If you want to speak like a Kansai native, mastering the usage of various sentence final particles is a must. In Japanese class we learn that certain sentence final particles are gender specific. Let's compare how these different sentence final particles are generally used in both standard Japanese and Kansai-ben:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Final Particle</th>
<th>標準語 (Men, Women)</th>
<th>関西弁 (Women)</th>
<th>標準語 (Predominantly Men, Sometimes Women)</th>
<th>関西弁 (Men and Women)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>〜ね</td>
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<tr>
<td>〜なあ</td>
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<tr>
<td>〜わ</td>
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</tbody>
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During your first few years learning Japanese, you might have learned that 〜なあ can sound somewhat masculine or rough, and that women usually use the more polite sounding 〜ね ending. However, in Kansai this rule is thrown out the window. This was touched on in Chapter 4 where we saw that old women and even cute young girls both use the 〜なあ sentence ending in the expression せやなあ. However, be careful when you travel outside of the Kansai area, as you certainly wouldn't want to be perceived the wrong way.

Take for example the following sentence:

トミエ：カラオケ行きたいなあ！

Tomie: I want to go to Karaoke!

In the Kansai area, this sounds completely natural. However, if Tomie said this in Tokyo to say, a male classmate she just met, the male classmate might think she sounds kind of masculine or rough.

Another such gender dependent particle used differently in the Kansai area is the 〜わ sentence ending. In standard Japanese, 〜わ is used by females as a slightly more polite version of 〜ね, 〜なあ or 〜よ. To a Japanese person raised speaking standard Japanese, hearing a male say 〜わ at the end of the sentence would be perceived as very effeminate. However, in Kansai men and women use it with the same frequency as a sentence final particle functioning in the same way as standard Japanese's 〜ね, 〜なあ or 〜よ.

For example, take the following sentence from Kyohei:

キョウヘイ：試験あるから勉強頑張ってるね。
Kyohei: I have an exam, so I'm going to study my best.

Again, outside of the Kansai area this would sound strange for a guy to say, but ignore these particle rules when in Kansai.

Let's take a look at a typical conversation between Kyohei and Tomie that shows how these particle usage rules are different in Kansai:

キヨウヘイ：俺しんどいわ。

トミエ：なんで？

キヨウヘイ：最近バイト大変やわ。

トミエ：まじで？私もそうなぁ。いつもバイトの後しんどいから宿題しなくてならなぁ。

キヨウヘイ：せやなぁ。休み欲しぐわ！

Kyohei: I'm exhausted.
Tomie: How come?
Kyohei: Lately my job has just been killing me.
Tomie: Really? Me too. After work I never want to do homework.
Kyohei: For real. I want a vacation!

1. Here we again encounter the word しんどい which is favored in Kansai over standard Japanese's 疲れた meaning tired or exhausted.

2. バイト is the contracted form of アルバイト meaning part-time job.