

Japanese Particles 02: "ba"

ba: English approximation: "if..."

1. presents a condition that would result in the clause that follows:

ima (v) dekakere ba maniaimasu yo.
"If you leave now, you'll make it in time"

dekakere: (verb) "to leave / to go out", dekakemasu <-- not in our list
maniaimasu: (verb) "to be on time / will be on time" <-- not in our list

2. Shows a cause and effect relationship

yuuyake ni (v) nare ba, yokujitsu wa tenki ni naru.
"When there's a vivid sunset, the next day will be clear"

yuuyake: (noun) sunset
nare (verb): "to become" narimasu
yokujitsu: (noun): the next day
tenki: weather
missing "i" after "tenki"?!?

3. "Speaking of..."

osushi (c) nara ba, ano mise ga oishii desu yo.
"In terms of sushi, that restaurant is a good one"

nara: "On the topic of"

4. "{something} and {something} also" ... or "neither..."

on-na mo (v) ire ba otoko mo iru
"There are women, and there are also men"

mo: "both A and B", "too", "also", "in addition", "as well", "even / quantity"
ire: (verb) "to accept", "to adopt (a policy)", "to take (advice)", to pay attention to
iru: to exist (imasu)

taberu mono mo (v) nakere ba, sumu tokoro mo nai.
"There isn't anything to eat, or anywhere to live"
"There's neither food nor shelter"

mo: "neither" (in a negative sentence)
nakere: "if it doesn't exist" / "if there is no" / "if not .. unless" / "have to..." / "must..."
tokoro: as a result (?)

NOTE: do "mo" next.