

～てやる

do for (blunt benefactive)

Romaji: **te yaru**

～てやる is ～てあげる with the politeness taken out: doing something for someone below you or very close to you — a child, a pet, a younger sibling, an old friend. 弟に自転車を直してやった is “I fixed my little brother’s bike.” It also has a second life that has nothing to do with favours: attached to your own action it becomes a declaration of intent with an edge, 今度は絶対に勝ってやる (“This time I’m going to win”). Read it everywhere in fiction; say it almost nowhere.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb (て-form) + やる

弟に自転車を直してやった。 — I fixed my little brother’s bike.

Toward animals and small children

猫のために窓を開けてやった。 — I opened the window for the cat.

Determination or defiance about your OWN action

今度は絶対に勝ってやる。 — This time I’m definitely going to win.

The negative carries a threat

もう二度と話してやらない。 — I’m never speaking to them again.

例文 EXAMPLES

① おとうと じてんしゃ なお
弟に自転車を直してやった。
I fixed my little brother’s bike for him.

② ねこ まど あ
猫のために窓を開けてやりました。
I opened the window for the cat.

③ こんど ぜったい か
今度は絶対に勝ってやる。
This time I’m definitely going to win.

注意点 NUANCES

- It is not simply “casual あげる”. やる looks downward, so using it about a colleague — let alone anyone senior — is genuinely rude. Keep it for people you would speak to like a child.
- The determination use is what you will meet most in manga, anime and novels, and it is not a favour at all: 勝ってやる is bravado aimed at a rival.
- Fiction uses ～てやる to signal a rough, boyish or defiant voice, and men use it more freely than women. That is characterisation, not a rule you have to copy.
- The same やる is an ordinary verb meaning “give” (downward) and “do”: 花に水をやる, 宿題をやる. Recognising that keeps the benefactive from feeling arbitrary.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Write one sentence doing something kind for a pet or a younger sibling with ～てやった, then one line of pure bravado with ～てやる. Notice which of the two you might realistically say out loud.