

ANSWER to question # 21: Answers 1, 2 and 6 are correct.

Answer: As discussed in Answer 19 (<https://www.japaneseaudiolessons.com/japanese-grammar-quiz/answer-to-question-19b/>), in Japanese there are 4 CONDITIONAL FORMS that can be used to mean “IF.” They are the ば (BA), たら (TARA), と (TO) and なら (NARA) forms. When you want to express REGRET about something that you or someone else did, you may combine とよかった (yokatta) = “it was good” with the ば (BA) and たら (TARA) forms.

Therefore, ANSWERS # 1 and # 2 are both CORRECT.

However, to express REGRET, you may NOT use なら (NARA). Therefore, ANSWER # 3 is INCORRECT.

Also, to express REGRET, you may NOT combine とよかった (yokatta) = “it was good” with the と (TO) form. That was the consensus of the Japanese students in my wife’s calligraphy class today. However, the two students in the class who are from Kyushu do NOT fully AGREE with this conclusion. Although they realize that this way of talking may not be standard Japanese, they feel comfortable with Answer # 4 as a way of saying “I wish I could go.” Apparently this is related to differences in DIALECT between Kyushu and other parts of Japan.

Therefore, ANSWER # 4 is INCORRECT, if you want to speak in standard Japanese.

Answer # 5 has a completely different meaning. パーティーに行ってよかった (paatii ni itte yokatta) = “going to the party, it was good” or “it was good that I went to the party.”

Therefore, ANSWER # 5 is INCORRECT.

ANSWER # 6 uses the suffix べき (-beki) which, when used after a plain speech verb, means “should” or “must.” Combined with the past verb datta, this means “I should have.”

Therefore, ANSWER # 6 is CORRECT.

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Question # 21: “Expressing Regret”

You want to say, “I should have gone to the party” or “it would have been better if I had gone to the party.” Which of the following 6 Japanese sentences is correct?

1. パーティーに行けばよかった (paatii ni ikeba yokatta).

2. パーティーに行ったらよかった (paatii ni ittara yokatta).
3. パーティーに行ったらよかった (paatii ni itta nara yokatta).
4. パーティーに行くとよかった (paatii ni iku to yokatta).
5. パーティーに行くとよかった (paatii ni itte yokatta).
6. パーティーに行くべきだった (paatii ni iku beki datta).