

～てくれる

do for me (favour)

Romaji: **te kureru**

～てくれる means someone does something FOR me — the favour flows inward, toward the speaker or the speaker's side. 友だちが手伝ってくれました is “My friend helped me out.” Attach くれる to the て-form; the giver takes が, and you almost never need to say “me”, because くれる already points the action home. When the person doing you the favour is senior, it upgrades to ～てくださる. Leaving the pattern out is not neutral — it makes a kindness sound like a bare fact.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Giver + が + Verb (て-form) + くれる

田中さんが駅まで送ってくれた。 — Tanaka gave me a lift to the station.

Polite upward: ～てくださる ・ ～てくださいました

先生が推薦状を書いてくださいました。 — My teacher wrote me a reference.

Casual request: ～てくれる? ・ ～てくれない?

ちょっと手伝ってくれない? — Could you give me a hand?

Also for your own side — family, colleagues, your team

兄が迎えに来てくれました。 — My brother came to pick me up.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{とも}友だちが^ひ引^こっ越^{てつだ}しを手^て伝^つってく^くれ^るました。

My friend helped me with the move.

② ^{せんせい}先生が^{すいせんじょう}推^か薦^て状^くを書いて^くだ^さい^まし^た。

My teacher wrote me a letter of recommendation.

③ ^{てつだ}ちょっと手^て伝^つってく^くれ^{ない}?

Could you give me a hand for a moment?

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ You do not need 私に. 教えてくれた already means “taught me”; adding it is not wrong but sounds like you are labouring the obvious.
- ▶ Dropping くれる changes the tone, not just the grammar. 友だちが手伝った is correct Japanese that reads as cold — a native speaker hears the missing gratitude, not neutrality.
- ▶ くれる covers your whole in-group. 母が作ってくれた is natural even when the food was for your brother, because your family counts as “this side”.
- ▶ ～てくれない? is a warm request between friends. Its careful equivalents are ～てくださいますか and ～ていただけませんか, in rising order of politeness.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Name three things other people did for you this week with ～てくれました, making one of them from someone senior so you can use ～てくださいました. Then ask a friend for a small favour with ～てくれない?