

伊予

Iyo Dialect

日本語

—or—

# The Japanese They're Not Teaching You in School!

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Ever wonder why the Japanese they teach you in the CLAIR handbook doesn't seem anything like what you hear on the streets? Part of the reason is that Ehime natives speak Iyo-ben, a dialect of Japanese that is similar to what is now spoken in Osaka or Hiroshima, but actually descends from the much older Kyoto dialect. Want to impress the grizzled old farmers down at the local izakaya? Try these out next time!



## おる oru

In Iyo-ben and many other dialects, the verb “to be” (for people/animals) goes from いる iru, a type I verb, to おる oru, a type II verb.

Is Suzuki there?	すずきさん、おる？	Suzuki-san, oru?
Was your friend there?	ともだち、おった？	Tomodachi, otta?

You're probably familiar with the ーている ~te iru continuous form; this becomes ーておる, which then gets slurred into ーとる.

I'm eating.	たべとる。	Tabetoru.
I was eating.	たべとった。	Tabetotta.



## ん n

In many dialects the negative ない nai, when part of a verb, is contracted to ん n.

I can't see the TV!	テレビがみえん!	Terebi ga mien!
Suzuki's not here.	すずきはおらん。	Suzuki wa oran.



### けん ken

In Iyo-ben, the particle けん ken takes the place of から kara, or “because” in standard Japanese.

It's far away, so let's take the train.

とおいけん、でんしゃでいこう。

Tooi ken, densha de ikou.

I'm a foreigner, so I don't know.

がいじんやけん、わからん。

Gaijin ya ken, wakaran.



### や ya

One of the first things you learn in Japanese is です desu; its plain (casual) form is だ da. In Iyo-ben, this becomes や ya. The past だった datta similarly goes to やった yatta (not to be confused with やった as in “hurray!”).

Yeah, that's right.

It was here after all!

そうやね。

やっぱりここやった！

Sou ya ne.

Yappari koko yatta!

### Conclusion

Let's put it all together now:

I'm eating, so I can't talk now.

たべとるけん、いまはなせん。

Tabetoru ken, ima hanasen.

I was in Tokyo so I haven't heard.

とうきょうにいっとったけん、きいとらん。

Toukyou ni ittotta ken, kiitoran.



**Master these grammar rules and you'll sound like a native in no time!**