In the last chapter, we explored that expression もうええやん，meaning “that's enough already.” In this chapter we’re going to take a look at the 〜やん from this expression and see what it means and how it's used in 関西弁.

〜やん is the Kansai-ben version of standard Japanese’s 〜じゃん, the contracted form of 〜じゃないですか？ This expression is used when the speaker is seeking agreement, or confirmation about something they believe to be true. It can be translated as “right?” or “isn’t it?” and is considered to be quite informal.

At Kansai Gaidai, even if you only speak a little bit of Japanese, you definitely will hear at least one Japanese person say, “日本語話せる？すごいやん！” By the end of the semester, you will probably have heard this numerous times, and will probably be a little tired of it because of how predictable it can become. Let's take a look at some of the more common ways 〜やん is used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>意味</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>… Right?</td>
<td>〜じゃないじゃん</td>
<td>〜やん</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>…Right?</td>
<td>〜じゃないか</td>
<td>〜やんか</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isn’t that so? Isn’t that the case?</td>
<td>そうじゃないか</td>
<td>そやんか</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some basic examples:

1) すごいやん “Isn’t that amazing?”

2) 寿司食べれてってやったやんか “Didn’t you say you can eat sushi?” [Seeking confirmation]

3) できそうだやん “It looks like you can do it, right?” [Seeking agreement]

In many contexts 〜ちゃう (as a sentence final expression) and 〜やん can be used interchangeably, when the speaker is seeking agreement or confirmation on a matter. Let’s take a look at a few sentences from Chapter 5 where 〜やん could be used in place of 〜ちゃう:

1) もう昼ご飯食べたんちゃう → もう昼ご飯食べたやん
   Didn’t you already eat lunch? [Seeking confirmation]

2) お金ないって言ったんちゃう？→ お金ないって言ったんやん
Didn’t you say you have no money? [Seeking confirmation]

A few more examples where they are interchangeable:

1) 時間あるちょう？ → 時間あるやん？
   Isn’t there [enough] time? [Seeking agreement]

2) そうゆったんちょう？ → そうゆったやん？
   Isn’t that what [you] said? [Seeking agreement/confirmation]

However, it is not safe to assume that all 〜ちょう’s and 〜やん’s are interchangeable. When you use ちょう by itself to express the meaning of “different,” or “wrong,” you cannot replace it with 〜やん. It can only replace 〜ちょう as a sentence final expression, but not as a verb. Let’s take a look at a few examples from a dialogue in Chapter 5 where you cannot use 〜やん in place of ちょう:

ツネミ：あの人が、塩見先生？
ザック：ちょう。安保先生やで。
ツネミ：そうなんだ。政治の先生？
ザック：ちょうで！日本語の先生！

Tsunemi: Is that person Professor Shiomi?
Zach: No, it’s Professor Abo.
Tsunemi: Oh. Is that (your) politics professor?
Zach: No, it’s (my) Japanese professor!

In both the second and fourth sentence, it would not make sense to use 〜やん:

X ザック：ちょう →やん。安保先生やで。= WRONG
X ザック：ちょうで！→やん！日本語の先生。= WRONG

In addition to “もうええやん,” another set expression you will definitely hear in Kansai is “嘘やん！ほんまに？” This is used when someone is surprised by what someone else says, or they are having difficulty believing something somebody else says. It roughly translates into “You’re lying right? Are you serious?” or “No way. Are you for real?”

For example:

ザック：昨日トミイと一緒に大阪城を行ってきたで。

キョウヘイ：嘘やん！ほんまに？
ザック：ほんまやで。
Zach: Yesterday I went to Osaka Castle with Tomie.
Kyohei: No way! Are you serious?
Zach: Yeah.
Kyohei: Wait, do you like Tomie?
Zach: Hmm… I wonder if I do like her a little…
Kyohei: I can’t believe it.
Zach: What???
Kyohei: Tsunemi also likes her! That’s hilarious!
Zach: For real? Crap…

1 Here we once again see かも, which is the colloquial contracted version of かもしれない – however this is not Kansai-ben; they use it in standard Japanese as well

2 Here we once again encounter the word ありえへん, which is the verb ありえる in its negative, Kansai-ben conjugation (へん). ありえる means something “is possible,” so in its negative conjugation it literally translates as “not possible,” however Kansai-ben speakers often say ありえへん in place of standard Japanese’s 信じられない to say “I can’t believe it,” or “No way.”