

Confusing Conjunctions

それに

それと

そして

Understanding and Mastering Essential Japanese Connectors

A comprehensive explanation of three commonly confused Japanese conjunctions for language learners. Learn the meanings, grammar, differences, and usage of それに (sore ni), それと (sore to), and そして (soshite).

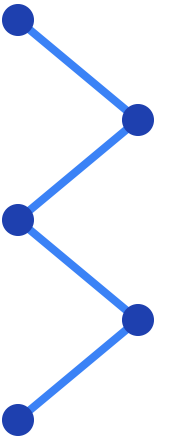


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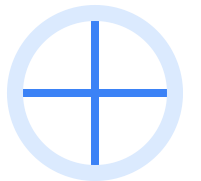
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Introduction

Why Understanding Japanese Conjunctions Matters

Japanese has several conjunctions with similar meanings, which can be difficult for learners to distinguish. This presentation clarifies the differences between それに, それと, and そして, helping you use them naturally in conversation and writing.

These subtle differences can be challenging, but mastering them will greatly improve your Japanese fluency and natural expression.

- **Nuance Matters:** Using the wrong conjunction can sound unnatural to native speakers
- **Context Sensitivity:** Each conjunction is appropriate in different situations
- **Register Awareness:** Some conjunctions are more suitable for formal settings than others

例文 (Examples):

- 彼女は歌が上手です。それに踊りも上手です。
- 宿題を提出してください。それと明日のテストも忘れないでください。
- 朝ご飯を食べました。そして学校に行きました。

What Are Japanese Conjunctions?

Definition & Function

Conjunctions (接続詞, setsuzokushi) are words or phrases used to connect sentences or clauses, signaling addition, contrast, cause, or sequence. In Japanese, conjunctions often convey subtle nuance, making appropriate usage important for fluency.

Japanese conjunctions serve as bridges between ideas, guiding listeners through the logical flow of your thoughts and establishing relationships between statements.

Unlike English conjunctions that often appear between clauses, Japanese conjunctions typically appear at the beginning of a sentence or clause, creating a clear connection to the previous statement.

- **Sentence Connection:** Join ideas while maintaining the logical flow of conversation
- **Relationship Expression:** Indicate temporal, causal, contrastive, or additive relationships
- **Nuance Conveyance:** Express subtle attitudes toward the connected statements

Common Types of Japanese Conjunctions:

Addition:

そして それに それと

Contrast:

しかし でも ところが

Cause/Reason:

だから ですから

Sequence:

それから 次に



それに (Sore ni): Meaning & Grammar

Core Meaning & Function

それに is a conjunction that means "in addition," "moreover," or "also." It adds information of the same type as the previous statement.

Key point: **それに** connects statements with similar qualities or tone (both positive or both negative).

Grammatical Features:

- Primarily used in **spoken Japanese**
- Can begin a new sentence or connect clauses
- Maintains tone consistency (positive with positive, negative with negative)
- Can be used multiple times in succession

Examples & Usage

彼女はとてもかわいい。**それに**、すごく頭もいい。

She is very cute. Moreover, she is also very smart.

(Both statements are positive qualities)

今日寒いね。それに風も強いし。

It's cold today. Plus, it's really windy.

(Both statements are negative aspects)

あそこのパンはすごくおいしいんだよ。**それに**とても安いんだよ。

The bread at that place is really delicious. Moreover, it's very cheap.

(Both statements are positive qualities)

When to Use **それに**:

- ✓ When adding another reason or quality with similar sentiment
- ✓ In casual to semi-formal conversations
- ✓ When emphasizing that you're adding similar information

それと (Sore to): Meaning & Grammar

Meaning & Function

それと means "and," "also," or "plus." It's used to add a separate but related item or topic to the previous statement.

Key function: Adding a new item or afterthought related to the previous topic, often as a casual reminder.

Grammatical Features

- Very casual, primarily used in **spoken Japanese**
- Not suitable for formal business writing or academic contexts
- Often used when suddenly remembering something related

Usage Examples

プレゼントありがとう！それと、手紙も嬉しかった。

Thanks for the present! And also, I was really happy to get your letter.

Thanks Message

明日の授業は3時からです。それと教科書を忘れないでください。

Tomorrow's class starts at 3:00. Also, don't forget your textbook.

Additional information

この店ではラーメンがおいしいですよ。それと餃子も人気があります。

The ramen at this shop is delicious. Also, the gyoza is popular too.

Related item

⚠ Business Context Warning

In business settings, それと is considered too casual. Instead, use:

- また(mata) - moreover, furthermore
- 加えて(kuwaete) - in addition
- 併せて(avasete) - together with, along with

そして (Soshite): Meaning & Grammar

Meaning & Function

そして is a versatile conjunction with three main functions. It can mean 'and then', 'and', or 'thus', depending on context.

そして is derived from そう and して, and often introduces more important or consequential information after the preceding statement.

Three Primary Uses:

- Sequential** Indicating a chronological sequence or continuation
- Result** Showing cause and effect relationships
- Additional** Adding new information to previous content

Grammar & Usage Notes

- Used in both formal and informal contexts
- Can connect sentences, clauses, or paragraphs
- Often places greater emphasis on the information that follows
- Unlike それに, not limited to information of the same type

例文 (Examples):

食事をした。そして、食後のコーヒーを頼んだ。

I had a meal. Then, I ordered an after-dinner coffee.
(Sequential function)

一生懸命勉強した。そしてテストに合格した。

I studied really hard, and I passed the test.
(Result function)

教職員の資格がある。そして、スポーツインストラクターの資格もある。

She has a teaching qualification. And she also has a sports instructor qualification.
(Additional information function)

Differences & Practical Tips

Comparing the Three Conjunctions

Conjunction	Primary Function	Tone/Register	Typical Usage Context
それに (sore ni)	Adds information of the same type (positive/positive or negative/negative)	Casual to semi-formal; mainly spoken Japanese	When adding another reason or similar quality to something previously mentioned
それと (sore to)	Adds a separate, related item or topic	Very casual; inappropriate for formal writing	When casually adding an afterthought or another item to a list
そして (soshite)	Shows sequence, addition, or result; emphasis on following statement	Formal to casual; both written and spoken	When showing sequence of events or emphasizing a consequence

Practical Usage Tips

For Business & Formal Writing

In business contexts, consider using また, さらに, or 加えて instead of それと.

For Maintaining Tone Consistency

Use それに when both statements have the same positive or negative tone.

For Sequential Events

Use そして for chronological sequences or when the second statement is a result of the first.

Example Sentences

彼女は歌が上手です。それに 踊りも上手です。

She sings well. Moreover, she dances well too.
(Same positive qualities)

明日の会議は10時からです。それと 資料を持ってきてください。

Tomorrow's meeting starts at 10. Also, please bring the documents.
(Casual addition of related information)

彼は一生懸命勉強した。そして 試験に合格した。

He studied hard. And then, he passed the exam.
(Sequence with result/consequence)