

～がする

smells / sounds / feels like

Romaji: **ga suru**

～がする is how Japanese reports something arriving at your senses: いい匂いがする ("it smells nice"), 音がする ("there's a noise"), 寒気がする ("I feel a chill"). The sensation itself is the grammatical subject, marked with が, and する carries the sense of "there is" or "I'm getting". English makes the person the subject — "I smell something" — while Japanese makes the smell the subject and leaves you out of the sentence entirely. That mismatch is what keeps the pattern feeling strange long after you can produce it.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Sensation noun + がする

台所からいい匂いがします。 — There's a lovely smell coming from the kitchen.

The nouns that fit: 音・声・匂い・味・香り・寒気・吐き気・感じ

変な味がする。 — It tastes strange.

Past: ～がした

外で大きな音がした。 — There was a loud noise outside.

気がする — "I get the feeling that"

どこかで会った気がします。 — I feel like we've met somewhere.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{だいどころ} 台 ^{にお} 所からいい匂いがします。

There's a nice smell coming from the kitchen.

② ^{そと} 外 ^{おお} で ^{おと} 大きな音がしました。

There was a loud noise outside.

③ ^あ どこかで ^き 会ったような気がします。

I feel like we've met somewhere before.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ The が is fixed. Swapping in は turns the sensation into a topic being contrasted ("as for the smell..."), which is almost never what a plain observation wants.
- ▶ It covers sensations you receive, not things you deliberately look at. Sight belongs to 見える and 見る — ×景色がする is not Japanese, though 気配がする ("I sense someone there") is perfectly natural.
- ▶ ～がする reports a sensation happening; ～がある reports existence. 音がする means you can hear it right now.
- ▶ 気がする is by far the most common member of the family, and it hedges. 忘れた気がする is "I've a feeling I forgot", not "I forgot" — useful when you want to avoid committing.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Describe walking into a kitchen where someone is cooking: name one smell, one sound and one taste with ～がする. Then add what you vaguely suspect is on the stove, using ～気がします.