

～たばかり

just did

Romaji: **ta bakari**

～たばかり means “have just done” — the action finished a moment ago, or feels as though it did. 今、着いたばかりです is “I’ve only just arrived.” Attach ばかり to the plain past. The subtle part is that ばかり measures how recent something FEELS rather than what the clock says: 日本に来たばかりです is perfectly natural after six months if you still feel new. That is exactly what separates it from ～たところ, which really does mean the last few minutes.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (plain past) + ばかり

食べたばかりなので、おなかがいっぱいです。 — I’ve just eaten, so I’m full.

Modifying a noun: ～たばかりの + noun

買ったばかりの靴が汚れた。 — My brand-new shoes got dirty.

With のに — “and yet already”

習ったばかりなのに、もう忘れた。 — I only just learned it and I’ve already forgotten.

例文 EXAMPLES

1 いま えき つ 今、駅に着いたばかりです。
I’ve only just arrived at the station.

2 か 買ったばかりの靴が汚れてしまった。
My brand-new shoes got dirty.

3 なら 習ったばかりなのに、もう忘れました。
I only just learned it, and I’ve already forgotten.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ ばかり is subjective and stretches a long way. 大学を卒業したばかり can cover most of a year; ～たところ cannot stretch past a few minutes.
- ▶ The noun-modifying ～たばかりの is how Japanese says “brand-new”: 生まれたばかりの赤ちゃん, 開店したばかりの店.
- ▶ Do not confuse it with ～てばかり (nothing but). 食べたばかり is “just ate”; 食べてばかり is “does nothing but eat”.
- ▶ It pairs naturally with のに to express frustration at how fast something was undone. 覚えたばかりなのに忘れた is every learner’s sentence.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Say three things you have only just done today with ～たばかりです. Then describe one brand-new possession using ～たばかりの in front of the noun.