

Polite vs. Casual Switching (使い分け)

The Social Mask (社会のマスク)



THE STRANGER



DISTANCE DECIDES THE STYLE.

THE FRIEND



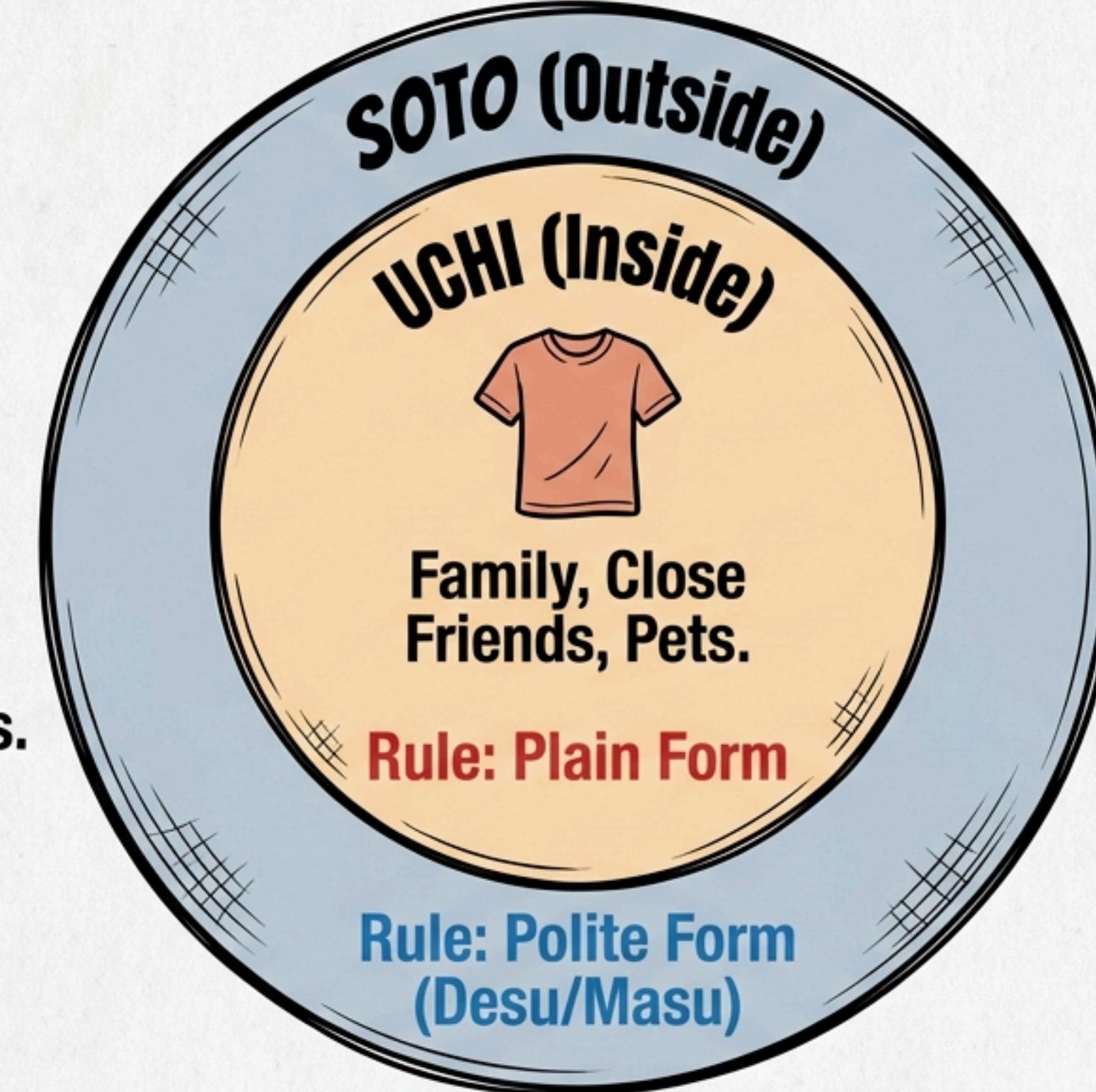
JAPANESE ISN'T JUST GRAMMAR; IT'S ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCE. USE POLITE FORM (DESU/MASU) TO KEEP A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE. USE CASUAL FORM (PLAIN) TO SHOW CLOSENESS.



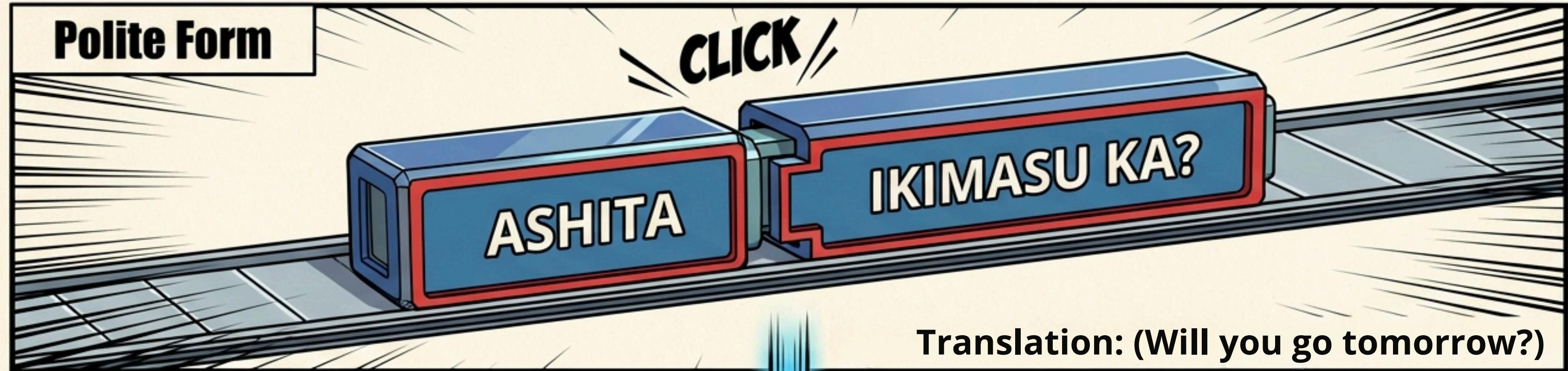
Uchi (Casual) vs. Soto (Polite)



**Boss, Teachers,
Strangers, Seniors.**



Polite Form

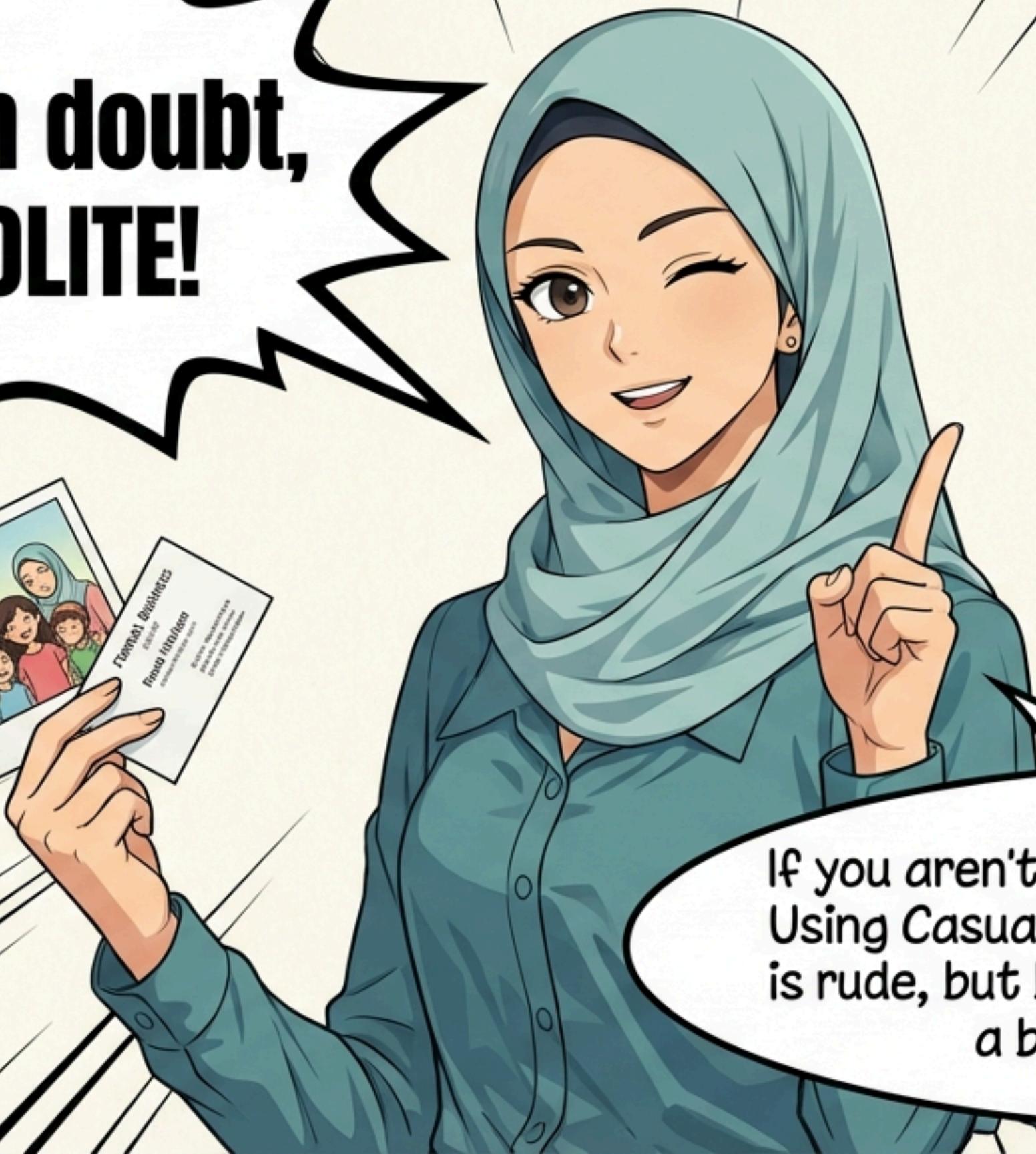


Casual Form



SAME MEANING, DIFFERENT VIBE.

**When in doubt,
be POLITE!**



If you aren't sure, always use Polite Form. Using Casual Form with the wrong person is rude, but being polite to a friend is just a bit stiff. Play it safe!

The Golden Rule

- Family/Friends = Casual
- Everyone Else = Polite

Don't do this!



✗ 食べる です (Taberu desu)
- Frankenstein Sentence!



Don't mix and match! You cannot attach 'Desu' to a Plain Form Verb.

Wrong: Taberu desu.
Correct (Polite): Tabemasu.
Correct (Casual): Taberu.

POLITENESS CHEAT SHEET

- **POLITE (Desu/Masu):**
Strangers, Seniors, Bosses, Teachers.
- **CASUAL (Plain):**
Family, Kids, Close Friends, Pets.

Rule: Don't mix styles in one sentence!

