

がち

tends to / prone to

Romaji: **gachi**

がち means “tends to” or “is prone to”, and it leans almost always toward something unwelcome. 曇りがちの天気 is “mostly cloudy weather”, 病気がち is “sickly”. Attach it to a verb’s ます-stem or to a noun, and the result behaves like a な-adjective: 遅れがちな電車, 忘れがちです. It reports a standing tendency rather than one occasion, and it quietly adds “unfortunately” to whatever it touches.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (ます-stem) + がち

最近、朝食を抜きがちです。 — I’ve been skipping breakfast a lot lately.

Noun + がち

子供のころは病気がちでした。 — I was a sickly child.

Behaves like a な-adjective: がち + noun

遅れがちな電車に慣れました。 — I’ve got used to trains that tend to run late.

Set phrases: ありがち ・ 忘れがち ・ 遠慮がち

それはよくありがちな間違いです。 — That’s a very common mistake.

例文 EXAMPLES

1 ^{いそが}忙しいと、^{あさ}朝^{はん}ご飯^ぬを抜きがちです。

When I’m busy I tend to skip breakfast.

2 ^{こども}子供のころは^{びょうき}病気がちでした。

I was a sickly child.

3 ^{まちが}それはありがちな間違いです。

That’s a very common mistake.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ The negative leaning is real. ×元気がち is not Japanese, and ×成功しがち sounds wrong for the same reason. If the tendency is a good one, use 〜やすい or よく〜する.
- ▶ It describes a habit, not an event. 彼は遅れがちだ (“he’s often late”) is fine; 今日は遅れがちだ about one late train is not.
- ▶ ありがち has drifted into an everyday adjective meaning “predictable, run-of-the-mill” — ありがちな展開, ありがちな失敗.
- ▶ It attaches to the ます-stem: 忘れる → 忘れがち, 休む → 休みがち. The dictionary form never appears in front of it.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Describe three habits you slip into when you are busy, each with がち. Then use ありがちな to name a mistake learners of Japanese make all the time.