

時 (とき) vs 旅

時 (とき) — “when / at the time”

時 identifies a time, situation, or stage in which something happens. It does not inherently mean repetition.

“At the time when X...”

Main patterns

Deeper nuance: 時 puts a time/situation frame around the main action.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
Vる + 時	行く時	when going
Vた + 時	行った時	when I don't go
Vない + 時	行かない時	when I don't go
い-adj + 時	忙しい時	when busy
な-adj + な + 時	暇な時	when free
N + の + 時	子供の時	when I was a child

c日本に行く時、連絡してください。Please contact me when you go to Japan.

日本に行った時、彼に会いました。When I went to Japan, I met him.

忙しい時は、あまり電話しません。When I'm busy, I don't call much.

NOTE:

X時 → Y

It can describe:

- one specific occasion
- a repeated/general situation
- a period of life
- a condition/state

So 時 does NOT automatically mean “every time.”

たび (度) / たびに

たび (度) / たびに — “every time / whenever”	毎回 (まいかい) — “every time / every single occasion”	□ 毎回 vs たびに
Each time X happens / on every occasion that X occurs	毎回 = every occasion / every single time	They can both mean “every time,” but their structure and feeling differ.
The important idea is repeated occasions.	It is a noun/adverb meaning every time, and it emphasizes that each occasion is included.	毎回 Focuses on each occasion itself.
たび is not really “time” in the clock sense. It is closer to: occasion / instance / occurrence		
Pattern: Vる + たびに		毎回同じ店に行きます。 I go to the same restaurant every time.
N + の + たびに		=It emphasizes the frequency/consistency.
日本に行くたびに、写真を撮ります。 Every time I go to Japan, I take pictures.	毎回、遅刻します。 I'm late every time.	たびに Usually connects an event to what happens as a result of that event.



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たび (度) / たびに (cont)

=Literally, it's closer to: "On each occasion of traveling..."	彼は毎回同じことを言います。He says the same thing every time.	Whenever X happens → Y happens
彼に会うたびに、元気になります。Every time I see him, I feel better.	毎回、ありがとうございます。Thank you every time. / Thank you as always.	その店に行くたびに、新しい料理を試します。Every time I go to that restaurant, I try a new dish.
=This has a nice emotional nuance: It's almost like X is a trigger for Y.		So たびに is especially useful when you want to show a repeated relationship between two events.
この曲を聞くたびに、昔を思い出します。Every time I hear this song, I remember the past.		Compare:
=The song repeatedly triggers the memory.		毎回、彼に会います。I meet him every time.
		Focus = every occasion
		彼に会うたびに、楽しくなります。Every time I meet him, I become happier.
		Focus = meeting him → emotional change

ごとに (毎に) All Main Uses

ごとに (毎に)

□ Core idea ごとに has one central image: "Take X as a separate unit, and consider/do something for EACH X."

So the basic feeling is: X → X → X → X each X gets its own treatment/result

Depending on what X is, this produces different English translations: every; each; for each; per; at intervals of; from one X to another

USES

1. N + ごとに = "every / each N"	2. Number + ごとに = "every X"	3. Vる + ごとに = "every time X happens"	4. ごとに = "from one X to another"	4. N + ごとに vs N + それぞれ	5. ごとに vs 毎 (まい)	6. ごとに often appears with CHANGE
This is the most basic use. The important idea is each individual unit.	This is the interval use.	This is where ごとに gets close to たびに.		These are similar but not identical.	This is another important distinction.	



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ごとに (毎に) All Main Uses (cont)

☐ The deeper meaning each INSTANCE / each occurrence
Don't memorize: ごとに
= every ✕

ごとに → Focus:
difference between
units "If we look at each
unit separately..."

ごとに →
changes
with each
passing
day.

This is why you'll
often see: Nごとに +
違う / 変わる / 増え
る / 減る

たびに vs ごとに = Both can mean: every
time But their mental images differ.

それぞれ → Focus: indivi-
duality. "Each one has its
own..."

毎日 →
describes
frequency

=Because each unit
has a different result.

Instead memorize: ごと
に = **EACH UNIT IS
TREATED
SEPARATELY** ☐
たびに → each OCCASION of an event. It
focuses on the experience/opportunity.
"whenever I experience X..."

ごとに → each INSTANCE / each occur-
rence. It has a slightly more systematic /
objective / formal feeling. "with each X / for
each X..."



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ごとに (毎に) All Main Uses (cont)

=They're often interchangeable with verbs, but **たびに** is much more natural in ordinary emotional/personal speech.

店ごとに値段が違います。Prices differ from store to store.	3日ごとに掃除します。I clean every three days.	この映画を見るごとに、新しい発見があります。Every time I watch this movie, I discover something new.	人ごとに違う It differs from person to person.	人ごとに考え方が違う。Each person has a different way of thinking.	毎日、日本語を勉強します。I study Japanese every day.	年ごとに人口が減っています。The population is decreasing year by year.
人ごとに考え方が違います。Each person has a different way of thinking.	The interval is 3 days. So: 3日 + ごとに = at every 3-day interval	It has a slightly more systematic / objective / formal feeling.	国ごとに違う It differs from country to country.	=difference between units	This simply describes frequency.	世代ごとに考え方が違います。Ways of thinking differ from generation to generation.
国ごとに文化が違います。Culture differs from country to country.	1時間ごとに休憩します。I take a break every hour.		地域ごとに違う It differs from region to region.	人それぞれ考え方が違う。Everyone has their own way of thinking.	=This simply describes frequency.	日ごとに寒くなっています。It's getting colder day by day.



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ごとに (毎に) All Main Uses (cont)

10ページごとに休憩 します。I take a break every 10 pages.	ごとに vs たびに — emotional nuance	=English doesn't necessarily say "every region." Instead, we naturally say: from region to region	=indiv idu- ality	日ごとに上達しています。I'm improving day by day.
100円ごとにポイント がつきます。You get points for every 100 yen.	Compare: 彼に会うたびに、 嬉しくなる。Every time I see him, I become happy.	=This comes from the idea: Region A ≠ Region B ≠ Region C Each unit has its own charac- teristics.		=This has a different feeling. It emphasizes: Day 1 → Day 2 → Day 3 → Day 4... and something changes with each passing day.

=Very natural and emotional.

彼に会うごとに、嬉しくな
る。Grammatically unders-
tandable, but it feels more
formal/literary.

~たとたん (に) vs ~瞬間 (に)

たとたん = "Just as X happened, suddenly Y happened!" ✂	瞬間 = "At the exact moment X happened, Y happened." □□	The BIG difference: unexpectedness	~瞬間 can be used as a noun	~瞬間 vs ~瞬間に
Pattern: Vた + とたん (に)	Pattern: Vた + 瞬間 (に)	This is probably the most important distin- ction.	瞬間 = "instant / moment"	に emphasizes the point at which the event occurred.

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~たとたん(に) vs ~瞬間(に) (cont)

=It has a strong feeling of suddenness / unexpected change.	Nの + 瞬間(に)	~たとたん Usually, Y is something that the speaker sees as sudden or unexpected.	その瞬間、何かがおかしいと感じた。At that moment, I felt that something was wrong.
	Here the focus is not necessarily surprise. It's about pinpointing one extremely precise moment in time.	✕ Strange: 毎朝、7時に起きたとたん、顔を洗います。"I wash my face suddenly the moment I wake up every morning."	彼を見た瞬間、好きになった。The moment I saw him, I fell for him.
	Think: □ X happened → THAT EXACT INSTANT	Why strange? Because washing your face is a planned, normal action, not really a sudden occurrence.	彼を見た瞬間に、好きになった。The moment I saw him, I fell for him.
家を出たとたん、雨が降り始めた。The moment I left the house, it started raining.	ドアを開けた瞬間、猫が飛び出してきた。At the exact moment I opened the door, a cat jumped out.	Instead:	
The image is: 家を出る → 〆 BOOM! → 雨**	電車に乗った瞬間、眠くなった。At the exact moment I got on the train, I became sleepy.	朝、起きたとたん、電話が鳴った。The moment I woke up, the phone rang.	
=You weren't necessarily expecting the rain.	=This sounds like you're emphasizing the precise timing.	=That's perfect because the phone ringing feels like an event that suddenly occurred.	



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Page 6 of 14.

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~たとたん(に) vs ~瞬間(に) (cont)

ドアを開けたとたん、猫が飛び出してきた。The moment I opened the door, a cat suddenly jumped out.

=The cat's appearance is sudden/unexpected.

瞬間 Doesn't require that surprise.

目が覚めた瞬間、時計を見た。

=The moment I woke up, I looked at the clock.

途中で vs 最中

途中で = □□ "in the middle of the process / on the way"

途中(とちゅう) = halfway / on the way / in the middle of a process

Vる/Vている + 途中で

The deeper idea is: You are moving from START → → → GOAL, and something happens before you reach the goal.

So 途中で focuses on the process or journey.

最中 = □ "right in the middle of the activity"

最中 = right in the middle of / in the midst of

The deeper idea: The activity is actively happening RIGHT NOW, and something happens during that activity. It's more like putting a □ around the middle of the action itself.

And usually, 最中に has a stronger feeling that something interrupts or occurs during the activity.

Pattern N + の + 最中に

Vている + 最中に

Compare with 中 (ちゅう)

中 = currently doing X

最中 = right in the midst of X, often highlighting an event happening during it

食事中です。I'm eating. / I'm having a meal.

仕事中です。I'm working. / I'm at work.

"While X was happening..."

during that whole period

□ throughout the period that X continues. Something happens during that entire period or at some point within it.

Think of it as drawing a long line:

A ————— B

← 間 →

途中で vs 最中 (cont)

学校へ行く途中で、友達に会った。I met a friend on the way to school.	食事の最中に、電話がかかってきた。Right in the middle of the meal, I got a phone call.	~最中	日本にいる間、日本語を勉強します。While I am in Japan, I study Japanese.
Mental picture: 家 □ → □ → □ friend → □ school	=The meal is actively happening: The phone interrupts it.	仕事の最中に電話が来た。A phone call came right in the middle of my work.	□□ Japan stay = the time period
=You haven't reached school yet.	会議をしている最中に、地震が起きた。- Right in the middle of the meeting, an earthquake happened.		Japanese study happens during that period.
映画を見る途中で、寝てしまった。I fell asleep partway through the movie.	=The meeting is currently in progress.		
You're talking about being partway through the process.	映画を見ている最中に、電話が鳴った。→ Right in the middle of watching the movie, the phone rang.		

本を読んでいる途中で、寝てしまった。I fell asleep partway through reading a book.

NOTE:

途中 can also mean "unfinished"

仕事の途中です。I'm partway through my work.

The hidden idea is: START → [途中] → FINISH

So 途中 naturally connects with unfinished progress.

最中 doesn't necessarily mean halfway

食事の最中 doesn't mean you're literally halfway through your meal.

It means: the meal is currently underway

So: 最中 = "in the midst of"

間 (あいだ) vs ~うちに

間 = □ "throughout that period"	うちに = □ "before that situation changes / while the opportunity still exists"	うちに PATTERNS
間 = the whole period between A and B	うちに = while the current situation is still true / before it changes	



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Page 8 of 14.

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間 (あいだ) vs ~うちに (cont)

Something happens during that entire period or at some point within it.

□ NOW → [window of opportunity] → CHANGE

い-adj + うちに

N + の + 間

"Do X while you still can / before the current condition disappears."

N + の + うちに

Vている + 間

な-adj + な + うちに

Vる/ている + うちに

若い間、いろいろなことに挑戦(ちょうせん)したい。While I'm young, I want to try various things.

若いうちに、いろいろなことを経験したほうがいい。It's better to experience various things while you're still young.

You're describing the period of youth.

You're young NOW → you won't stay young → do it before that changes.

□ This is why うちに is extremely common with things like:

間 doesn't have this "gradual change" meaning

Meaning ① "while still / before it changes"

Another super-important difference: うちに can mean "without realizing it"

友達と話している間、時間を忘れていた。
→ While I was talking with my friend, I forgot about the time.

忘れないうちに、メモしてください。Please write it down before you forget.

話しているうちに、時間が過ぎてしまった。While we were talking, time passed before we knew it.

This simply describes the period.

暗くならないうちに帰りましょう。Let's go home before it gets dark.

The feeling is:

But:

Meaning ②: "while doing X, Y gradually happens"

□□ talking... □□ talking... □□ talking..

友達と話しているうちに、仲良くなった。
→ As we talked, we gradually became close.

Sometimes うちに doesn't mean that you intentionally take advantage of a limited opportunity.

☹️ "Wait, it's already late?!"

=Here うちに emphasizes the change that happened during the process.

Instead: While X continues, Y naturally changes.

That's very うちに.

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Page 9 of 14.

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間 (あいだ) vs ~うちに (cont)

仕事をしている間、音楽を聞いていた。 →
While I was working, I listened to music.

Two actions coexist: ☐ Work + ☐ Music

日本語を勉強しているうちに、日本の文化にも興味(きょうみ)が出てきた。 While
studying Japanese, I gradually became interested in Japanese culture too.

=You weren't necessarily thinking: "Before I stop studying Japanese, I need to become
interested in Japanese culture!"

Rather:

☐ Study Japanese ↓

☐ Study more ↓

☐☐ Gradually → "Hmm, Japanese culture is interesting!"

=So うちに can describe a natural change that happens while another state continues.

日本語を勉強しているうちに、日本語の音楽が好きになった。 → While studying
Japanese, I gradually came to like Japanese music.

Y changed naturally while X continued.

~きり (切り)

Vた + きり

きり vs だけ

きり vs うちに

きり vs まま

This is subtle.

These can both involve time, but
their direction is opposite.

Meaning ① "X happened, and since then, the
expected next thing has not happened."

だけ = numerical/functional
limitation

きり = exclusivity / "just us
and nobody else" feeling

The feeling is: X → ☐ STOP

きり = "since then..."

Vた + きり + negative
/ unchanged state

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~きり (切り) (cont)

きり creates a feeling of an unfinished continuation.	二人だけで行きました。Only the two of us went.	日本に行ったきり、帰ってこない。→ He went to Japan and hasn't come back since.	=何か happened → then nothing changed afterward
彼は日本に行ったきり、帰ってこない。He went to Japan and hasn't come back since.	Focus: Number = 2 (No more than 2)	The speaker looks: PAST → NOW	きり = □ after an event
The important part isn't simply: He went to Japan. It's: He went → □ and that's where things stopped.	二人きりで行きました。Just the two of us went. / We went alone, just the two of us.	=Something happened, and the situation has remained unchanged.	息子は朝から出かけたきり、帰ってこない。My son went out this morning and hasn't come back.
彼女から連絡が来たきり、何もない。She contacted me once, and there has been nothing since.	This has a stronger feeling of: Two people together, with nobody else around.		彼は出て行ったきりだ。He left and hasn't come back.

"ONLY/JUST" N + きり = only N / nothing except N

This use is close to だけ, but it has a stronger feeling of "nothing/nobody else."

だけ = only / just / as much as

The fundamental idea: X is the limit. Nothing beyond X.

うちに = "before then..."

日本にいるうちに、旅行したい。→ I want to travel while I'm still in Japan.

~ たまま

=A state remains unchanged

二人きり just the two of us

水だけ飲みました。I only drank water.

The speaker looks: NOW → FUTURE

まま = □ remaining in a state

今日は一人きりです。Today, I'm all alone.

The limitation is: Water ✓
Food ✕ Coffee ✕ Other things ✕

This situation will eventually change.

ドアを開けたまま寝た。→ I slept with the door left open.

子供のころに会ったきり、会っていない。I met them when I was a child, and haven't seen them since.

これだけです。That's all.

□ **Meeting = endpoint** We met once, and that was the last time.

Very literal feeling: This → and nothing more.

一度きりの人生です。This is the one and only occurrence.

一度だけ会いました。I met him only once.



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~きり (切り) (cont)

This feels more like: This is the one and only occurrence.

This simply means: 1 time, not 2 or 3.

So 一度きり often has a stronger sense of uniqueness / no second chance.

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