

Answer 1: JAPANESE –TE FORMS

We hope that you quickly spot that the plain forms all end in –u, and that it is the letter(s) just before the –u that determines the form of the –te form, as follows:

The answer to (a) can be set out as the following table

Ending	-te form	Examples
vowel	tte	arau, kau
ku	ite	aruku, kiku
bu	nde	asobu, yobu
ru	tte	hairu, okuru, wakaru
gu	ide	isogu, oyogu
su	shite	kasu, tasu
tsu	tte	motsu, tatsu
mu	nde	nomu, yomu
nu	nde	shinu

Applying the “rules” in (a) gives the answers to (b) and (c):

(b) kesu -> keshite, matsu -> matte, nugu -> nuide, tobu -> tonde

(c) koide <- kogu, shimeshite <- shimesu, kande <- ???

The case of *kande* is a kind of trick. While you can always predict the -te form from the plain form, the opposite is not true. A –nde ending can arise from three different stems, –bu, –mu, –nu. So you can’t tell from the data whether it should be *kamu*, *kanu* or *kabu*. In fact it’s *kamu*, but the question was (carefully phrased), and the correct answer is that it could be any of the three.

Points of interest/confusion are as follows:

(a) why do *motsu*, *tatsu* not have *motshite*, *tatshite*? Although they end in –su, actually you have to take *ts* as if it were a single letter

(b) notice that for some endings, the –te becomes –de. Can you spot the pattern? Students may not know this, but if the consonant in the stem is “voiced” (b, g, m, n) then the t of the –te form is also voiced. Compare ku -> ite, gu -> ide. An exception is –ru however, so this is not a hard-and-fast rule.

(c) Besides –nde, a –tte ending can relate to three different stems: vowel, –ru, –tsu.

(d) In case you need to know (avoid giggling schoolchildren), the –shite ending is pronounced as two syllables [SIte]

Answer 2: Nǐ XǐHUĀN FOOTBALL MA?

(1) Identify the following four names from the list of seven possible answers given on the right.

A = Manchester United

B = Birmingham

C = Everton

D = Charlton

A has the first three characters of Manchester City combined with the last two seen in both Leeds United and Newcastle United.

Although "United" is three syllables, this is an example where the actual word meaning "United" (or "union") is used.

B has the second character of Liverpool (VER), the first character of Arsenal and Aston Villa (A), the first character of Middlesborough (MI) and the last character of Fulham. The MI+HAM ending makes Birmingham the best solution. Why is BIR and VER the same? We were warned that Chinese doesn't have all the sounds of English: B and V are an example of this. And why the extra A? Remember this is phonetic, not spelling: ba+a makes a long vowel.

C and D are both 2/3 identical to examples given, so it is a simple matter of substitution.

(2) How do you think the place name **Boston** would be written in Chinese?

BO and TON from Bolton combined with the S from Aston, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle

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(3) Fill in the table below showing the correspondence between individual characters and English sounds

森	SE or SEN	We can't tell from the data whether this is SE or SEN. It occurs only in "Arsenal" followed by another character that only occurs in that word. So we know between them they cover SENAL. We were told that characters represent vowel, consonant+vowel or consonant+vowel+consonant, so we can't tell if it's SE+NAL or SEN+AL, both of which are possible.
卡	KA	As in Newcastle
西	SI (SEA)	As in Chelsea
拉	LA	Seen in Villa
顿	TON	Seen in Bolton, and two of the answers in Q1 (the only final syllable that occurs more than once in the list of candidates)

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