

# ～ことができます



The 'Can Do' Badge (能力のバッジ)



## Action Only



Play (Hiku)

## Ability / Skill



Can Play (Hiku koto ga dekimasu)



Simply saying 'I play piano' just describes an action. But if you want to say you have the **SKILL** or **ABILITY** to do it, you use '**Koto ga dekimasu**'. It transforms the action into a Capability.

# Box the Verb with **KOTO**!

Step 1

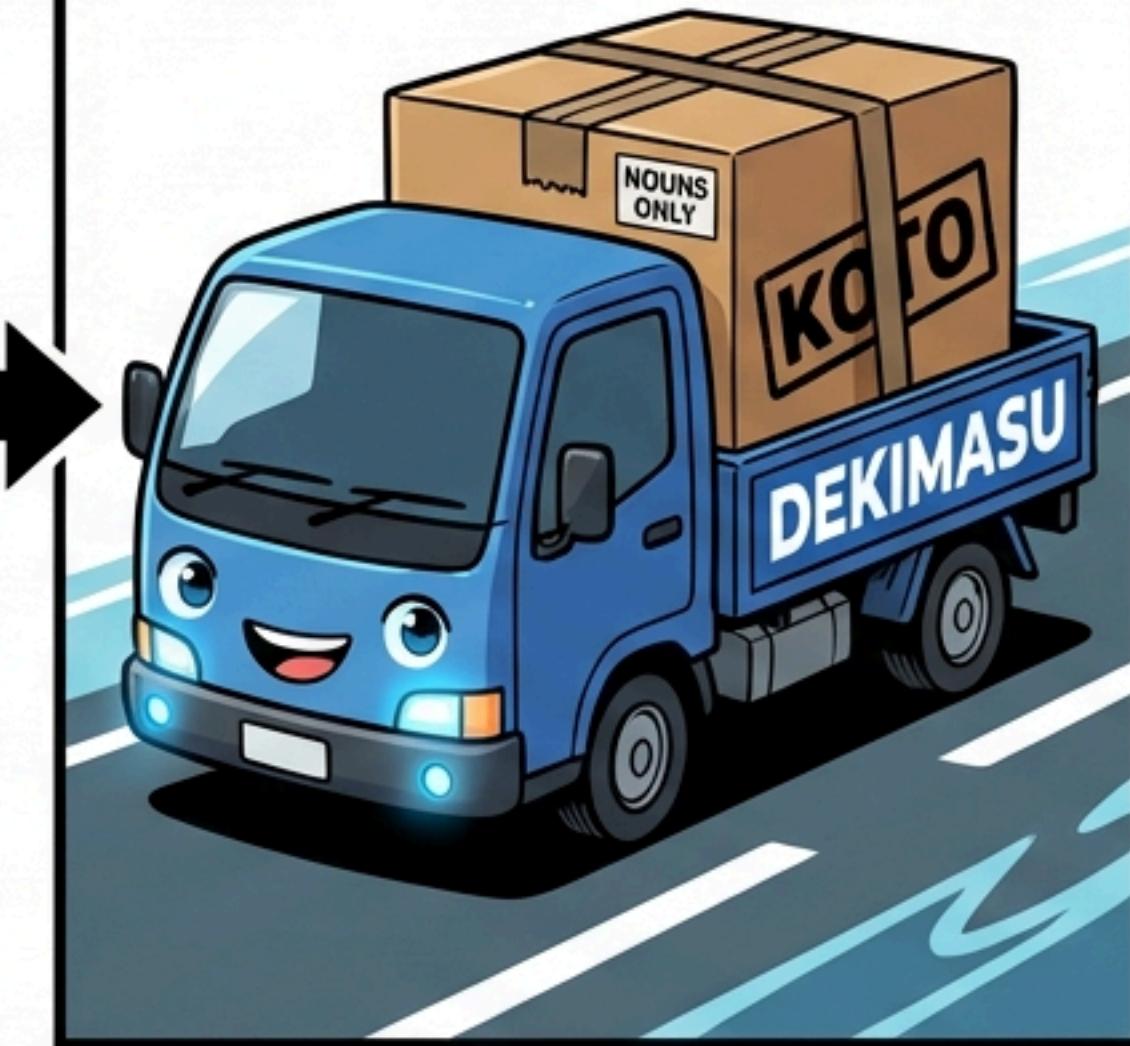


**VERB** (Dictionary Form)

Step 2

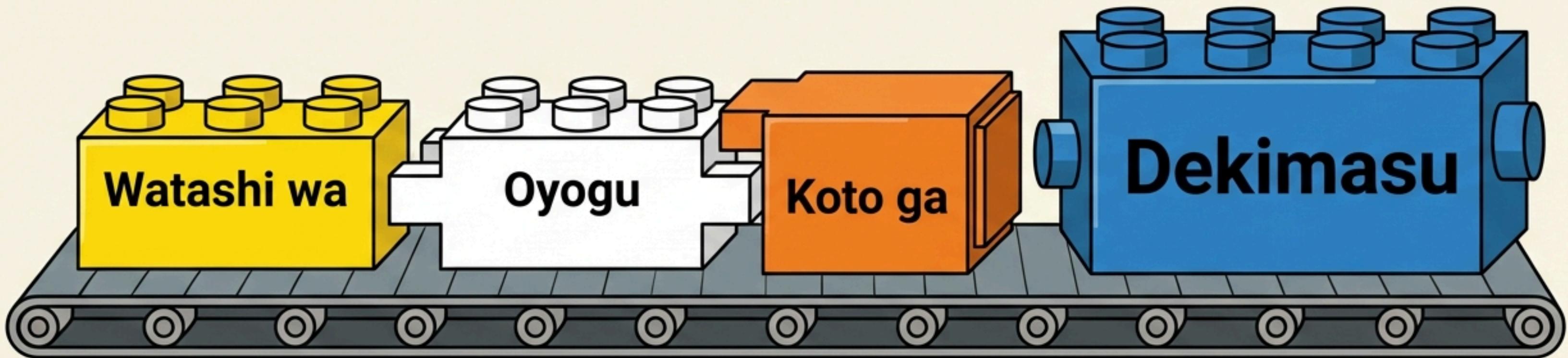


Step 3



Here is the grammar secret. 'Dekimasu' works like a truck that only accepts **NOUNS**. You can't put a raw verb in it. We use '**KOTO**' to box the verb and turn it into a Noun package. 'Oyogu' becomes 'Oyogu-koto'.

# Sentence Assembly



私は泳ぐことができます。  
(I can swim.)



Topic + Verb +  
Box + Can Do.  
Simple!

# Raya's Hack: The Noun Shortcut

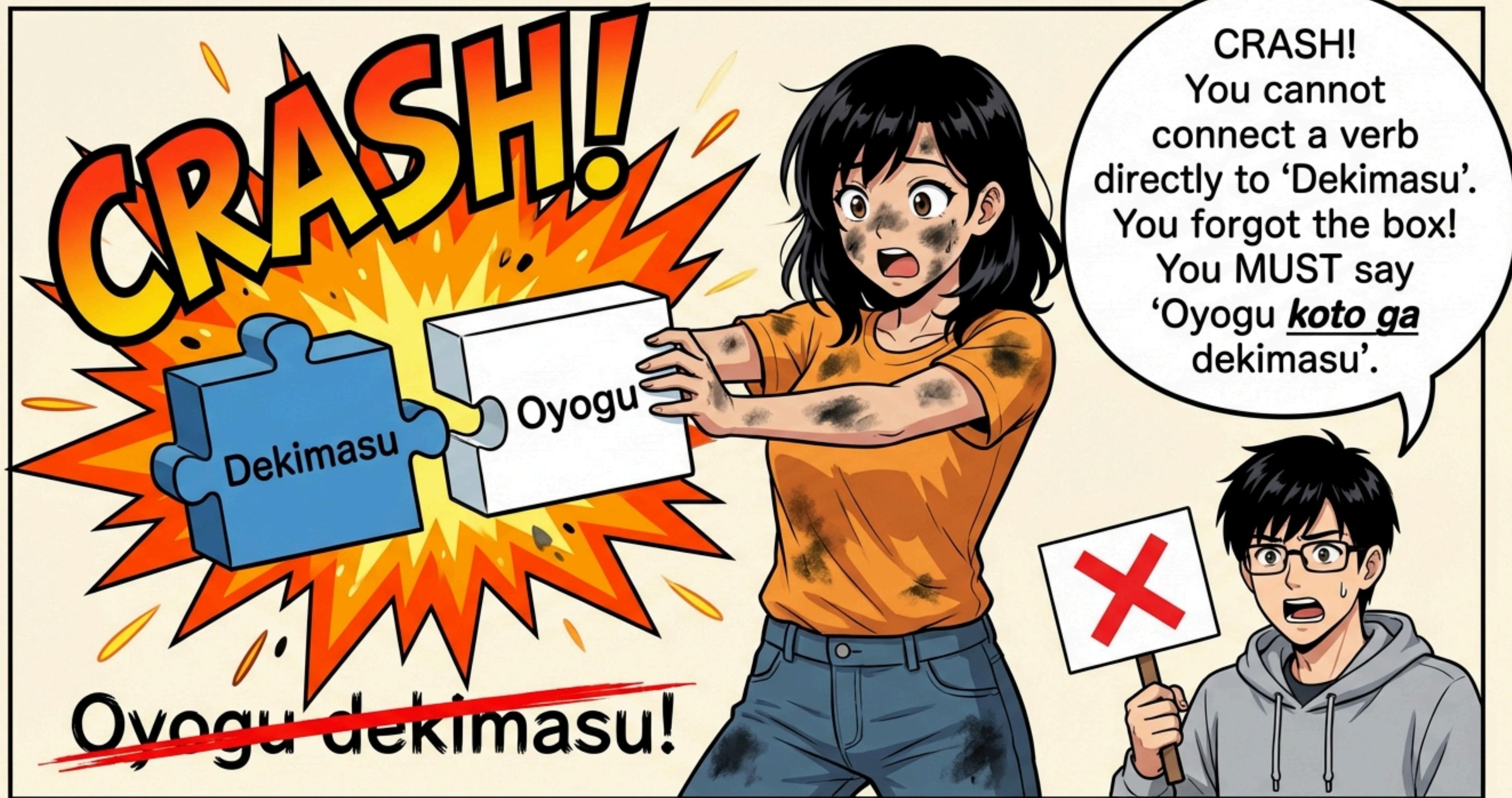
If it's already a Noun,  
skip the box! Just use  
**GA DEKIMASU!**



**Ski ga  
dekimasu!**  
(I can ski!)

**Piano ga  
dekimasu!**  
(I can play piano!)

You only need '**Koto**' if you are trying to package a **VERB**. Nouns are already packaged!





## CHEAT SHEET: 'Dekimasu' Summary

- **VERB Rule:**

[Dictionary Form Verb] + **koto ga dekimasu**  
(ex: *Taberu koto ga dekimasu*)

- **NOUN Rule:**

[Noun] + **ga dekimasu**  
(ex: *Tennis ga dekimasu*)

- **Negative Form:**

.... **koto ga dekimasen** (Cannot do)

You are now ready to show your skills!