

As you know 「ん」 has many functions. It depends on the context.

Basically [んです] and [んだ] are same as you know. Therefore, you can replace です to だ.

There might be more functions.

It takes long time to explain and is not easy.

I hope that it could help you.

## 1. expressing desire

In Japanese, there are a number of different ways to express desire. Which one is used depends on:

- a) whether the desirer is the speaker or someone else;
- b) whether it is a thing or an action that is desired;
- c) in the case of a desired action, whether the doer of the action is the speaker or someone else;
- d) the relationship between doer and desirer.

When the speaker wants to obtain a thing from someone of equal or lower status, "hoshii" or "moraitai" should be used. When the speaker wants to obtain something from someone of higher status, "itadakitai" should be used. This rule also holds true for desired actions, using the "-te hoshii", "-te moraitai" and "-te itadakitai" forms.

When someone other than the speaker wishes to obtain something from someone of equal or lower status, "hoshigatte iru" or "moraitagatte iru" should be used. When someone other than the speaker wants to obtain something from someone of higher status, "itadakitagatte iru" should be used. (See "garu".) This rule also holds true for desired actions, using the "-te moraitagatte iru" and "-te itadakitagatte iru" forms. "-te hoshigatte iru" is not normally used.

"Garu" is normally used to indicate that one's judgement about another person's feelings are based on the way that that person has behaved. There are, however, some situations in which the "-garu" form should not be used when referring to third-person desires.

1. The speaker (or the listener in the case of an interrogative) are in a close enough position to the third person that they can take his/her viewpoint and truly speak for his or her desires.
2. In expressions such as "sou da", "you da" and "rashii" which cause a double "seems to" effect, when combined with "garu":  
*Kare wa ~ wo hoshigatte iru you desu.*  
"He seems to seem to want something."
3. In direct quotes, where the "seems to" is misplaced:  
"Maaku wa ~ wo hoshigatte iru tte."  
"Mark said 'I seem to want ~.'"
4. In expressions of explanation. That means using the "n", "kara", "node", etc.
5. When using past tense.

1. 私はラーメンを食べたいんです。  
Watashi wa rāmen o tabetai desu.  
I want to eat ramen.
2. ピーターもラーメンを食べたがっているんです。  
Pītā mo rāmen o tabetagatte imasu.  
Peter wants to eat ramen, too.
3. 私はビールを飲みたいんです。  
Watashi wa bīru o nomitai desu.  
I want to drink beer.
4. ピーターもビールを飲みたがっているんです。  
Pītā mo bīru o nomitagatte imasu.  
Peter wants to drink beer, too.
5. くだらない冗談をやめてほしいんです。  
Kudaranai jōdan o yamete hoshii.  
I want you to quit telling stupid jokes.
6. ピーターに歌たってほしいんです。  
Pītā ni utatte hoshii desu.  
I want Peter to sing.

These 「ん」 is emphasis the the statement.

## 2. *the reason is*

Used when the speaker is explaining something, or asking for an explanation about something.

1

A: どうして昨日来なかったんですか。

B: テストがあったんです。

A: *Dōshite kinō konakatta n desu ka?*

B: *Tesuto ga atta n desu.*

A: Why didn't you come yesterday?

B: The reason is, I had a test.

2

今年は旅行へ行かない。お金がないんです。

Kotoshi wa ryokō e ikanai. Okane ga nai n desu.

This year I won't go on a trip. The reason is that I don't have money.

3

ケンジが、フェラーリを買ったよ。金持ちなんだな。

Kenji ga ferāri o katta yo. Kanemochi na n da na.

Kenji bought Ferrari. He is a rich guy.

### 3. I would like you to let me do something

-sasete moraitai (～させてもらいたい) is often used to express the speaker's desire to do something. It is extremely polite expression. It literally means "I would like you to let me do something." It is often used as the expression of "--sasete morai tai no desu ga (～させてもらいたいのですが)" or "--sasete morai tai n desu ga (～させてもらいんですが)" to ask for the listening party's permission about the speaker's desire to do something. When it is obvious that the subject is "I" and the listener is "you" and these are usually omitted.

- Causative of verb (-- sasete) + morai tai
- Causative of verb (-- sasete) + morai tai no/n desu ga

僕の意見を言わせてもらいたいんです。  
Boku no iken o iwasete moraitai n desu.  
I would like you to let me express my opinion.

質問させてもらいたいんですが。  
Shitumon sasete moraitai n desu ga.  
Could you let me ask a question?

社長にインタビューさせてもらったのですが (もらいたいんですが)。  
Shachō ni intabiyū sasete moraitai no desu ga.  
Could you let me interview the president?

These are also emphasis.

### 4. I want to do something, and can you ask for some help or is it OK?

～たいのだけど or ～たいのだが is the expression which is literally saying what you want to do, but, it implies that you want to ask for assistance or help to do that. So, this expression is used when you ask for permission or request for help doing what you want to do.

\* Verb. *masu* stem of a verb + たいの(ん)だけど (ですけど)

\* Verb. *masu* stem of a verb + たいの(ん)のだが (ですが)

(のだ or のです can be pronounced as んだ or んです in a conversation.)

六本木ヒルズに行きたいのですが。  
Roppongi hiruzu ni ikitai no desu ga.  
I want to go to Roppongi Hills. (and can you show me the direction?)

指輪を彼女にプレゼントしたいんだけど。  
Yubiwa o kanojo ni purezento shitai n da kedo.  
I want to give a ring to my girlfriend as a present (and can you give me any recommendations?)

私、今日、車を使いたいんだけど。  
Watshi, kyō, kuruma o tsukaitai n da kedo.  
I want to use the car today. (is it OK with you?)

## 5. norm

This usage of *mono da* means "one should do something", but note that it is used to express a social norm, so it is not used in specific

ん can be replaced to の in colloquial conversation.

\* Verb, plain non-past + *mono da* (～する ものだ = one should do something)

あいさつする	あいさつする ものだ	one should say hello
あやまる	あやまる ものだ	one should apologize

\* Verb, plain non-past negative + *mono da* (～しない ものだ = one should not do something)

泣かない	泣かない ものだ	one should not cry
遅れない	遅れない ものだ	one should not be late

### (verb)

集中力は誰でも90分持続するものです。  
*Shūchūryoku wa dare demo 90-pun jōku suru mono da.*  
Anyone can keep concentrating for 90 minutes.

日本では、食べる前に「いただきます」と言うもんです。  
*Nihon de wa, taberu mae ni "itadakimasu" to iu mon desu.*  
In Japan, people say "itadakimasu" before they start eating.

人が話しているときは、話をしないものだ。  
*Hitoga hanashite iru toki wa, hanashi o shinai mono da.*  
You shouldn't talk while someone else is speaking.

### (i-adj)

北半球では、冬はたいてい寒いものです。  
*Kitahankyū de wa, fuyu wa taitei samui mono desu.*  
In the northern hemisphere, it is usually cold in winter.

逆に、南半球では、冬はたいてい暑いもんです。  
*Gyaku ni, minamihankyū de wa, fuyu wa taitei atsui mon desu.*  
Conversely, in the southern hemisphere it is usually hot in winter.

日本では、冬、夕方6時になるとたいてい明るくないもんです。  
*Nihon de wa, fuyu, yūgata 6-ji ni naru to akarukunai mon desu.*  
In Japan, it's not usually still light at 6pm in winter.

### (na-adj)

金曜日の夜、街はにぎやかなもんです。  
*Kin-yōbi no yoru, machi wa nigiyaka na mono desu.*  
The town is busy every Friday night.

たいてい子供はアイスクリームが好きなもんです。  
*Taitei kodomo wa aisukurīmuga suki na mon desu.*  
Usually children like ice-cream.

## **6. already, anymore**

"Mō" is an adverb used to indicate and emphasize change of state or condition. Its translation is context dependent.

- 1) When used together with verbs in their positive form, "mō" is usually translated as "already".
- 2) When used together with verbs in their negative form, "mō" is usually translated as "anymore".

Like all Japanese adverbs, "mō" precedes the verb that it modifies.

1. もう家に着いたんですか。早いんですね。  
*Mō ie ni tsuita n desu ka? Hayai desu ne.*  
Have you already gotten back home? That sure was fast...
2. お腹がいっぱいでもう何も食べられません。  
*O-naka ga ippai de mō nani mo taberaremasen.*  
I'm stuffed. I can't eat any more.

## **7. that is to say; namely; in other words; what I mean is**

"tsumari" is an adverb used to summarize what has been mentioned in the previous clause or sentence, or to express this information more succinctly. It may also be used simply to add stress to the statement that follows it.

Like all Japanese adverbs, "tsumari" precedes the clause that it modifies.

1. 私の父の兄、つまり、叔父が最近退職したらしいんだ。  
*Watashi no chichi no ani, tsumari, oji ga saikin tēnentaishoku shita rashii.*  
I've heard that my father's brother, that is to say my uncle, has recently retired.
2. 彼は金がある。つまり金持ちなんです。  
*Kare wa kane ga aru. Tsumari kanemochi nan desu.*  
He has plenty of money. What I mean is, he's loaded.