

A variety of expressions are available in Japanese to express: (a) how the information was attained or derived; and (b) how the speaker judges it to relate to the listener's understanding. Note occasional differences between verbs, adjectives, and nouns. Note also gender differences!

**Post-sentence particles:** These tend to relate to (b) above, i.e., how the speaker thinks his or her information will relate to information the speaker is expected to know.

よ : The speaker presents direct information with self-confidence, without any indication of how the information was derived, but with the nuance that the speaker is overriding the listener's understanding of the matter.

行くよ。 I will go there, I tell you!  
 おいしいよ。 Believe me, it's delicious!  
 先生だよ。 You seem to be unsure, so I'm telling you, it's the teacher! [Speaker is masculine]  
 先生よ。 You seem to be unsure, so I'm telling you, it's the teacher! [S is feminine]

ね (pronounced with subdued stress): Speaker assumes listener is in agreement, but does not expect confirmation:

行くね。 You're going, I assume.  
 おいしいね。 It's delicious (and I assume you agree).  
 先生だね。 She's the teacher, isn't she (I assume you agree). [S is masculine]  
 先生ね。 She's the teacher, isn't she (I assume you agree). [S is feminine]  
 先生だったね。 It was the teacher, wasn't it. [Speaker is masculine or feminine]

ね? (slightly raised pitch, as if to elicit a reaction): Speaker assumes that the listener will agree, but is asking for confirmation. The listener is expected to confirm, if not explicitly by saying 'はい' or 'ん', then at least with a slight nod of the head. In standard writing, this is usually presented as only 'ね', same as above, with no question mark.

行くね? You're going, right? (...and please at least give me a nod if you are...)  
 おいしいね? This is delicious, don't you think?  
 先生だね? That is the teacher, isn't it? [speaker is masculine]  
 先生ね? That is the teacher, isn't it? [speaker is feminine]

ねえ (pronounced with varying intonations; some speakers -- esp. women -- tend to go all out on this, with extra lengthening and an internal 'wave' of intonation): The speaker strongly assumes that the listener will agree, but instead of requesting confirmation, merely emphasizes how speaker and listener are in agreement. In standard writing, this is usually presented as only 'ね' or sometimes 'ねえ'.

よく食べるねえ。 He really eats a lot, doesn't he. (...and I totally assume you agree with me...)  
 おいしいねえ。 Isn't this delicious?!  
 バカだねえ。 What an idiot! [S is masculine]  
 バカねえ。 How idiotic! [S is feminine]

Note also that 'ね' can occur after any phrase boundary, as an attempt to make sure the listener is paying attention. Intonation tilting up for extra confirmation, or drooping down for assumed agreement:

先生がね、ユミちゃんのことね、怒ってたんだよ。 Sensei, you know, he was really mad, like, at Yumi-chan.

なあ (pronounced with some elongation): The speaker (most often male) is directing his speech mainly at himself, and is agreeing with himself. Most often written as plain 'な'.

たかいなあ。 Man, is that expensive!  
 きれいだなあ。 Wow, that is amazingly beautiful!

ぜ : The speaker (most often male) expresses impatience with the perspective of the listener.

行くぜ。 Like it or not, we're off.  
 行こうぜ。 Ready or not, let's go.  
 たかいぜ。 That's expensive, I'm tellin' ya!  
 先生だぜ。 He's the teacher, in case you didn't know!

ぞ : The speaker (most often male) gruffly and totally disregards the opinion of the listener.

行くぞ。 I'm gettin' outa here (whether or not you, too, are ready).  
 やばいぞ。 It's too dangerous (you wanna get killed)?  
 先生だぞ。 (Watch out...,) he's the teacher!

さ : (often elongated as さあ): Most often used mid-sentence, like ね but more self-centered, i.e. not seeking agreement or feedback from the listener. A bit slangy:

親がさあ、キャンプに行かしてくれないんだ。 Her parents, you see, won't let her go to the camp.

(ø): The speaker presents direct information with self-confidence and without any nuance as to how that information was derived, or how it may relate to the listener's understanding of the matter.

行く。 I will go.  
おいしい。 It's delicious.  
先生だ。 She's the teacher. [Speaker (S) is masculine]  
先生。 She's the teacher. [Speaker (S) is feminine]

か : Question particle. Within extended contexts, this often functions as a negative:

そうかな。 Hm, I wonder... (expressing doubt).  
宏さんも行かないかと誘ってみた。 I invited Hiroshi, too, thinking he might come. [minus x minus = plus].  
そうじゃないかと思った。 I thought it might be that way. [minus x minus = plus].

### Assorted other qualifiers:

だろう。 S lacks direct knowledge, but formulates her judgement based upon general experience. (i.e., I would expect...). Unlike だ this works with N, A, or V. Formal is でしょう.

おいしいだろう。 [falling intonation:] Common knowledge and common sense would lead one to the logical conclusion that it (e.g., the cake) is probably delicious.

おいしいだろう? [rising intonation:] Speaker prods listener to acknowledge that listener has come to the same (seemingly inevitable) conclusion, whether based on direct or indirect experience.

おいしそうだ。 S bases the conclusion on direct experience of partial evidence (i.e., "The smell and appearance indicate that it would be delicious, though I have not tasted it yet to confirm that.") Used with adjectives (minus い), na-nouns, and verb stems (see next:)

元氣そうだね。 [She really seems to be in good health; active; energetic.]  
雨が降りそうだ。 [It seems like it will rain. > It seems like it is about to rain.]  
雨が降りそうな天気だ。 [The weather looks like it is about to rain.]

おいしいはずだ。 [I have no direct evidence on which to base my judgement, but my knowledge of the world leads me to fully expect that it will be delicious.]

おいしいかももしれない。 [I have no direct evidence, but experience makes me think it might be delicious. Chances are usually lower than 50/50, but sometimes a speaker will make an extra effort to appear modest, in which case they may be much more likely.]

多分おいしい。 [I have no direct evidence, but experience makes me think it is more likely than not to be delicious.]

確かにおいしい。 [It will definitely be delicious. I am certain of it (irregardless of evidence).]  
cf: 確かにおいしかった。 [Thinking back on it, it was certainly delicious (but who knows? -- it may have had poison).]

絶対おいしい。 [Absolutely, it will be delicious. No questions asked.]

おいしいようだ。 [I have only partial and indirect evidence (e.g., I saw someone else eating it), but it seems to be delicious.]

おいしいみたいだ。 Same as above (ようだ), but more colloquial. Sometimes said to be feminine, but it is more likely that the issue is with the final だ, which when omitted can make the whole sentence seem feminine. Note みたい is a noun, and doesn't use a kanji because the meaning is unrelated.

cf: ウソみたいな値段 (ねだん) だ。 [That price is like a joke!]

病氣らしい。 [Partial evidence leads me to the conclusion that he must be sick. I can't think of any other possibility.]  
note: 田中さんらしくない。 [It isn't typical of Tanaka (to do that sort of thing).]

病氣だそうだ。 [Verbal reports indicate (= "They say" = "I heard") he is sick.]

おいしいと言った。 [Somebody said -- I quote you -- it is delicious.]

おいしいと思う。 [I think -- but bear in mind it's only my opinion -- that it is delicious.]

おいしかったっけ。 [Hmmm, I'm trying to think back, whether it was delicious.]  
cf: 何だったっけ。 [Hmm. Now, what *was* that?]

Also: Compare 覚える (to remember something by packing it into your head) versus 思い出す (to remember something by unpacking out of your memory).