

～ために

in order to / because of

Romaji: **tame ni**

～ために has two meanings inside one shape, and the form in front of it tells you which. With a dictionary-form verb or a noun + の it marks PURPOSE — 健康のために毎日歩いています (“I walk every day for my health”). With a past form or a state it marks CAUSE — 電車が遅れたために、遅刻しました (“I was late because the train was delayed”). Purpose looks forward and needs a deliberate action; cause looks back and is usually about something unwanted.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (dictionary form) + ために — purpose

日本語を学ぶために、日本に来ました。 — I came to Japan in order to learn Japanese.

Noun + のために — for the benefit of

家族のために働いています。 — I work for my family.

Verb (plain past) + ために — cause

雪が降ったために、電車が止まりました。 — The trains stopped because of the snow.

Written form: ため alone, no に

工事のため、通行止めです。 — Closed to traffic due to roadworks.

例文 EXAMPLES

① にほんご まな にほん き
日本語を学ぶために、日本に来ました。

I came to Japan in order to learn Japanese.

② けんこう まいにちある
健康のために、毎日歩いています。

I walk every day for my health.

③ ゆき ふ でんしゃ と
雪が降ったために、電車が止まりました。

The trains stopped because of the snow.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ The purpose use needs one subject who can choose. 忘れないためにメモする works because you control both halves; for something outside your control, ように is the pattern you want (聞こえるように大声で話す).
- ▶ The cause use leans negative. 雨のために中止 is natural, but for a welcome cause Japanese switches to おかげで — 君のおかげで助かった.
- ▶ ため without に is the written register, and it is everywhere on signs and notices: 点検のため、休止中.
- ▶ The two meanings are told apart by the verb form alone: dictionary form for purpose, past or state for cause. Nothing else in the sentence marks the difference.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Write one sentence about why you study Japanese with ～ために, and one about something that went wrong because of an outside cause with ～ために. Then try rewriting the first with ように and see which verbs will accept it.