

てみる

try doing

Romaji: **te miru**

てみる after a verb's て-form means to try doing something — you actually do it and see how it turns out, as in 食べてみる "try eating it." Unlike English "try," てみる implies the action really happens; the trial is in observing the result. Everyday forms include みたい "want to give it a try" (一度行ってみたい) and みましょう / みてください for inviting or encouraging someone to try.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb て-form + みる

この漢字の読み方を調べてみる。 — I'll look up how to read this kanji and see.

Verb て-form + みたい

一度京都に行ってみたい。 — I'd love to visit Kyoto someday.

Verb て-form + みてください / みましょう

このボタンを押してみてください。 — Please try pressing this button.

Verb て-form + みると / てみたら (and found…)

箱を開けてみると、手紙が入っていた。 — When I opened the box, there was a letter inside.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{しゅうまつ}週末、^{あた}新しいカフェ^いに行ってみるつもりだ。

This weekend I plan to check out a new café.

② ^{じぶん}自分で^{こた}答えを^{かんが}考えてみるのが^{たいせつ}大切だ。

It is important to try working out the answer yourself first.

③ 「このお菓子^{かし}、おいしいよ。食^たべてみる？」

"These sweets are good. Want to try one?"

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ As an auxiliary, みる is written in kana — 食べてみる, not 食べて見る. With kanji, 見る is only the literal verb "to see."
- ▶ てみる means the action actually happens; for an attempt that may not succeed (a stuck door, a word you could not recall), use ~ようとする instead: 開けようとしたが、開かなかった。
- ▶ てみると / てみたら often introduces a discovery: 考えてみると "come to think of it," 開けてみたら "when I opened it, (I found…)."
- ▶ Casual speech drops to てみて for invitations (食べてみて! "try it!") and てみれば for mild suggestions.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Think of a food, place, or hobby you have never tried and write a sentence with みたい — then invite a friend to try it with てみて or みましょう.