Welcome to “- Te form”
A big step in Japanese learning!
Te Form

We manipulate verbs so we can use them in different grammar structures.

We will need to learn some patterns and a song to get this right. Are you ready?
Strong verbs
Strong verbs

‘Strong verbs’ are verbs that need a bit of work or manipulation to change into ‘Te form.’

They are strong because you need 2 steps to get it right. They are hard to break!

*Step 1  Take something away*

*Step 2  Replace with something new*
Strong verbs

These are verbs that have the following sounds before 〜ます。(i-chi-ri)

いいます 〜 to say
たちます 〜 to stand
かえります〜 to return
Strong verbs

Also... (bi-mi-ni)

あそびます – to hang out with
よみます - to read
しにます – to die
Strong Verbs

Also... (ki-gi)

かきます - to write
およぎます – to swim
Strong Verbs

And the irregulars...

ききます  – to come
します  - to do
いききます  - to go
How to change to Te form

Let’s look at the first grouping of verbs (i-chi-ri)

いいます
たちます
かえります

Remove the red hiragana and 〜ます and replace with って
Remove hiragana and 〜ます and add って

いいます → いって
たちます → たって
かえります → かえって
Let’s look at the next group (bi-mi-ni)

あそびます
よみます
しにます

Remove the red hiragana and 〜ます but this time we add んで
Remove the red hiragana and ~ます and add んで
あそびます → あそんで
よみます → よんで
しにます → しんで
Let’s look at another group (ki-gi)

かきます

およびます

Remove the red hiragana and ~ます but this time we add いて or いで
Remove the red hiragana and 〜ます  but this time we add いて or いで

かきます → かいて
およぎます→ およいで
The irregulars

These have their own special Te form changes and must be learnt:

きます (to come) → きて

します (to do) → して

いきます (to go) → いって
Strong Verbs Summary

いちり って
びみに んで
き いて
ぎ いで
きます きて
します して
いきます いって
Sing to the tune of ‘Oh my darling Clementine’

i – chi – ri  = tte
bi –mi – ni  = nde
ki  = ite
gi  = ide
kimasu  = kite
shimasu  = shite
ikimasu  = itte
Weak verbs
Weak verbs are **SO MUCH EASIER**!
Weak verbs are called ‘weak’ because it doesn’t take much to change them...
just one simple step:

Just remove ~ます and add で
Which verbs are weak?

It’s not always easy to recognise a ‘weak’ verb but there is often an ‘e’ or ‘i’ sound before the ~ます。

Look..

たべます – to eat
ねます – to sleep, go to bed
おきます - to get up
Weak verbs

It’s worth trying to remember that the following are also weak verbs:

みます – to look   →   みて
きます – to wear    →   きて
みせます – to show   →   みせて
かります – to borrow →   かりて
Practice

Can you make the Te form of these verbs using the rules we have looked at?
うたいます - to sing
うたって
のみます – to drink
なんで
ききます – to listen
きいて
はなしします - to speak
はなして
This is an overview of the Te form.
We need to drill the verb changes BEFORE we get into how we can use it sentences.

Stay tuned 😊