The tense of the whole sentence depends on the tense of the main (second) clause.

V-てから : "Right after doing..."

-Suggests that the second action must happen right after the first action.

-In the present tense emphasize that the first action happening before the second is important

Vた-あとで or Noun + の後 : "After doing"

-Only expressing the order without any emphasis

-It doesn't matter how long it takes from first action to next action because there are intervening actions before doing the final action.



V-た時 "Right before" (cont)

××DONTs: Cannot be used with Nouns, 後で shall be used.

V-た後で = Even if it's in the past tense has nothing to do with the tense of the whole sentence. The tense of the sentence is decided in the main (2nd) clause.

私は寝た時牛乳を飲みました。I drank milk right after I slept.	10分歩いてから、電車にのってください。After walking 10 minutes, please get on the train.	卒業したあとで、日本に来た。I came to Japan after graduation.
食べた時薬を飲みました。I took my meds right after I ate.	トイレを使ってから、手を洗わないといけません。We must wash our hands after using the restroom.	シャワーを【浴びる】あびたあと、晩御飯を作る。I will make dinner after I take a shower.
トイレに行った時手を洗う。I wash my hands right after I go to the washroom.	洗濯してから、休みます。Right after doing the laundry, I will rest.	帰った後で、電気をつけました。(Right after) After I get home, I switched on the lights.
トイレに行った時手を洗った。I wash my hands right after I went to the washroom.	お母さんが出かけてから、お父さんは帰ってきた。(Right) After mom left, dad came home.	

!□!□NOTE: If the subject of the subordinate clause is different from the main clause, the subject in the subordinate clause takes the particle が。The subject of the main (2nd) clause typically takes は particle.

There are times when てから makes more sense to use than 多後で :

DAD : Subject of the main (2nd) clause)

1. Instructions in a recipe book

MOM : Subject of the subordinate (1st) clause)

2. When you buy something from the vending machine

3. Medical procedures

【塩】しおを振り掛けてから、スープに【掻き混ぜる】かきまぜる。After sprinkling salt, you stir it into the soup.



V-た時 "Right before" (cont)

彼女はドアを閉めてからロックをかける。 After she closes the door, she will lock it.

お金を入れてから、ボタンを押します。 I will press the button after inserting the money.

薬を飲んでから、休みます。 You will rest after drinking medicine.

日本人は食べてから、「ごちそうさまでした」と言います。 After eating, Japanese say, "gochisou sama deshita."

Noun + の後 "After the (noun)..."

晩御飯の後でテレビを見ましょう。 Let's watch TV after dinner.

彼は午前8時の後で来ました。 He came to school after 8AM.

仕事の後で、僕と映画を見ませんか。 Won't you watch a movie with me after work?

V-る 時 vs V-た 時

With verbs, it helps to keep in mind that non-past form indicates an action that happens "all the time" or is "not yet completed".

The past form is used when the action is "over and finished".

V-る とき (Non-past) "Right before"

Indicates an action that happens "all the time" or is "not yet completed"

日本へ行く とき、カメラを買いました。

I bought a camera when I was on my way to Japan.

(Before reaching Japan, on the way there)

!□!□

V-た とき (Past) "Right after"

Used when the action is "over and finished"

日本へ行った とき、カメラを買いました。

I bought a camera when I went to Japan.

(Arrived in Japan and bought a camera there)

!□!□

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Not published yet.
Last updated 13th October, 2024.
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V-る 時 vs V-た 時 (cont)

行く indicates that the action had not been completed. The speaker bought a camera somewhere on his/her way to Japan. (the camera could be bought in his/her own country).

行った indicates that the action had been completed and the speaker bought a camera after arriving in Japan.

□□部屋に入る とき、「失礼します」と言います。

□□今朝友達に会った とき、「おはようございます」と言いました。

I say "Excuse Me" before entering the room.

I said "Good Morning" when I met my friend this morning.

In this case you cannot use 部屋に入ったとき because it will mean that you are saying "Excuse Me" after you have entered the room. It's considered rude if you do this to your boss.

In this case you cannot use 今朝友達に会うとき because it will mean that you were saying "Good Morning" before you met your friend. You would be talking to no one if you did that.

V-ている + 時 : "When I am doing..."

V-ている + 時 : "When I am doing..."

-Used when V2 (main clause) is over in an instant.

V-ている + 【間】 あいだ : "When I am doing..."

-Used when two actions happen over a span of time and there are some overlap duration.

私が勉強している時お父さんが電気を消してしまった。

私が勉強している【間】あいだお父さんはテレビを見ていた。

When I was studying, dad unfortunately switched off the lights.

When I was studying, dad was watching TV.

(Nuance: Happens quickly in an instant)

(Nuance: Main verb is 見ていた which happens over a period of time, overlapping the time "when I was studying")

時 with stative verb in main clause

When V2 is in the past tense and V1 is a stative verb, then V1 can be either non-past or past.

When I was at the school, I spoke to Mr Tanaka.

いる = stative verb

Thus, you can use the present or past tense: いる / いた

□□学校にいる時田中先生と話しました。

□□学校にいた時田中先生と話しました。

時 with Adjectives

い-Adj

な-Adj

!□!□Note: Adjectives are stative, hence, it can be in the past tense if the main verb is in the past tense. It does not matter.

天気が暑い時海に行きます。 When the weather is hot, I go to the beach.

【静か】しずかな時【中国語】ちゅうごく語を勉強します。 When it's quiet, I study Chinese.

天気が暑かった時海に行きました。 I went to the beach when it was hot.

おばあさんは元気な時公園を【散歩】さんぽします。 Grandma strolls the park when she's fine.

時 with Adjectives (cont)

私は【寂しい】さびしい時お母さんに【相談】 そうですします。 【暇】ひまな時何をしますか。暇な時は運動します。What do you do when I am lonely, I talk to mom. when you're free? When I'm free, I exercise.

【株】かぶは安い時は買います。高い時は売ります。 About stocks, I buy when it's cheap. I sell when it's high.

Nouns + の時

Nouns + の時

この + の時 : This time

その + の時 : That time (when the speaker and listener knows "that time")

あの + の時 : That time (only the speaker is familiar with but the listener isn't)

どの + の時 : Which time

その時、私はまだ学生だった。 At that time, I was still a student.

子供の時私はひらがなを覚えました。 I memorized the Hiragana alphabet when i was a child.

夏の時【かき氷】かきごうりを食べましょう。 Let's eat shaved ice when it's summer.

【祭り】まつりの時、この【町】まちは【賑やか】にぎやかになる。 This town becomes lively when it's festival time.

時 + の (to nominalize clauses)

時 can also be used to nominalize clauses when you add の (nominalizer) right after it.

林さんは会社の時の知り合いです。 Mr Hayashi is an acquaintance from my time at the company.

あなたという時の自分が一番好き。 I like myself best when I'm with you. (Lit. It is the time that I am with you that I like my self best.)

日本人は子供の時から【豆腐】とうふを食べます。 Japanese people eat tofu since childhood.

僕は君という時が一番好きです。 I like best the time when I'm with you.

Common mistake while using 時

とき (toki) is a time expression. Therefore, if there is already a time expression in a sentence, you don't add in とき after that time expression.

×朝のとき、コーヒーを飲みます。

□□朝コーヒーを飲みます。

I drink coffee in the morning.

□□眠いとき、コーヒーを飲みます。

I drink coffee when I am sleepy.

〜とき and Different Particles

ときも “Too; also” / ときにも “At that time too” ときは “As for...,” ときから “Since...” ときまで “At that time too” ときが

〜とき and Different Particles (cont)

<p>に = underlines the time period you're referring to</p>	<p>“As for...,” it marks the topic and shows you're going to talk more about it. は could also be used when you're talking about a certain topic in comparison to something else.</p>	<p>-To talk about since when you've done something</p>	<p>-Commonly followed by the description of how you feel (or felt) about the time you're talking about.</p>
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も =
indicates
the time in
addition to
some
other
time(s).

<p>小さいと きにも、 日本に住 んでいま した。</p>	<p>小さいときには、日本に住んでいました。</p>	<p>五才のとき から七才の ときま で、日本 に住んでい ました。</p>	<p>五才のとき から七才の ときま で、日本 に住んでい ました。</p>	<p>小さいときが、一 番楽しかった。</p>
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<p>When I was little, I lived in Japan too.</p>	<p>When I was little, I lived in Japan.</p>	<p>I lived in Japan from when I was five to seven.</p>	<p>I lived in Japan from when I was five to seven.</p>	<p>When I was little, I had the most fun.</p>
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Nuance: In this case, the particle に stresses "when I was little" as a specific time and は marks it as a topic and/or expresses a contrast between "when I was little" and "when I wasn't little." When you phrase it all together, you sound as if you're emphatically declaring that you only lived in Japan when you were a child and not any other times.

このドアを開ける
ときが、いつもご
く恐いんだよ。

VS

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Not published yet.
Last updated 13th October, 2024.
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〜とき and Different Particles (cont)

小さいときにも、日本に住んでいました。

When I was little, I lived in Japan too.

Nuance: As you know now, に underlines the time period you're referring to, while も indicates you lived in Japan at that time in addition to some other time(s).

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