



UNIT

11

SOCIALIZING

The Japanese have an international reputation of being hardworking people, the men devoted to their work and the women to their families. But while they may be diligent, they are also social, and there are many kinds of celebrations—most season-inspired—that they participate in. From cherry blossom viewing in the spring, when friends and colleagues get together to appreciate the beauty of the ephemeral cherry blossoms, to excursions in autumn to see the changing of the colors of the leaves, to year-end and new-year parties, the Japanese have get-togethers whenever the seasons beckon them. In addition to these annual events, though, they also enjoy Western-style gatherings: drinking parties, barbecues, and even home parties.

UNIT 11 GRAMMAR

Preference and Desire

person	wa	noun	ga	suki	desu
	//			jōzu	desu
	//			wakarimasu	

ex. **Gurei-san wa bīru ga suki desu.** "Mr. Grey likes beer."
Gurei-san wa tenisu ga jōzu desu. "Mr. Grey is good at tennis."
Gurei-san wa Chūgoku-go ga wakarimasu. "Mr. Grey understands/knows Chinese."

- The particle **ga** used with **suki desu**, **jōzu desu**, **itai desu**, and **wakarimasu**

Ga is used before the adjectives **suki desu** ("like"; *lit.*, "be likable"), **jōzu desu** ("be skilled"), and **itai desu** ("be painful"), and also before the verb **wakarimasu** ("understand"), to show what one likes or is skilled at, what part of one's body hurts, or what one understands.

NOTE: With **itai desu**, the topic of the sentence is always the speaker, and the subject is a body part.

watashi	wa	verb	-tai	desu
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- Expressing desire: verb **-tai desu**

Constructions expressing desire ("I want to . . .") can be made from the **-masu** form by dropping **-masu** and adding **-tai** as follows:

iki-masu → **iki-tai**

tabe-masu → **tabe-tai**

NOTE: **-tai** is inflected like an **-i** adjective.

ex. **Ikitai desu.** "(I) want to go."

Ikitakunai desu. "(I) don't want to go."

Ikitakatta desu. "(I) wanted to go."

Ikitakunakatta desu. "(I) didn't want to go."

- **-Tai** expresses the speaker's desire, not a third person's

ex. **Takushī de ikitai desu.** "(I) want to go by taxi."

The particle **ka** may be added to **-tai desu** to form a question ("do you want to . . .?"), although this type of question is often considered impolite, especially when directed at a social superior. To ask if someone wants to do something, it is safest to use the **-masu** form followed by **ka**, as in **Takushī de ikimasu ka** ("Do you [want to] go by taxi?").

NOTE: The particle **ga** is sometimes used instead of **o**.

ex. **Wain o/ga nomitai desu.** "(I) want to drink wine."