

Japanese Particles 04: "ya"

ya: Similar to "to". Used like "and" in English. "ya" refers more to a category, and makes things more vague.

Grouping by category:

pikunikku ni wa (n) okashi **to** (n) nomimono o motte iki-mashoo.
*"let's bring some candies **and** drinks on the picnic"*

pikunikku ni wa (n) okashi **ya** (n) nomimono o motte iki-mashoo.
*"let's bring **something like** candies and drinks on the picnic"*

okashi: (noun) candy, snack
motteimasu: (verb) to have / motte: te- form
いきましょう / **iki-mashoo**: let's go!

Indicates that an action is immediately followed by another action: "as soon as" / "when" / "the moment...":

kanojo wa, boku no sugata o miru ya, ikari o bakuhatsu saseta.
"as soon as she saw me, she went into a fit of anger"

sugata: (noun) appearance, shape
ikari: (noun) anger
bakuhatsu: (noun) explosion
sasemasu: (verb) "to make somebody do something" / "to let somebody do something"

she / she saw my appearance / right after / explosion of anger / made me do

Also used in men's language to mean "shall we?" (casually coaxing or inviting)

Maa, moo sukoshi hanashi o shite kara, kaeroo ya.
"well now, let's talk a little more before we go home, shall we?"

maa: "well now"
かえろう kaeroo: "let's go home" / the shortened "mashou" form" (?)
kaeri mas: to return home

After the name of the party addressed, softens the tone of the rest of the sentence.

ojiisan ya, kyoo wa anata no tanjōbi desu yo
"my dear old man, today is your birthday you know"

ojiisan: (noun) old man
tanjōbi: (noun) birthday