

〜そうだ

I heard that (hearsay)

Romaji: **sou da**

〜そうだ attached to a complete plain form means "I heard that..." or "they say that..." — it reports information the speaker got from another source, not their own observation. The attachment point is what disambiguates it: hearsay そうだ follows a complete plain form, so 雨が降るそうだ means "I heard it will rain." If そうだ instead follows the verb stem (雨が降りそうだ, "it looks like it's about to rain"), you are reading the appearance meaning. The source of the report is often marked with 〜によると ("according to...").

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (plain form) + そうだ

明日は雨が降るそうだ。 — I heard it will rain tomorrow.

い-adjective (plain) + そうだ

あの店のラーメンは安いそうだ。 — I hear that shop's ramen is cheap.

な-adjective / noun + だ + そうだ

彼は元気だそうだ。 — I hear he is doing well.

〜によると + plain form + そうだ

天気予報によると、明日は晴れるそうだ。 — According to the forecast, it will be sunny tomorrow.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{てんきよほう} 天気予報によると、^{あした} 明日は^{ゆき} 雪が^ふ 降るそうだ。

According to the weather forecast, it's going to snow tomorrow.

② ^{みせ} あの店のケーキはとてもおいしいそうだ。

I hear the cakes at that shop are really good.

③ ^{たなか} 田中さんは^{らいねん} 来年、^{りゅうがく} 留学するそうだ。

I heard Tanaka is going to study abroad next year.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ Hearsay そうだ itself never conjugates — tense and negation go on the reported clause: 降ったそうだ "I heard it rained," 降らないそうだ "I heard it won't rain." There is no hearsay そうだった or そうじゃない.
- ▶ It attaches to the full plain form, never the stem. Drop to the stem (降りそうだ) and you have switched to the appearance meaning.
- ▶ な-adjectives and nouns keep だ before hearsay そうだ (元気だそうだ, 学生だそうだ); the appearance version drops it (元気そうだ). The polite form is そうです.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Report something you heard from a friend or the news using plain form + そうだ — for example, that a new café is opening near your station.