Kansai-ben Survival Manual
関西弁サバイバルマニュアル

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Introduction

Prior to studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai, I had completed three and a half years of college level Japanese language courses, including 8 intensive weeks at Beloit’s Center for Language Studies (CLS). However, when I arrived in Japan I was shocked to discover that I couldn't follow even the most basic conversations. I was baffled. Why was I so inept after spending 12+ hours a day at CLS speaking only Japanese prior to my departure for Japan? Surely I should have been able to comprehend simple conversations! After a few days with my host family, it dawned on me that I simply was not speaking the right type of Japanese.

In the Kansai region, the use of local dialect permeates everyday conversation. Collectively, these dialects are known as “Kansai-ben” (関西弁). Kansai-ben varies greatly from Tokyo’s standard Hyoujungo (標準語), which is the basis of all Japanese language curriculum taught in and outside of Japan – including everything you’ve ever learned in a Japanese classroom or textbook.

A crucial component in creating a strong foundation for a successful study abroad experience at Kansai Gaidai is having the ability to understand Kansai-ben. This is why I decided to write this manual. I want to expose you to the Kansai-ben vocabulary and grammar patterns that are essential to successfully navigate daily life once you arrive at Kansai Gaidai. Be prepared to forget a lot of the Japanese you’ve studied up until this point – the Japanese you will be hearing around you is not the same Japanese you’ve been learning and speaking in the classroom. However, don’t be intimidated – Kansai-ben is fun! Many people, myself included, find it to be much more friendly, lively, and
expressive than standard Japanese. I am hoping this manual will ease your adjustment to student life in the Kansai region.

How to Use This Manual

• This manual is written for people with at least two years of Japanese study at the college level.
• I arranged the chapters in order of importance based on my experience studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai.
• All Kansai-ben words and grammar are shaded 15%.
• All words or expressions that appear in a footnote at the bottom of the text, regardless of whether or not they are Kansai-ben, are shaded 25%.
• Some words or grammar that aren't necessarily Kansai-ben, but are used differently in the Kansai area, are also shaded 15% (for example, the particle 快速增长 when it is used by a female).
• All Kanji from Genki II and Kanji not introduced during the first two years of Japanese class have furigana (the phonetic readings in Hiragana) above the Kanji, however all Kanji from Genki I were not given furigana.
• At the end there is a glossary with all vocabulary words not introduced in Genki I & II arranged by chapter.
When I first started my home stay at Kansai Gaidai, I was extremely confused during the first couple days. I kept hearing my host mom saying “へん。” I thought she was saying “へん,” the adjective for strange, which wasn’t helped by the fact that she talked at a million miles an hour – which is typical of most 関西人 (people from Kansai). I eventually asked her, 「お母さん、何が変ですか？」 (“Mom, what’s so strange?”) She then explained that she wasn’t saying “strange”; in 関西弁 they conjugate negative verbs with 〜へん。Suddenly everything made a lot more sense!

In 標準語 (standard Japanese) the short-form negative verb ending is 〜ない. However, in 関西弁 〜ない is replaced with 〜へん. Let’s conjugate some basic verbs into their short-form negative endings and their short-form potential negative endings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Negative Form</th>
<th>Kansai-ben Negative Form</th>
<th>Kansai-ben Negative Potential Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>行かない</td>
<td>行かへん</td>
<td>行けへん</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>買わない</td>
<td>買わへん</td>
<td>買えへん</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>食べない</td>
<td>食べへん</td>
<td>食べれへん</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>分かる</td>
<td>分からへん</td>
<td>*(no potential form)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>できる</td>
<td>できへん</td>
<td>*(no potential form)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To conjugate a 〜へん verb into the past tense, simply add 〜かった after the 〜へん:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansai-ben Negative Form</th>
<th>Kansai-ben Past-Tense Negative Form</th>
<th>Kansai-ben Past-Tense Potential Negative Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>行かへん</td>
<td>行かへんかった</td>
<td>行けへんかった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>買わへん</td>
<td>買わへんかった</td>
<td>買えへんかった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>食べへん</td>
<td>食べへんかった</td>
<td>食べれへんかった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>分からへん</td>
<td>分からへんかった</td>
<td>*(no potential form)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>できる</td>
<td>できへんかった</td>
<td>*(no potential form)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now that we see how the basic conjugation works, let’s take a look at a few example sentences:

Because (I) have a lot of homework, (I) won’t go see a movie.
Since (I) have no money, (I) can’t buy a car.

(I) can’t eat sushi.

(I) don’t understand the meaning. (Colloquially used to say “I don’t get it,” or “I don’t know what you’re talking about”).

I can’t do this homework!

Now let’s take a look at a typical conversation you might hear between two male friends at Kansai Gaidai:

Tsunemi: なあ、キョウヘイ、今日の夜映画に行かへん？

キョウヘイ: 行きたいけど、宿題多いし、お金もないし、行けへん。

Tsunemi: うそ！昨日行けるって言うでたじゃん。

キョウヘイ: 昨日は行けると思ったんだけど。。。ごめんなぁ！

Tsunemi: ほん、また今度行こう。

Tsunemi: Hey Kyohei, wanna go see a movie tonight?

Kyohei: I wanna go, but I have a lot of homework, and no money, so I can’t.

Kyohei: Yesterday I thought I could, but… Sorry!

Tsunemi: Alright… Let’s go sometime soon though.

Note the overall lack of particles in the sentence (and the rest of the conversation as well) – it is very typical to drop many particles in casual, daily conversation in Kansai.

“やん” is the kansai-ben version of standard Japanese’s “じゃん,” the contracted version of “じゃないですか?” Meaning “Isn’t that right?” which will be formally introduced in Chapter 11.

Here we see the first example of the copula はる replacing standard Japanese’s だ, a topic which will be explained in the next chapter.

“ほん” is the Kansai-ben version of standard Japanese’s “じゃあ”
While hanging out in the Center for International Education’s (CIE) lounge during my first week at Kansai Gaidai, the sound of “や” permeated almost every Japanese conversation I heard. I soon realized that this wasn’t the “や” meaning “and,” as I had learned in first-year Japanese; this “や” was quite different from any “や” I had ever learned in a Japanese classroom. Understanding the usage of this “や” is one of the most important keys to understanding Kansai-ben. It is a copula; the equivalent of 標準語 (standard Japanese’s) “だ” (the short form of デス).

Let’s take a look at how to conjugate this copula:

|                      | ひょうじゅんご | かんさいげん
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-past, positive short-form</td>
<td>だ</td>
<td>や</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past, positive short-form</td>
<td>だって</td>
<td>やった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional short-form</td>
<td>(noun/な-adj+)だったら</td>
<td>(noun/な-adj+)やったら</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now let’s compare some basic sentences in both 標準語 and 関西弁:

1) だけど。 → だけで。 “However…”
2) 彼は元気だ。 → 彼は元気や。 “He’s healthy.”
3) 彼は元気だった。 → 彼は元気やった。 “He was healthy.”
4) それが好きだ。 → それが好きや。 “(I like that.”
5) それが好きだった。 → それが好きやった。“(I liked that.”
6) 何だ? → 何や?  “What?”
7) 何だった? → 何やった? “What was it?”

Now that we see how the basic past and non-past short-forms work, let’s take a look at some conditional (“If A, then B”) sentences:

1) それが本当だったら。 → それが本当やったら。
   “If that’s true…”
2) 大丈夫だったら、行く。 → 大丈夫やったら、行く。
   “If it’s okay, (I’ll) go.”
“If it’s chicken, (I) can eat it.”

Another extremely important vocabulary word that uses や in place of だ is やろ, Kansai-ben’s version of standard Japanese’s だろう (the short form of でしょう), a suppositional expression meaning “I think”; “I guess”; “Don’t you agree?”

Let’s take a look at a few example sentences:

1) そうだろう？ → そうやろ？
   “Isn’t that right?”

2) 明日、雨が降るだろう？ → 明日、雨が降るやろ？
   “It’s supposed to rain tomorrow, right?”

Now that we have learned of や’s usage as a copula, a conditional, and a supposition, let’s take a look at a sample dialogue:

ツネミ: キョウヘイ、今日授業行かへん。

キョウヘイ: えっ、なんで？

ツネミ: ちょっと熱あるみたい。。。

キョウヘイ: ほんまか一。それやったら、帰った方がええかもな一。

ツネミ: そうやろ？やから明日ノートを貸してくれへん？

---

1 Here we see the use of 僕, a masculine first-person pronoun generally only used between close male friends.

2 なんで is generally used over どうして or なぜ in Kansai when asking “Why?” or “How come?”

3 Here we encounter the Kansai-ben word ほんま for the first time, which is the equivalent of standard Japanese’s 本当 meaning “really” or “truly,” which will be fully explained in Chapter 7.

4 In this sentence, we have “帰った方がええ。” The “ええ” here is the Kansai-ben version of “いい,” a topic which will be explored further in Chapter 10. We also see かも, which is the colloquial contracted version of かもしれない – however this is not Kansai-ben; they do this in standard Japanese as well.
Tsunemi: Kyohei, I’m not going to go to class today.

Kyohei: Really, how come?

Tsunemi: I think I have a fever…

Kyohei: For real? If that’s the case you should go home I guess.

Tsunemi: Right? Hey, could you lend me your notes tomorrow?

Kyohei: Okay.
Standard Japanese's sentence final particle よ, which is used when making an assertion, stating a fact, or emphasizing something, is often replaced with で in Kansai-ben. Be careful to not mistake this with the other particle で which is used to indicate the location or means of an action; but it should be clear by where in the sentence the で occurs how it functions grammatically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammatical Function</th>
<th>ひょうじゅんご 標準語</th>
<th>かんさいじんぶん 関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Final Particle</td>
<td>よ</td>
<td>で</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copula + Sentence Final Particle</td>
<td>だよ</td>
<td>やで</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let's take some basic sentences from standard Japanese and put them into Kansai-ben:

1. いいよ → ええで^1 (That's) fine.
2. 行くよ → 行くで (I'm) going.
3. そうだよ → そうやで That's right.
4. そうするつもりだよ → そうするつもりやで That's what (I) plan on doing.
5. 関西弁が話せるよ → 関西弁話せるで (I) can speak Kansai-ben.
6. もちろん覚えてるよ → もちろん覚えてるで Of course I remember!

The following conversation seemed to occur every Friday afternoon during my time at Kansai Gaidai:

キョウヘイ：今日授業何時まで？
ザック： 3時までやで。なんで？

---

^1 As briefly noted in the last chapter, in Kansai-ben いい becomes ええ, which will be formally introduced in Chapter 10
Kyohei: なあ、今めっちゃ寿司食べたいから、かっぱ寿司に行こうと思うんやけど。

ザック：うええで！久しぶりに行ってないな。行こや！

キョウヘイ：楽しみや！授業が終わってから連絡してなあ。

ザック：分かった！

Kyohei: What time do you have class until today?
Zach: 3 o'clock. How come?
Kyohei: I really wanna eat sushi, so I was thinking about going to Kappa Zushi...
Zach: That'd be great! We haven't gone in a long time. Let's do it!
Kyohei: I look forward to it! Hit me up when class is over.
Zach: Gotcha.

---

2 In this sentence we see めっちゃ，which is Kansai-ben’s version of standard Japanese’sとても，which will be further introduced in Chapter 8. We also see かつば寿司，which is a cheap, popular chain of conveyor belt sushi restaurants (回転寿司店) in Japan.

3 In Japanese there is a popular expression "楽しみにする" which means “to look forward to [something],” which is often shortened to simply “楽しみ(だ),” and thus “楽しみや” in Kansai-ben
A staple expression in the Kansai-ben lexicon is “せやなぁ,” the equivalent of “そうだね” in standard Japanese, meaning “that’s right,” or “that’s so.” It is used to express general consensus or agreement, which is very important in Japanese conversation. You will hear this everywhere you go – from both men and women, and young and old people alike. At first it might seem strange to hear a cute little 5 foot Japanese teenage girl, or perhaps a 70-something-year-old お祖母さん saying, “せやなぁ.” In Tokyo, this would certainly draw disapproving looks. Like most people studying Japanese, you probably learned in class that the sentence final particle “なぁ” is considered to be somewhat masculine, and that girls and women should use the softer sounding “ね” instead. This will be discussed further in Chapter 14, but for now let us turn our attention to a few examples:

1) タネミ： 今日の試験、難しかったなぁ1！

キョヘイ： せやなぁ。あんまでけへんかった2。

Tsunemi: Today’s test was hard!

Kyohei: Yeah it was. I didn’t do too well on it.

2) タネミ：学校の食堂、まずいなぁ。

トミエ： せやなぁ。

Tsunemi: The food on campus is disgusting.

Tomie: That’s for sure...

It is also quite common to hear “せや” by itself without the accompanying “なぁ.” This can also be used to express agreement; however it is also sometimes used when you remember or realize something:

ツネミ： もうトミエに電話したん？

キョヘイ： え、なんで？

1 It is also very common in Kansai-ben to hear the contracted form むずい in place of the standard 難しい

2 In this sentence we see あんまで which is Kansai-ben’s version of standard Japanese’s あまり
Tsunemi: Did you already call Tomie?

Kyohei: Huh? Why?

Tsunemi: (We’re) supposed to do English homework with her tonight, right?

Kyohei: That’s right! I already forgot!

Another thing to note in this conversation is how the “せや” is repeated twice – in Kansai-ben many words and expressions are often repeated twice for emphasis.

In addition to replacing the “そう’s” from “そうだね” and “そうだ,” “せや” is also frequently used to replace the “そう’s” from other word combinations in standard Japanese. Let’s review what we already know, and add a few more to the list, making note of how the だ’s are replaced with や’s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>意味</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That’s right; That’s so</td>
<td>そうだ</td>
<td>せや</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That’s right, isn’t it; That’s right!</td>
<td>そうだね</td>
<td>せやなぁ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because of that; That’s why</td>
<td>そうだから</td>
<td>せやから</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That’s so, but…; That’s true, however…</td>
<td>そうだけど</td>
<td>せやけど</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If that’s the case; If such is true…</td>
<td>そうだったら</td>
<td>せやったら</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now let’s look at these in use in a typical conversation between two college boys:

Tsunemi: トミエはかわいいやろ?

Kyohei: せやけど、彼氏おるよ。

---

3 In standard Japanese “tonight” is usually said 今晚 or 今夜, however in the Kansai area it is common to hear 今日の夜 instead

4 Here we encounter the Kansai-ben word おる which replaces Standard Japanese’s いる, meaning “to exist,” which will be further introduced in Chapter 13
Tsunemi: Don’t you think Tomie is cute?

Kyohei: Yeah she is, but she has a boyfriend.

Tsunemi: Really? I was thinking of asking her on a date, but if that’s the case I give up.

In the last line of the conversation, note how when Tsunemi uses the expression そうなんや (違うんだ in standard Japanese) he doesn’t change the そう into せ. This goes to illustrate that people in Kansai don’t change every そう into せ. For example, the expression そうなんや is quite common. The best strategy is to listen to what people around you say, and then emulate how they use it.
ちゃう is one of the most amusing words you will hear in the Kansai area. It is the shortened version of standard Japanese’s 違う, and while the core meaning of “different,” or “wrong,” is the same, in addition it can also have slightly different grammatical uses than that of its standard Japanese counterpart. The two main uses of ちゃう are 1) as a verb, and 2) as a sentence ending expression. Let’s take a look at the basic conjugation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-past, short form</th>
<th>Non-past, long form</th>
<th>Past-tense, short form</th>
<th>Past-tense, long form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>標準語</td>
<td>違う</td>
<td>違います</td>
<td>違った</td>
<td>違いました</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>関西弁</td>
<td>ちゃう</td>
<td>ちゃいます</td>
<td>ちゃうかった</td>
<td>ちゃいました</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ちゃう is an interesting word because it conjugates both into the standard formal ～ます form as well as the Kansai-ben ～かった form. However, it is pretty rare to hear it conjugated into the ～ます form, but don’t be surprised if you do hear it. Be careful to remember each conjugation though; while ちゃう is an う–verb like it’s counterpart 違う, you cannot conjugate it into the past-tense form like a normal う–verb: you can not say “ちゃった,” instead of “ちゃうかった.”

The four most common ways that ちゃう is used is summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
<th>意味</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>違う</td>
<td>違う</td>
<td>ちゃう</td>
<td>Wrong; Different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>違う？</td>
<td>違うか</td>
<td>ちゃうか</td>
<td>Is that wrong? Am I mistaken? (Question)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>それは違う</td>
<td>ちゃう違う</td>
<td>ちゃう違う</td>
<td>No; That’s wrong; You’re mistaken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>違うよ</td>
<td>違うで</td>
<td>ちゃうで</td>
<td>That’s/you’re wrong (Authoritative)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see ちゃう is often repeated once (or more) for emphasis. Conversations can sound very interesting when this occurs regularly – to the untrained ear it can almost sound like Chinese!
Let’s take a look at some example sentences where ちゃう is used as a verb:

1) ツネミ：今日英語の試験ある？

キョウヘイ：ちゃうちゃう、明日やで。

ツネミ：あ、ちゃうか？明日か？分かった。

Tsunemi: Do (we) have an English test today?

Kyohei: No, it’s tomorrow.

Tsunemi: Oh really? It's tomorrow? For sure.

2) ツネミ：あの人は塩見先生？

ザック：ちゃう。安保先生やで。

ツネミ：そうなんや。政治の先生？

ザック：ちゃうで！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!

ちゃう can also be used as a sentence ending expression, similar in meaning to 〜じゃないですか？(the contracted form of じゃないですか？) or 〜だろう. This expression is used when you are seeking agreement on a matter, or when you are unsure of something and want confirmation from someone else.

1. ツネミ：腹へったなあ。

キョウヘイ：まじで！？もう昼ご飯食べちゃう？

ツネミ：せやけどなあ。。。 

Tsunemi: I’m hungry...

---

1 This form, and it’s Kansai-ben equivalent, will be fully explained in Chapter 11
Kyohei: Really? Didn’t you already eat lunch? [seeking agreement]

Tsunemi: Yeah I did, but…

2. トミエ：今日天気ええなあ。大阪城行きたい。

ツネミ：せやなあ。でもお金ないんちゃうん？

トミエ：せやけど、連れって行ってもらえへんかなあと思ったんやけど。。。 

ツネミ：あ、そうか。ほんなら、行こう。

Tomie: The weather sure is great today. I wanna go to Osaka castle…

Tsunemi: Yeah it is. But, I thought you had no money? [seeking confirmation]

Tomie: Yeah, but, I was thinking it sure would be nice if (you) would take me there…

Tsunemi: Oh, I see… Well in that case let’s go!
During my semester-long homestay, I probably heard the word あかん from my host mom more than other single word. This was usually within the context of her chastising her eight and ten-year-old sons; however, the word あかん has a variety of meanings and grammatical uses. あかん is essentially the Kansai-ben version of standard Japanese’s “駄目” and as such it can mean “bad,” “no good,” “hopeless,” among other things. It is a very flexible and useful word. The past tense of あかん conjugates in the same way as the past tense of 〜へん: just add 〜かった at the end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ひょうじゅんご</th>
<th>Non-Past Form</th>
<th>Past Tense Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>標準語</td>
<td>はでめ</td>
<td>はでめだった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>かなさいべん</td>
<td>あかん</td>
<td>あかんかった</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

1) ツネミ：なぁ、授業サボろう？

トミエ：あかんよ！そないつもサボってたら成績落ちるやろ？

Tsunemi: Hey, wanna skip class?
Tomie: That’s no good! If you always skip class, don’t you think you’re gonna fail?

2) トミエ：今日の試験どうやった？

ツネミ：あかんかったね。

Tomie: How was today’s test?
Tsunemi: Horrible (it was no good).

It is important to note that as an adjective, the conjugation of あかん is irregular – as explained in Chapter 2, adjectives (along with nouns) are typically conjugated with や in かなさいべん.

---

1 Here we see the usage of the sentence-final particle わ for the first time, the usage of which will be explained in Chapter 14. It also appears in the following example conversation after びっくりした.
In addition to its use as an adjective, あかん can be used as a negative imperative. It can be used much in the same way as the て-form of a verb＋はいけない, or the conditional たら-form of a verb＋駄目, meaning “don’t do X,” “shouldn’t do X” or “cannot do X.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>标准语</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
<th>意味</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>食べてはいけない</td>
<td>食べたらあかん</td>
<td>Must not eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>食べたら駄目</td>
<td>食べたらあかん</td>
<td>Shouldn’t eat, can’t eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>食べるのは駄目</td>
<td>食べたらあかん</td>
<td>Shouldn’t eat; can’t eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example conversation:

ザック：キョウヘイ、焼肉食べに行こうか？

キョウヘイ：俺、肉食べたらあかんで。

ザック：え、なんで？

キョウヘイ：ベジタリアンだから。

ザック：まじで？！？

キョウヘイ：嘘で。

ザック：びっくりしたわ、日本人って、ベジタリアンあんまいないやろ？

キョウヘイ：うん、全然。

Zach: Kyohe, wanna go eat some Korean barbeque?
Kyohei: I can’t eat meat.
Zach: What, why?
Kyohei: Because I’m a vegetarian…
Zach: Really?!!
Kyohei: No, I’m just messing with you.

---

2 As briefly noted in Chapter 2, なんで is essentially the same meaning as どうして (“why,” “what for?”), however in Kansai it is generally always used over どうして

3 In this line we see あんま, which is the contracted Kansai-ben version of あまり
Zach: You surprised me! There aren’t really any Japanese people who are vegetarians, are there?

Kyohei: Nope, there’s not really any.

In daily conversation, when the context of the situation is clear, あかん can also be used by itself as a negative imperative. I often heard this usage during my homestay, especially at the dinner table:

Situation 1: Kazuya, my host mom, is in the middle of setting the table for dinner, and upon seeing the delicious-looking gyoza she sets down, Yamato, the 10-year-old son, eyes them hungrily and says he wants to eat them.

ヤマト：美味しそう、これ！食べたい！
カズヤ：あかんで！待ってよ。

Yamato: These look delicious! I wanna eat them!
Kazuya: No way! Wait [until I finish setting the table…].
(Comparison: The sentence “食べたらあかんで！待ってよ！” Would pretty much retain the same meaning.)

Situation 2: During dinner, Kaito, the 8-year-old son, finds the Gyoza hard to eat with his chopsticks, so he reverts to eating with his hands, which Kazuya immediately reprimands him for:

カズヤ：何してんの４？
カイト：食べにくい、この餃子。。。。
カズヤ：それ、あかんで。ちゃんと箸を使いなさい。

Kazuya: What are you doing?
Kaito: These gyoza are hard to eat…
Kazuya: Don’t do that [eat with your hands]. Use your chopsticks properly.

(Comparison: Alternatively, Kazuya could also have said “手で食べたらあかんで。ちゃんと箸を使いなさい。And the general message – don’t eat with your hands, use chopsticks – would be the same.)

４ 何してんの is one of the Kansai-ben versions of standard Japanese’s “何しているの？” a very common greeting asking “What’s up?” or “What are you doing?”
ほんま is another staple Kansai-ben vocabulary word. You’re going to hear it all the time, pretty much regardless of with whom you’re speaking if they are a Kansai native. It is the equivalent of standard Japanese’s 本当, meaning “true;” “truly;” “real;” “really,” and is used much in the same way. However, remember that as a noun it will conjugate with や rather than だ, as explained in Chapter 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammatical Usage</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noun</td>
<td>本当(だ)</td>
<td>ほんま(や)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noun, Past-tense</td>
<td>本当だった</td>
<td>ほんまやった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>本当に</td>
<td>ほんまに</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>本当だよ</td>
<td>ほんまやで</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the main uses of ほんま in conversation is to express general consensus or agreement, fairly similar to how せやなあ is used. For example, we could take this sentence from Chapter 4, replace the せやなあ with ほんま(や/なあ), and the meaning would essentially remain the same:

1) ツネミ：今日の試験難しかったなあ！
キョヘイ：せやなあ。あんまでできへんかった。

Tsunemi: Today’s test was hard!
Kyohei: Yeah it was. I didn’t do too well on it.

⇒ ツネミ：今日の試験難しかったなあ！
キョヘイ：せやなあ → ほんまやなあ！あんまでできへんかった。

⇒ Tsunemi: Today’s test was hard!
Kyohei: That’s for sure. I didn’t do too well on it.

As you can see, the words slightly change, however the overall meaning being expressed in the sentence - that Kyohei agrees that the test was hard - remains the same. Let’s take a look at another sentence where せやなあ and ほんま are fairly interchangeable:

2) ツネミ：トミエ、かわいいやろ？

---

1 In this line we again encounter あんま, the contraction of あまり that is often favored in Kansai
Tsunemi: Don’t you think Tomie is cute?
Kyohei: Yeah she is. But, she has a boyfriend.

⇒ ツネミ：トミエはかわいいやろ？
キョヘイ：せやなぁ。やけど、彼氏おるやん。

⇒ Tsunemi: Don’t you think Tomie is cute?
Kyohei: That’s for sure. But, she has a boyfriend.

In this sentence, as we have seen in previous examples with other Kansai-ben words, ほんま is repeated twice for emphasis – in this case to acknowledge that Kyohei agrees with Tsunemi’s opinion that Tomie is cute.

ほんま also has three more different conversational uses, which are the same as 本当:

1) As a question; inviting the speaker to share more information (ほんまに/か?)
2) As an expression meaning that something is real or true (ほんまやで)
3) As an adverbial modifier meaning “really,” or “truly.” (ほんまに)

Let’s take a look at a sample conversation that features all three of these conversational uses, in that order:

ツネミ：トミエ、彼氏と別れてたんって！
キョヘイ：ほんまに？
ツネミ：ほんまやで！俺、チャンスあるんちゃう？
キョヘイ：ほんまとええチャンスかもなぁ。デートに誘ったらええやん？

---

2 In this line we see おる, which is the Kansai-ben version of いる meaning “to be,” or “to exist,” which will be formally introduced in Chapter 13. We also encounter やん once again, which is the Kansai-ben version of じゃん, which will be further elaborated on in Chapter 11.

3 Recall the use of ちゃんと when you are seeking agreement on a matter, or when you are unsure of something and want confirmation from someone else, as explained in Chapter 5.

4 In this sentence we again encounter ええ, which is the Kansai-ben version of いい. Next we see the expression かも which is the contracted version of かもしれない. Lastly, we see 誘ったらええやん,
Tsunemi: Tomie said she and her boyfriend broke up!
Kyohei: Really? [Inviting Tsunemi to share more information about the situation]
Tsunemi: Really! That means I have a chance with her right?
Kyohei: You might have a really good chance. Why don’t you invite her on a date?

Now let’s look at a sentence with the first usage: as a question; inviting the speaker to share more information (ほんま(にか)？):

ツネミ：僕、気分悪いねん。
キョウヘイ：ほんま(に)？なんで？
ツネミ：風ひいたかも。
キョウヘイ：ほんまかも。それやったら、帰った方がええかもなー。
ツネミ：そやろ。ほん、俺帰るわ。

Tsunemi: I don’t feel good…
Kyohei: Really? How come?
Tsunemi: I might have caught a cold.
Kyohei: Is that right? If so, you should probably go home…
Tsunemi: Right? Alright, I’m going home.

Next let’s look at a sentence with the second usage: as an expression meaning that something is real or true (ほんまやで):

トミエ：ツネミーくん、今日、彼氏と別れたで。
ツネミ：うそ！

which is like saying 誘ったらどうですか？

5 Here we encounter the sentence final particle ねん for the first time, which will be introduced in Chapter 15

6 Once again we see わ as a sentence final particle, which will be discussed in Chapter 14
Tomie: Tsunemi, today my boyfriend and I broke up.
Tsunemi: No way!
Tomie: It's true! I'm not lying.
Tsunemi: I don't believe it.

Lastly, as the third usage: as an adverbial modifier meaning “really,” or “truly.”

はんまにしんです！ (I'm) really sorry!
はんまにありがとうございます！ Thanks so much!
はんまにしんどい (I'm) super tired.

7 ありえない in standard Japanese literally means “impossible,” however in Kansai it is often used in place of信じられない “I can't believe it,” (the negative potential form of信じる “to believe.”)

8 In Kansai, しんどい (“tired;” “frazzled”) is often used in place of疲れ
めっちゃ is an adverbial intensifier, the equivalent of standard Japanese’s とても or すごく, meaning “very,” or “extremely.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>意味</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very; Extremely</td>
<td>とても／すごく</td>
<td>めっちゃ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

めっちゃ is also sometimes pronounced めちゃ (dropping the small つ) or むっちゃ/むちゃ. However, in my experience at Kansai Gaidai, めっちゃ was the most prominently used. Don’t let the fact that there are a couple variations of the word intimidate you – you will easily be able to pick them up in conversations.

Let’s take a look at a few basic example sentences:

1) ここ、めっちゃ暑い！（標準語：ここはすごく暑い！）

   It’s really hot here!

2) 皆、めっちゃ優しいなあ。（標準語：皆はすごく優しいね。）

   Everyone’s extremely kind.

As we saw in the last chapter, some Kansai-ben words, as is also the case in standard Japanese, are fairly interchangeable within certain contexts. In many cases, めっちゃ and ほんまに (in its use as an adverbial modifier meaning “really,” or “truly.”) can express nearly identical meanings:

1) これ、ほんまに美味しいなあ → これ、めっちゃ美味しいなあ

   This is really delicious → This is very delicious

As we can see, the core meaning being expressed – that the food/drink item being referred to is above-average in deliciousness – remains the same. Let’s take a look at a few more examples where めっちゃ and ほんまに are interchangeable:

2) 日本語、ほんまにむずいなあ → 日本語、めっちゃむずいなあ

---

1 Here we see 誇 with the い omitted. In Kansai-ben, it is very common to drop off the final い on い-adjectives, which will be further introduced in Chapter 16
Japanese is really difficult → Japanese is very difficult

3) 関西弁、ほんまに好きやで → 関西弁、めっちゃ好きやで

(I) Really like the Kansai dialect → (I) very much like the Kansai dialect

4) 今日、ほんまに忙しい → 今日、めっちゃ忙しい

(I'm) really busy today. → (I'm) very busy today

Let's take a look at a sample conversation:

キョウヘイ：なあ、ザック、関西弁、どう思う？

ザック： めっちゃ好きやで。

キョウヘイ：ほんま？なんで？聞くしてや。

ザック： ほんまにおもしろいからなあ。それに、郷に入っては郷にしたがって言うやろ？外大の友達とか、ホストファミリーとか、関西人の女とかとムーズな会話するんやったら、関西弁を使った方がええやろ？

---

2 In this example we see むずい, which is the Kansai-ben contracted version of 難しい, which was briefly noted in Chapter 4

3 どう思う is the contacted version of どう思いますか？ meaning, “What do you think about X?” – used to solicit someone’s opinion about the subject

4 Here we see the verb 聞く (to hear) in it’s causative, て一form (lit. “let me hear,”) which is colloquially used to say “tell me,” followed by the sentence final particle や (introduced in Chapter 2)

5 Here we see おもしろい replacing standard Japanese’s おもしろい, which will be formally introduced in Chapter 12

6 郷に入っては郷にしたがえ is the expression “When in Rome, do as Romans do,” which you will probably hear at least a couple times - either in the classroom, with your host family, or your Japanese friends - when talking about Kansai-ben at Kansai Gaidai

7 Once again we see ええ replacing いい, which will be introduced in Chapter 10
Kyohei: Hey Zach, what do you think about Kansai-ben?
Zach: I like it a lot.
Zach: Because it's really interesting. Also, they say, “When in Rome, do as Romans do,” right? If I’m gonna converse with my Gaidai Friends, my host family, and chicks from Kansai, it's better if I use Kansai-ben right?
Kyohei: That's right. You're really interesting, Zach. Also, standard Japanese is boring don't ya think?
Zach: For real, I think it's very boring.

---

8 つまらん is the contracted Kansai-ben version ofつまらない, meaning “boring.”
In Kansai-ben, the word “to say” becomes くょう. While it is only a slight change in pronunciation from the い sound to the く sound, it definitely takes some adjusting to. However, by the end of my time at Kansai Gaidai, I always pronounced “to say” くょう, and actually found it rather difficult to correct myself when I came back to Beloit and had to speak standard Japanese in class and with professors! Let’s take a look at the conjugation of くょう:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>い 声</th>
<th>ひょうじゅんご</th>
<th>かんさいべん</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To say</td>
<td>言う</td>
<td>くょう</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was said</td>
<td>言った</td>
<td>かった/くょうた</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is saying</td>
<td>言っている/言っている</td>
<td>くってくる/くょうてくる</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was saying</td>
<td>言っていた/言っていた</td>
<td>くってた/くょうてた</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, each conjugation generally has a couple of different possibilities, and you will most likely end up hearing all of them in daily conversations. Let’s take a look at some example sentences:

1) “何くょうてるあんた1？” “What are you saying, dude?”
2) “そうくょうたっちゃう？” “Isn’t that what [you] said?”
3) “もう一回くって？” “Come again?”
4) “あいつ、そうくってたやろ2？” “That’s what he was saying, right?”

Now let’s take a look at a conversation between Tsunemi and Kyohei as they’re walking to their English class:

ツネミ：テスト勉強したん？

キョウヘイ：テスト？何のテスト？

ツネミ：英語のテストやで！先週先生くってたやん3。

1 あんた is the contracted version of あなた, which is often used in Kansai-ben. Be careful when using this word though, because it can sound masculine and aggressive – the safe route is to only use it with someone who uses it with you, if you are on close terms with them.

2 あいつ is a colloquialism meaning “he,” “she,” “that guy,” and is similar in usage to how you learned 彼 or 彼女 (“he”/“she”) in Genki, but less formal.
Tsunemi: Did you study for the test?
Kyohei: Test? What test?
Tsunemi: The English test! The teacher told us last week.
Kyohei: For real?!? How come you didn't tell me earlier?
Tsunemi: What…That's not my responsibility. Idiot!

---

3 Here we again see the expression やん, which will be introduced in Chapter 11

4 The word アホ has many meanings in Kansai-ben, among them “stupid,” “idiot,” and “fool.” アホ will be further explained in Chapter 17.
In Kansai-ben, ええ replaces standard Japanese’s いい. Just as in standard
Japanese with いい, ええ has a wide assortment of meanings and grammatical functions,
as we shall see. First, let's take a look at some of its more common uses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>意味</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good; fine</td>
<td>いい</td>
<td>ええ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okay; sure; no problem</td>
<td>いいよ</td>
<td>ええで</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No thank you</td>
<td>いいよ</td>
<td>ええわ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is that okay? Do you mind?</td>
<td>いいの？</td>
<td>ええか？</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(That’s) nice</td>
<td>いいね</td>
<td>ええなぁ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just as you would do in standard Japanese with いい, ええ is often placed before nouns
to say that something is “good”:

1) ええ天気やなぁ。The weather is good.
2) 彼女, ええ子やろ。She's a good kid, isn't she.
3) ええ教科書やで、これ。This is a good textbook.

In some occasions, ええ is also placed after a noun, as we see in the following two
eamples:

1) あたま(が)ええ。 (He/she) is smart.
2) 格好ええ。 (He/she/it) is cool.

ええ can also replace the いい in the permission form “verb-て form plus
もいい(ですか？).” However, the も is generally dropped in daily conversation (as it
also is in standard Japanese), so the form becomes “Verb-てええ?”:

1) カイト：お母さん、テレビ見てええ？
   カズヤ：あかんで。先に戻ってしなさい。

Kaito: Mom, is it okay if I watch TV? 
Kazuya: No, do your homework first.
In standard Japanese there is a common expression "もういいじゃん" (the contracted form of "もういいんじゃないかな") meaning “That's enough already,” or “Quit it.” In Kansai-ben this expression becomes “もうええやん.” It is frequently used when someone is annoying you, and you want them to stop doing whatever is annoying. For example, take the following scenario: Kyohei, Tsunemi, and Tomie go to the train station, and miss their train because both Kyohei and Tsunemi misread the departure time when they checked it on Kyohei's cellphone. So, Kyohei and Tsunemi start throwing insults at each other, and Tomie grows tired of their bickering and tells them to cut it out:

ツネミ：お前アホやなぁ。

キョウヘイ：俺アホちゃうし。俺じゃなくて、お前がアホやろ。

トミエ：もうええやん！

Tsunemi: You're an idiot.

Kyohei: You’re wrong, I’m not the idiot – you’re the idiot.

Tomie: That's enough already!

Another common expression in Kansai-ben that you will frequently hear is “もうええわ.” "もうええわ" is generally used when you have had enough of something, and/or you are ready to give up on something:

1 In this sentence, we encounter the word お前 for the first time. お前 is a pronoun meaning “you,” however the word carries different connotations depending on the context. It is essentially a rougher version of あなた, generally only used by males. In Kansai it is often used between very close male friends and signifies familiarity. However, you have to be very careful with this word, because when used with someone you don’t know it can sound very aggressive, as though you want to fight them.
Zach: Haven't you already been studying for like 8 hours?

Tsunemi: That's right. Because the deadline for the homework is tomorrow.

But I'm super tired. Screw it, I've had enough!

Zach: I bet you have. It's better if you quit for now right?
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>いみ</th>
<th>ひょうじゅんご</th>
<th>かんさいべん</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) 寿司食べてるってゆってたやんか “Didn’t you say you can eat sushi?” [Seeking confirmation]

3) できそうやん “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) お金をないって言ったんちゃう？→ お金を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) 時間あるちゃう？ → 時間あるゃん？
   Isn’t there [enough] time? [Seeking agreement]

2) そうゆったんちゃう？ → そうゆったゃん？
   Isn’t that what [you] said? [Seeking agreement/confirmation]

However, it is not safe to assume that all ～ちゃう’s and ～ゃん’s are interchangeable. When you use ちゃう by itself to express the meaning of “different,” or “wrong,” you cannot replace it with ～ゃん. It can only replace ～ちゃう 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 ～ゃん in place of ちゃう:

ツネミ：あの人の、塩見先生？
ザック：ちゃう。安保先生やで。
ツネミ：そうなんや。政治の先生？
ザック：ちゃうで！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 ～ゃん:

X ザック：ちゃうatcharun → やん。安保先生やで。 = WRONG
X ザック：ちゃうで！ → 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に行ってきたで。
キョウヘイ：嘘やん！ほんまに？
ザック： ほんまやで。
キョウヘイ：え、トミエのこと好きなん？
ザック：ちょっと好きになったかも！。。。
キョウヘイ：ありえへん。
ザック：なんで？
キョウヘイ：ツネミもあいつのことが好きやねん。おもしろいなぁ！
ザック：まじで？やばいなぁ。。。
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.”
As we saw with ちゃん in Chapter 5, certain words in Kansai-ben take on special contracted or abbreviated forms. “Interesting,” is another one of these words – in daily conversation the し from standard Japanese’s 面白い is cut, becoming おもしろい in Kansai-ben. However, the negative conjugation of おもしろい is slightly substandard. While most ～い adjectives conjugate in the negative form with ～くない (e.g. 面白くない), おもしろ generally doesn’t conjugate into the negative form with ～く. Rather the い is just dropped, and it becomes おもろない. There are some people who use the ～くない conjugation, however in my experience it is much less popular. Let’s take a look at the various conjugations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conjugation</th>
<th>いみ</th>
<th>意味</th>
<th>ひょうじゅんご</th>
<th>面白い</th>
<th>标准语</th>
<th>かんさい弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-past tense</td>
<td>Interesting; Funny</td>
<td>おもしろい</td>
<td>面白い</td>
<td>おもろい</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative, non-past tense</td>
<td>Not interesting; Not funny</td>
<td>おもしろくない</td>
<td>面白くない</td>
<td>おもろない</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative, past tense</td>
<td>Wasn’t interesting; Wasn’t funny</td>
<td>おもしろくなかった</td>
<td>面白くなかった</td>
<td>おもろくなかった</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s take a look at some basic example sentences:

1) おもしろい人。An interesting person.

2) 関西弁はめっちゃおもしろい。Kansai-ben is really interesting.

3) おもろない、その授業。That class isn’t interesting.

4) それ、おもろいやん！Isn’t that funny!

Here we have a typical conversation you would hear between an exchange student and a Japanese student at Kansai Gaidai:

ザック：授業どうやった？

キョウヘイ：あんまおもろなかった。

ザック：なんの授業？

キョウヘイ：英語。

ザック：え、英語が好きだと思ってたけど。

キョウヘイ：好きやけど、今日の授業はリーディングとライティングやった。会話の授業はいつもおもしろけど、リーディングとライティングは、おもろないと
Zach: How was class?
Kyohei: It wasn’t very interesting…
Zach: What class was it?
Kyohei: English.
Zach: Wait, I thought you like English class.
Kyohei: I do, but today’s class was reading and writing. Conversation class is always interesting but I think reading and writing is boring.
Zach: For real. I feel the same way about Japanese classes.

---

1 At the end of this sentence we once again encounter the particle ね which will be discussed in Chapter 14

2 確かに means “certainly,” or “surely,” and is used in conversation to agree with someone, similar to saying “for sure,” or “for real,” in English.
When your Kansai Gaidai friends call you on your携帯 (cell phone), after sayingもしもし, many times they will then ask, "今どこにおるるん？" This means “where are you now?” In Kansai-benおる replaces standard Japanese’sいる meaning “to be,” or“to exist,” for animate objects. おる conjugates in a variety of ways, but let’s take a look at some of its more common conjugated forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>意味</th>
<th>標準語</th>
<th>関西弁</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Be; To Exist</td>
<td>いる</td>
<td>おる</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is Not (Here/There)</td>
<td>いない</td>
<td>おらへん</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was (Here/There)</td>
<td>いた</td>
<td>おった</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was Not (Here/There)</td>
<td>いなかった</td>
<td>おらへんかった</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can seeおる conjugates into the negative with the Kansai-ben～へん ending, and if you recall from Chapter 1, ～へん in the past tense is ～へんかった. Let’s take a look at a few basic sentences:

1) どこにおるる？ Where you at?
2) 兄弟おるんですか？ Do you have siblings? (polite)
3) 彼女おらへんで。 I don’t have a girlfriend.

A casual conversation between Tomie and Tsunemi:

トミエ：ルームメートおるの？
ツネミ：ルームメートおらへんで。一人暮らしてる。
トミエ：前期は、おったん？
ツネミ：おらへんかったよ。18歳からずっと一人暮らししてる。

Tomie: Do you have a roommate?
Tsunemi: I don’t have roommates, I live by myself.
Tomie: How about last semester?
Tsunemi: Nope. I’ve lived by myself since I was 18.

1 It is important to note that this is not the same as theおる humble form learned in Chapter 20 of Genki. While they both happen to replace the verbいる, it is not a humble form when used in daily conversation in Kansai.
Here is a conversation you will probably hear everyday at Kansai Gaidai between friends on the phone:

キョウヘイ：もしもし。
ツネミ：もしもし。今どこにおるん？
キョウヘイ：今CIEのコンピュータールームにおるで。
ツネミ：あ、そうか。俺今CIEのラウンジ着いたやね。
キョウヘイ：分かった。ちょっと待って、すぐ行くわ。

Kyohei: Hey.
Tsunemi: Hey, where are you?
Kyohei: I'm in the CIE computer room.
Tsunemi: Oh, I see. I just got to the CIE lounge.
Kyohei: For sure. Hold on a second, I'll be there right away.

---

2 CIE stands for Center for International Education, which is Kansai Gaidai's 留学生別科 (Study Abroad Division). It is a tall building in the middle of the main campus, where all classes for students studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai are held. It contains a large lounge and computer lab on the ground floor, which is a popular meeting place for exchange students and Japanese students alike.

3 Here we see わ as a sentence final particle, which will be introduced in the next chapter

4 In Kansai-ben, many times the ちょっと from ちょっと待って is abbreviated to ちょう
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>～ね</td>
<td>Predominantly Men, Sometimes Women</td>
<td>Men and Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>～なぁ</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men and Women</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During your first few years learning Japanese, you might have learned that ～なぁ 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 ～なぁ sentence ending in the expression せやなぁ. 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ぁ！

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, ～なぁ 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、～なぁ 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:

キョウヘイ： 俺、うんざりだ

トミエ： なんで？

キョウヘイ： 最近バイト大変やわ。

トミエ： まじで？私もそうなん。いつもバイトの後しんどいから宿題したくないんだ。

キョウヘイ： せやなあ。休み欲しかやわ！

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
なんでやねん is another Kansai-ben catch phrase that is used in a variety of contexts and is rather difficult to accurately translate into English. This phrase is similar to saying どうしてだよ in standard Japanese, and can mean “Why;” “How come!?”; “Give me a break!” among other things. なんで is generally favored in the Kansai region over standard Japanese’s どうして or なぜ for saying “why?” The や in なんでやねん is replacing standard Japanese’s だ which we learned about in Chapter 2, and the 〜ねん is a sentence final particle used in Kansai-ben, which we will be focusing on in this chapter.

〜ねん, along with 〜で which was introduced in Chapter 3, are two of the most commonly used sentence final particles in Kansai-ben. While 〜ねん can function in different grammatical capacities, it’s most common usage is like adding 〜んだよ to the end of a sentence in standard Japanese. Let’s compare some basic sentences in standard Japanese and Kansai-ben using 〜ねん:

1.) 行くんだよ → 行くれん “(I’m) going.”
2.) どうしてだよ → なんでやねん “How come?!?”
3.) 好きだよ → 好きやねん “I like (this/that).”
4.) 違うよ → 違うねん “That’s wrong.”
5.) 何ているんだよ → 何ゆうてるねん “What the hell are you talking about?”

Because English doesn’t have sentence final particles like Japanese does, explaining their function can be rather difficult. During your first couple years of Japanese study you learned how to use 〜よ, 〜ね and possibly 〜な, and probably found it challenging to translate them from Japanese to English on homework and tests. While it was hard to translate, you could probably still understand how they slightly tweak the tone or nuance of a sentence. Sentence final particles in Kansai-ben are no different. It’s often difficult to put your finger on how exactly they change a sentence, but they are used all the time, so getting a feel for how and when they are used is very important. Don’t fret though – as you spend time at Kansai Gaidai they will become second nature to you!
If you end up adapting Kansai-ben when you speak Japanese during your time abroad, you will most likely end up having a conversation like this one of your Japanese friends:

トミエ：ザックは外国人なのに関西弁で話すんやな。なんでやねん！
ザック：俺関西弁好きやね。日本人の友達、皆関西弁で話すからええやん。
トミエ：でもああ、ザックは日本で仕事したいんだけど標準語を勉強した方がええよ。
ザック：でも、大阪で仕事するんだったら関西弁で話しても大丈夫やろ？
トミエ：ほんまや。ザック天才！
ザック：ちょっとね。日本語の先生にそう勧められたんやで。

Tomie: Zach, even though you’re a foreigner you speak Kansai-ben. How come?
Zach: I like Kansai-ben. All my Japanese friends speak Kansai-ben, so what’s the big deal?
Tomie: The thing is, if you want to get a job in Japan you should be studying standard Japanese.
Zach: But if I work in Osaka, even if I speak in Kansai-ben it’ll be fine right?
Tomie: That’s true! You’re a genius!
Zach: You’re wrong – my Japanese teacher recommended it.

---

1 In this sentence we see the verb 勧める (“to recommend”) in an honorific form. This form is not to be confused with the passive form learned in Genki Chapter 21, however they happen to conjugate in the same way (drop the final る and add られる). This honorific form is used to show deference to whoever performed the verb – in this case the Japanese teacher.
During my homestay at Kansai Gaidai my two host brothers, ages 8 and 10, often got into fights. This would usually culminate in at least one of them getting hurt, so I often heard 「あ、いたー、いたー！」 (あ、痛い、痛い in standard Japanese) around the house. As I briefly mentioned in Chapter 8, in Kansai-ben the final い of many い–adjectives is dropped in spoken conversation, which we will further examine in this chapter.

Let’s take a look at some frequently used い–adjectives and change them from their standard form into Kansai-ben:

- 痛 い → いたー 1 To hurt
- 熱 い → あつー Hot
- 寒 い → さむー Cold
- はやい → はやー Fast
- 恐 い → こわー Scary
- 高 い → たかー Expensive
- まずい → まずー Nasty
- しんどい → しんどー Tired
- おもしろい 2 → おもろー Interesting

However, not all い–adjectives in Kansai-ben take this contracted form. For example, かわいい (cute) does not become かわい, and おいしい (delicious) does not become おいし 3. As is the general rule with most Kansai-ben, it is best to listen to how other native speakers use it and then adapt it accordingly.

1 Alternatively, いてー is also used

2 As explained in Chapter 12, the し from standard Japanese’s おもしろい is dropped in Kansai-ben

3 However, in Kansai the word うまくい (“delicious”; “skilled”) is usually used over おいしい, and うまくい does become うまく
Now let’s take a look at a typical conversation between two college students at Kansai Gadai when they meet up after class:

ツネミ：俺しんどー
キョウヘイ：どうしたん？
ツネミ：徹夜したし。
キョウヘイ：なんで徹夜したん？
ツネミ：今日は、英語の授業でプレゼンあったん。
キョウヘイ：あ、そうなんや。いつあったん？
ツネミ：先の授業。
キョウヘイ：まじで？どうやった？
ツネミ：分からへん。俺が最初にプレゼンしたから他の人と比べられへんわ。
キョウヘイ：こわー！

Tsunemi: I’m exhausted.
Kyohei: How come?
Tsunemi: I pulled an all-nighter…
Kyohei: Why’d you do that?
Tsunemi: Because I had a presentation in English class today.
Kyohei: Ah, I see. When?
Tsunemi: In my last class.
Kyohei: For real? How’d it go?
Tsunemi: I have no clue. I was the first person to present, so I can’t compare to anyone else’s…
Kyohei: That’s scary dude!
After the first week or two had passed during my homestay at Kansai Gaidai, I started to hear the word 児童会 quite frequently at home. I was shocked to hear my host mom call her kids 児童会 on a daily basis. I found this shocking because before coming to Kansai Gaidai, I had always learned in Japanese class that calling someone 児童会 was pretty much like calling someone a retard in English – a pretty strong negative connotation to say the least. Was my host mom so cruel as to constantly be calling her kids retards???

Fortunately, the answer to this question came in my Japanese speaking class one day not too far into the semester. We had a chapter on Kansai-ben, and Shiom Sensei explained to us that in the Kansai region, the word 児童会 does not carry the same severity as it does in the rest of Japan. While 児童会 is not in itself a Kansai-ben word, its usage is much different in the Kansai region. It is like calling someone a fool or idiot, but doesn’t necessarily carry an explicitly strong negative connotation. Furthermore, in the Kansai region, the word ばか carries a rather strong connotation, whereas in the Tokyo region and much of the rest of Japan ばか is used rather lightly. Calling someone a ばか in the Kansai region is like calling someone an 児童会 in the Tokyo region – it can be very insulting and is taken seriously. Essentially, the usage of 児童会 and ばか in the Kansai region is reversed - 児童会 is used without much concern whereas ばか is very stern and negative. So be careful when throwing around insults at Kansai Gaidai - don’t confuse the 児童会’s with the ばか’s!

Below are two charts summarizing the usages of 児童会 and ばか – one for the Kansai region and one for the Kanto region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>関西地方</th>
<th>Nuance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>児童会</td>
<td>Fool; Idiot</td>
<td>Lightly criticizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ばか</td>
<td>Moron; Imbecile</td>
<td>Strongly negative, insulting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>関東地方</th>
<th>Nuance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>児童会</td>
<td>Moron; Imbecile</td>
<td>Strongly negative, insulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ばか</td>
<td>Fool; Idiot</td>
<td>Lightly criticizing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s look at a few scenarios where my host mom would call her kids 児童会:

---

1 The Kanto Region (関東地方) is the large middle-eastern region of Honshu, which includes the Tokyo metropolitan area and the prefectures of Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi
Situation 1: The kids start rough housing and Yamato hurts Kaito, who in turn starts crying which catches Kazuya’s attention:

カズヤ：どうしたん？！？

カイト：ヤマトに しばかれた２！

カズヤ：なんでやねん！「ごめん」って言いなさいよ！

ヤマト：ごめん。

カズヤ：アホちゃう？

Kazuya: What happened??

Kaito: Yamato hit me!

Kazuya: What the heck! Say you’re sorry!

Yamato: Sorry…

Kazuya: Are you guys idiots?

Also, the situations I presented in Chapter 6 about あかん could both have アホ in them. For example: Situation 2: During dinner, Kaito, the 8-year-old son, finds the Gyoza hard to eat with his chopsticks, so he reverts to eating with his hands, which Kazuya immediately reprimands him for:

カズヤ：何してんの３？

カイト：食べにくい、この餃子。。。 

カズヤ：それ、あかんよ。アホ。ちゃんと箸使いないさ。

Kazuya: What are you doing?

Kaito: These gyoza are hard to eat…

Kazuya: Don’t do that [eat with your hands]. Fool. Use your chopsticks properly.

２Here we encounter the Kansai-ben word しばく (“to strike”; “to hit”) in its passive form (“victim” は “villain” に “evil act”)

３何してん is one of the Kansai-ben versions of standard Japanese’s 何しているの？ “What’s up?” or “What are you doing?”
Let’s look at one more situation with Tsunemi and Kyohei where you could use アホ：

Tsunemi: I found out the results of my presentation today.

Kyohei: For real? How was it?

Tsunemi: Not too great. I was probably too exhausted because I stayed up all night the night before.

Kyohei: See you would have been better off in the end if you hadn’t stayed up all night, right? You really are an idiot...

Tsunemi: That is true, really... I guess next time I have a presentation I won’t stay up all night.

---

4 In second-year Japanese, you learn in Genki Chapter 18 that you can describe an alternative course of action that should have been taken, or regrettably was not taken, with the conditional verb form 〜ぱよかった。In Kansai the 〜たら conditional form is often favored over the 〜ぱ conditional form, so in this sentence we see the verb 徹夜する (“to stay up all night”) in its negative, 〜たら form with よかった (lit. “It would have been good if you had not stayed up all night.”)
Glossary

第一課
hana Kansai-ben equivalent of じゃあ

第二課
俺 (おれ) masculine first-person pronoun
なんで “why”; “how come”; generally used over どうして or なぜ in Kansai
ほんま Kansai-ben version of 本当 (ほんとう)
ええ Kansai-ben version of いい
かも the contracted form of かもしれない
オッケー okay

第三課
もちろん of course
めっちゃ Kansai-ben version of とても／すごく
久しぶり (ひさしく) + negative “haven’t done X in a long time”
楽しみや (たのしや) “looking forward to it”

第四課
むずい Kansai-ben version of 難しい (むずかしい)
あんまり Kansai-ben contraction of あまり
彼氏 (かれし) boyfriend
おる Kansai-ben version of いる

第五課
腹が減る (はらがへる) to become hungry
第六課
そんな “like that”
焼き肉 (やきにく) Korean barbeque
ベジタリアン vegetarian

第七課
チャンス chance

第八課
どう思う？ “what do you think about X?”
外大 (がいだい) contraction of 関西外大 (かんさいがいだい)
とか for example
ズムーズ (な) smooth

第九課
あいつ colloquialism for “he” or “she”
責任 (せきにん) responsibility

第十課
子 (こ) child; kid
格好ええ (かっこええ) Kansai-ben version of 格好いい “cool”
先に (さきに) before
お前 (おまえ) rough, masculine version of あなた

第十一課
やばい “crap;” “shit;” “amazing” (many usages like “shit” in English – can have both good and bad meanings)
ありえへん Kansai-ben version of ありえない, favored over 信じられない (しんじられない) for saying “I can’t believe it”
大阪城 (おおさかじょう) Osaka Castle

第十二課
リーディング reading
ライティング writing
確かに (たしかに) “certainly;” “surely;” as a colloquialism, “for real”

第十三課
携帯 (けいたい) short for 携帯電話 (けいたいでんわ) cell phone
前期 (ぜんき) last semester

第十四課
パート contraction of アルバイト, part-time job

第十五課
天才 (てんさい) genius
勧める (すすめる) to suggest; to recommend

第十六課
プレゼン presentation
先の (さきの) the one before X

第十七課
しばく Kansai-ben word meaning “to hit”
Acknowledgments

Throughout this project, I tried to recall the daily conversations I had while at Kansai Gaidai in order to accurately depict how the Kansai dialect is used. However, because I wrote this manual over a year after I studied abroad in Japan and I didn't want to make any errors, I found myself constantly checking what I had written against various sources which I would like to acknowledge.

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