

～たところで

even if (futile)

Romaji: **ta tokoro de**

～たところで means “even if” — and specifically, even if you do it, it will not help. 今から急いだところで、間に合わない is “Even if we hurry now, we won’t make it.” Attach it to the plain past. What separates it from ordinary ～ても is the verdict built into it: the second clause is always negative or futile, so the pattern does not merely concede a condition, it dismisses it.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (plain past) + とところで

謝ったところで、許してもらえないだろう。 — Even if I apologise, I doubt they’ll forgive me.

The second clause is negative or pointless

考えたところで、答えは出ない。 — Thinking about it won’t produce an answer.

Often reinforced by いくら or どんなに

いくら急いだところで、もう遅い。 — However much we rush, it’s already too late.

With a quantity: “at the very most”

待ったところで三十分だろう。 — Even at the outside it’ll only be thirty minutes.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{いま}今から^{いそ}急いだところで、^ま間に^あ合わない。

Even if we hurry now, we won’t make it in time.

② ^{かんが}いくら考えたところで、^{こた}答えは^で出ない。

However much you think about it, no answer will come.

③ ^{あやま}謝ったところで、^{ゆる}許してもらえないだろう。

Even if I apologise, I don’t suppose they’ll forgive me.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ The past form carries no past meaning. 急いだところで is about hurrying now or in future, not about having hurried.
- ▶ The second clause cannot be positive. ×謝ったところで許してくれる is not this pattern — for a neutral “even if”, use ～ても.
- ▶ It is written and emphatic, and it always carries the speaker’s judgement that the effort would be wasted. That judgement is the point, not a side effect.
- ▶ With numbers it shifts meaning to “at most, and that is nothing to speak of”: 高いところで千円.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Name three efforts that would change nothing today, each with ～たところで and a negative second clause. Then rewrite one with ～ても and listen to the resignation disappear.