

Sample Problem 1: Japanese

Japanese verbs have a form ending in *-te* (or *-de*) which is a bit like the English *-ing* form of verbs, and is also used with *kudasai* to form a polite request, e.g. *suwaru* 'sit down' → *suwatte kudasai* 'please sit down'.

(a) From the following list of verb plain forms and their corresponding *-te* forms, can you say what are the "rules" for forming the *-te* form from the plain form?

Plain form	-te form	Meaning
arau	aratte	wash
aruku	aruite	walk
asobu	asonde	play
hairu	haitte	enter
isogu	isoide	hurry
kasu	kashite	lend
kau	katte	buy
kiku	kiite	listen
motsu	motte	hold
nomu	nonde	drink
okuru	okutte	send
oyogu	oyoide	swim
shinu	shinde	die
tasu	tashite	add
tatsu	tatte	stand
wakaru	wakatte	understand
yobu	yonde	call
yomu	yonde	read

(b) What would be the *-te* form of the following verbs?

kesu 'shut', matsu 'wait', nugu 'take off', tobu 'jump'

(c) Can you say what the plain form of the following would be?

koide 'row', shimeshite 'indicate', kande 'bite'

Sample Problem 2: Nǐ XǐHUĀN FOOTBALL MA?

Chinese words are written in symbols ("characters") that represent meaning rather than sound, and the Chinese writing system consists of thousands of these characters. When writing **foreign names** in Chinese, a selection of these characters is used based not on what they mean, but on how they sound. In the table below you will see how some names of English football teams are written in Chinese. The transliteration system is not entirely straightforward however:

- (1) Generally each character represents a syllable (vowel, consonant+vowel or consonant+vowel+consonant), but ...
- (2) ... some English consonant combinations are not possible in Chinese, so they are split into two syllables, e.g. "spin" might be "s(u)+pin".
- (3) Chinese does not have the same set of vowel and consonant sounds as English, so some sounds are mixed up – you probably know that R and L sound the same to a Chinese speaker. There are a few other pairs like that.
- (4) Finally, sometimes meaningful characters are used instead of phonetic ones. For example, in the Chinese for "Liverpool", the sign for "pool" is used – it's not pronounced "pool".

Study the following examples. Remember that the renderings are **phonetic**: they are based on pronunciation, not spelling.

阿森纳	Arsenal	莱斯特城	Leicester City
阿斯顿维拉	Aston Villa	利物浦	Liverpool
博尔顿	Bolton	曼彻斯特城	Manchester City
切尔西	Chelsea	米德尔斯堡	Middlesbrough
富尔姆	Fulham	纽卡斯尔联队	Newcastle United
利兹联队	Leeds United		

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

a.	曼彻斯特联队	Birmingham Blackpool Charlton Doncaster Everton Manchester United Preston
b.	物阿米姆	
c.	埃物顿	
d.	查尔顿	

- (2) How do you think the place name **Boston** would be written in Chinese?
- (3) How are the following three characters pronounced? (Bonus marks if you can explain some alternatives in the case of (a))

(a) 森 (b) 西 (c) 顿

And what characters would be used for the following sounds? **KA, LA**