



UNIT

9

SEEING A MUSEUM

From Western art to ukiyoe, and from cutting-edge technology to ghosts and goblins, Japan is abundant in museums of all sorts. Among the many museums in the Tokyo area are the Edo-Tokyo Museum, which showcases architecture and culture from an older Japan; the Ghibli Museum, which was designed and is under the supervision of the anime genius Hayao Miyazaki; and the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, where visitors can play with robots or take a ride in a spaceship module. Pictured here is the Tokyo National Museum, which houses paintings, sculptures, and other pieces from all regions of Asia.

UNIT 9 GRAMMAR

The -Nai Form

■ Classifications of Japanese verbs

As discussed briefly in Unit 8 Grammar (p. 160), Japanese verbs are divided into three classes based on their conjugations: Regular I, Regular II, and Irregular. The stems of Regular I verbs (the part just before the **-masu** ending) end with **-i**, and they change as the verbs are conjugated. The stems of Regular II verbs, on the other hand, end with either **-e** or **-i** but remain the same even as the verbs are conjugated. There are only two Irregular verbs: **shimasu** and **kimasu**. For more on verb conjugation, see Appendix E, pp. 244–46.

■ How to form the -nai form

For Regular I verbs, the sound before **-masu** changes as shown in the chart below, and **-nai** is added to obtain the **-nai** form. For Regular II verbs, the rule is simpler: **-masu** comes off and **-nai** is added. The Irregular verbs have irregular conjugations.

REGULAR I					
buy	kai-masu	kawa-nai	write	kaki-masu	kaka-nai
return, go home	kaeri-masu	kaera-nai	go	iki-masu	ika-nai
wait	machi-masu	mata-nai	read	yomi-masu	yoma-nai
play	asobi-masu	asoba-nai	turn off	keshi-masu	kesa-nai
REGULAR II					
eat	tabe-masu	tabe-nai	see	mi-masu	mi-nai
show	mise-masu	mise-nai	be	i-masu	i-nai
IRREGULAR					
come	ki-masu	ko-nai	do	shi-masu	shi-nai

■ How the -nai form is used

ex. **Koko ni kuruma o tomenaide kudasai.** "Please do not park your car here."

A negative verb used in mid-sentence usually takes the **-nai** form rather than the **-masen** form it has at the end of a sentence. For now, however, just remember the following use of the **-nai** form: **verbnai kudasai** ("please do not . . .").