

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



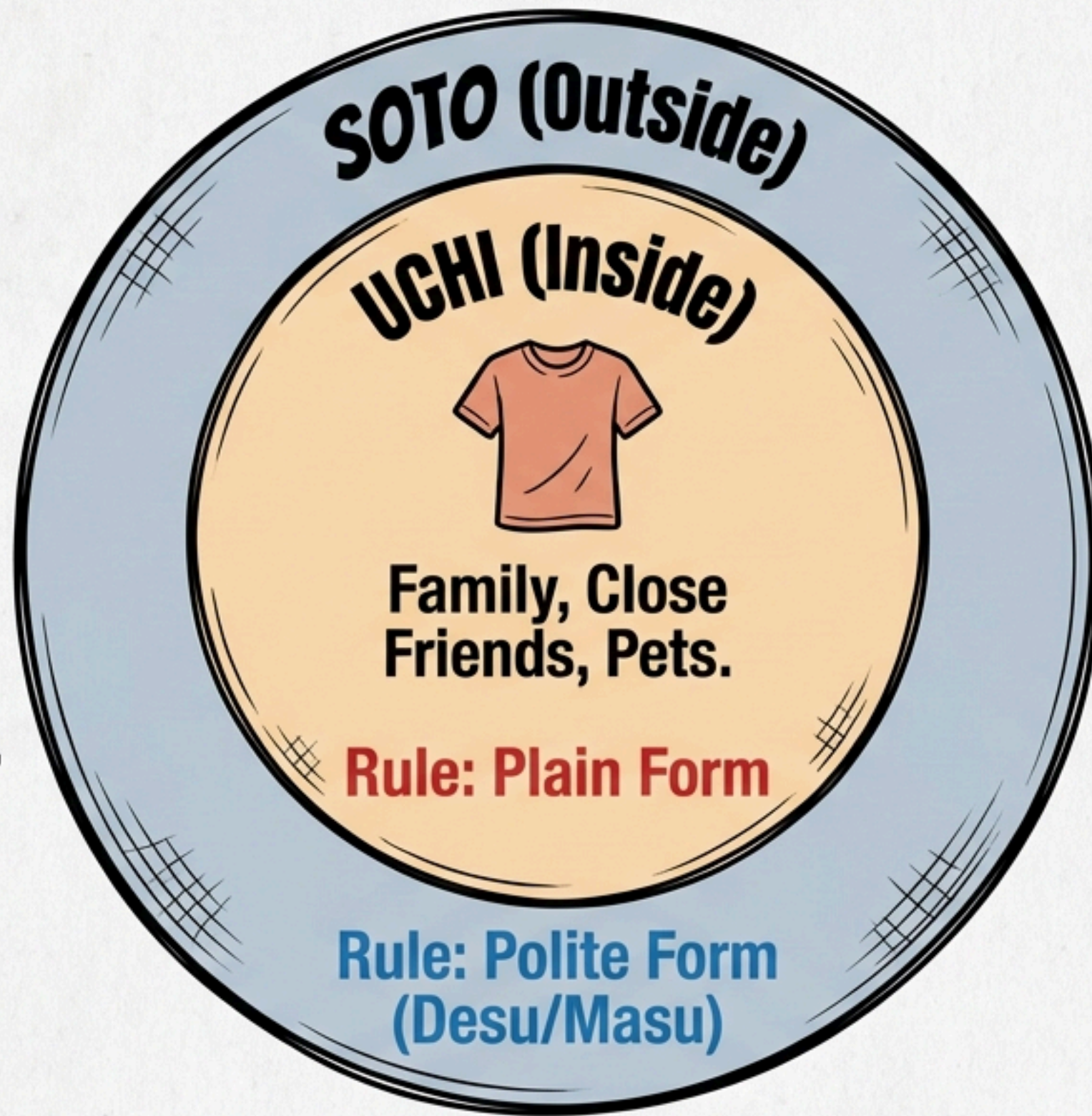
JAPANESE ISN'T JUST GRAMMAR; IT'S ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCE. USE POLITE FORM (DESU/MASU) TO KEEP A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE. USE CASUAL FORM (PLAIN) TO SHOW CLOSENESS.



Uchi (Casual) vs. Soto (Polite)



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



Think of your social world as two circles. Inside the comfort zone? No masks needed. Outside? Wear your "Polite Suit"—even if you know them!



Polite Form

CLICK

ASHITA

IKIMASU KA?

Translation: (Will you go tomorrow?)

Casual Form

POP

ASHITA

IKU?

'MASU'

Translation: (Gonna go tomorrow?)

SAME MEANING, DIFFERENT VIBE.



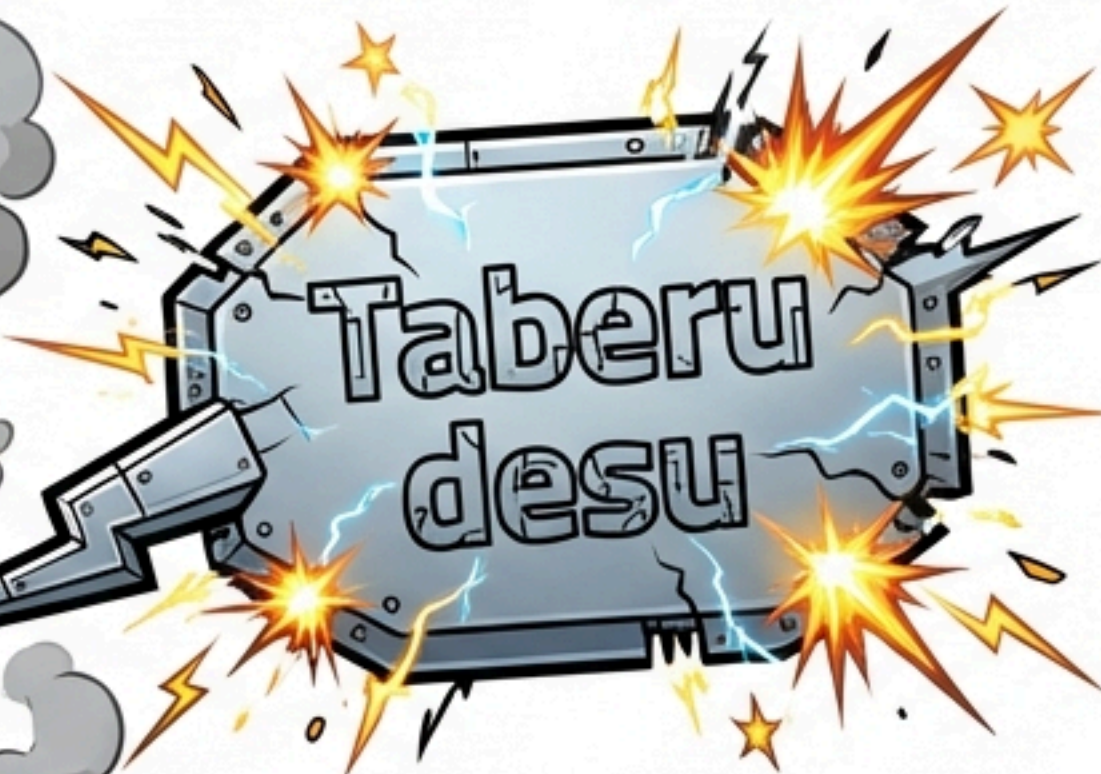
**When in doubt,
be POLITE!**

The Golden Rule

- **Family/Friends = Casual**
- **Everyone Else = 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!

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!

