

# Japanese

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## Cover

# Japanese

日本語

## Introduction/About

### Introduction - Welcome to the Japanese Wikibook

Development of this Wikibook began on August 11, 2003. It is an ongoing project that will evolve as users contribute to the content and layout of pages. The end goal of this project is to create an online resource for those wishing to learn Japanese. We will attempt to encompass all aspects of the Japanese language, including pronunciation, reading, writing, and grammar.

Many textbooks and travel guides make use of 'rōmaji' (Romanisation of Japanese characters) to bypass the need for learning the Japanese characters. This Wikibook, however, aims to develop a well rounded student, and as such, will make minimal use of 'rōmaji' except in introducing pronunciation.

### Current work

In the first five years, this Wikibook went through several rewrites. Seeing all too few contributors keen on picking up the torch where past editors left off, the book had amassed several layers of rewritten material that did little to provide a clear path through the material. Waking to that reality after [considerable discussion](#), we came up with the [categorisation](#) scheme now present on the main page. The [Japanese/Contents](#) page does not conform with that scheme as it is more an inventory for

editors looking for existing material to work with (be it merging, re-factoring, deleting, or rewriting), rather than an index for learners.

Since June 2008, a good deal of merges and rewrites have been done. As a result we've managed to delete over a hundred pages of unnecessary or duplicate material, navbars, printable versions, and templates. See [Removal Suggestions](#) for deletion proposals and discussions. For pages to be merged, see the [Books to be merged](#) ([https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=Category:Books\\_to\\_be\\_merged&from=Japanese](https://en.wikibooks.org/w/index.php?title=Category:Books_to_be_merged&from=Japanese)) category for a list of pages in this book that have been suggested be merged and [Category:Japanese/todo](#) for pages with specific work to be done.

There hasn't been much discussion lately on the actual content since active editors (currently [Retropunk](#) and [Swift](#)) have been working on somewhat separate aspects of this book. We have a section on pages on [structure](#), [lesson plans](#) and [syllabus](#). *How much to teach* and *Levels* might also be of interest for those so inclined. For development of a consistent curriculum see [User:Retropunk/Japanese Curriculum](#) and [Sugu ni Hajimemashō](#).

Finally; every contributor seems to have a different take on the purpose of this book. In your work, remember that learners have vastly different learning styles and diverse approaches to lesson plans will benefit readers and contributors alike. Until we have fully functioning learning paths, the categorisation scheme on the front page will make the existing material accessible to readers while allowing users to contribute without having to conform to a predefined form.

That said; pick your path and be bold.

## Study methods

As with the study of any subject, you need to have self-discipline. Set a certain amount of time that will be devoted to the study of Japanese, and try to make a regular schedule. Don't rush yourself and set yourself achievable goals. The ideal method to study a language is to be exposed to the native environment with access to native speakers and have your own personal tutor. These are, however, not necessary and self-study can be rewarding in itself.

## Setting Goals

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Setting goals is vital.

## Kana

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If you are serious about learning to read and write Japanese, you must first master kana (hiragana & katakana). These are the two syllabaries, and are phonetic just like the English alphabet. Unlike English, however, Japanese pronunciation is almost perfectly regular, meaning that for the most part, one symbol stands for one sound, and there are very few pronunciation rules to learn. As a result, hiragana and katakana can easily be mastered, though fluency in reading will take longer.

The kana are few enough that one can learn them by rote. To reach fluency, one eventually has to drop mnemonic devices anyway. For that transition period, or even for the few that prove difficult to memorise, mnemonics can come in handy.

Once you have mastered the kana, you will be able to pronounce all the kana characters you come across, even if you don't know the meaning. Not to worry, though, once you build up your vocabulary, you'll be amazed how much more you can comprehend.

## Kanji

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You should begin to learn kanji immediately, as it is very time-consuming. The sooner you start, the sooner you will become proficient.

There are a number of ways to learn the kanji.

- In Japanese skills, they are taught by **rote**.
- One can learn the **radicals**.
- There are **etymology-based** mnemonics, and
- **pictorial-based** mnemonics.
- Calligraphy (書道 *shodō*) can be a mnemonic and pleasurable way to practice kanji.

To learn via *radicals* (the pieces that make them up), you only need to learn the relatively few components (approximately 200), and pretty soon you will be able to guess the meaning and pronunciation of a new character with some accuracy just by looking at it.

Writing kanji is an entirely different business; think of kanji as something elegant, an art. Calligraphy is commonly studied and a highly revered art in Japan. Skillfully written characters and proverbs are often hung on walls or displayed in museums, and sell for as much as paintings do in the West.

A good strategy to learning all of these characters is to realize that it isn't anything like English, Spanish, or other European languages. When memorizing the sounds of a character, try to forget your native language, and think phonetically, rather than in your native alphabet.

**Note:** As mentioned earlier, it is important not to rush yourself. The more you try to learn in one go, the easier it is for you to forget.

## See also

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- [How to Learn a Language](#)
- [Lang Infinity \(http://www.lang-8.com/\)](http://www.lang-8.com/); Write in Japanese, or any language, and get your entries critiqued by natives.

# Contributor's Guide

This page aims to help potential contributors better understand the principles behind the current work and give ideas for how best to add new material.

## Structure to follow

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This book has been restructured so many times but there is an effort under way to merge some of the duplicate material.

A [syllabus](#) and [lesson plan](#) was created for the so-called "Practical Lessons". This may be useful for future contributors, but never turned out any lessons.

[User:Retropunk](#) sorted the JLPT 4 grammar list. This is now up at [Sugu ni Hajimemashō](#) where it is being sorted into a lesson plan.

## Lessons

There are many ways to organise a lesson, this is one:

1. Dialogue (by posters, conversations, or whatever.)
2. Discussion of Vocabulary in Dialogue
  - Discuss various uses of vocabulary if necessary (e.g., politeness)
  - Optional links to dialogues for previously learned vocabulary
3. Grammar
  - Discuss grammar points, giving more examples if necessary.
  - Link to previous grammar points (maybe by categories)
4. Optional Quick Review
5. Optional link to Wikiversity for practice work.

## Reading material

1. Text (poster, conversation, literary text or anything fitting the level)
2. Vocabulary
  - List new vocabulary.
  - Discuss various uses of vocabulary where appropriate (e.g., politeness)
3. Grammar
  - Discuss grammar points, giving more examples if necessary.
  - Link to previous grammar points (maybe by categories)
4. Optional Quick Review
5. Optional link to Wikiversity for practice work.

## Style guide

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### Romanisation

Learning the Japanese scripts will give the student useful insight into the language that the simple (and limited) romanisations cannot offer. Romanisation (*rōmaji*) should, therefore, only be used in introductory lessons to assist with the learning of the kana, and in the reference guides. Kana and kanji should be used in all subsequent lessons.

Please use the [Wikipedia:Manual of Style for Japan-related articles](#). Specifically:

- Consonants will be written using the Revised Hepburn system (s, sh, z, j, t, ts, ch, f)
- "n" mora will be written n' before a vowel, or "y" (*zen'aku*, *kon'yaku*)

Examples:

- しつ: *shitsu*
- どうぞ: *dōzo*
- えいご: *eigo*
- せんぱい: *senpai*
- せんや: *sen'ya* (as different from せにや *senya*)
- とうきょう 東京: *Tōkyō*

The macrons (Ā, ā, Ē, ē, Ī, ī, Ō, ō, Ū, ū) are easily added through the edit interface by choosing "Romaji" in the drop-down list below the "Save page" button.

### Furigana

The lessons make extensive use of furigana. Please use the following templates to insert furigana:

- {{furi|楽|たの|しい}}: 楽しい

## Conversations

For conversations with Japanese and English side by side, use {{Japanese conversation}}.

## Patterns and examples

Sentence patterns and examples can be highlighted using the {{Japanese pattern}} and {{Japanese example}} templates.

## Related modules

Linking to related modules makes it easier for readers to refer to past lessons (e.g. to brush up on topics), vocabulary lists (e.g. when practicing new sentence patterns) or other useful content (such as the [Verb conjugation table](#)). The {{Japanese related}} template can be used to consistently style these links.

## Vocabulary pages

Please place vocabulary lists on subpages of [Japanese/Vocabulary](#) and use {{Japanese vocabulary entry}} to structure them. The {{japanese related|vocabulary}} can be used to conveniently link to the list from lesson pages.

## Stroke order



Gif animations

There is a [project on the Wikimedia Commons](#) to upload images and animations of the stroke order for characters. There are directions on how to contribute. It's easy with the use of some free programs. Please contribute so that we'll have a standardized reference for our Wikibook users.



Black to red fade

## See also

- [Wikibooks:Manual of Style](#)
- [Authoring Foreign Language Textbooks](#)

## Introduction

Japanese is spoken by 130 million people. This makes it the [ninth most spoken language](#) by native speakers. Linguists debate over the classification of the Japanese language, and one general theory asserts that Japanese is an isolated language and thus a language family of its own, known as Japonic languages. Another major theory includes Japanese as part of a hypothetical Altaic language family which spans most of Central Asia and would also include Turkic, Mongolic, Tungusic, and Korean languages. Neither of these theories has yet been generally accepted.

Japan is the only country where Japanese is the sole official language (though the island of [Angaur](#) has Japanese as one of three official languages). There are, however, numerous speakers in other countries. These are largely due to emigration, most notably to the United States of America (California and Hawaii, in particular), Brazil and the Philippines. Furthermore, when Japan occupied and colonized much of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, the locals were educated in the Japanese language. Many elderly locals in Korea, Taiwan, and parts of China still speak Japanese.

Japan has steadily developed for many centuries and, unlike many other cultures, has not been seriously affected by any major invasions until recent times. A substantial part of the vocabulary, though, has been borrowed over the years from Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, German, French, and most recently English.

## Grammar

While Japanese grammar is very regular, it is markedly different from English. Japanese has been deemed a subject–object–verb (SOV) and topic-prominent language, whereas English is a subject–verb–object (SVO) and subject-prominent language.

To illustrate, the English sentence “Cats eat mice” contains a subject (cats), a verb (eat), and an object (mice), in an SVO order, where the “-s” is a *plural marker*, and “mouse” → “mice” is a plural marker by [ablaut](#), but only the word order indicates which is the subject and the object—i.e. which is dining and which is the meal.

ねこ 猫	は	ねずみ 鼠	を	く 食う
Neko	wa	nezumi	o	kū
Cat		mouse		eat

The topic-prominence is not obvious in this example; “cat” is the subject (the agent) in English, but it is the topic (what the sentence is *about*) in Japanese. In the above example, “猫は” is the topic, and “鼠を食う” is the comment.

The verb “kū” means “eat” in the sense of one animal consuming another. To speak about a person eating, it would make more sense to use the word “taberu” which means “eat,” as in to consume a meal.<sup>[1]</sup>

Japanese does not have articles (the words, “a” or “an”, or “the”), nor is it mandatory to indicate number (singular versus plural). In the sentence above, “猫” could mean either “cat” or “cats.” The “mouse/mice” ablaut does not occur in Japanese, which is an agglutinative language (inflecting by appending) and highly regular. In Japanese, the plural is formed by adding the ending “-tachi,” or “-ra.” Thus, the word, “cats” would be “nekotachi,” and is always plural, but the word “neko” can be either singular or plural. “Nekora,” however, would sound rather strange, as “-ra” and “-tachi” are not necessarily interchangeable. For the beginner, therefore, it is best not to worry about learning plural endings.

For the English speaking student of Japanese grammar, the greatest hurdles to cross are probably the thought process of the Japanese sentence and learning the seemingly endless variety of endings available for modifying verbs and the order in which they can be strung together.

The grammatical paradigm of SVO or SOV is completely irrelevant in the study of Japanese and other languages outside the Indo-European family of languages. In truth, it is not only unimportant, it is untrue, and will cause the student of the language to fail in acquiring fluency, because it is an artificial imposition of an Indo-European construct on a non-Indo-European language. Japanese, like Tagalog and many other languages, uses affixes to explicitly demonstrate grammatical relationships instead of using syntax. In Japanese, word order will not change the meaning of the sentence. However, it will change the emotional character. An SVO word order is not incorrect in Japanese, and native speakers use it frequently, as a matter of fact to heighten the emotional charge. Thus, “あれは何だ” is a simple question: “What is that?” But “何だあれは” should receive an exclamation point at the end because the word order indicates that the speaker is clearly upset or at least annoyed by whatever “that” is.

Japanese sentences thus are not SOV. They are TV: T stands for topic and V for verb. Verbs are really the secret to success in acquiring fluency in Japanese. Thus, greatest attention should be given to learning the verb forms.

There are two tenses of time: past and present. The present tense is used to describe future events. All past tense verbs have the ending “-た” (“-ta”) or “-た” (“-da.”) The present tense always ends in the vowel “-u” in the positive and “-nai” in the negative. There is only one exception: the word, “だ” (“da”), which is the present tense of “be” (“am,” “are,” “is.”) As in probably all languages, this verb is highly irregular in Japanese and its usage must simply be memorized. For the English speaker the two time tenses should be quite easy to remember because in English the past tense is usually indicated by a final “-t” or “-d,” and the present tense of the basic positive present tense verb “do” ends in the “u” sound. The “-nai” ending sounds similar to “nay” in English. In conversational Japanese, a complete sentence will end in a present tense or past tense verb. As indicated earlier, there are many other possible endings, but they are not used in the final position to complete a sentence, nor are they used at the end of the active verb.

Beyond the verb, there are words that indicate the function of words and phrases as they relate to the verb. The most important of these are “は” (“wa”), “が” (“ga”), “に” (“ni”), “の” (“no”), “を” (“o”), and “で” (“de.”) “は” marks what is being discussed. “が” follows the word that is the agent of the verb. This means who is doing something is the active tense, and who is receiving the action of a passive verb. In both cases, they mark “the who.” “に” indicates the direction toward and is usually translated as “in,” “to,” “at.” “の” indicates possession or source and usually is translated as “-’s” or “of.” “を” is only appropriate with active transitive verbs because it marks the direct object. Finally, “で” at the end of a place word indicates where a verb happened. It is usually translated “at,” “on,” or “in.” Added to the end of word that represents an object, it marks the instrument of the verb, what was used to perform the verb. It is translated, “with.”

The example

猫<sup>WA</sup>Catsは、ピッチャン<sup>GA</sup>Pitchanが家<sup>NI</sup>houseに帰ってきて came and、台所<sup>DE</sup>kitchenで犬<sup>NO</sup>dogのえさ<sup>O</sup>chowを食った ate。

translates to "Speaking of cats, Pitchan came home and ate the dog's food in the kitchen." (The “て” verb ending indicates incompleteness.)

Thus, every word or phrase in a Japanese sentence takes an ending that explicitly denotes the function of that word or phrase and how it relates to the verb.

## Levels of politeness

Japanese culture and society is based on a hierarchy of higher status (目上 *meue*) and lower status (目下 *meshita*). As such, there are three varying levels of politeness. Because Japanese is primarily a "vertical" society, all relationships contain an element of relative station. For example, a student is a lower station than a teacher, and therefore a student would use polite language when speaking to a teacher, but the teacher would use plain language when speaking to a student. A salesperson talking to a customer would place himself far below the customer, and would therefore use honorific language, whereas the customer would use either plain or polite language.

Honorific language is not a separate category from plain and polite language, but a separate concept that uses different rules. When using honorific language, a Japanese speaker modifies nouns, verbs, and adjectives to either lower himself and his associates, or exalt someone else and that individual's associates. Whereas the use of plain or polite language is determined by the relative station of the person to whom you are speaking, the use of honorific language is determined by the relative station of the person *about* whom you are speaking. Exalted language is applied when you are speaking about someone who is due respect, such as a professor, an executive, a political official, or a customer. Exalted language is only applied to other people, never to oneself. Humble language, however, is *only* applied to oneself and people associated with oneself. It would be inappropriate, for example, to use humble language to describe a beggar, even though he would be extremely low on the social ladder.

## The Japanese writing system

Japanese is written mostly using three writing scripts, *kanji*, *hiragana* and *katakana*. Kanji are Chinese characters that were first introduced to Japan in the 4th century. Unlike Chinese, Japanese is a highly inflected language with words changing their ending depending on case, number, etc. For this reason, the hiragana and katakana syllabaries were created. The hiragana serve largely to show the inflection of words, as conjunctions and such. The katakana are mainly used for loan-words from other languages.

### Kanji

The Japanese writing system is derived from the Chinese ideographic character set (Japanese: 漢字 *kanji*, Mandarin: 汉字 *hanzi*). They are usually very similar to Traditional Chinese characters. Though kanji are Chinese in origin their use is dictated by Japanese grammar. Each character may be read in different ways depending on the context it is in.

The number of existing Chinese characters has been variously estimated at between 40,000 and 80,000; however, only a small subset is commonly used in modern Japanese. An educated Japanese person will generally be able to read between 2,000 and 4,000 characters. In order to be literate in the Japanese language, the student should strive to master at least the 2,136 general-use characters (常用漢字 – *jōyō kanji*) established by the Ministry of Education.

## Hiragana and katakana

The syllabaries, known as *kana* (仮名), were developed around 900 AD by simplifying kanji to form the *hiragana* (ひらがな, or 平仮名) and the more angular *katakana* (カタカナ, or 片仮名). Hiragana can be recognized by the characteristic curved shapes, while katakana are identifiable by their sharp edges and straight lines. The creation of one of the scripts has been attributed to Kūkai (774-835, alias Kōbō Daishi) the famous monk who introduced Shingon Buddhism to Japan.

Hiragana and katakana are almost completely phonetic—much more so than the English alphabet. Each set, however, is referred to as a *syllabary* rather than an alphabet because each character represents an entire syllable with only a single consonant (which is a more recent addition) (see [Pronunciation](#) for more). The syllabary charts in Japanese are referred to as the *gojūon* (五十音), meaning "fifty sounds" because they are written in a five by ten chart. However, there are a few gaps in the table where certain sounds have fallen out of use. Modern Japanese can be written using 46 kana.

In practical use, hiragana is used to write, for example, inflectional endings for adjectives and verbs (送り仮名 *okurigana*), grammatical particles (助詞 *joshi*) and auxiliaries (助動詞 *jodōshi*), Japanese words that have no kanji (or not commonly known kanji), and annotations to kanji to indicate pronunciation (振り仮名 *furigana*). Katakana is used to write, for example, foreign words and names, onomatopoeia, emphasized words (somewhat like italicized words in English text), and technical and scientific words, such as plant, animal, and mineral names.

[Contents](#)

## References

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1. 「食べる」 (<http://japanese.stackexchange.com/questions/3016/what-is-the-difference-between-「食う」-and->)

# Practical Lessons

## Lesson Plan

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A [Syllabus](#) exists for this lesson plan.

### Lesson Structure

Each lesson *should* have the following sections specified:

1. **Lesson:** Lesson name.
  1. **Function:** One or more functions, appropriate to the stage of learning, chosen from the [Syllabus](#).
  2. **Topic:** A topic, appropriate to the stage of learning, chosen from the [Syllabus](#).
  3. **Vocabulary:** Number of new words covered in the lesson, chosen from the [Syllabus](#).
  4. **Kanji:** Number of new Kanji covered in the lesson, chosen from the [Syllabus](#).
  5. **Grammar:** One or more grammar topics covered in lesson, chosen from the [Syllabus](#).

## Stage I Lessons

### Reading and Writing Hiragana

1. **Lesson:** [Hiragana overview](#)
  1. Voiced Consonants
  2. Long vowel sounds
  3. Consonant doubling: small つ
  4. small や、ゆ、よ
2. **Lesson:** [Hiragana vowels](#)
  1. あいうえお
  2. Long vowel sounds
3. **Lesson:** [Hiragana k row](#)
  1. かきくけこ
  2. Voiced Consonants
  3. がぎくげご

4. **Lesson:** Hiragana s row

1. さしすせそ
2. ざじずぜぞ

5. **Lesson:** Hiragana t row

1. たちつてと
2. だちづでど
3. Consonant doubling: small つ

6. **Lesson:** Hiragana n row

1. なにぬねの

7. **Lesson:** Hiragana h row

1. はひふへほ
2. ばびぶべぼ
3. ぱびぷぺぽ

8. **Lesson:** Hiragana m row

1. まみむめも

9. **Lesson:** Hiragana y row

1. や、ゆ、よ
2. small や、ゆ、よ

10. **Lesson:** Hiragana r row

1. りりるれろ

11. **Lesson:** Hiragana wa, wo, n

1. わをん

12. **Lesson:** Historical Hiragana

1. ゐゑ

**Reading and Writing Katakana**

1. **Lesson:** Katakana overview

1. Voiced Consonants
2. Long vowel sounds
3. Consonant doubling: small つ
4. small ヤユヨ

2. **Lesson:** Katakana vowels

1. アイウエオ
2. Long vowel sounds
3. small アイウエオ

3. **Lesson:** Katakana k row

1. カキクケコ
2. ガギグゲゴ

4. **Lesson:** Katakana s row

1. サシスセソ
2. ザジズゼゾ

5. **Lesson:** Katakana t row

1. タチツテト
2. ダチヅデド

6. **Lesson:** Katakana n row

1. ナニヌネノ

7. **Lesson:** Katakana h row

1. ハヒフヘホ
2. バビブベボ
3. パピプペポ

8. **Lesson:** Katakana m row

1. マミムメモ

9. **Lesson:** Katakana y row

1. ヤユヨ

2. small ヤユヨ

10. **Lesson:** Katakana r row

1. ラリルレロ

11. **Lesson:** Katakana wa, wo, o

1. ワワン

12. **Lesson:** Historical Katakana

1. キエ

13. **Lesson:** Differences between Katakana and English

**Dialogue Lessons**

1. **Lesson:** Will you be my friend?

1. **Topic:** Friends

2. **Function:** Greet and respond to greetings

1. "Good morning/afternoon/evening." (Goodstuff: Unnecessary?)

2. "How are you?" (Goodstuff: Unnecessary?)

3. **Function:** Introduce and respond to introductions

1. "Nice to meet you." (Goodstuff: Unnecessary?)

4. **Vocabulary:** 20 Words

5. **Kanji:** 10 Kanji

6. **Grammar:** (Goodstuff: grammar topic chosen from syllabus, need help here!)

1. The declarative 「だ」

2. The copula 「です」

1. Negative Tense

3. The question marker 「か」

4. Introduction to particles

1. Topic Particle 「は」

2. Inclusive Topic Particle 「は」

2. **Lesson:** Hobbies

1. **Topic:** Hobbies

2. **Function:** Express like and dislike

1. "What are your hobbies?"

2. "What kind of [noun] do you like?"

3. **Vocabulary:** 25 Words

4. **Kanji:** 10 Kanji

5. **Grammar:** (Goodstuff: grammar topic chosen from syllabus, need help here!)

1. Na-adjectives and i-adjectives

1. Negative Tense

2. Identifier Particle 「が」

3. **Lesson:** Sports

1. **Topic:** sport

2. **Function:** expressing action

3. **Vocabulary:** 20 Words

4. **Kanji:** 10 Kanji

1. 音読み and 訓読み

2. Stroke Orders

5. **Grammar**

1. Ru-verbs (一段動詞) /u-verbs (五段動詞) /exception verbs

1. Negative Verbs Tenses

2. Polite conjugations (～ます)

2. Object Particle 「を」

3. Target Particle 「に」



4. Directional Particle 「へ」
5. Context Particle 「で」
6. Specifying Time and Date
  1. Numbers and Counters
7. Using 「から」 and 「まで」

#### 4. Lesson: I'm a Cat Person

1. **Topic:** Pets and Animals
2. **Function:** Expressing Ownership

1. "Whose cat is this?"
2. "This is my cat"

#### 3. Grammar

1. The 「の」 particle
  1. Nominalizing subordinate clauses (のが／のは)
  2. Numbers and Counters

#### 5. Lesson: Not Today

1. **Topic:** health
2. **Function:** obtain information, begin to provide information

1. "What did you do yesterday?"
2. "I didn't feel good last night."

#### 3. Grammar

1. Past tense conjugations
  1. Nouns/Adjectives
  2. Verbs

## Japanese writing system

The Japanese language uses three different systems for writing. There are two syllabaries—*hiragana* and *katakana*—which have characters for each basic *mora* (syllable.) Along with the syllabaries, there are also *kanji*, which is a writing system based on Chinese characters. However, kanji have changed since their adoption, so it would not be recommended to learn both Chinese and Japanese writing at the same time.

## Kanji

The kanji are *logograms* (pictures representing words), or symbols, that each represent a *morpheme* (words or parts of words.) Usually, each kanji represents a native Japanese morpheme as well as a loaned Chinese morpheme. This means that each kanji usually has two or more different pronunciations. The different pronunciations of a particular 漢字 (*kanji*) are called “readings.” It may seem daunting at first, but with extensive practice, knowing when to use which pronunciation will become second nature.

A 漢字 usually has two types of readings:

- おんよみ 音読み (*on'yomi*)
- くんよみ 訓読み (*kun'yomi*)

音読み readings are approximations of the Chinese pronunciations of that particular 漢字. This reading is mostly used for multi-kanji compound words, except for peoples' surnames where 訓読み-reading is used. A kanji may have multiple 音読み. Some kanji are of Japanese origin and thus do not have on-reading. 訓読み readings are the native Japanese sound(s) associated with that 漢字. There can be multiple or no kun readings for the same kanji.

Although there are over 50,000 漢字, the Japanese government has approved 1,945 so-called “daily use” 漢字, known as 常用漢字 (*jōyō kanji*) for publications, but usually about 3000 are recognized by an average adult.

## Kana

While Chinese characters are useful for writing a language with so many homophones, the inflections of the Japanese language make it necessary to have a phonetic script to indicate the inflection. A set of Chinese characters, the *man'yōgana*, were used to represent pronunciation and write words that lacked Chinese characters. Around 800 A.D. these had developed into the cursive *hiragana* script.

This method of writing was used primarily for poetry or by women, and did not gain recognition as an acceptable way to record historical records or scholarly works. <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Another script, the *katakana* also developed from Chinese characters, some from the same source as the *hiragana*, but others from different ones. This explains the similarities between some hiragana and katakana, while others are completely different. The katakana is primarily used for foreign loan-words. In other words, the katakana syllabary can be said to be the Japanese writing equivalent of writing in *italics*.

The two are collectively known as the *kana* (仮名, *e.* false name). Both are syllabaries, so there are no isolated consonants, with one exception; the *moraic nasal*, which sounds similar to most pronunciations of the latin character “n.” Each of the kana contains 45 characters and are typically listed in a table formation called *gojūonzu* (五十音図, *e.* fifty sounds illustration) but the *yi*, *ye*, *wi*, *wu*, *we* sounds are obsolete in modern Japanese, so in fact only 45 sounds exist. *n* is not counted because it does not constitute a mora.

无	和	良	也	末	波	奈	太	左	加	安
え	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ
ん	を	り	り	み	ひ	に	ち	し	か	い
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う
	る	る	る	む	ぬ	ぬ	つ	す	き	う

The Chinese characters from which the modern *hiragana* characters are derived. At the top of every triplet is the original Chinese character, in the middle is a simplified cursive form, and at the bottom is the modern day *hiragana*.

## Punctuation

Common punctuation marks are the comma "、" which connects two sentences, and the full stop "。" which indicates the end of a sentence. To separate words that the reader might not otherwise know how to read (most often in the case of foreign words written consecutively in katakana), a middle point "・" is used. Instead of quotation marks, the brackets "【" and "】" are used.

## Examples

### Related vocabulary

- Japanese/Vocabulary/Punctuation

「ウィキペディアは、オンライン百科事典である。」

(Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia.)

「キャント・バイ・ミー・ラヴ」

(Can't buy me love) (Kyanto-bai-mī-ravu)

## Latin alphabet

The Latin alphabet (ローマ字, *rōmaji*) is not part of the Japanese language but it is used as a fashionable way of writing words, mostly nouns such as the name of a company, business, sports team, etc. *Rōmaji* is also used for the transliteration of Japanese and to input Japanese text online and in word processors. There are two competing transliteration methods: the Kunrei-shiki developed by the Japanese government in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and taught in elementary school; and the more widely used Hepburn-shiki developed by Reverend James Curtis Hepburn in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Stroke order

Japanese characters were originally written by brush, and later by pen and pencil, so the stroke order is important. When writing by hand, and particularly in cursive or calligraphic styles, using proper stroke order is crucial. Additionally, some characters look very similar but are written differently. Students who practice both reading and writing can easily distinguish these characters, but students who only practice reading may find it difficult.

The East Asian Calligraphy wikibook has some material on stroke orders.

## Mixed usage and notes of interest

There are instances where kanji, hiragana, and katakana may be replaced by another writing style. Frequently, words that have kanji are written in hiragana. Some kanji are simply rarely used but their reading is known. The swallow is called *tsubame* and has the kanji "燕", but since it is obscure, the word will generally be written out with hiragana: "つばめ".

When writing for an audience that isn't expected to know certain kanji (such as in texts aimed at young people or kanji outside the standard set), their reading is often added on top of, or to the right of the characters, depending on whether they are written horizontally or vertically, respectively. This form of writing is called *furigana* (振り仮名) or *yomigana* (読み仮名).

ふ がな  
振り仮名

Reading given on top of kanji.

Since kanji can have several different readings, it may not be straightforward to determine how to read a certain word. This problem is particularly pronounced in place names where readings may be highly irregular and archaic.

Though katakana are principally used for loan words from other languages, it can be used for stylistic purposes. Either to highlight a certain word, or give it a different feel (e.g. make it look more hip). Furthermore, since some personal names don't have kanji, but are written in hiragana, personal name readings are generally written in katakana to indicate that these are not the name itself, but simply the pronunciation.

## Ateji

The word "club", as it is borrowed from English, will typically be written in katakana as クラブ; however, the kanji 倶楽部 *kurabu* will also sometimes be used; this use of kanji for phonetic value is called 当て字 *ateji*. Other times, typically in older texts, grammatical particles are also written in kanji, as in 東京迄行く *Tokyo made iku* (I go to Tokyo), where まで *made* (to/till) is written in kanji (迄) instead of hiragana.

## Numerals

The Arabic numerals, called Arabia sūji (アラビア数字) or san'yō sūji (算用数字) in Japanese, are used in most circumstances (e.g. telephone numbers, pricing, zip codes, speed limit signs and percentages). Kanji numerals can still be found, however, in more traditional situations (e.g. on some restaurant menus, formal invitations and tomb stones).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	零 or 〇

## Vertical and horizontal writing, and page order

Traditionally, Japanese is written in a format called 縦書き *tategaki*, or **vertical writing**. In this format, the characters are written in columns going from top to bottom. The columns are ordered from right to left, so at the bottom of each column the reader returns to the top of the next column on the left of the preceding one. This copies the column order of Chinese.

Modern Japanese also uses another writing format, called 横書き *yokogaki*, or **horizontal writing**. This writing format is identical to that of European languages such as English, with characters arranged in rows which are read from left to right, with successive rows going downwards.

There are no set rules for when each form has to be used, but usage tends to depend on the medium, genre, and subject. Tategaki is generally used to write essays, novels, poetry, newspapers, comics, and Japanese dictionaries. Yokogaki is generally used to write e-mails, how-to books, and scientific and mathematical writing (mathematical formulas are read from left to right, as in English).

Materials written in tategaki are bound on the right, with the reader reading from right to left and thus turning the pages from left to right to progress through the material. Materials written with yokogaki are bound on the left and the pages are turned from right to left, as in English.

## Background reading

- Okurigana *Kana used as suffixes to kanji stems for verb conjugations. Historically, katakana was used. Nowadays, hiragana is used.*
- Man'yōgana *Kanji used for their phonetic value to write Japanese, especially for poetry.*
  - Kana *The simplification of Man'yōgana into Katakana and Hiragana*
    - Katakana *Angular script simplified down to constituent elements from kanji by monastery students. Historically used as okurigana by the educated and government. Nowadays used mainly for writing foreign words.*
    - Hiragana *Cursive script historically used for informal writing and literature. It became popular among women since they were denied higher education. Hence it also became known as 女手(おんなで) "onnade" (female hand -> women's writing). Nowadays, it has replaced katakana as okurigana and for writing native Japanese words.*
    - Hentaigana *These are the remaining variants of hiragana that were not accepted as part of the standardized hiragana syllabary.*
    - Iroha poem *This famous poem is written using each mora (syllable) just once. It became the system used to organize the kana syllabary prior to reforms in the 19th century Meiji period, when it became reorganized into its current arrangement. ("n" was not part of the syllabary at the time. It was added later, and interestingly it's actually a hentaigana for "mu")*
  - Rōmaji *Roman characters (including Arabic numerals) There are three different systems.*

## Kana

See also: [Japanese/Pronunciation](#).

There are two aspects to learning the Japanese characters. Recognising the shapes and learning to write them. These are further separated by the fact that the strokes that comprise a specific character have a certain order.

In addition to the base characters, there are special symbols to denote nuanced pronunciation, such as voiced and double consonants.

## Stroke order

**Hiragana:** [ a ] [ ka ] [ sa ] [ ta ] [ na ] [ ha ] [ ma ] [ ya ] [ ra ] [ wa, wo, n ] [ ㇰ and ㇱ (ancient hiragana in disuse) ]

**Katakana:** [ a ] [ ka ] [ sa ] [ ta ] [ na ] [ ha ] [ ma ] [ ya ] [ ra ] [ wa, wo, n ] [ ㇰ and ㇱ (ancient katakana in disuse) ]

In the pages linked to from the tables below, you will find stroke order diagrams for each of the hiragana and katakana characters. The voiced and plosive variants of the same row/group are listed on the same page.

## Hiragana

Clear					Voiced					Plosive							
	a	i	u	e	o		a	i	u	e	o		a	i	u	e	o
	あ	い	う	え	お												
k	か	き	く	け	こ	g	が	ぎ	ぐ	げ	ご						
s	さ	し	す	せ	そ	z	ざ	じ	ず	ぜ	ぞ						
t	た	ち	つ	て	と	d	だ	ぢ	づ	で	ど						
n	な	に	ぬ	ね	の												
h	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ	b	ば	び	ぶ	べ	ぼ	p	ぱ	ぴ	ぷ	ぺ	ぽ
m	ま	み	む	め	も												
y	や		ゆ		よ												
r	ら	り	る	れ	ろ												
w	わ				を												
	ん																

- めゑ (ancient Hiragana in disuse)

## Katakana

Clear					Voiced					Plosive							
	a	i	u	e	o		a	i	u	e	o		a	i	u	e	o
	ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ												
k	カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ	g	ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ						
s	サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ	z	ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ						
t	タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト	d	ダ	ヂ	ヅ	デ	ド						
n	ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ												
h	ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ	b	バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ	p	パ	ピ	プ	ペ	ポ
m	マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ												
y	ヤ		ユ		ヨ												
r	ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ												
w	ワ				ヲ												
	ン																

- 𛄁 (ancient Katakana in disuse)

## Long vowels

A long vowel is written in hiragana with an extra "あ", "い" or "う" depending on the vowel. In most cases あ follows あ; い follows い or え and う follows う or お.

There are rare exceptions where an え vowel is extended by adding え. Much less rare is an お vowel extended by お. Some examples of this include:

- "おねえさん", "おおい", and "おおきい".

In katakana, it's written with a *chōonpu*: "ー".

- "データ" (e. data) [Ja-deeta-data.ogg](#)

## Voiced and plosive sounds

The turbid sound symbol, *dakuten* (濁点) which looks like two slash marks from the left to right (゛) just at the top-right-hand corner of a character indicate that the preceding consonant is voiced. This symbol is also known as *tenten* (点々), meaning "two marks."



The half turbid sound symbol, *handakuten* (半濁点) which looks like a circle (゜) located to the top-right-hand corner of a syllabary indicates the preceding consonant is plosive.

## Double consonants

The double consonant is written by adding a small "tsu" ("っ" or "っ") in front of the doubled consonant syllable. This is called the *sokuon* (そくおん) (促音).

The sokuon cannot be at the beginning of a word. In *hiragana*, the sokuon can only appear before the "か", "さ", "た" and "ば" groups/rows.

Examples:

- "どっち" (e. which)  [Ja-docchi-which.ogg](http://www.ja-docchi-which.ogg)
- "ポッキー" (e. Pocky snacks)  [Ja-Pocky.org](http://www.ja-pocky.org)

## Yōon

In addition to those represented by the syllables in the kana, Japanese has sounds with a palatal or labio-velar semivowel between the consonant and the vowel. The sound is somewhat like that of the "j" between the "f" and the "o" in "fjord". This is written by appending smaller versions of "ya", "yu" and "yo" to the syllables from the "i" columns ("ki", "shi", "chi", "ni", "hi", "mi", "ri" and their variations). In this case, the two kana are not pronounced individually, but rather as one sound.

These are called yōon (拗音).

Clear compounds			Voiced compounds			Plosive compounds		
(や ya ヤ)	(ゆ yu ュ)	(よ yo ヨ)	(や ya ヤ)	(ゆ yu ュ)	(よ yo ヨ)	(や ya ヤ)	(ゆ yu ュ)	(よ yo ヨ)
きゃ <i>kya</i> キヤ	きゅ <i>kyu</i> キュ	きょ <i>kyo</i> キョ	ぎゃ <i>gya</i> ギヤ	ぎゅ <i>gyu</i> ギュ	ぎょ <i>gyo</i> ギョ			
しゃ <i>sha</i> シャ	しゅ <i>shu</i> シュ	しょ <i>sho</i> ショ	じゃ <i>ja</i> ジャ	じゅ <i>ju</i> ジュ	じょ <i>jo</i> ジョ			
ちゃ <i>cha</i> チャ	ちゅ <i>chu</i> チュ	ちょ <i>cho</i> チョ	ぢゃ <i>ja</i> チャ	ぢゅ <i>ju</i> チュ	ぢょ <i>jo</i> チョ			
にゃ <i>nya</i> ニヤ	にゅ <i>nyu</i> ニュ	にょ <i>nyo</i> ニョ						
ひゃ <i>hya</i> ヒヤ	ひゅ <i>hyu</i> ヒュ	ひょ <i>hyo</i> ヒョ	びゃ <i>bya</i> ビヤ	びゅ <i>byu</i> ビュ	びょ <i>byo</i> ビョ	ぴゃ <i>pya</i> ピヤ	ぴゅ <i>pyu</i> ピュ	ぴょ <i>pyo</i> ピョ
みゃ <i>mya</i> ミヤ	みゅ <i>myu</i> ミュ	みょ <i>myo</i> ミョ						
りゃ <i>rya</i> リヤ	りゅ <i>ryu</i> リュ	りょ <i>ryo</i> リョ						

**Note:** The grayed compound characters are rarely used.

Compounds with "yu" and "yo" are often followed by an "u", making it a long vowel.

## Special yōon for transliteration

There are certain kinds of special yōon which primarily represent pronunciations imported from foreign languages. They commonly appear as parts of names of foreign people or foreign places. Although they were originally considered to be unauthorized, they are nowadays widely accepted even by conservative media such as newspapers. See the table below for commonly used ones among such compounds.

Compounds used for transliteration				
(あ a ア)	(い i イ)	(う u ウ)	(え e エ)	(お o オ)
	うい <i>wi</i> ウイ		うえ <i>we</i> ウエ	うお <i>wo</i> ウオ
うあ <i>va</i> ヴァ	うい <i>vi</i> ヴィ	う <i>vu</i> ヴ	うえ <i>ve</i> ヴェ	うお <i>vo</i> ヴォ
	てい <i>ti</i> ティ	とう <i>tu</i> トウ		
	でい <i>di</i> ディ	でゅ <i>du</i> デュ		
ふあ <i>fa</i> ファ	ふい <i>fi</i> フィ		ふえ <i>fe</i> フェ	ふお <i>fo</i> フォ

## Practice

Learning the kana takes some work and is best done by memorisation and drilling. Practice by writing up the table, speaking out the characters and drill yourself on the readings.

There are several online resources that can help you with these:

- [Henrik Theiling's Script Teacher](http://www.theiling.de/schrift/) (<http://www.theiling.de/schrift/>) — A site that drills on many different scripts, including hiragana and katakana.
- [Hiragana Quiz](http://www.languageguide.org/im/alpha/jp/hiragana_alpha_quiz.jsp) ([http://www.languageguide.org/im/alpha/jp/hiragana\\_alpha\\_quiz.jsp](http://www.languageguide.org/im/alpha/jp/hiragana_alpha_quiz.jsp)) at [languageguide.org](http://www.languageguide.org/) (<http://www.languageguide.org/>) — A Kana Quiz that tests you with one small group of kana at a time.
- [Kanji Game](http://www.msu.edu/~lakejess/kanjigame.html) (<http://www.msu.edu/~lakejess/kanjigame.html>) — An online multiple choice kana and kanji game.
- [Real Kana](http://www.realkana.com) (<http://www.realkana.com>) — A highly customisable page which drills the user on kana readings.
- [Kana Copybook \(PDF\)](http://brng.jp/50renshuu.pdf) (<http://brng.jp/50renshuu.pdf>) — Memorize the Kana through handwriting.

GNU/Linux users may also download the [Kanatest](http://clayo.org/kanatest/) (<http://clayo.org/kanatest/>) software, and [Anki](http://ichi2.net/anki/) (<http://ichi2.net/anki/>).

## Kanji

Kanji (漢字) characters are based on Chinese characters transmitted to Japan during the spread of Buddhism in the 5th century. A large percentage (approx. 70%) of Japanese vocabulary comes from Chinese or Chinese-derived words. While the meaning of individual characters is fairly consistent between the languages, compound words often have different meanings.

Kanji are inflected by hiragana that follow and particles give the case. Most words are written using kanji, though some have none and loan-words from other languages are generally written in katakana. The large number of homophones makes it highly desirable to use kanji and knowing them can help with memorising new words.

Note that *writing* kanji skillfully is significantly harder than *reading* kanji skillfully, since one must *recall* characters, not simply *recognize* them. Further, with Input Methods allowing one to write Japanese on a computer phonetically (by recognizing the kanji, not needing to produce them), the practical need for kanji writing skills is lower than in the past, but it is still fundamental to mastery of Japanese.

## Study methods

---

Kanji can form a difficult hurdle for some in their study of Japanese. Their nature as graphic representations of concepts translating to sounds gives rise to the particularly diverse methods employed for the study of kanji.

Fundamentally, one's goal is to learn *Japanese*, not *kanji* per se and this has two main implications. Firstly, as many words are written as compounds of multiple kanji it is not sufficient learn the individual two thousand odd characters, but also their combinations. Furthermore, just as learning vocabulary in any language, these must be learnt in the context of the language. Not only does it aid memorisation of terms, but enforces the understanding of their nuance. It is finally worth mentioning that one can learn to speak Japanese without learning to read or write it, just as with any language. If one is, however, ever to learn to read, it is advisable to start right away and learn the characters in parallel with vocabulary and phrases.

Throughout, understand that one's mastery of any skill is imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete (see 侘寂, *wabi-sabi*) – while perfection is a worthy goal, it should not be expected nor demanded – mistakes should be expected, and accept that there are further levels of mastery: not 300 people a year pass the Kanji kentei level 1.

Basic issues, regardless of study methods:

### start early

Kanji take a long time to learn; if you start early, kanji will not be the limiting factor, but if you start later in your studies, there will be a dispiriting quantity of catch-up to do.

It is not simply an issue of memorizing 1,945 characters (or more for names) – the same character is pronounced in different ways and used in different contexts. Kanji are simply a large amount of data, and this is best learned over a long period of time.

### review regularly

Kanji are easily forgotten, and subtle details and differences fade without review. Regular review, particularly via electronic flashcard programs such as Anki or Mnemosyne, are essential to mastery.

### make connections

Rather than learning characters in isolation, drawing *connections* helps memory. For example, learning a character as part of several words, or learning graphically similar or etymologically related characters can help make them more easily remembered.

### detail

It is easy to make minor mistakes with kanji, be it missing a stroke or forgetting a rarely used kanji. A high level of mastery requires attention to detail, as detailed below.

Because there are so many kanji, and they are relatively sparse (of 1,945 kanji, most will not be used and reinforced in any sample of text, unlike kana) simply memorizing the forms and pronunciations (as one does for the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet or the 46 kana, twice) is less practical and effective, and one instead uses more structured mnemonic methods.

There are three aspects to a particular kanji:

### form

The character shape – the strokes.

### sound

The pronunciations, of which there are generally many.

### meaning

The meanings, both of the individual kanji and its combinations.

There are a number of ways to learn the kanji. Rather than pick one, try to see how each of these works for you and combine them in your study.

## Rote

The most straight forward way of learning kanji is by rote. While few will succeed in retaining even a portion of the two thousand basic characters — not to mention their compounds — rote learning is a good way to practice mnemonic devices such as those mentioned in the following sections. Writing reinforces character details, builds muscle memory and improves handwriting. Thus, regardless of learning system, practicing *writing* the kanji is a valuable aspect of learning.

Make flash-cards with one or more characters on one side, the meaning and reading on the other and drill yourself. Make another set of cards with the meaning on one side and the characters and readings on the other and drill yourself on writing the kanji. There are several programs and website applications that offer kanji drilling. Notable spaced recognition software include Anki and Mnemosyne.

### Related software

- Anki (<http://ichi2.net/anki/>)
- Mnemosyne (<http://www.mnemosyne-proj.org/>)

Forgetting a rarely used kanji is easy so it is important to regularly review these.

## Handwriting

Note that characters have a generally accepted stroke order. While this may seem an extra burden at first, the order is highly regular and will vastly improve your ability to read other people's handwriting, not to mention make yours more intelligible.

As with the handwriting of most scripts, Japanese calligraphy has a long history and is greatly revered to this day. As kanji are somewhat more intricate than Latin characters, the quality of handwriting and the order the strokes are written in matter a great deal. In fact, without a commonly accepted system, cursive styles and hurried handwriting would be illegible, indeed.

### Related product

- Practice notebook (<http://www.thejapanshop.com/product.php?productid=17578>) from The Japan Shop (<http://www.thejapanshop.com/>).

There is, of course, only one way to practice handwriting: By writing. Get yourself a nice notebook, preferable one with good sized squares, and practice, practice, practice.

## Context

The *Kanji in Context* texts from the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies emphasizes the value of learning not so much kanji characters in isolation, but *kanji-based vocabulary*, particularly as part of phrases or idioms. In this approach, when learning a kanji, one learns important words that it is part of. Further, one will learn kanji that make up a given word at the same time – for example, one will learn the word 日本 (Nihon, Japan) and, at the same time, the characters 日 (nichi, ni, sun) and 本 (hon, root).

## Recognising the constituent parts

As you progress in learning kanji, you'll start to see patterns emerge; constituent parts of characters that are common among many characters. Recognising these will allow you to see the characters as made up of shapes rather than just strokes and thus simplify retaining them. The general method is to systematically break up characters into graphical components, some of which may not be used as separate characters. Next, one systematically maps these elements to some mnemonic, and then builds a picture or story combining these.

The principles at work are:

### analytic

Break up a complex character into simple components.

Example: The character 認 which means to notice or to judge is made up of 15 strokes but may be a little bit easier to remember it as a combination of 言, 刃 and 心; word, blade and heart, respectively.

### associative

Associate components across characters.

Example: 売 means "to sell", but along with "word", 読, it becomes "to read" and along with "thread", 続, it becomes to continue. This further builds links between characters that share graphical elements or compositional similarities.

### narrative

Associating stories with characters is a powerful method to remember which components it is made up of.

Example: The character 暖 means "warm weather" and can be broken down into the components 日, 宀, 一 and 友 meaning "sun", "caress", "one" and "friend". This can then be memorised as warm weather being when "the sun caresses a friend".

Useful resources for diagnosing these constituent parts are the book and [online version](http://kanji-web.com/) of *Kanji ABC*. James Heisig's well-known series *Remembering the Kanji* is the best known study aid that uses this method. Alternatives include [Smart Kanji Book](http://smartkanjibook.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/free_sample.pdf) which only includes common kanji and the primitives that form them and the [Kanji Pict-o-graphix](https://www.worldcat.org/title/kanji-pictograph-mnemonics-for-japanese-hiragana-and-katakana/oclc/810764651&referer=brief_results) which uses a graphic approach instead of mnemonic stories. A further such resource is [Genki's Kanji Look and Learn](http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/lookandlearn_en.html). These may not be sufficient in themselves, as they focus purely on the characters, but can be valuable components of one's learning, helping with remembering character forms and especially minor details.

## Chinese-derived reading

The vast majority of Chinese characters are composed as *phono-semantic compounds*: one component (generally the radical) is semantic (about the meaning), and the other component is used for its phonetic value (sound) called . Note that this is how the character as used in *Chinese* is composed. As kanji usually have several readings, including a Chinese-derived one, this can be used to remember the character and one of its readings.

Understanding this, and decomposing characters into Phonetic + Semantic components and relating them to similar characters using either of these components helps with remembering the character's form, its meaning, and a Chinese-derived pronunciation (*on yomi*, 音読み).

For example, the character for small is 小 which has the Chinese-derived reading shō. The characters 少, 炒, 抄, 省, 称, 鈔 and 涉 all share that same Chinese reading. Again, keep in mind that these are only the *Chinese* readings and the each of these has other different readings as well.

## Attention to detail

It is easy to make minor mistakes with both recognizing and writing kanji. A high level of mastery requires attention to detail and continual polish (see 改善, *kaizen*). Even at lower levels, attention to detail yields overlearning and deepens understanding; if you are worrying about the stroke order, you are likely not forgetting the character outright.

Minor errors can be made in writing (e.g. incorrect strokes, strokes touching when they should not, or incorrect stroke order) and pronunciation (e.g. incorrect voicing; especially *rendaku/euphonic changes*). To achieve a high level requires *detecting* and *correcting* such errors. Realizing that one has forgotten a kanji is easy enough. For other errors, one may not notice them, or one may feel a *lack of confidence* reflecting imperfect mastery. To detect such errors one must review regularly and ensure that all these details are correct.

Particularly useful in subtle errors is to study the character in question with various related characters (both graphically, as in [Wiktionary:Appendix:Easily confused Chinese characters](#), and etymologically), and in the context of various words: this allows one to *contrast* the character, rather than trying to retain it in isolation.

## Readings

A single Kanji letter can be read (pronounced) in many different ways, depending on its context. These readings are categorized into two main groups - that of Chinese origin (on-yomi, 音読み) and Japanese origin (kun-yomi, 訓読み). A third group, the nanoriyomi, is used for the names of people and places.

It is often the case that a Kanji letter has more than one reading of Chinese origin. This is because the importing of Chinese letters (with their readings) did not occur just at one time from one region.

### Related on-line resources

- [Kanji ABC](http://kanji-web.com/) (<http://kanji-web.com/>)
- [Reviewing the Kanji](http://kanji.koohii.com/index.php) (<http://kanji.koohii.com/index.php>)
- [Genki](http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/self/self.en.html) (<http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/self/self.en.html>) [Japan Times]

## Onyomi

Onyomi (音読み) is the Chinese-derived reading, which is most commonly used in compound words and for the numbers.

It may be useful to note that in most kanji databases, the *on* reading is written in katakana instead of hiragana.

一 (イチ), 二 (ニ), 三 (サン), 四 (シ) are the first four numbers and all are onyomi.

## Kunyomi

Kunyomi (訓読み) is the Japanese reading, which can be read as a separate word or can be used in compounds.

This reading is generally written in hiragana in kanji lists.

月 (つき, tsuki) and 日 (ひ, hi) are the moon and sun and are in kunyomi.

## Nanoriyomi

Nanoriyomi (名乗り読み) is the name reading, which is used for people's names and for places.

Both "康", read as "やす" (e.g. 徳川家康), and "信", read as "のぶ" (e.g. 織田信長), are written in nanoriyomi.

## Kanji Repetition

The noma: (々), symbol indicates the repetition of a Kanji. The word われわれ indicates "us" or "our group" and is written as "我々" instead of "我我", although they are both the same. The same is true with "人々" (ひとびと), meaning people).






## JLPT

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (日本語能力試験), or JLPT, is a standardized test to evaluate and certify the language proficiency of non-native Japanese speakers. The JLPT has five levels beginning at level N5 and progressing to level N1 - the most difficult. Each level has a certain set of kanji.

### Related on-line resource

- Kanji Project ([http://www.jlpt-kanji.com/list\\_all.php](http://www.jlpt-kanji.com/list_all.php)) lets you look up compound words.

*For the time being, the completion index is as follows:*

- : Some characters are missing.
- : All characters are there, but there are readings missing.
- : All characters have both onyomi and kunyomi readings, but not all have example words.
- : All characters have example words, but a template or a stroke order image is missing.
- : All characters have all their information set up in the template.

## JLPT level N5

N5 tests students' recognition of 79 kanji and 482 words.

- Lesson 1 : 一・二・三・四・五
- Lesson 2 : 六・七・八・九・十
- Lesson 3 : 百・千・万・父・母
- Lesson 4 : 友・女・男・人・子
- Lesson 5 : 日・月・火・水・木
- Lesson 6 : 金・土・本・休・語
- Lesson 7 : 年・午・前・後・時
- Lesson 8 : 間・毎・先・今・何
- Lesson 9 : 上・下・左・右・北
- Lesson 10 : 南・東・西・外・名
- Lesson 11 : 高・小・中・大・長
- Lesson 12 : 半・分・学・校・生
- Lesson 13 : 山・川・白・天・雨
- Lesson 14 : 電・気・車・国・円
- Lesson 15 : 話・聞・食・読・来
- Lesson 16 : 書・見・行・出・入
- Lesson 17 : 目・耳・口・手・足
- Lesson 18 : 新・古・多・少・空
- Lesson 19 : 店・社・買・立・安
- Lesson 20 : 会・道・飲・駅・魚



- [Lesson 21](#) 週・花・言

## JLPT level N4

N4 tests students' recognition of 166 kanji and 453 words.

## JLPT level N3

N3 tests students' recognition of 367 kanji and 1555 words.

## JLPT level N2

N2 tests students' recognition of 367 kanji and 1481 words.

## JLPT level N1

N1 tests students' recognition of 1231 kanji and 2773 words.

# Reader

## Children's texts

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- [Issunboushi](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [The Tongue-Cut Sparrow](#)
- [Kasa Jizo](#)
- [Cracking Mountain](#)
- [The Crab and The Monkey](#)
- [Momotaro](#)
- [Urashimataro](#)
- [Yamamba](#)
- [Tanabata](#)
- [Aesop's Fables - The North Wind and the Sun \(https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E3%82%A4%E3%82%BD%E3%83%83%E3%83%97%E7%AB%A5%E8%A9%B1%E9%9B%86%E5%A4%AA%E9%99%BD%E3%81%A8%E9%A2%A8\)](https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E3%82%A4%E3%82%BD%E3%83%83%E3%83%97%E7%AB%A5%E8%A9%B1%E9%9B%86%E5%A4%AA%E9%99%BD%E3%81%A8%E9%A2%A8) (イソップ童話: 北風と太陽)
- [Pocket Watch \(懐中時計\)](#)

## Simple texts

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- [夢十夜 \(w:Ten Nights of Dreams by w:Natsume Sōseki\)](#)<sup>[2]</sup>
  - [第三夜 \(The third night\)](#)
  - [第七夜 \(The seventh night\)](#)
- [Aesop's fables translated and read \(http://hukumusume.com/douwa/pc/aesop/\)](http://hukumusume.com/douwa/pc/aesop/)

## Advanced texts

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- [Under the Cherry Trees \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000074/files/427\\_19793.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000074/files/427_19793.html) (桜の樹の下には)
- [Run, Melos! \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000035/files/1567\\_14913.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000035/files/1567_14913.html) (走れメロス)
- [Be not Defeated by the Rain \(雨ニモマケズ\)](#)
- [The Restaurant that Has Many Orders \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000081/files/43754\\_17659.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000081/files/43754_17659.html) (注文の多い料理店)
- [Night on the Galactic Railroad \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000081/files/456\\_15050.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000081/files/456_15050.html) (銀河鉄道の夜)
- [I Am a Cat \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/789\\_14547.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/789_14547.html) (吾輩は猫である)
- [Rails \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000096/files/46697\\_27712.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000096/files/46697_27712.html) (線路)
- [Bring into focus \(焦点を合せる\)](#)
- [Girl's Hell \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000096/files/935\\_23282.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000096/files/935_23282.html) (少女地獄)

## Other texts

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- [Japanese Wikipedia](#)
- [Soseki's Merits and Demerits of isms](#)
- [Soseki's Botchan](#)

- [Japanese Text Initiative \(http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/\)](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/) Fully searchable premodern texts with English or Japanese interface
- [Aozora Bunko \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp) Texts whose copyright has expired
- [Noh Plays \(http://www.kanazawa-bidai.ac.jp/~hangyo/utahi/tobira.htm\)](http://www.kanazawa-bidai.ac.jp/~hangyo/utahi/tobira.htm)

## Rakugo

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- ...

## Philosophy/Political science

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- 貝原益軒 (Kaibara Ekiken, 1630-1714)
  - [養生訓 \(http://www.nakamura-u.ac.jp/library/kaibara/archive03/text01.html\)](http://www.nakamura-u.ac.jp/library/kaibara/archive03/text01.html) (Yōjōkun: Precepts for the preservation of health)
  - [和俗童子訓 \(http://www.nakamura-u.ac.jp/library/kaibara/archive04/\)](http://www.nakamura-u.ac.jp/library/kaibara/archive04/) (Wazoku dōjūkun: Precepts for Japanese common children)
- 山本常朝 (Yamamoto Jōchō, 1659-1719)
  - [葉隠 \(http://hagakure-text.jp/\)](http://hagakure-text.jp/) (Hagakure: Hidden by the Leaves) - The book of Samurai in Saga Domain
- 福沢諭吉 (Yukichi Fukuzawa, 1835-1901)
  - [学問のすすめ \(http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000296/files/47061\\_29420.html\)](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000296/files/47061_29420.html) (Encouragement of Learning)
- 五来欣造 (Gorai Kinzō, 1875-1944)
  - [儒教の独逸政治思想に及ぼせる影響 \(http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1272015\)](http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1272015) (How did confucianism affect to German political philosophy)
  - [ファッショか共産主義か \(http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1270689\)](http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1270689) (Fascism or Communism)

## Memoirs

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- 久保田栄吉 (Ōkubo Ēkichi, 1887-)
  - [赤露二年の獄中生活 \(http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1020460\)](http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1020460) (Prison Life in Red Russia for two years)

## Old Songs

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- [Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms \(さくら さくら\) さくら さくら やよいの空は](#)
- [Soap Bubbles \(シャボン玉\) シャボン玉飛んだ 屋根まで飛んだ](#)
- [The Red Shoes \(赤い靴\) 赤い靴 はいてた 女の子](#)
- [10,000 Feet up the Alps \(https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E3%82%A2%E3%83%AB%E3%83%97%E3%82%B9%E4%B8%80%E4%B8%87%E5%B0%BA\)](https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E3%82%A2%E3%83%AB%E3%83%97%E3%82%B9%E4%B8%80%E4%B8%87%E5%B0%BA) (アルプス一万尺) アルプス一万尺 小槍の上で
- [The glow of a firefly \(https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E8%9B%8D%E3%81%AE%E5%85%89\)](https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E8%9B%8D%E3%81%AE%E5%85%89) (蛍の光) 蛍の光 窓の雪
- [The Gondola Song \(ゴンドラの唄\) いのち短し、恋せよ乙女](#)
- [Katyusha's song \(カチューシャの唄\) カチューシャかわいや わかれのつらさ](#)
- [The Boatman Ballad \(https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E8%88%B9%E9%A0%AD%E5%B0%8F%E5%94%84\)](https://ja.wikisource.org/wiki/%E8%88%B9%E9%A0%AD%E5%B0%8F%E5%94%84) (船頭小唄) おれは河原の 枯すすき

## National Song

- [Kimigayo \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimigayo#Lyrics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimigayo#Lyrics) (君が代) 君が代は 千代に八千代に

## War Songs

- [Patriotic March \(https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%84%9B%E5%9B%BD%E8%A1%8C%E9%80%B2%E6%9B%B2#.E6.AD.8C.E8.A9.9E\)](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%84%9B%E5%9B%BD%E8%A1%8C%E9%80%B2%E6%9B%B2#.E6.AD.8C.E8.A9.9E) (愛国行進曲) 見よ東海の空あけて
- [Umi Yukaba \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umi\\_Yukaba\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umi_Yukaba) (海行かば) 海行かば 水漬く屍

## Hymn

- [Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus! \(立てよいざ立て\)](#)

## Warabe Uta

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- [Kagome Kagome \(かごめ かごめ\) かごめかごめ 籠の中の鳥は](#)
- [Hana Ichi Monme \(はないちもんめ\) 勝ってうれしい花いちもんめ、負けて悔しい花いちもんめ](#)
- [Tōryanse \(通りゃんせ\) 通りゃんせ 通りゃんせ ここはどこ 細通じゃ](#)

- [ずいずいずっころぼし](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%9A%E3%81%84%E3%81%9A%E3%81%84%E3%81%9A%E3%81%A3%E3%81%93%E3%82%8D%E3%81%B0%E3%81%97) (<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%9A%E3%81%84%E3%81%9A%E3%81%84%E3%81%9A%E3%81%A3%E3%81%93%E3%82%8D%E3%81%B0%E3%81%97>) [ずいずいずっころぼし ごまみそずい](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95)
- [Where are you from?](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95) (<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95>) [あんたがたどこさ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95) [あんたがたどこさ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95) [肥後さ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95) [肥後どこさ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95) [熊本さ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%81%82%E3%82%93%E3%81%9F%E3%81%8C%E3%81%9F%E3%81%A9%E3%81%93%E3%81%95)
- [Snow](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1)) ([https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA\\_\(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1\)](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1))) (雪) [雪](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1))や [こんこ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1)) [霰](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1))や [こんこ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E9%9B%AA_(%E7%AB%A5%E8%AC%A1))。

## Old Japanese texts

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- [The Pillow Book](#) (枕草子) - 春はあけぼの
- [Tsurezuregusa](#) (徒然草) - つれづれなるままに
- [The Tale of the Heike](#) (平家物語) - 祇園精舎の鐘の声 諸行無常の響きあり
- [Matsuo Basho's Haiku](#)
- [The Tosa Diary](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000155/files/832_16016.html) ([http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000155/files/832\\_16016.html](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000155/files/832_16016.html)) (土佐日記) - 男もすなる日記といふものを、女もしてみむとてするなり。

## Old Japanese texts written in Classical Chinese

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- [Manyoshu](#) (万葉集)

## Transcription of Classical Chinese into Japanese

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Classical Chinese was communication language between Japan, Korea, China and Vietnam until WWII.

- [Shunbou](#) (春望) - 国破れて山河在り (国破<sub>レ</sub>テ山河在<sub>リ</sub>)
- [Shungyou](#) (春暁) - 春眠<sub>不</sub>ズ<sub>レ</sub>覺<sub>エ</sub><sub>レ</sub>曉<sub>ヲ</sub>

## Weird Books

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- [native Japanese reading with annotations of Water Margin](http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/926906) (<http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/926906>) (標註訓訳 水滸伝 一) - Transcription of Written Vernacular Chinese into Japanese
- [Mix-up Secret plan](http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/783122) (<http://kindai.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/783122>) (混同秘策) - agricultural book for world domination plan written in Sakoku period

## Travel guide

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- [South Manchu travel guide, 1917](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=hWf-S5f7jj4C&printsec=frontcover) (<http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=hWf-S5f7jj4C&printsec=frontcover>) (南満洲鉄道旅行案内)
- [Taiwan train travel guide, 1927](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=hWf-S5f7jj4C&printsec=frontcover) (<http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=hWf-S5f7jj4C&printsec=frontcover>) (台湾鉄道旅行案内)
- [America travel guide, 1927](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=LCg8tJqycYC&printsec=frontcover) (<http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=LCg8tJqycYC&printsec=frontcover>) (米国旅行案内)
- [Sakhalin train travel guide, 1928](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=t9bCbP4q1AC&printsec=frontcover) (<http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=t9bCbP4q1AC&printsec=frontcover>) (樺太の鉄道旅行案内)
- [Korea travel guide, 1934](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=wwsR-_mRxgC&printsec=frontcover) ([http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=wwsR-\\_mRxgC&printsec=frontcover](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=wwsR-_mRxgC&printsec=frontcover)) (朝鮮旅行案内記)
- [The Trans-Siberian Express - Shortest route from the Far East to Europe, 1933](http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=deEg7VDOreMC&printsec=frontcover) (<http://books.google.co.jp/books?id=deEg7VDOreMC&printsec=frontcover>) (欧州旅行の最短距離 シベリヤ急行鉄道)

## References

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1. See also Masao Kusuyama's version; [一寸法師](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000329/files/43457_23938.html) ([http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000329/files/43457\\_23938.html](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000329/files/43457_23938.html))
2. [http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/799\\_14972.html](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/799_14972.html)

## Transcribing English to Japanese

The **transcription of English to Japanese** has been done since the earliest cultural contacts between English speakers and Japanese. During the Edo period, kanji were used phonetically to write English and other foreign words, but in the modern period [katakana](#) have become the principal target script. Unlike the systems for romaji, there is no standard for transcribing into katakana, and methods vary. However, generally all methods attempt to preserve the pronunciation of English, not the spelling. That is, transcription not transliteration is done.

This article deals with transcription of English words into the nearest phonetic equivalent in Japanese.

## Reasons for transcribing

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The purpose of the transcription partly determines how it is done. There are reasons why one would want to transcribe an English word to Japanese: Many legal documents, such as company registrations, require that only Japanese script is used. A computer database may need entry in Japanese script for the purpose of sorting and collation. Educators want to explain the pronunciation of English words by transcribing. Loan words from English are usually written in a transcribed form. Or

one may simply be interested in how one's name looks in Japanese.

Accordingly, there are different priorities for the transcriber. The educator might want to indicate many of the subtleties of English pronunciation whereas a person naming a new product might be more concerned with the ease of pronunciation for native speakers of Japanese.

## Difficulties

Japanese distinguishes fewer sounds than English. For example, Japanese does not distinguish the vowel sound of "run" and "ran", or the consonant sound of "row" and "low". Moreover the rules by which sounds can be combined in Japanese are generally more restrictive than the English rules. As a result, the pronunciation of the transcribed word can differ quite considerably from the original word in English.

If writing for a Japanese audience, it is worth checking whether there is already an accepted transcription into Japanese, and whether the meaning of the new word has changed in Japanese. The word *mishin* illustrates both pitfalls: not only is this an unexpected rendering of the English word "machine", but the Japanese word's meaning is limited to sewing machines. It is also worth noting that some terms which may at first glance appear to be mangled English loanwords are, in fact, loans from other languages: *koppu* (drinking glass) is not a version of the English "cup" but a loan of Dutch *kop*, and *tabako* is from Portuguese *tabaco*, not from "tobacco".

## Procedure for transcription

Most Japanese people do not use a systematic procedure for transcription; instead they transcribe according to their perception of the English pronunciation, albeit significantly influenced by the spelling. However, the process can be represented formally as a set of transformations, which is presented in one possible order below. Proficient Japanese speakers internalize the transformations and perform them all simultaneously when inserting English words into written or spoken Japanese.

### Step 1: Transcribe the English phonetically

The first step is to start with a phonetic representation of the English word, as distinct from the spelling. The phonetic transcription should reflect the careful pronunciation of the word. Spelling can often mislead as to what the pronunciation is. If there is any doubt, a dictionary will provide an accurate indication of what the sounds are. The letter *x* typically corresponds to two sounds (ks) and the digraphs *sh*, *ch*, and *th* each correspond to a single sound. The English sounds in the examples below are in the International Phonetic Alphabet. (See International Phonetic Alphabet for English and IPA chart for English for explanation of these symbols used for transcribing English.)

### Step 2: Transform the vowels from English to Japanese

Japanese has a different and smaller sound set than English, so many sounds have to be changed to equivalent or similar sounds in Japanese. The Romanization system used here is a variation of the Hepburn system, where long vowels are represented by doubled letters (ii, ee, aa, oo, uu) and the moraic nasal is represented with capital N.

Vowels need to be changed to correspond to use the five Japanese vowels. Typically, the vowels used in a British Received Pronunciation are used as the base English vowels for transcription, using the following system, where doubled vowels mean long (2-mora) vowels:

English	Japanese	Example word	Japanese transcription
ɑ:	aa, a	father, arm, commander	fazaa, aamu, komaNdaa
i:	ii	she	shii
ɪ	i	pig	piggu
ɛ	e	bed	beddo
ɜ:	aa, a	bird	baado
æ	a	hamburger	haNbaagaa
æ after k	kya (yōon)	cat	kyatto
æ after g	gya (yōon)	gamble, gal	gyaNburu, gyaru
ʌ	a	country	kaNtorii
ʌ spelt with an "o"	o	monkey, front, London	moNkii, furoNto, roNdoN
ɒ	o	box	bokkusu
ɔ:	oo	straw, port	sutoroo, pooto
ʊ	u	book	bukku
u:	uu	balloon	baruuN
non-final ə	not fixed, based on spelling.	about, pilot, London	abauto, pairotto, roNdoN
final position ə spelt as "-r"	aa	winner, hamburger	uinaa, haNbaagaa
final position ə spelt with an "a"	a	mama, puma	mama, pyuuma
eɪ	ei, ee, e	day, David	dei, debiddo
aɪ	ai	my	mai
ɔɪ	ooi, oi	boy, toy	booi, toi
əʊ	o, oo	phone, no	foN, noo
aʊ	au	now	nau
ɪə	ia, iaa	queer	kuia, kuiaa
ɛə	ea, eaa	hair	hea, heaa
ʊə	uaa	tour	tsuaa
ju:	yuu	cube	kyuubu

In rhotic dialects of English, like American English, the letter *r* sounds at the end of syllables, but for the purpose of transcription into Japanese, this sound transcribes into a vowel sequence ending in *a*, except for the sequence [ɹ], which corresponds to Received Pronunciation [ɔ:], and is transcribed as *oo*. That is, *car* becomes *kaa* not *karu*, and *pork* becomes *pooku* not *poruku*.

### Step 3: Transform consonants

Some consonants require changing during transcription into Japanese. This process has three substeps:

#### Transform non-Japanese sounds to closest Japanese equivalents

First, English has a few consonant sounds that Japanese lacks or only contains in certain contexts, so they must be transcribed into other sounds that Japanese has.

English	Japanese	example
θ	s	<b>thin</b> → siN
ð	z	<b>that</b> → zatto
l	r	<b>left, milk</b> → refuto, miruku
ŋ (when spelled "ng")	Ng, N	<b>song, darling</b> → soNgu, daariN
j (before the sounds i, I, or e)	i	<b>yeast, yes</b> → iisuto, iesu
h (before the sounds u or ʊ)	f	<b>hoop</b> → fuupu
w (before the sound u)	u	<b>woods</b> → uzzu
v*	b	<b>David</b> → debiddo

There are other English consonants that Japanese lacks, such as /ʃ/, the closest equivalent being /ç/. And though both languages contain /h/, in Japanese it assimilates to /ç/ before /i/. However these differences in pronunciation are small enough that they need not be considered different sounds for the purpose of transcription.

\* It is possible to notate /v/ in Japanese kana, and it is done in the Japanese spellings of "Vietnam" (ヴェトナム *vetonamu*) and "Vicks" (ヴィックス *vikkusu*), but the sound does not exist in native Japanese phonology and is usually changed to "b" when transcribing English words.

#### Palatalize coronal obstruents

Next, Japanese requires coronal obstruents "s", "z", "t", "d" to be palatalized when they occur before the vowel *i*, so if these consonants occur before "i", either they change to their palatalized form or the vowel "i" changes to "e":

- "si" changes to "shi" (Remember "si" might come originally from "thi", as in *thick*).
- "ti" changes to "chi" or "te"
- "di" changes to "ji" or "de"
- "zi" changes to "ji"

In recent loanwords, "ti" and "di" are often preserved. In kana, this sound is represented by a full-sized "te" or "de" and a small-sized "i": テイ (ti), デイ (di).

#### Double voiceless obstruents after short vowels

In Japanese, the voiceless obstruents "p", "t", "k", "s", "ch", and "sh" have geminate (doubled) forms, written using a sokuon (small tsu) character, and in English transcription these geminates are used after short vowels. Short vowels are vowels which are transcribed using the vowel table above using a single vowel ("a", "e", "i", "o", or "u"). This transformation is usually but not always applied in the middle of a word. Also, sometimes syllable-final "t" is transformed to "ts" instead of "tt".

single	double	example
p	pp	pop → poppu
t	tt	cut → katto
k	kk	pack → pakku
s	ss	kiss → kissu
ch	tch	patch → patchi
sh	ssh	mesh → messhu

### Step 4: Add epenthetic vowels

Japanese has strict constraints on the structure of syllables, and any syllables that violate these constraints have vowels inserted until the constraints are met. These are called epenthetic vowels.

- The only consonant clusters (sequences of consonants with no intervening vowels) allowed in Japanese are the geminate (doubled) consonants *cch*, *mm*, *nn*, *ss*, *ssh*, *tch* and *tt*. However, the sounds represented by the English digraphs *ch*, *sh*, and *ts* are considered single sounds for the purpose of transcribing into Japanese.
- Japanese syllables can only end in vowels and *N*.

Any sequence of sounds that does not obey these rules must have epenthetic vowels inserted. The epenthetic vowel is usually "u", but there are a few exceptions:

- "m" does not take an epenthetic vowel when followed by "b" or "p", but is instead replaced by "N" (which is pronounced the same as "m" in those contexts). For example, computer becomes "コンピュータ" (koNpyuuta). "N" is also pronounced as /ŋ/ before "k" or "g", requiring no epenthesis

after the "n" in words such as "ink", which becomes "インク" (iNku or iNki)

- "t" and "d" take "o" as an epenthetic vowel. "t" can also take "u" in which case the "t" is affricated to "ts" (i.e. "tsu").
  - The rule for "tsu" described above is sometimes replaced by one where "tu", written in kana with a full-sized "to" followed by a small "u": トウ, is used. This is more common in more recent innovative Japanese dialects. For example, the name of the film "The Truman Show" in Japanese is "トゥルーマン・ショー" (turuumaN shoo)
- "ch" and "j" take "i" as an epenthetic vowel.
- "k" and "sh" usually takes "u" as an epenthetic vowel, but sometimes it takes "i" or may vary between "u" and "i". "i" is the more conversative pattern.

## Step 5: Break into morae

Japanese is divided into morae, with each mora containing one of the following:

- A consonant and a single vowel (CV)
- A consonant, "j" and a single vowel (CjV)
- A single vowel (V)
- Moraic (final) "n" (N) ン
- Doubled (geminate) consonant ッ

## Step 6: Transcribe rōmaji into katakana

Each mora corresponds to one or sometimes two katakana characters. The second mora of a long vowel is uniformly transcribed as ー in katakana. Moraic "n" (transcribed here as "N") is ン in katakana.

## Examples

English	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Amazon	/æməzɒn/	amazon	amazon	amazoN	a.ma.zo.N	アマゾン
boxing	/bɒksɪŋ/	boksɪŋ	bokshiNg	bokushiNgu	bo.ku.shi.N.gu	ボクシング
Brisbane	/brɪzˌbæn/	brizben	brisbeN	burisubeN	bu.ri.su.be.N	ブリスベン
church	/tʃɜːtʃ/	chaach	chaach	chaachi	cha.a.chi	チャーチ
Cornell	/kɔːnɛl/	koonel	kooner	kooneru	ko.o.ne.ru	コーネル
craft	/kræft/	kraft	kraft	kurafuto	ku.ra.fu.to	クラフト
Crawford	/krɔːfɔːd/	kroofood	kroofood	kuroofoodo	ku.ro.o.fo.o.do	クローフォード
earthling	/ɜːθlɪŋ/	aaθliŋ	aasriNg	aasuriNgu	a.a.su.ri.N.gu	アースリング
elevator	/ɛləveɪtə/	eleveeta	erebeeta	erebeeta	e.re.be.e.ta	エレベータ
exit	/ɛkzɪt/	ekzit	ekjitt	ekijitto	e.ki.ji.t.to	エキジット
exotic	/ɛkzɒtɪk/	ekzotik	ekzochikk	ekizochikk	e.ki.zo.chi.k.ku	エキゾチック
fox	/fɒks/	foks	fokks	fokkus	fo.k.ku.su	フォックス
Google	/guːgəl/	guugul	guugur	guuguru	gu.u.gu.ru	グーグル
Harvard	/hɑːvɜːd/	haavaad	haabaad	haabaado	ha.a.ba.a.do	ハーバード
hotel	/həʊtəl/	hotel	hoter	hoteru	ho.te.ru	ホテル
Liverpool	/lɪvəpuːl/	livapuul	rivapuur	rivapuuru	ri.va.pu.u.ru	リヴァプール
Massachusetts	/mæsətʃuːsəts/	masachuusets	masachuusetts	masachuusettsu	ma.sa.chu.u.se.t.tsu	マサチューセッツ
McDonald	/mækdɒnəld/	makdonald	makdonard	makudonarudo	ma.ku.do.na.ru.do	マクドナルド
Mexico	/mɛksəkəʊ/	meksiko	mekshiko	mekishiko	me.ki.shi.ko	メキシコ
Microsoft	/maɪkrɒsɒft/	maikrosoft	maikrosoft	maikurosofuto	ma.i.ku.ro.so.fu.to	マイクロソフト
nation	/neɪʃən/	neishon	neishoN	neishoN	ne.i.sho.n	ネイション
New Orleans	/njuːɔːlɪnz/	nyuuoolinz	nyuuooriNz	nyuuooriNzu	nyu.u.o.o.ri.N.zu	ニューオーリンズ
Pentium	/pentiəm/	pentiam	peNtiam	peNtiamu	pe.N.ti.a.mu	ペンティアム
Phillip	/fɪlɪp/	filip	firipp	firippu	fi.ri.p.pu	フィリップ
robot	/rəʊbɒt/	robot	robott	robotto	ro.bo.t.to	ロボット
Sydney	/sɪdniː/	sidnii	shidnii	shidonii	shi.do.ni.i	シドニー

taxi	/tæksi:/	taksi	takshii	takushii	ta.ku.shi.i	タクシー
Texas	/tɛksəs/	teksas	teksas	tekisasu	te.ki.sa.su	テキサス

## Inconsistencies

Though commonly used katakana spellings tend to be consistent with the above system of transcription, there are also many exceptions. Some transcriptions are apparently based on misinterpretations of the word's pronunciation based on its spelling. For example, the "u" in "studio" seems to have been interpreted as if it were /ʌ/ (as in the word "study"), not /u:/, resulting in the transcription "スタジオ" (sutajio).

Though the basis for English to Japanese transcription is usually British Received Pronunciation, with its different short "o" sound and unpronounced rhotic "r"s, there are also exceptions. The words "cocktail" and "soccer" are transcribed as "カクテル" (kakuteru) and "サッカー" (sakkaa), and the Japanese name of the English letter "r" is "アール" (aaru), which corresponds more closely to a rhotic accent.

The final **t** sound in English words is usually transcribed as "ト" (to), but it in some words such as "fruit" and "suit" it is transcribed as "ツ" (tsu), making the pronunciation of some singular nouns sound more like their plural forms, even though plural "s"s tend to be ignored when transcribing English nouns into Japanese.

Transcribing using the steps outlined above results in the English short "i" sound becoming the Japanese i sound, but there are also cases in which it becomes the Japanese e sound. Examples include "digital" and "sticker" becoming "デジタル" (dejitaru) and "ステッカー" (sutekkaa). Also, the "re" in the English words "report" and "reporter", which is pronounced as /rɪ/ in Received Pronunciation, becomes re in "レポート" (repooto) and "レポーター" (repootaa), though they are sometimes alternately transcribed as "リポート" (ripooto) and "リポーター" (ripootaa)

Even within the common system of transcriptions, there are multiple possible ways in which a certain sound can be transcribed. This can result in multiple transcriptions of a single word, such as the name "David", which is written a number of ways in Japanese. Different pronunciations of the same word are sometimes used to show what meaning of the word is being used. For example, "ストライク" (sutoraiku) refers to a strike in baseball or bowling, while "ストライキ" (sutoraiki) refers to a workers' strike. Also, "ポンチ" (poNchi) refers to fruit punch while "パンチ" (paNchi) is used for other meanings of the word.

As mentioned above, many transcriptions (particularly those involving a non-final schwa) are non-fixed and are often based more on spelling than actual pronunciation. This often leads to words which sound similar to each other in English sounding radically different from each other in their Japanese pronunciations. While the pronunciations of the English words "pirate" and "pilot" differ only in the "l" and "r", the two words are transcribed respectively into Japanese as "パイレーツ" (paireetsu) and "パイロット" (pairotto), with the only difference between the original pronunciations disappearing and some new differences appearing in other places.

There are also some inconsistencies in Japanese between the way English words are transcribed, and the way words from some other languages containing the same sounds are transcribed. A final velar nasal consonant in an English word (spelled "ng") is usually transcribed as "ング" (Ngu), but the same sound in Korean and Chinese words is transcribed as "ン" (N). For example "Hong Kong" and "Kung-Fu" become "ホンコン" (hoNkoN) and "カンフー" (kaNfuu) respectively, and the "Yong" in Korean actor Bae Yong Joon's name becomes "ヨン" (yoN).

## Exceptional transcriptions

The following are commonly used transcriptions which do not conform to the common system of transcription. This does not include Japanese abbreviations of English words or words which resemble English, but came into Japanese directly from other languages.

English	katakana	romanization	non-conforming element(s)
archaeology	アーケオロジ	aakeorogii	/i/ becomes e
archiver	アーカイバ	aakaiba	final /ə/ becomes a, despite being spelled "er"
anal	アナル	anaru	/eɪ/ becomes a
California	カリフォルニア	kariforunia	/kæ/ becomes ka, rhotic /r/ becomes ru
Canada	カナダ	kanada	/kæ/ becomes ka
casual	カジュアル	kajuaru	/kæ/ becomes ka
cocktail	カクテル	kakuteru	/ɒ/ (Received Pronunciation) but based on American a
cocoa	ココア	kokoa	/əʊ/ becomes oa
color	カラー	karaa	/ʌ/ becomes a, despite being spelled with an "o"
curry	カレー	karee	/i/ becomes ee
digital	デジタル	dejitaru	/ɪ/ becomes e
fast	ファースト	faasuto	/æ/ becomes aa
foul	ファール	faaru	/aʊ/ becomes aa
foundation	ファンデーション	faNdeeshon	/aʊ/ becomes a
fruit	フルーツ	furuutsu	final /t/ becomes tsu
Hepburn *	ヘボン	hebon	/p/ is omitted and /ə/ becomes o, despite being spelled "ur"
Hollywood **	ハリウッド	hariuddo	/ɒ/ (Received Pronunciation) but based on American a
hood	フード	fuudo	/ʊ/ becomes uu
idea	アイデア	aidea	/i/ becomes e

label	ラベル	raberu	/eɪ/ becomes a
Ladies/Lady's	レディース	rediisu	/z/ becomes su
loose	ルーズ	ruuzu	/s/ becomes zu
(sewing) machine	ミシン	mishiN	/ə/ becomes i, despite being spelled with an "a"
margarine	マーガリン	maagariN	/dʒ/ becomes g
meter	メーター	meetaa	/i:/ becomes ee
money	マネー	manee	/ʌ/ becomes a, despite being spelled with an "o" and /i/ becomes ee
n (letter)	エヌ	enu	final /n/ becomes nu
Narnia	ナルニア	narunia	rhotic /r/ becomes ru (based on American)
Neptune	ネプチューン	nepuchuun	/tu/ becomes chuu rather than tsuu
news	ニュース	nyuusu	/z/ becomes su
penis	ペニス	penisu	/i:/ becomes e
pirate	パイレーツ	paireetsu	final /t/ becomes tsu
pouch	ポーチ	poochi	/aʊ/ becomes oo
propane	プロパン	puropaN	/eɪ/ becomes a
pudding	プリン	puriN	/d/ becomes r
punch	ポンチ	poNchi	/ʌ/ becomes o, despite being spelled with an "u"
r (letter)	アール	aaru	rhotic /r/ becomes ru (based on American)
radio	ラジオ	rajio	/eɪ/ becomes a
report	レポート	repooto	/ɪ/ becomes e
reporter	レポーター	repootaa	/ɪ/ becomes e
revolution	レボリューション	reboryuushon	/u:/ becomes ryuu
sales	セールス	seerusu	/z/ becomes su
smooth	スムーズ	sumuusu	/ð/ becomes su
soccer	サッカー	sakkaa	/ɒ/ (Received Pronunciation) but based on American a
sport	スポーツ	supootsu	final /t/ becomes tsu
sticker	ステッカー	sutekkaa	/ɪ/ becomes e
studio	スタジオ	sutajio	/u:/ becomes a
suit	スーツ	suutsu	final /t/ becomes tsu
sweater	セーター	seetaa	/weɪ/ becomes ee
Uranus	ウラナス	uranasu	/yʊ/ becomes u
video	ビデオ	bideo	/ɪ/ becomes e
volleyball	バレーボール	bareebooru	/ɒ/ (Received Pronunciation) but based on American a, and /i/ becomes ee
Washington	ワシントン	washiNtoN	/ɒ/ (Received Pronunciation) but based on American a
Yankees	ヤンキース	yaNkiisu	/z/ becomes su
yogurt	ヨーグルト	yooguruto	rhotic /r/ becomes ru (based on American)

\* in the case of James Curtis Hepburn, but not Katharine Hepburn or Audrey Hepburn, whose last name is transcribed as "ヘップバーン" (hepubaaN).

\*\* "Holly" on its own is transcribed as "ホリー" (horii).

## Transcribing multiple words

In some instances, such as language textbooks or song lyrics, phrases or entire sentences may be transcribed into Japanese.

Multiple word transcription is typically done on a word-by-word basis, with no account being taken of word linking. For example, "an engineer" would most commonly be transcribed into Japanese as "a.N.e.N.ji.ni.a" rather than "a.ne.N.ji.ni.a", with the linking between the "n" and "e" represented by the Japanese mora "ne". In some set phrases, such as "kaman" for "come on", this general trend is broken.

## Example of transcribing a whole sentence



**English:** "My hovercraft is full of eels."

**Step 1:** maɪ hɒvəkɾɑ:ft ɪz fʊl ɒv i:lz

**Step 2-3:** "mai hobaakraft iz ful ob iirz"

**Step 4:** "mai hobaakurafuto izu furu obu iiruzu"

**Step 5** "ma.i ho.ba.a.ku.ra.fu.to i.zu fu.ru o.bu i.i.ru.zu"

**Step 6** 「マイ ホバークラフト イズ フル オブ イールズ」

## Pronunciation

Japanese is characterised largely by its small number of vowels and consonants (five and fourteen, respectively). Pronunciation of each syllable is highly regular with the written system and there are only a few exceptions such as vowel devoicing. This is in stark contrast to English where the written and spoken language can differ a great deal (e.g. the vowel digraph "ou" in "noun" and "cough" and the consonant "g" in "goat" and "giraffe").

Apart from a single isolated consonant (the moraic nasal, "n") and double consonants (e.g. "itte" and "kekkon") all consonants must be followed by a vowel to form syllables. Double consonants are always a pair of the same consonant, though vowel devoicing sometimes makes different consonants sound one after the other (e.g. "suki" and "suteki").

Japanese has a great deal of homophones that make correct pronunciation quite important. While language learners may have difficulty hearing the difference between nuances like long and short vowels, native speakers are used to these and might not understand incorrectly pronounced words.

## The syllabary

There are five vowels in Japanese, normally transcribed into the English alphabet as: "a", "i", "u", "e" and "o".

Vowel	a	i	u	e	o
Approximate sound	father	meaty	food	egg	old

\*This sound has no approximation in English. See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close\\_back\\_rounded\\_vowel#Close\\_back\\_compressed\\_vowel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_back_rounded_vowel#Close_back_compressed_vowel)

Spanish and Italian speakers may note that Japanese vowels produce the same sounds as their Spanish and Italian equivalents.

Japanese vowels always represent distinct phonemes and don't form digraphs — i.e. they don't blend together or sound differently when joined. When one vowel follows another they are pronounced separately. Examples are the names *Sae* (sa.e) and *Aoi* (a.o.i)

The rest of the syllabary is formed by combining the above vowels with a consonant.

Clear						Voiced						Plosive						Clear medial y				Voiced medial y				Plosive	
	a	i	u	e	o	a	i	u	e	o	a	i	u	e	o	ya	yu	yo	ya	yu	yo	ya					
<b>k</b>	ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	<b>g</b>	ga	gi	gu	ge	<b>go</b>					ki	kya	kyu	kyo	gi	gya	gyu	gyo				
<b>s</b>	sa	<b>shi</b>	su	se	so	<b>z</b>	za	<b>ji</b>	zu	ze	zo					<b>shi</b>	sha	shu	sho	<b>ji</b>	ja	ju	jo				
<b>t</b>	ta	<b>chi</b>	<b>tsu</b>	te	to	<b>d</b>	da	<b>ji</b>	<b>zu</b>	de	do					<b>chi</b>	cha	chu	cho	<b>ji</b>	ja	ju	jo				
<b>n</b>	na	<b>ni</b>	nu	ne	no											<b>ni</b>	nya	nyu	nyo								
<b>h</b>	ha	<b>hi</b>	<b>fu</b>	he	ho	<b>b</b>	ba	bi	bu	be	bo				<b>p</b>	pa	pi	pu	pe	po	<b>bi</b>	bya	byu	byo	<b>pi</b>	pya	
<b>m</b>	ma	mi	mu	me	mo																						
<b>y</b>	ya		yu		yo																						
<b>r</b>	<b>ra</b>	<b>ri</b>	<b>ru</b>	<b>re</b>	<b>ro</b>											<b>ri</b>	rya	ryu	ryo								
<b>w</b>	wa				<b>o</b>																						

Note that the sound which is written with a "y" is not considered a vowel, but a consonant. This will come as little surprise to German speakers where the same sound is written with a "j".

The -i line (ki, gi, shi, ji, chi, ni, hi, bi, pi, mi, ri) can be combined with the y- line (ya, yu, yo) to create the *medial y* combinations. These are just like regular consonant + vowel syllables, in that they should be pronounced as one mora (syllabic sound).

From this table one can see that the Japanese syllabary is highly systematic. There are a few exceptions, though, and these have been bolded in the table:

- "si" becomes "**shi**"
- "ti" becomes "**chi**" and "tu" becomes "**tsu**"
- "zi" and "di" become "**ji**", and "du" becomes "**zu**"
- "hu" becomes "**fu**"
- "wo" becomes "**o**"

## Mora

Japanese is quite regular in the timing and stress of its syllables. The basic timing unit is called mora. Each mora is pronounced with equal stress and should take about the same amount of time. Two morae should sound twice as long as a single one.

The following take up one mora:

- a short vowel
- a consonant followed by a short vowel
- a medial *y*
- a moraic nasal

Whereas these take up two morae:

- a long vowel
- a double consonant

## Examples

- *a-o-i* / あおい (e. blue): three morae, each vowel is short
- *mi-do-ri* / みどり (e. green): three morae.
- *sha-shu* / しやしゅ (e. car model): two morae.
- *ni-n-ji-n* / にんじん (e. a carrot): four morae.
- *ī-e* / いいえ (e. no): three morae (note the long vowel "i", denoted by a macron)
- *a-k-ka* / あっか (e. to worsen): three morae (note that the double consonant isn't pronounced twice, just twice as long).

The medial *y* often takes a long vowel.

- *gyūnyū* / ぎゅうにゅう (e. milk): four morae.

## Long vowels

A long vowel takes two morae. In rōmaji it's written with a macron: *ā*, *ī*, *ū*, *ē* and *ō*.

In hiragana, it's written with an extra "あ" (a), "い" (i) or "う" (u) depending on the vowel. In katakana, it's marked by appending a dash-like symbol "ー".

Word	Japanese	Meaning	Soundbyte
<i>Ōsaka</i>	大阪	Osaka city	 <a href="#">Ja-Osaka.ogg</a>
<i>Tōkyō</i>	東京	Tokyo city	 <a href="#">Ja-Tokyo.ogg</a>
<i>dēta</i>	データ	data	 <a href="#">Ja-deeta-data.ogg</a>
<i>gyūnyū</i>	牛乳	milk	 <a href="#">Ja-gyuunyuu-milk.ogg</a>
<i>hō</i>	頬	cheek	 <a href="#">Ja-hoo-cheek.ogg</a>

## Devoicing

In standard Japanese the vowels *i* and *u* are not usually voiced when they occur between voiceless consonants (*k*, *s*, *sh*, *t*, *ch*, *h*, *f*). The phenomenon seems to have developed to facilitate the falling pitch intonation in the Kanto dialect. The mouth forms shape of the vowel and lasts for one mora, but the sound is not voiced. For final [su] in 'desu' and '-masu', all vestiges of the vowel have disappeared in standard Japanese, leaving a naked sibilant. Devoicing is not otherwise standard for word terminal *i* or *u*. Consecutive devoicing is rare, although exceptions exist (e.g. *futsuka*, 2nd day of the month, pronounced *f-ts-ka*). Devoicing can depend on context. E.g. 'Suzuki' has no devoicing; 'Suzuki-san' has a devoiced *i*: *Suzuk-san*. Some dialects do not demonstrate devoicing, notably Kansai.

Some examples:

Spelled	Pronounced	Meaning
kushi	k-shi	<u>comb</u>
ta-be-ma-shi-ta	tabemash-ta	ate (to eat, past tense)

## Consonant variation

There are a couple of consonants that are pronounced differently from English:

Consonant	Approximate sound	Notes
g	<i>give</i> or <i>sigg</i>	approximately halfway between these sounds, it is made almost like <i>ng</i> depending on the age of the speaker and, in certain cases, dialect. Nowadays, it is beginning to sound more like our guttural g, but the older folks may still say <i>ng</i> , which was also taught in many Japanese grammar classes.
sh, ch, j		sound is made further back along the tongue than in English
ts	<i>bats</i>	try saying "fatso" without the "fa"
f	<i>who</i> (in British English)	blown between the lips, not between the lips and teeth; as if it were a combination of both H+F
r		similar to a rolling <i>r</i> , but only trilled once making it sound deceptively like a <i>D</i> to untrained listeners. The sound is often described as being between "r" and "l".

Except for the doubled consonants and the *n* (which we will cover later), consonants can never end a syllable. They can only begin it.

## Moraic nasal

Normally, Japanese consonants must be followed by a vowel except where they double. There is an exception to this: the *moraic nasal* which is transliterated as *n*. It is usually found at the end of words, but can be found in the middle of composite words.

The difference between the moraic nasal and the syllables "na", "ni", "nu", "ne" and "no" can be difficult for language learners to spot, while native speakers may have difficulty understanding incorrect pronunciation.

- *kin'en* (*ki-n-e-n*) no smoking vs. *kinen* (*ki-ne-n*) commemoration.
- *hon'ya* (*ho-n-ya-*) bookstore (not *ho-nya*)

The pronunciation of the moraic nasal changes depending on what sound follows it. This is not so much an irregularity as a shortcut to bridge the sounds between the two morae. When followed by the bilabial plosives, "b" and "p", the moraic nasal is pronounced like an "m". An example:

- "shinbun" is read as: *shimbun*

🔊 [Listen to the audio](#) (OggVorbis, 151 KB)

1. At the end of a word:

- *dan* 段 "level"
- *kin* 金 "gold"
- *fun* 糞 "dung"
- *zen* 善 "goodness"
- *hon* 本 "book"

2. Directly before a consonant:

- *banzai* 万歳 "hurrah", "long live (the Emperor)"
- *kingyo* 金魚 "goldfish" (pronounced like "ng")
- *kunrei* 訓令 "directive"
- *zenchi* 全知 "omniscience" (pronounced like "n")
- *honten* 本店 "main office" (pronounced like "n")

3. Before *m*, *b*, *p*

- *genmai* 玄米 "unmilled rice"
- *honbu* 本部 "headquarters"
- *tempura* 天ぷら (battered and fried vegetables or fish)

4. Before *a*, *i*, *e*, *y*

- *zen'aku* 善悪 "good and evil"
- *ken'i* 權威 "authority"
- *han'ei* 反映 "reflection"
- *sen'you* 専用 "exclusive use"

5. Note that before *a*, *i*, *e*, and *y*, moraic *n* is written *n'* (with an apostrophe). This is to distinguish it from the regular consonant *n*, which is pronounced differently and can produce different words. Some examples of cases where this becomes important are:

- *kani* 蟹 "crab" vs. *kan'i* 簡易 "simplicity"
- *kinyuu* 記入 "fill in" vs. *kin'yuu* 金融 "finances"
- *konyakku* コニャック "cognac" vs. *kon'yaku* 婚約 "engagement (to be married)"

## Consonant doubling (gemination)

There are four consonants that can become geminates (get doubled) in native Japanese words: /p/, /t/, /k/, and /s/. The geminate (represented linguistically as "Q") takes up an extra mora, with the general effect being to insert a pause that sounds as long as a regular syllable with a short vowel. The geminate is /t/ before ch and ts, /s/ before sh.

Word	Meaning	Soundbyte
takkyū	table tennis	Ja-takkyuu-table_tennis.ogg
Hokkaido	Hokkaido prefecture	Ja-hokkaido.ogg
makka	bright red	Ja-makka-bright_red.ogg
gakkō	a school	
dotchi	which (informal)	Ja-docchi-which.ogg
kuttsuku	to stick	Ja-kuttsuku-to_stick.ogg }
settei	setting	Ja-settei-setting.ogg
chotto	a little	
kissaten	a tea house	
hissori	quiet(ly)	Ja-hissori-quiet(ly).ogg
juppon	ten minutes	
Sapporo	Sapporo city	Ja-Sapporo.ogg

In the Japanese pronunciation of foreign loan words, the voiced consonants /b/, /d/, /g/, and /z/ can also be doubled.

Word	Meaning
gubbai	goodbye
guddo	good
doggu	dog
kizzu	kids

## Practice

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### Simply words

- audio for practice 1 (OggVorbis, 75 KB)

Word	Japanese	Meaning
aka	赤	red
iro	色	color
egaku	描く	draw (a picture)
utsu	打つ	hit, beat
osameru	治める	govern
oya	親	parent(s)
wabi	侘び	(the Japanese aesthetic of subdued refinement)
pari	パリ	Paris (France)
tomodachi	友達	friend
hana	花	flower
shiji	指示	instruction
hiza	膝	knee
tsumori	積もり	intention

### Long and double vowels

- audio for practice 2 (OggVorbis, 125 KB) Note in particular that "deiri" and "koushi" are not long vowels since the vowels are split between composite words.


Word	Japanese	Meaning
<i>sā</i>	さあ	come now
<i>ai</i>	愛	love
<i>au</i>	会う	meet
<i>hae</i>	蠅	fly (insect)
<i>aoi</i>	青い	blue, green
<i>ī</i>	いい	good
<i>iu</i>	言う	say
<i>ie</i>	家	house
<i>shio</i>	塩	salt
<i>shurui</i>	種類	type, kind
<i>nū</i>	縫う	sew
<i>ue</i>	上	above
<i>uo</i>	魚	fish
<i>rē</i>	例	example
<i>supein</i>	スペイン	Spain
<i>urei</i>	憂い	grief
<i>deiri (de + iri)</i>	出入り	coming and going
<i>dēta</i>	データ	data
<i>oi</i>	甥	nephew
<i>sō</i>	そう	that way, so
<i>omou</i>	思う	think
<i>koushi</i>	仔牛	calf (baby cow)
<i>moeru</i>	燃える	burn
<i>hō</i>	頬	cheek (facial)

## Compound consonants

Audio missing

Word	Japanese	Meaning
<i>toukyou</i>	東京	Tokyo
<i>gyouza</i>	餃子	pot-stickers (Chinese dumplings)
<i>gyuunyuu</i>	牛乳	milk (from a cow)
<i>hyou</i>	表	chart
<i>byouin</i>	病院	hospital
<i>denpyou</i>	伝票	voucher
<i>myou</i>	妙	strange
<i>muryou</i>	無料	free (as in beer)
<i>ryuu</i>	龍	dragon
<i>takkyuu</i>	卓球	table tennis
<i>happyou</i>	発表	announcement

## Moraic nasal

-  [audio for practice 5 \(OggVorbis, 91 KB\)](#)

Word	Japanese	Meaning
<i>tenki</i>	天気	weather
<i>renshuu</i>	練習	practice
<i>zangyou</i>	残業	overtime (work)
<i>anshin</i>	安心	relief
<i>sunnari</i>	すんなり	slender
<i>denpa</i>	伝播	reception (cell phone, etc.)
<i>senbei</i>	煎餅	Japanese hard rice cake
<i>genmai</i>	玄米	unprocessed rice
<i>sen</i>	千	thousand
<i>hon</i>	本	book
<i>senyou</i>	専用	exclusive use
<i>hon'ya</i>	本屋	bookstore
<i>san'en</i>	三円	three yen
<i>tan'i</i>	単位	unit, (course) credit

## Comparisons of similarly pronounced words

🔊 audio for practice 6 (OggVorbis, 190 KB)

1. *yuki* 雪 "snow" and *yuuki* 勇氣 "courage"
2. *soto* 外 "outside" and *souto* 僧徒 "Buddhist disciple"
3. *soto* 外 "outside" and *sotou* 粗糖 "unrefined sugar"
4. *soto* 外 "outside" and *soutou* 相当 "suitable"
5. *soto* 外 "outside" and *sotto* そっと "softly"
6. *sotto* そっと "softly" and *sottou* 卒倒 "fainting"
7. *maki* 巻 "scroll" and *makki* 末期 "last period"
8. *hako* 箱 "box" and *hakkou* 発行 "publish"
9. *issei* 一斉 "all at once" and *isei* 異性 "opposite sex"
10. *tani* 谷 "valley" and *tan'i* 単位 "unit", "(course) credit"
11. *san'en* 三円 "three yen" and *sannen* 三年 "three years"
12. *kinyuu* 記入 "fill out" and *kin'yuu* 金融 "finances"
13. *kinen* 記念 "commemoration" and *kin'en* 禁煙 "no smoking"

## Normal speech

The narration of the following excerpt of Natsume Soseki's classic novel *Botchan* is spoken at a natural pace which may be difficult to follow for unaccustomed listeners.

- 🔊 Listen to the audio (OggVorbis, 674KB)

*Oyayuzuri no mutepou de kodomo no toki kara son bakari shite iru. Shougakkou ni iru jibun gakkou no nikai kara tobiorite isshuukan hodo koshi o nukashita koto ga aru. Naze sonna muyami o shita to kiku hito ga aru kamoshirenu. Betsudan fukai riyuu demo nai. Shinchiku no nikai kara kubi o dashite itara, doukyuusei no hitori ga joudan ni, "Ikura ibatte mo, soko kara tobioriru koto wa dekimai. Yowamushi yaai," to hayakashita kara de aru. Kozukai ni obusatte kaette kita toki, oyaji ga ookina me o shite "Nikai gurai kara tobiorite koshi o nukasu yatsu ga aru ka," to itta kara, "Kono tsugi wa nukasazu ni tonde misemasu," to kotaeta.*

*Shinrui no mono kara seiyousei no naifu o moratte kirei na ha o hi ni kazashite, tomodachi ni misete itara, hitori ga "Hikaru koto wa hikaru ga, kiresou mo nai," to itta. "Kirenu koto ga aru ka, nandemo kitte miseru," to ukeatta. "Sonnara, kimi no yubi o kitte miro," to chuumon shita kara, "Nan da yubi gurai kono toori da," to migi no te no oyayubi no kou o hasu ni kirikonda. Saiwai naifu ga chiisai no to, oyayubi no hone ga katakatta node, imadani oyayubi wa te ni tsuite iru. Shikashi kizuato wa shinu made kienu.*

## Pitch accent

Japanese uses **pitch accent**, where every mora can either be pronounced with a high or low pitch. Not all dictionaries will indicate this, but pitch accent is certainly important, because it can make the difference between different words.

For example, using **bold** for high pitches:

いま (今) - "now"

いま (居間) - "living room"

Pitch is, however, to some extent a characteristic of regional accents, so a Kanto speaker may be using the opposite pitches to a Kansai speaker. Where pitch is taught, it will be standard Japanese (essentially the Tokyo dialect). Pitchless Japanese is easily understood by native speakers and incorrect pitch will at most sound somewhat odd. Studying pitch, therefore, isn't essential to the learning Japanese and is perhaps best picked up by conversing with native speakers.

Linguists, however, tend to classify Japanese as having a falling pitch following what is considered the stressed vowel.

## Mora Counting

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A common misconception is that moras in Japanese are the same as syllables in English. Moras differ from syllables because of how they are counted.

Consonant-Vowel Combinations written as Digraphs count as 1 mora. These are cases where you have き、ぎ、し、じ、ち、に、ひ、び、び、み、り combined with や、ゆ、 and よ to form Digraphs like きゃ、しゅ、ちよ, etc.

So, the **ちゅ** in 中国[ちゅうごく] accounts for **1 mora**. The whole word is 4 moras.

A vowel combination counts as 2 moras. Combinations like おう、えい are 2 moras. This also includes a vowel being written or said twice, like おお、いい, etc.

Ex. the **せい** in the word 人生[じんせい] or the おう in だろう would count as **2 moras**.

The mora **ん** counts as **1 mora**

Ex. The **ん** in 先生[せんせい] is the 2nd mora in the word, and the whole word has 4 moras.

The small tsu (っ) which doubles a consonant adds **1 mora**.

Ex. the word 学校(がっこう) has 4 moras.

There is a unique set of mora known as "special mora" (特殊拍) which consist of small tsu "っ", the kana "ん" and long vowel symbol "ー", the last high pitch can not occur on any of these "special mora".

This is all important information to know when reading pitch accent, and counting Japanese moras.

## Pitch classification

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When dictionaries give pitch accent, they'll usually indicate it with a number. The number tells you the mora where the **last high pitch** is. To figure out the pitch pattern, put a low onto the first mora (unless the last high pitch is on that mora), put high pitches onto all the mora that follows, until you hit the last high pitch. After that, put low pitches.

Even more helpful dictionaries will do all of this work for you, by telling you exactly where all the pitches rise or fall.

So, to give some examples.

(0) low HIGH HIGH...		
こども	子供	child
わたし	私	I
ともだち	友達	friend
ざっし	雑誌	magazine
あかい	赤い	red
がっこう	学校	school
(1) HIGH low low...		
ちゅうごく	中国	"China"
じしょ	辞書	dictionary
なに	何	what
はし	箸	chopsticks
パンフレット	パンフレット	pamphlet
(2) low HIGH low low...		
こころ	心	heart
じてんしゃ	自転車	bicycle
プレゼント	プレゼント	present
(3) low HIGH HIGH low low...		
せんせい	先生	teacher
おおきい	大きい	big
たくさん	たくさん	many
(4) low HIGH HIGH HIGH low low...		
あたらしい	新しい	new
うつくしい	美しい	beautiful
おとうと	弟	(one's) younger brother

Notice how **ともだち** (0) and **おとうと** (4) look as though they have the same pitch pattern despite the different numbers. The difference is based on the grammatical pattern like **-は** added afterward. Therefore, the continuation of both pitch pattern becomes **ともだちは** and **おとうとは**.

## Dialects

Many learners of Japanese begin their studies thinking that the language is a single standard, spoken across the whole nation. While it is true that nearly all Japanese nationals can speak the standard language, it is by no means their every day language. This long and mountainous archipelago has over the centuries given rise to a great number of dialects with their own distinct accent, intonation and vocabulary.

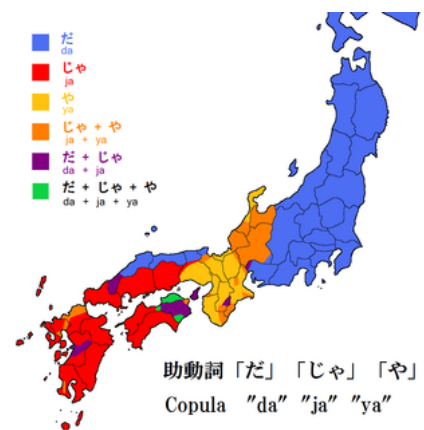
Before the Tokugawa Shogun (徳川将軍) moved to Edo (江戸, modern day Tokyo) in 1603, the main place of government was Kyoto (京都), and standard Japanese was the ancestor of today's Kyoto dialect. Modern standard Japanese, *hyōjungo* (標準語) is basically the dialect of Tokyo. This is used in schools and media throughout the country. Other varieties of Japanese are often considered provincial and like in every language, each bears connotations of archtypes.

### Eastern Japanese

- Hokkaidō Dialect
- Tōhoku Dialect
  - Northern
    - Tsugaru Dialect
  - Southern
- Kantō Dialect
  - (Japanese/Dialects/Yokohama?)
- Tōkai Dialect
  - (Japanese/Dialects/Mikawa)
- Hokuriku Dialect
  - Japanese/Dialects/Ishikawa
  - Japanese/Dialects/Toyama

#### Related vocabulary

- Japanese/Linguistic Terminology



A map of Japanese copula.



## Western Japanese

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- Hokuriku Dialect (Talk:Japanese/Dialects/Ishikawa?)
  - (Japanese/Dialects/Toyama)
- Kinki (Kansai) Dialect
  - Japanese/Dialects/Osaka
- Chūgoku Dialect
- Umpaku Dialect
- Shikoku Dialect
- Kyūshū
- Hōnichi Dialect
- Hichiku Dialect
- Satsugū Dialect



A map of Japanese dialects.

## Hachijō Island

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- Hachijō Dialect

## Ryūkyū

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- (Japanese/Dialects/Okinawa?)

# Grammar

## Word order

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Japanese is a SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) language. English is typically SVO (Subject-Verb-Object). In Japanese, the verb *always* appears at the end of clauses and sentences. Japanese parts of speech are usually marked with words called "particles" that follow the word they modify. These particles identify the word's or phrase's function in the sentence—for example, topic, subject, direct/indirect object, location of action, etc.

Japanese is flexible in terms of word-order due to use of particles. Sentences, however, generally have the following structure:

**Sentence Topic, Time, Location, Subject, Indirect Object, Direct Object, Verb.**

## Context sensitivity

---

Japanese is highly *context-sensitive*. Words or phrases obvious to both the speaker and listener are often omitted. It could be considered a "minimalist" language. For example, the statement: "I'm going to watch a movie." could be translated as 「映画を見る。」 (*eiga o miru.*); literally, "Movie watch." [I] is implied, as it is the speaker who is making the statement. Depending on the context, however, this phrase could also be translated as "s/he is going to watch a movie", "we will watch a movie", etc.

Japanese has many levels of formality and depends not only on what is said, but also on who is saying it and to whom. The language is socially striated to the point that different forms of speech exist for men and women.

## Parts of speech

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Japanese parts of speech, although no more complicated than those of other languages, do not fit well into typical labels such as verb, noun, and adjective. Keep that in mind over the course of your studies.

## Nominals

### Nouns

Nouns in Japanese are fairly immutable. They do not take definite or indefinite articles, gender, and do not change for number.

Although there is no true plural in Japanese, a small number of nouns may take one of several collective suffixes.

*Tanaka-san* (Mr. Tanaka), *Tanaka-san-tachi* (Mr. Tanaka and his group)

Certain nouns may take a prefix in *polite speech*. Most often, native Japanese words (和語) are preceded by "o-" ("お"), and Sino-Japanese words (漢語) are preceded with "go-" ("ご"). Both are readings of the kanji "御". Though primarily used for adding politeness or distance, some words more commonly appear with the prefix than others, and in some cases, never appear without it (e.g., お茶 [*ocha*], "green tea").

Many nouns may be converted into verbs simply by affixing 「する」 (*suru*) to the end.

"benkyō" (勉強) is a noun meaning "study/studies" while "benkyō-suru" (勉強する) is the verb "to study".

Nouns may also function as adjectives when the particle の (*no*) or な ("na") is appended.

"*ki*" (木) means "wood" with "*ki no tatemono*" (木の建<sup>き</sup>物<sup>たてももの</sup>) meaning "wooden building".

## Pronouns

Unlike many other languages, Japanese has no true pronouns; since words that are clear from context are usually elided, there is less need for them. In general, natural-sounding Japanese tends to avoid the use of nouns that refer to people except when explicitly needed. This is often a point of confusion for beginners. Pronominals are not grammatically distinct from ordinary nominals: notably, they may take adjectives, which pronouns cannot.

"*watashi*", "*boku*", "*ore*", "*watakushi*" all mean "I"; and "*anata*", "*kimi*" mean "you"

## Na-adjectives

A Na-adjective is a nominal that often precedes a copula (such as 'na'). Due to the common occurrence of na-adjectives, many Japanese dictionaries write nominals with the 'na' included. Na-adjectives are generally adjectival in meaning, as most cannot exist in context without a previously denoted subject; however, one might simply say "げんき な (genki na)" to describe a subject that is understood within the current conversation's context (this situation is limited to casual or somewhat informal conversation; using full sentences is almost always necessary when speaking to anyone of higher status). Examples of na-adjectives: "heta na:" unskilled, bad at; "genki na:" healthy, energetic; "orijinaru na:" original

## Verbals

### Verbs

Verbs are where most of the action in Japanese sentences takes place. They are the primary means for controlling levels of politeness in speech,...

Japanese verbs inflect directly for tense, negation, mood, aspect, politeness, and honorific speech.

Unlike English, conjugation of Japanese verbs is extremely regular, with few exceptions. The system takes some getting used to, but once the kana have been learned, a uniform pattern emerges. Verbs are placed into one of three groups: 五段 (*godan*, aka Type I), 一段 (*ichidan*, aka Type II), and 不規則 (*fukisoku*, irregular).

Only two verbs are generally considered irregular in the modern language, 来る (*kuru*, to come) and する (*suru*, to do). Despite being such, even they are somewhat regular in their irregularity.

### I-adjectives

These inflect for tense, politeness, and honorific speech as well (although not aspect or mood, as they are all stative verbs); an -i adjective will always end in -ai, -ī, -ui, or -oi. (Note that there are also stative -u verbs.)

"*utsukushi*": beautiful; "*i*": good; "*sugoi*": amazing; "*ureshi*": happy

### The copula

Although the copula is not strictly a verb, most of its forms derive from "de aru", but inflects somewhat irregularly. It retains an "attributive form", na, used to modify the noun it stands before: however, this form is almost exclusively used after na-adjectives.

## Other

**Particles:** Also called **postpositions** or *joshi*, particles show the case of nouns in Japanese: that is, they mark nouns as being the subject, object, indirect object, etc. (English typically uses word order or prepositions for the same effect.) Particles follow the noun they modify.

- wa (は): topic
- ga (が): subject
- o (を): direct object
- no (の): possession, apposition
- ni (に): indirect object, direction "to", location of existence, etc.
- kara (から): direction "from"
- made (まで): "until", "as far as"
- de (で): means, location of an action

Some particles are used after sentences instead:

- ka (か): question marker
- yo (よ): marker for giving new information or showing emphasis or certainty
- ne (ね): marker for seeking agreement
- tte (って): informal quotation marker

**Adverbs:** Adverbs typically modify the entire sentence, although most Japanese quantifiers (including numbers) are actually adverbs, rather than adjectives as in English.

- *aikawarazu* as always;
- *sukoshi* (少し) a little, few
- *mō sugu* soon, before long;
- *sō* thus, so

**Conjunctions:** Japanese conjunctions typically either apply to nominals (like English "except") or to predicates (like English "when"), not both (like English "and").

- *mata wa* or (n.);
- *soshite* (そして) and then, and also (pr.);
- *ga* but (pr.)

**Interjections:** Common to every language.

- *wā!* "wow!"
- *are?* "huh?", "wha?"
- *ē to* "um, er"
- *anō* "um"

## Sentence examples

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遅い
Osoi.
late

[You're] late.

綺麗	だ
Kirei	da.
Pretty	is

[It] is pretty.

これ	は	本	です
Kore	wa	hon	desu.
This	topic	book	is.

This is a book.

富士山	は	美しい
Fuji-san	wa	utsukushī.
Mt. Fuji	topic	beautiful

Mt. Fuji is beautiful.

今日	は	あまり	寒くない	です
Kyou	wa	amari	samuku-nai	desu.
Today	topic	very	cold-NEG-POLITE	is

It's not very cold today. / Today isn't very cold.

海	を	見ました
Umi	o	mimashita.
Sea	object	look at-past

[I] gazed out at the ocean.

お母さん	は	店	に	行きました
Okāsan	wa	mise	ni	ikimashita.
Mother	topic	store	place/method	went-PAST-POLITE

[Her] mother went to the store.

夏	が	来ました
Natsu	ga	kimashita.
Summer	subject	come-PAST-POLITE

Summer has come.

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    - [Japanese/Lesson Progressive/Answers](#) - should probably be deleted. Quiz is trivial.
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## Adjectives

- \* [Japanese/Grammar/Adjectives](#) Still a bit rough, but good enough to put on the front page.

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- [Japanese/Lessons/Introduction/Ogenki desu ka/Questions using ka](#) — Very short. Only discusses the question marker "か".

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- [Japanese/Elementary Japanese/Lesson 2](#) (undeveloped) *AはBです*
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- [Japanese/Lessons/Word list 1](#) "*This is the list of words you should have learned during the first five weeks of this course.*"
- [Japanese/Mini-tutorial lesson](#) — Phrases and conversation at a restaurant.

## Structure/Lesson Plans/Syllabus

- [Japanese/Practical Lessons](#)
- [Japanese/Practical Lessons/Syllabus](#)
- [Japanese/Lessons/Basic](#) (content for about ten lessons)
- [Sugu ni Hajimemashō](#)

## Users

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- [User:Balloonguy/Japanese](#) — A discussion about the rearrangement of contents. (precedes this overhaul and is somewhat outdated by it)
- [User:Telamon-enwikibooks/Japanese](#) — A single page with greetings.
- [User:Helpfulstuffnz/Japanese](#) — A restructuring of the old main page.
- [User:Mkn/Japanese](#) — A new book, never got past an introduction and a page on Japanese scripts.
- [User:Retropunk/Japanese\\_Curriculum](#) (in active development 01:20, 14 November 2008 (UTC))
- [User talk:Nesnad/sandbox](#) Nesnad's Quick Start Japanese.

## Links and resources

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These should be found place on pages where are relevant.

- [w:Category:Japanese language tests](#))
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- [commons:Commons:CJK stroke order project](#)

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- [Japanese/Discussion](#)
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- [Template:Furi](#)
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### Just an idea...

... tell me what you think.

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### Navigation

- [Template:Janav](#) (There is nothing on this, so far, but the look is nice and we might as well base a book-wide navigation on this ... if we choose to use a book-wide navigation template at all.)
- [Template:Japanese kana navigation](#)
- [Template:第三夜Nav](#)

### Meta

- [Template:Japanese obsolete](#)
- [Template:Japanese todo](#)

### Ruby

These are out-dated and should be replaced with  {{furi} when used in Japanese text, but kept for general use elsewhere on Wikibooks.

- [Template:Ruby](#) (should be kept)
- [Template:Ruby-2](#) (not really that useful. Delete)

Not sure what to do about these:

- [Template:Rubywikt](#)
- [Template:Rubywikt-2](#)

## Not Japanese language

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- [Japanese/Background Japan](#) (should be a separate book or merged introduction)

## Grammar/Nouns

Since Japanese nouns (名詞; めいし) don't inflect they are fairly simple to master. They do, however, take particles to indicate their place in sentences.

Some commonly used particles for nouns are: "は"<sup>[1]</sup>, "が" and "を"<sup>[2]</sup>.

### Plurals

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The Japanese language lacks plurals in the English sense. Plural words are usually either preceded with a number and a [counter](#), or simply made understood through context.

A few nouns can also suffix a pluralizing word, such as "たち" or "ら". When referring to a person, "たち" indicates company. For example, めぐみたち can mean "Megumi and more".

Yet others indicate plurality by repetition (e.g., ひと means person and ひとびと means persons.) Written in kanji, the repetition mark, 々, is used (e.g., 人々).

### Noun-phrase particles

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Japanese word structure, unlike Western languages which allow declensions depending on gender, tense, and many other aspects, maintains constant word forms, which are inflected by particles.

Note that particles always follow the nouns that they mark.

### Notes

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1. Note that when "は" is a particle, it is always pronounced as "わ".
2. The syllable "を" only exists as a particle. It is pronounced お

# Grammar/Verbs

Japanese verbs, (動詞; どうし), inflect heavily to indicate *formality*, *tense* or *mood*, primarily in their ending. There are two tenses, several levels of formality and three classes of verbs, depending on their inflection. The two tenses are perfective (often considered past tense) and present (or technically, non-past, as the future tense is not indicated). Out of the several levels of formality, two are the most common: plain and polite.

Japanese verbs are officially categorised into five classes,<sup>[1]</sup> but as two of these inflect much the same and another two only contain one verb each, these are usually merged into three when Japanese is taught as a foreign language. These are the *consonant stem-*, *vowel stem-* and *irregular classes*.<sup>[2]</sup>

Dictionaries use the plain present positive form (commonly known as *dictionary form*) as the headword for verbs.

Verbs are classed based on their conjugations. Their endings don't determine the class, but are a general indicator.

Form	Endings
<b>vowel-stem verbs</b> ( <i>ichidan</i> ) <sup>[3]</sup>	All of these end with (い)る or (え)る, but some with that ending are consonant stem verbs.
<b>consonant-stem verbs</b> ( <i>godan</i> ) <sup>[4]</sup>	End in ろ, く, ぐ, す, つ, ぬ, ぶ, む or る.
<i>irregular verbs</i>	Only two verbs: する (e. to do) and 来る (e. to come).

Different inflections can also have suffixes. These may also be verbs with their own conjugations. Not all suffixes can be used on all verb inflections and others may only follow the verb stem. Examples are conjunctive + いる, せる・させる (causative), and られる (potential).

Ignoring the formality and the negative conjugations, the following is a list of verb conjugations

- non-past
- past
- causative
- causative-passive
- conjunctive
- conditionals
- passive
- potential
- imperative
- volitional
- provisional

## Ichidan class

Vowel-stem verbs end on a full syllable (hence the term: *vowel-stem*). In a sense, the final "る" of the dictionary form is dropped and the respective endings just added on.

The Japanese term "一段" <sup>いちだん</sup> refers to the fact that the stem ending occupies only one row in the kana chart.

The following table shows a few forms of the verb "食べる" (*たべる*, e. to eat):

Form	Word
Plain present positive	食べる
Plain past positive	食べた
Plain present negative	食べない
Plain past negative	食べなかった
Imperative	食べろ or 食べよ
Volitional	食べよう
Conjunctive	食べて
Conditional	食べれば

## Godan class

Consonant-stem verbs end in the middle of a syllable (hence the term; *consonant-verb*). That syllable changes depending on the form. The plain form has an う *u* sound (u, tsu, ru, ku, gu, bu, mu, su), the ~ます *-masu* form has an い *i* sound (i, chi, ri, ki, gi, bi, mi, shi), and the negative form has an あ *a* sound (wa, ta, ra, ka, ga, ba, ma, sa). The potential form has an え *e* sound (e, te, re, ke, ge, be, me, se) and the volitional form has an おう *o* sound (o, to, ro, ko, go, bo, mo, so), so putting these together with the sounds above shows that verb conjugations follow the vowel syllabary of the Japanese character set: あ *a*, い *i*, う *u*, え *e* and お *o*.

The Japanese term "五段" <sup>ごだん</sup> comes from the fact that the stem's last syllable spans all five rows of the kana chart in at least one form.

The following table shows a few forms of the consonant-stem verb "話す" (*はなす* e. to speak).



Form	Word	Row	Syllable Morph	Conjugation Suffix
Plain present positive	話す	う		
Plain past positive	話した	い	す->し	た/った/いた/んだ
Plain present negative	話さない	あ	す->さ	ない
Plain past negative	話さなかった	あ	す->さ	なかった
Imperative <sup>[5]</sup>	話せ	え	す->せ	
Volitional <sup>[6]</sup>	話そう	お	す->そ	う
Conjunctive	話して	い	す->し	て/って/いて/んで
Conditional	話せば	え	す->せ	ば

The て-form (conjunctive) and past positive form of a consonant-stem verb change the root for euphony according to the last syllable of the root (example in parentheses):

stem	て-form	past	example	て-form	past	reading (meaning)
〜う	って	った	買う	買って	買った	かう (to buy)
〜く	いて	いた	書く	書いて	書いた	かく (to write)
〜ぐ	いで	いだ	泳ぐ	泳いで	泳いだ	およぐ (to swim)
〜ず	して	した	話す	話して	話した	はなす (to speak, to talk)
〜つ	って	った	勝つ	勝って	勝った	かつ (to win)
〜ぶ	んで	んだ	学ぶ	学んで	学んだ	まなぶ (to study)
〜ぬ	んで	んだ	死ぬ	死んで	死んだ	しぬ (to die)
〜む	んで	んだ	佇む	佇んで	佇んだ	ただずむ (to stand still)
〜る	って	った	去る	去って	去った	さる (to leave)

行く (いく) (to go) has an exceptional て-form 行って (いって).

If the verb stem ends on "う" such as in the verb 買う(かう, e. to buy) then its negative stem becomes -わ as in 買わない ("to not buy"). This is because the root is treated as **kawu** (despite the "wu" syllable not existing in modern Japanese).

## Irregular verbs

Two common verbs do not share a conjugation pattern with any other verb. They are therefore commonly classed as "irregular" verbs. Formally, they are called "変格" (へんかく) verbs, as opposed to the regular "正格" (せいかく) verbs. This construction is made to use verbs and nouns of Chinese origin, for instance, from Chinese "確認" (*quèrèn*, confirmation) is formed in Japanese the verb "確認する" (かくにんする), or "約分" (*yuē fēn*, simplify a fraction (math.)) which derives into "約分する" (やくぶんする). The forms are "する" (e. to do, as in the examples) and "来る" (e. to come). The following table shows some of their conjugation forms.

Form	する	来る
Plain present positive	する	くる
Plain past positive	した	きた
Plain present negative	しない	こない
Plain past negative	しなかった	こなかった
Imperative	せよ or しろ	こい
Volitional	しよう	こよう
Conjunctive	して	きて
Conditional	すれば	くれば

Many verbs end on "〜する" and can be grouped in three categories:

- *Verbalised nouns*. These are nouns which form verbs by appending "〜する". Examples: 勉強する, 注意する, 過労死する, 長生きする and 値する.
- Verbs that cannot stand alone without the "する" suffix. Examples: 発する, 接する and 達する.
- Verbs that cannot stand alone, end on an "ん" and therefore take the *voiced* "ずる". Examples: 存ずる, 感ずる, 先んずる and 重んずる. These verbs are commonly inflected the same as the *ichidan* forms, with "ずる" being replaced by "じる" thus: 存じる, 感じる, 先んじる and 重んじる.

The only commonly-used combination with "来る" is "やってくる", meaning "to come".<sup>[7]</sup>

## Polite forms

The polite (or formal) forms are simple as all of the consonant-stem verbs sit in the い-line (行く → 行き) and the inflections are the same for consonant- and vowel-stem verbs.

The following table shows the polite forms for "行く" (いく, e. to go):

Form	Word
Polite present positive	行きます
Polite past positive	行きました
Polite present negative	行きません
Polite past negative	行きませんでした
Polite volitional	行きましょう
Polite conjunctive	行きまして <sup>㊦</sup>
Polite conditional	行きますれば <sup>㊦</sup>

The imperative (～ませ) is not used in formal forms except for a few polite verbs (see below).

## Other irregularities

A small number of verbs tend to be conjugated differently from the groups that they are normally placed in.

### Polite language

The verbs below are all consonant stem verbs but conjugate differently. While the regular forms also exist, they are seldom used.

Verb	polite present positive	Imperative
くださる	くださいます	ください
なさる	なさいます	なさい
いらっしゃる	いらっしゃいます	いらっしゃい
おっしゃる	おっしゃいます	おっしゃい

The conjunctive and past forms of the first two verbs, "くださる" and "なさる", also have the alternative forms "くだすって／くだすった" and "なすって／なすった", in addition to the normal regular conjugations "くださって／くださった" and "なさって／なさった". These alternative forms have, however, fallen into disuse. While they are often encountered when reading texts from a few decades ago, the regular conjugations are usually used today.

The first three of the above verbs are also the only ones where the imperative form "ませ" of the auxiliary verb, "ます", is used to add an extra level of politeness:

くださいませ, なさいませ, いらっしゃいませ

Additionally, ございます, which originally came from the now-defunct *yodan* (四段, e. four-row) classical Japanese verb "ござる", is also used, although in modern usage, it is always used with the ます auxiliary verb ending. There is no imperative form (i.e. you cannot use ませ like above).

### 得る

得る (うる/える, e. to get, or to be able to) is the only surviving *nidan* (二段, e. two-row) class verb in modern Japanese. It has conjugations as in the below table:

Form	Word	Reading
Non-past	得る	うる／える
Past	得た	えた
Negative non-past	得ない	えない
Negative past	得なかった	えなかった
Imperative	得ろ	えろ
Volitional	得よう	えよう
Conjunctive	得て	えて
Conditional	得れば	うれば

"得る" can be read both as "える" in its *terminal form* (at the end of the sentence, or in situations such as attaching to べき). The "うる" reading is also used in those situations and in the *attributive form* (e.g. when attached to nouns). It is therefore incorrect to say "えるもの" as the correct form would be "うるもの". The combination "あり得る" is normally read "ありうる" in the present forms. All other conjugations follow the table above.

### Miscellaneous irregularities

The vowel stem verb "呉れる" (くれる e.) imperative form "くれ" (rather than the expected "くれろ"). Other "くれる" verbs of other unrelated meanings conjugate to the usual "くれろ".

The consonant stem verb "ある" expresses existence, but absence is expressed with the adjective "ない". Note that many textbooks also treat "ない" as a verb. The reader may also wish to be aware that more formal "ぬ" negative form and its conjunctive form, "ず", are still used: "あらぬ"/"あらず".

### Summary of verb conjugations

辞書形 dictionary form	ます形 polite form <sup>a</sup>	否定形 negative form <sup>b</sup>	て形 "te" form	た形 perfective form
～う -u <sup>c</sup>	～います -imasu	～わない -wanai	～って -tte	～った -tta
～つ -tsu	～ちます -chimasu	～たない -tanai		
～る -ru	～ります -rimasu	～らない -ranai	～いて -ite	～いた -ita
～く -ku <sup>d</sup>	～きます -kimasu	～かない -kanai		
～ぐ -gu	～ぎます -gimasu	～がない -ganai	～いで -ide	～いだ -ida
～ぶ -bu	～びます -bimasu	～ばない -banai	～んで -nde	～んだ -nda
～む -mu	～みます -mimasu	～まない -manai		
～す -su	～します -shimasu	～さない -sanai	～して -shite	～した -shita
(～い)る -iru <sup>e</sup>	～ます -masu	～ない -nai	～て -te	～た -ta
(～え)る -eru <sup>e</sup>				
する suru	します shimasu	しない shinai	して shite	した shita
くる kuru	きます kimasu	こない konai	きて kite	きた kita

辞書形 dictionary form	可能形 <sup>a</sup> potential form	条件形 <sup>b</sup> conditional form	意向形 <sup>c</sup> volitional form
～う -u	～える -eru	～えば -eba	～おう -ō
～つ -tsu	～てる -teru	～てば -teba	～とう -tō
～る -ru	～れる -reru <sup>d</sup>	～れば -reba	～ろう -rō
～く -ku	～ける -keru	～けば -keba	～こう -kō
～ぐ -gu	～げる -geru	～げば -geba	～ごう -gō
～ぶ -bu	～べる -beru	～べば -beba	～ぼう -bō
～む -mu	～める -meru	～めば -meba	～もう -mō
～す -su	～せる -seru	～せば -seba	～そう -sō
(～い)る -iru	～られる -rareru	～れば -reba	～よう -yō
(～え)る -eru			
する suru	できる dekiru	ずれば sureba	しよう shiyō
くる kuru	こられる korareru	くれれば kureba	こよう koyō

- **Aa** Since the polite ～ます -masu form ends with ～す -su, the polite past form mostly follows the ～す -su rules. So for example the polite form of 話す hanasu is 話します hanashimasu, and the polite past form is 話しました hanashimashita, but the polite negative form is 話しません hanashimasen. See other examples of the polite form at the [Japanese grammar Wikipedia](#) entry.
- **Ab** Since the negative ～ない -nai form ends with ～い -i, any further inflection of the negative form will behave as an *i*-adjective. For example, 話さない hanasanai "not talking" becomes 話さなかった (です) hanasanakatta(desu) "didn't talk".
- **Ac** Two exceptions are 問う tou "to question" which conjugates to 問うて toute and the even less common 請う kou "to request" which conjugates to 請うて koute.
- **Ad** The only exception is 行く iku which conjugates to 行って itte.
- **Ae** Not all verbs ending with いる iru or える eru are vowel stems, some are consonant stems instead like 走る hashiru "run" and 帰る kaeru "return". A full list of the many exceptions can be found at the [Japanese consonant and vowel verbs Wikipedia](#) entry.
- **Aa** All of the potential forms end in える eru or いる iru so they follow the vowel-stem (一段動詞 ichidandoushi) rules. 話せる hanaseru becomes 話せます hanasemasu.
- **Ab** Conditional form is like saying "if ..." or "when ...".
- **Ac** Also called the conjectural/tentative/presumptive form, it is the plain form of ～ましょう -mashō. ～ましょう -mashō is used as an inclusive command ("let's ..."), but becomes an inclusive query ("shall we ...?") when ka is added (食べましょうか tabe mashō ka "Shall we eat?"). -ō to omoimasu indicates the speaker's conjecture ("I think (I will)") and -ō to omotte imasu indicates the speaker's current intentions ("I'm thinking (I will)"). -ō to suru/-ō to shite iru/-ō to shite imasu indicates intention ("(be) about to").<sup>[9]</sup>
- **Ad** The exception is 分かる wakaru "to understand" which already expresses ability innately without a conjugation.

Example dictionary word	Example polite form	Example negative form	Example "te" form	Example perfective form
あらう arau "wash"	あらいます araimasu	あらわない arawanai	あらって aratte	あらった aratta
まつ matsu "wait"	まちます machimasu	またない matanai	まって matte	まった matta
とる toru "take"	とります torimasu	とらない toranai	とって totte	とった totta
かく kaku "write"	かきます kakimasu	かかない kakanai	かいて kaite	かいた kaita
いそぐ isogu "hurry"	いそぎます isogimasu	いそがない isoganai	いそいで isoide	いそいだ isoida
しぬ shinu <sup>a</sup> "die"	しにます shinimasu	しなない shinanai	しんで shinde	しんだ shinda
よぶ yobu "call out"	よびます yobimasu	よばない yobanai	よんで yonde	よんだ yonda
のむ nomu "drink"	のみます nomimasu	のまない nomanai	のんで nonde	のんだ nonda
はなす hanasu "speak"	はなします hanashimasu	はなさない hanasanai	はなして hanashite	はなした hanashita
みる miru "see"	みます mimasu	みない minai	みて mite	みた mita

辞書形 dictionary form	受身・尊敬 <sup>a</sup> passive verb	使役 <sup>a</sup> causative verb	禁止形 <sup>b</sup> prohibitive form	命令形 <sup>c</sup> imperative form
～う -u	～われる -wareru	～わせる -waseru	～うな -u na	～え -e
～つ -tsu	～たれる -tareru	～たせる -taseru	～つな -tsu na	～て -te
～る -ru	～られる -rareru	～らせる -raseru	～るな -ru na	～れ -re
～く -ku	～かれる -kareru	～かせる -kaseru	～くな -ku na	～け -ke
～ぐ -gu	～がれる -gareru	～がせる -gaseru	～ぐな -gu na	～げ -ge
～ぶ -bu	～ばれる -bareru	～ばせる -baseru	～ぶな -bu na	～べ -be
～む -mu	～まれる -mareru	～ませる -maseru	～むな -mu na	～め -me
～す -su	～される -sareru	～させる -saseru	～すな -su na	～せ -se
(～い)る -iru	～られる -rareru		(～い)るな -iru na	～ろ -ro
(～え)る -eru			(～え)るな -eru na	

たべる <i>taberu</i> "eat"	たべます <i>tabemasu</i>	たべない <i>tabenai</i>	たべて <i>tabete</i>	たべた <i>tabeta</i>
する <i>suru</i> <sup>a</sup> "do"	します <i>shimasu</i>	しない <i>shinai</i>	して <i>shite</i>	した <i>shita</i>
勉強 <i>benkyou</i> "study"	勉強します <i>benkyoushimasu</i>	勉強しない <i>benkyoushinai</i>	勉強して <i>benkyoushite</i>	勉強した <i>benkyoushita</i>
くる <i>kuru</i> <sup>a</sup> "come"	きます <i>kimasu</i>	こない <i>konai</i>	きて <i>kite</i>	きた <i>kita</i>

する <i>suru</i>	される <i>sareru</i>	させる <i>saseru</i>	するな <i>suru na</i>	しろ <i>shiro</i>
くる <i>kuru</i>	こられる <i>korareru</i>	こさせる <i>kosaseru</i>	くるな <i>kuru na</i>	こい <i>koi</i>

<sup>a</sup> The only example of this form. See the Wikipedia entry on [Japanese irregular verbs](#) for more.

- <sup>a</sup> All of these verbs end in える *eru* so conjugation from here follows the vowel-stem (一段動詞 *ichidandoushi*) rules. る *ru* can simply be replaced with ます *masu* to make it polite.
- <sup>b</sup> Used to command someone not to do something. An example is 入るな *hairu na* "Do not enter."
- <sup>c</sup> The imperative form can be used as a command, e.g. 黙れ *damare* "shut up!", やめ *yame* "stop!" or 止まれ *tomare* "Stop (sign)". Non-volitional verbs (e.g. ある *aru*, わかる *wakaru*, できる *dekiru*) have no imperative form and くれる *kureru* "to give" is an exception that conjugates to くれ *kure* (the plain form of 〜てください *-te kudasai* "Please (do)..."). A politer way of telling someone to do something is to use (*masu* stem)〜なさい *-nasai* instead (e.g. 飲みなさい *nominasai* "Drink up.", しなさい *shinasai* "Do (what was said)."). or more informally, (*masu* stem)〜な *-na*. Imperative form: たくさん食べな *takusan tabena* "Eat a lot." Prohibitive form: たくさん食べるな *takusan taberu na* "Don't pig out!"

See the [adjective inflection](#) Wikipedia page for present negative, past and past negative forms of *i* and *na* adjectives.

## Notes and references

1. These are

- <sup>ごだん</sup> 五段
- <sup>かみいちだん</sup> 上一段 (the single-row conjugation verbs ending in *iru*)
- <sup>しもいちだん</sup> 下一段 (the single-row conjugation verbs ending in *eru*)
- <sup>ぎょうへんかく</sup> 力行変格 (only 来る)
- <sup>ぎょうへんかく</sup> サ行変格 (only する)

2. These go by various names in English. The consonant stem class is also called *godan* class or *five-row* class while the vowel stem class is also called *ichidan* class or *one-row* class. The irregular verbs are not known as such in Japanese, but <sup>へんかく</sup> 変格, literally: different case, indicating that it's different from normal, but not irregular in itself.

3. 一段動詞, also known as a type II verb.

4. 五段動詞, also known as a type I verb.

5. The plain imperative as seen above is quite rude, and its use is generally limited to close male friends or colleagues if the intent is not to insult.

6. The volitional indicates a presumption or suggestion on the speaker's part to do something, and in addition to being used in a few verb phrase constructions, a verb in volitional form corresponds to "let's {verb}"

7. "やる" is a common prefix with flexible meaning that implies action.

8. The polite conjunctive and -conditional are rarely used. The plain forms are usually used in their place.

9. Rita Lampkin (14 May 2010). *Japanese Verbs & Essentials of Grammar, Third Edition*. McGraw-Hill Education. pp. 14–40. ISBN 978-0-07-171363-4. [http://books.google.com/books?id=x\\_RVQgAACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books?id=x_RVQgAACAAJ).

## Grammar/Adjectives

Japanese has two main classes of words that function the same as *adjectives* in English.

**Pure adjectives** (形容詞; けいようし)

Also known as **い-adjectives** these are distinctive as their attributive form always ends with the syllable "い". Many nouns (such as 白 (しろ *e.* the colour white) become pure adjectives when appended with an い: 白い (しろい, *e.* white). Learners must beware, though, because several な-adjectives also end with the same い when rendered in kana (e.g. きれい, *e.* small).

Examples of pure adjectives are the colours 赤い (あかい, *e.* red) and 青い (あおい, *e.* blue), 高い (たかい, *e.* high, tall) 小さい (ちいさい, *e.* small), 重い (おもい, *e.* heavy) and 軽い (かるい, *e.* light).

**Adjectival nouns** (形容動詞; けいようどうし)

Also known as **な-adjective** these are *grammatical nouns* that form adjectives when affixed with "～な". Technically, the な pseudoparticle comes from a contraction of "なる", the attributive form of the classical Japanese copula "なり".

Examples of adjectival nouns are 綺麗 (きれい, e. pretty), 静か (しずか, e. quiet) and 素敵 (すてき, e. lovely).

This paragraph should be removed because いい is NOT a different adjective than よい. よい has いい as a popular form and you can use いい and よい interchangeably in these forms anytime anywhere. Everyone should stop using this ridiculous explanation: There is only a single irregular adjective; the pure adjective "良い" (いい, e. good). Even at that "良い" conjugates regularly and the only irregularity arises from the fact that it's a corruption of "良い" read as "よい". Conjugations that include the attributive い are read いい while others are read よ～ (e.g. よく, よかったら, etc.).

## Basic conjugations

Like verbs, we can enumerate some common conjugations of adjectives. Also, "いい" isn't special-cased, because all conjugations are identical to "よい".

It should not come as a surprise that the な-adjectives — being grammatical nouns — "conjugate" by having the copula added. Exceptions are the *plain present positive*, where the copula is omitted, and the *polite past negative* which has an alternative reading.

	present positive	past positive	present negative	past negative
plain	～	～だった	～ではない	～ではなかった
polite	～です	～でした	～ではありません	～ではありませんでした ～ではなかったです

The い-adjectives have a somewhat simple conjugation pattern. The politeness is only determined by whether the (polite present positive, in all tenses) copula is added.

	present positive	past positive	present negative	past negative
plain	～い	～かった	～くない ～くはない	～くなかった ～くはなかった
polite	～いです	～かったです	～くないです	～くなかったです

## More forms

It can be useful to define a few stem forms for adjectives as these form building blocks for other forms.

	Pure Adjectives	Adjectival Nouns
Stem	～	～
Attributive form (連体形)	～い	～な
Terminal form (終止形)	～い	～だ
Continuative form (連用形)	～く	～で
Imperfective form (未然形)	～かる	～だろ
Hypothetical form (仮定形)	～けれ	～なら
Imperative form (命令形)	～かれ	～なれ

These then form the following derived forms:

	Pure Adjectives		Adjectival Nouns	
て-form	cont. + て	～くて	cont.	～で
conditional	hyp. + ば	～ければ	hyp. + ば	～なら(ば)
provisional	inf. past + ら	～かったら	inf. past + ら	～だったら
volitional <sup>[1]</sup>	imperf. + う	～かろう	imperf. + う	～だろう
adverbial	cont.	～く	cont.+に	～に
degree (-ness)	root + さ	～さ	root + さ	～さ

Adjectives too are governed by euphonic rules in certain cases. For the polite negatives of adjectival nouns, see also the section below on the copula.

## Imperative

The imperative form is extremely rare in modern Japanese, restricted to set patterns like <sup>おそ</sup>遅かれ<sup>はや</sup>早かれ (e. sooner or later) where they are treated as adverbial phrases! It is impossible for an imperative form to be in a predicate position.

## Hypotheticals

The *conditional* and *provisional* forms are used to make conditional statements. There is a slight nuance to the two which is discussed further in [the conditionals lesson](#).

## Notes

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1. Since most adjectives describe non-volitional conditions, the volitional form is interpreted as "it is possible", if sensible. In some rare cases it is semi-volitional: 良からう, meaning OK (lit: let it be good), in response to a report or request.

## Grammar/Pro-forms

Japanese has demonstratives (words for pointing to the subject of discussion) much in the same way that many other languages do. Japanese demonstratives are highly regular and take four standard prefixes:

### Related lesson

- [Japanese/Lesson/Where is it?](#)

- こ~, for objects close to the speaker;
- そ~, for objects closer to the listener;
- あ~, for objects far from either; and
- ど~, for question forms.

どれがあなたのものですか？ — Which is yours?

これです。 — (It) is this.

それです。 — (It) is this.

あれです。 — That over there (yonder).

These are suffixed with various pronoun indicators that are listed in the table below.

Japanese also makes a distinction between a *prenominal* form and regular form, meaning that the prenominal form must describe a noun that follows. For example, in the sentence "This cat" the word "this" describes the cat. The prenominal form replaces the れ with a の. In that way, "あの", "その" and "この" are the *prenominal* forms of "this" and "that".

あのねこはわかいです。 - That (distant) cat is young.

Here (こ～)	There (そ～)	Distant (あ～)	Question (ど～)	Suffix	Usage
これ this	それ that by you	あれ that	どれ which	[～れ]	<b>Objects (normal)</b> ; a demonstrative pronoun to replace naming objects. For example, you can name a thing that the listener is holding in his hands, or a house that the listener is standing by just "それ sore".
この this ~	その that ~ by you	あの that ~	どの which ~	[～の]	<b>Objects (pronominal)</b> ; indicates objects located somewhere. Must be followed by a noun. For example, "あの ひと ano hito" means "some person" or "a certain person" distant (but known) from both speaker and listener. The [～の] suffix is used not only with the こ, そ, あ and ど stems, but also with other pronouns and nouns to indicate genitive.
ここ here	そこ there by you	あそこ there	どこ where	[～こ]	<b>Location</b> . Refers to a place. Note that "あそこ asoko" is the correct way of saying "that place over there", not "あこ ako".
こちら this way	そちら that way by you	あちら that way	どちら which way	[～ちら]	<b>Direction</b> Direction or point of origin. There is also a shortened form of "～ちら chira" - "～っち tchi", which is almost as polite as the full form and is rather widely used, although should be avoided when speaking at formal events. In some translations, it may seem rather similar to the ～う u group, but in reality it is different, as the ～ちら chira group means direction, way to go somewhere, or sometimes place, but the ～う u group means ways or methods to do something. Words belonging to the ～ちら group are also a formal replacement for the ～こ group.
こんな this kind of	そんな that kind of	あんな that kind of	どんな what kind of	[～んな]	<b>A kind of</b> . Indicates a class of things, and is usually translated as "such a" or "kind of". For example, "どんな いろ" means "what kind of color". "～ういう" may be used instead of "～んな nna". Note that the あ a-form of the "～ういう uiu" is "あ あいう aaiu".
こう in this way	そう in that way	ああ in that way	どう in which way	[～う]	<b>A way</b> . Expresses a way of doing something (method). For example "どう dou" can be translated as "how", and "そう sou" can be translated as "that way" or "so". Note that the あ a-form is "ああ aa", not "あう au".
こいつ this person	そいつ that person by you	あいつ that person	どいつ which person	[～いつ]	<b>A person</b> . Nowadays this is a rather rude way to name persons. For example, speaking of a person you do not respect and/or who is lower than you in social hierarchy, who is not there when you are speaking of him, you may use "あいつ aitsu" meaning "that guy". This is only to be used informally. An acceptable way to express the same meaning is using a word from the ～の group followed by ひと (人), e.g. "あの ひと", meaning "that person".
あなた you	あなた you	あなた that person, you	あなた who	[～なた]	<b>A person</b> . While ～いつ itsu is just rude, this one is trickier. Originally, あなた anata was rather honorific, but now it is either neutrally formal when addressing strangers (it is a standard way of telling "you" taught in most Japanese language courses), or intimate (this is what a wife uses when talking to her husband to address him). Like all pronouns, you should avoid using あなた if possible. A more common way to refer to someone is by their name with the appropriate suffix (さん, くん, ちゃん) and not to use other pronouns of this group unless you know what you are doing. あなた konata and あなた sonata are rare nowadays, although you may still encounter them in classic literature or in movies about historical events. あなた donata is a polite word for "who?".

Note that the ～ちら chira group may be used instead of the ～こ ko group and also may be appended with の no instead of the ～の no group in some cases in more official (formal) expressions. For example, "こちらの kochira no" can also mean "this (object/thing)".

## Which which

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There are several ways to say which depending on the number and item being asked about.

While these are by no means hard rules, "どちら" is more used particularly for two objects while "どれ" is mainly used for three or more items. For a particular item one can use "どの～" (for whatever number) though "どちらの～" is also common.

どちらの道 <small>みち</small> を <small>い</small> 行きますか。	Which way will you take?
鉛 <small>なまり</small> と金 <small>きん</small> とでは、どちらが <small>おも</small> 重い <small>か</small> 。	Which is heavier, lead or gold?
どっちが <small>か</small> 勝 <small>う</small> っても <small>うれ</small> 嬉しい。	Which ever wins, I'll be happy.
どの電車 <small>でんしゃ</small> に <small>の</small> 乗る <small>の</small> ですか。	Which train are you catching?
どの犬 <small>いぬ</small> があなた <small>の</small> の <small>の</small> ですか。	Which dog is yours?
どの靴 <small>くつ</small> を <small>は</small> く <small>つ</small> つもり <small>です</small> か。	Which shoes are you going to put on?
どのチ <small>か</small> ームが勝 <small>か</small> つ <small>だ</small> らう <small>か</small> 。	Which team will win?
大 <small>だい</small> 中 <small>ちゅう</small> 小 <small>しょう</small> あります <small>が</small> どれ <small>に</small> します <small>か</small> 。	We have large, medium, and small, what size do you want?

## Also...

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### どのくらい、どれくらい

"どのくらい" or "どれくらい" is a phrase for listening to the "at degree" or "grade" like "How many?" or "How much?" in English.

In Japanese, "くらい" or "ぐらい" means "at degree" of English. And "くらい" is one of noun.

"ぐらい" is the euphonic change of "くらい".

### どれほど

There are two meanings of "How many" or "How much".

One meaning is a phrase to listen to the "at degree", as in "どのくらい" above.

Another meaning is an expression used as an antonym question when you want to emphasize that the degree is high or low.

:どれほど、あるいたか!	How much have I (or he or she) walked! (I walked very much!)
--------------	--

In form, above sentence is a question form, But the meaning is not question.

The meaning is "I walked very much", and I emphasize that.

Unlike English antonym questions, Japanese antonym questions give a somewhat high-pressure impression, so be careful when using them.

### どれだけ

## None, all, some

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### どれか

"どれか" is used to mention one or few from a plurality of items.

### どれも、どれでも

"どれも" and "どれでも" is used when everything introduced in topic is matched to the topic theme.

## A note on kanji

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The prefixes have kanji, but these are written in kana in modern Japanese. They are:

- こ～: 此
- そ～: 其
- あ～: 彼
- ど～: 何



Some of the suffixes similarly have kanji:

- ～こ: 処
- ～ちら: 方
- ～いつ: 奴

## Lesson/Telling time

Expressing time uses "時" (じ, *e.* hour) and "分" (ぶん, *e.* minute). Note that the reading of "ぶん" depends on the sound before it. See the [time](#) vocabulary page for a list of the possible readings.

Con conversationally, the Japanese use 12-hour time. When it's not clear from context, "午前" (ごぜん) and "午後" (ごご) are used for before and after noon, respectively.

午前	～	時	～分
午後			半

To ask for the time, use:

今何時ですか。

何時ですか？ — What time is it?  
午後の7時20分です。 — It's 7:20 in the afternoon.

When "何" means "what", its pronunciation is either "なに" or "なん", depending on what sound follows it.

When used to represent the hour of the day, the numbers, "four", "seven", and "nine" are pronounced differently from normal.

- 4時 (よじ)
- 7時 (しちじ)
- 9時 (くじ)

There are two ways of pronouncing "10分"; "じつぶん" and "じゅつぶん". The former is taught as "correct" in school, but the latter is more common.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

- "7時" (しちじ), "1時" (いちじ)

The pronunciation of "7時" (しちじ) and "1時" (いちじ) is similar, so it is unofficial but in Japan school education, "7 o'clock" may be pronounced as "Na-Na-Zi" to distinguish pronunciation as necessary.

However, a few exceptional organizations such as the Japanese military, dislike the confusion caused by the similar -pronunciation, so the military formally pronounce 7 of 7 o'clock as "Na-Na" contrary to the Japanese custom pronunciation of time.

The pronunciation of "分" is "ぶん" when it stands alone, but changes to "ぶん" in certain cases.

## Grammar/Basic Particles

The Japanese language uses post-position particles (助詞; じょし) to denote the direction of an action and who is performing the action. They consistently come after the word that they modify.

There are three particles used very frequently in the language: は, を and が. This module covers these along with a few other common ones but an exhaustive list would run very long.

### The topic and subject markers は and が

The particle "は" (pronounced as "わ" when used as a particle) is the *topic marker* denoting topic of discussion, while "が" is the *subject marker* and marks a noun that performs an action. The difference between the two tends to cause confusion among beginners but their usage can be summed up as matter of focus.

The topic particle "は" is used when introducing a topic and gives focus to the *action* of the sentence (i.e., the verb or the adjective). The subject marker "が" is used when emphasising the subject giving focus to the *subject* of the action.

#### Related vocabulary

- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Time](#)

#### Related resources

- [Particles quiz \(http://tisc.isc.u-toyama.ac.jp/self/quiz\\_particles.html\)](http://tisc.isc.u-toyama.ac.jp/self/quiz_particles.html) at the Toyama International Student Center Self Japanese Learning Support Site.
- [w:Japanese particles](#)

#### Related content

- [Sentence ending particles](#)

One can also think of it as replacing "〜は" with the phrase "as for ~", "on the topic of ~" or "regarding ~" to distinguish it from "が". While these phrases aren't common in English we can use these expressions here to better show the main difference between "は" and "が".

ねこはたべています。	The cat is eating (or: Regarding the cat, it is eating.)
ねこがたべています。	The cat is eating (as opposed to someone else).
きみはつよい。	You are strong.
きみがつよい。	You are strong (only you and not anyone else)
あれはでんわだ。	That's the telephone.
あれがでんわだ。	That's the telephone (and not anything else)

The difference can also be displayed by using both subject and topic markers in one sentence:

わたしはあなたが好きです。	I like you. (Or literally: as for me, like you.)
わたしはわさびがきらいです。	I dislike/hate wasabi. (Or: As for me, hate wasabi.)
あなたはえいごがじょうずです。	Your English is good! (Or: As for you, English good!)

One has to be careful using both "は" and "が" in one sentence. If a verb is actually acting on the (direct) subject, usually a different particle (like を) has to be used.

"は" is generally more flexible, because the "it" can be assumed, and is therefore recommended to novices who have not grasped the difference between the two.

"は" also has the specialized function of being used for comparisons as well.

ねこがいます。	There is a cat.
いぬがいます。	There is a dog.
ねこはたべていますけど、いぬはたべていません。	The cat is eating, but the dog is not.

Often the grammatical subject may also be the topic. In this case, "は" normally replaces "が". However, if the subject is never known, you cannot use "は" and must use "が". This is similar to using pronouns: You can't state, "It is over there", without first stating what "it" may be.

## The direct object marker を

The particle "を" (predominantly pronounced "お") is the *direct object marker* and marks the recipient of an action.

おさけをのむ。	To drink sake.
ざっしをよむ。	To read a magazine.
ねこがみずをのんでいます。	The cat is drinking water.

It also indicates the place through which the action occurs:

そらをとぶ。	To fly through the sky
みちをあるく。	To walk down the street

As with much of the language, parts of a sentence that can be assumed from context are often omitted and the direct object particle is commonly dropped in conversational (colloquial) Japanese. O is commonly used to identify the object in which the verb is affecting. for example we will use the sentence ( I drink juice ) ( Watashi wa juice o nomu ) o is identifying the word Juice as the object in which nomu's action is taking place. Nomu in Japanese means Drink / to drink. O is basically telling us that the word juice is the object that the verb is interacting with.

## The indirect object marker に

"に" marks the verb's *indirect object* (i.e. the destination of a targeted verb action) translating as "to", "in", "at" or "by". It also indicates the location touched or affected by an event or action:

友だちにプレゼントをあげる。	Give a present <b>to</b> a friend.
せんせいにいう。	To tell (something) <b>to</b> the teacher.
学校にいる。	To be <b>at</b> school.
うちにいる。	To be <b>at</b> home.
どようびにあう。	To meet <b>on</b> Saturday

"に" can also be used as an "object of a preposition" marker when found in prepositional phrases like の前に (no mae ni), which means "in front of" or "before" depending on the context of the sentence. The particle "へ" described below is used exclusively for marking the destination.

## The destination marker へ

へ (pronounced "え" when used as a particle) indicates the direction of an action, roughly the equivalent of "to" or "toward" in English.

Mother is going to the store.

おかあさんはみせへいく。	(somebody) To go to Tokyo.
東京へいく。	
ほしへとんでいく。	Fly <b>to</b> the stars.

## The question marker か

Placing か at the end of a sentence changes a statement into a question. Use it at the end of a verb to make it a question, or at the end of an interrogative pro-form to make it into a demonstrative pronoun.

私は男ですか。	Am I a man?
これはどういうものですか。	How do you describe this?
ねこはいますか。	Is there a cat?
どこかいきましたか。	Did you go somewhere?

For more on the question marker, see: [Sentence ending particles](#).

## The possessive marker の

"の", is most commonly used as a *possessive marker* (similar to the English "'s ").

せんせいのりんご。	The teacher's apple
わたしのかばん。	<b>My</b> bag.
かれのとけい。	<b>His</b> watch.

The particle can also function as a noun link, indicating that the preceding noun (or adjectival noun) modifies the following noun.

とうきょうのたてもの。	Buildings <b>in/of</b> Tokyo.
みどりのほん。	A green book.

It can also be used for *nominalisation*, converting verbs and (proper) adjectives into nouns.

よむのがいい。	Reading <b>is</b> good.
---------	-------------------------

Note that in this last example two particles are used together: の and が: the first makes the action a noun, and the second tells that this action is what the sentence is all about.

## The exhaustive list conjunction と

This particle acts as a conjunction on the words it separates. Unlike conjunctions of more than two words in English, where only the last two are separated with an "and" and the rest with commas, the Japanese conjunction separates each word and commas are not used.

これとそれがみどりです。	This <b>and</b> that are green.
ほんとざっし。	A book <b>and</b> a magazine.
かばんにペンとえんぴつと消しゴムと定規がある。	There is a pen, a pencil, an eraser <b>and</b> a ruler in the bag.

This applies to exhaustive lists, i.e. when all objects are explicitly mentioned.

The particle is used to indicate parallelism with the subject, often meaning "with":

彼と話をしました。	I spoke <b>with</b> him.
彼女と行った。	{I/He/She/They} went <b>with</b> her.
スミスさんとテニスをしました。	(I) played tennis with Smith"
わたしはあなたとけっこんする。	I will marry you. (I will get married <b>with</b> you)

## The incomplete list marker や

This particle is used to connect various words implying that the listing is not exhaustive. The particle "など" may be added after the list to emphasise that the list is incomplete.

Noun	Particle	Noun	...	など
------	----------	------	-----	----

ほんやペンがあります。	There are books <b>and</b> pens (among other things).
ほんやざっし。	A book <b>and</b> a magazine (among other things).
卵やサラダや鳥肉などが必要だ。	(I) need eggs, salad, chicken <b>and such</b> .

## The "also" marker も

も is quite simply a marker that says "also". It replaces the particles は, が and を but can also follow other particles. This can also be used to form a large list of words all acting as though one of the basic particles (は, を, or が) were affecting the whole list.

Subject	Particle	Verb					
ねこ	も	のみます。	The cat also drinks.				
わたし	も	いく。	I'm going too.				
しょうねん	も	しょうじょ	も	じょせい	も	だ	Boys, girls, women and men are human.
んせい	も	にんげん	です。				

Worth noting is that used with an interrogative pro-form (e.g. who, where, how) the も particle negates the pro-form:

### Related content

- Pro-forms

だれも①	anybody
e.g. だれもが知っていること	General knowledge.
だれも②	nobody
e.g. だれもない	Nobody's here.

## The means particle で

The particle で can be used in several situations indicating means. These can be for example an instrument, a location or a language.

Means	Particle	Verb						
だいがく	に	なん	で	いきますか。	By what means do you go to University?			
じてんしゃ	で	いきます。	I go by bicycle.					
くる	まで	いく。	I go by car.					
わたし	は	レストラン	で	たべます。	I eat at a restaurant.			
スミスさん	と	こうえん	で	テニス	を	しまし	た。	I played tennis with Smith at the park.
がっこう	で	ならう。	To learn at school.					

As a note of interest, the で from the copula である is also actually an instrumental-maker. で marks the whole previous expression instrumental to the verb ある. However, this is the classical meaning of the copula and rarely explicitly treated this way in modern Japanese.

## Origin and limit から and まで

These particles indicate the starting point or border of an action. This may be a location as well as a time and corresponds roughly with "from" and "until".

とうきょう	から	くる。	Come from Tokyo.	
やま	まで	いく。	To go to the mountains.	
じかん	きゅうじ	ごじ	時間は9時から5時までです。	The hours are from 9 to 5.

## Grammar/Sentence ending particles

The sentence ending particles (終助詞, しゅうじょし) are placed, unsurprisingly, at the end of sentences and apply to it as a whole. These include for example the question marker, か, and a host of others that express the speaker's emotions. Used mostly in speech.

### か (interrogative)

Question mark, used to indicate the sentence is a question. Note that か replaces だ instead of appearing after it, so you can either omit the copula at all, or use a full form (である).

あのひと	は	だれ	です	か?	Who is that man?
たなかさん	は	せんせい	です	か?	Is Mr. Tanaka a teacher?

The particle may also follow question pronouns with the meaning of some as in someone:

somebody
----------

だれか	
どこか	somewhere

## の (emphatic interrogative)

An emphatic question mark (mostly expresses reconfirmation or surprise):

いいの？	Is it okay?
どこに行くの？	Where are we going?

An explanation particle, often indicates that the statement is intended to explain something or to provide information:

かわちゃんはだいがくせいなの。	Kawa-chan is a college student.
-----------------	---------------------------------

## ね (emphasis and confirmation)

Polite and expresses

- the speaker's desire to receive confirmation (rising intonation), or
- the speaker's agreement (falling intonation).

Often translated as "isn't it so", "don't you think so" or "don't you agree with me". Also used as a polite or friendly sentence ending. Some people end virtually every sentence with "ね".

それはむずかしいね。↑	It's difficult, isn't it?
それはむずかしいね。↓	That sure is difficult.
たなかさんはすごいひとだね...↓	Mr. Tanaka is a great guy...

Also works as "phrase softener", i.e., it makes the phrase sound softer. Lengthening the syllable makes it more emphatic. The lengthening is usually indicated with a tilde:

きれいだね~↓	It's so beautiful!
---------	--------------------

## よ (modality)

Used when providing new information that a speaker has, or like an exclamation mark, also for commands and invitations:

わかるよ	I understand.
------	---------------

## ぞ (emphasis)

Similar to よ but more objective. Often used as a shout, a call and a yell (not limited to male speakers).

いくぞ	I'm going.
-----	------------

## な (admiration)

Informal, used when expressing a personal emotion or desire.

たなかはばかだな...	Tanaka's a fool...
さむいなあ	It's so cold.

(A few speakers tend to prefer using "な" instead of "ね" but deprecated)

## な (prohibition)

な can indicate prohibition when placed after action-verbs(present tense). In direct speech, this sounds rude and angry.

いくな!	Don't go!
みるな!	Don't look!

## かな (uncertainty)

Indicate that speaker is not sure about something.

どこにあるのかな	I wonder, where was it?
----------	-------------------------

## ぜ (inducement)

Sometimes seen as catchphrases, but rather old-fashioned, thus used only in a sportive talking . Also sometimes used as a vulgar よ.

おい、にげるぜ Hey, I'm getting out of here!

## わ (modality)

Declares a personal thought. Almost similar to よ but expresses fewer attention:

あした行くわ。 I will go tomorrow.

## さ (interjection, emphasis)

Filler particle, used to draw attention with a pause (unlike よ, not implying any command or new information is communicated):

あの さ hey

# Lesson Giving and Receiving

There are several ways to express giving and receiving depending on which side the speaker is on, but also depending on whether someone of higher or lower rank is being addressed.

## Giving

When expressing that someone **gives** to someone else (but not you), use the form of:

(Giver)	は が	(Receiver) に (object) を	さ あ 差し上げる。  あ 上げる。 やる。[1]
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When others give you, use either:

(Giver)	は が	(you) に (object) を	くだ 下さる くれる
---------	--------	--------------------	------------------

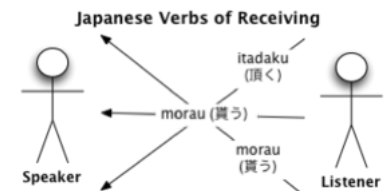
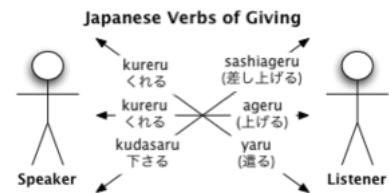
わたし せんせい ほん さ あ  
私は先生に本を差し上げます。 // I give the teacher the book.

わたし いもうと かし  
私は妹にお菓子をあげる。 // I give my sister candy. (plain present)

わたしたち ねこ  
私たちは猫にボールをあげた。 // We gave the cat a ball. (plain past)

かのじょ せんせい りんご  
彼女は先生に林檎をあげます。 // The girl gives an apple to the teacher. (polite present)

ともだち かあ  
友達はお母さんにカードをあげました。 // My friend gave his mom a card. (polite past)



Note: Arrows pointing upward towards the speaker or listener denote verbs that give that person a higher status relative to the other. Downward-pointing arrows give that person a lower status relative to the other.

This schematic illustrates the various verbs for giving and receiving.

The polite form is "くださる" while "くれる" is of neutral politeness and most commonly used. You will often use this verb when you've gotten something from someone who isn't currently there.

せんせい わたし ほん くだ  
先生は私に本を下さいました。 // The teacher gave me a book.

わたし  
あなたは私にビデオをくれる。 // I get a video from you.

きしこ わたし  
岸子は私にマンガをくれた。 // I received a manga from kishiko.

## Receiving

When expressing that someone **receives** from someone else, use a form of:

(Receiver)	は が	(Giver)	に から	(object) を	いただ 頂く もら 貰う。
------------	--------	---------	---------	------------	------------------------

Although に is slightly more casual, you can use both に and から when you receive some physical objects. For actions, you can only use に. Use から when you wish to emphasize the giver.

クリスマスが来たなら、お婆ちゃんに新車をもらおうと思う。 // When Christmas comes, I think I'll get a new car from grandma. (*plain form*)  
 誕生日に、梓はお父さんから250,000円をもらったそうです！ // For her birthday, I heard that Azusa received 250,000 yen from her dad!  
 (*polite form*)<sup>[2]</sup>  
 彼女は王子と結婚したら、女王に多くの宝石をもらいます。 // When she marries the prince, she will receive many jewels from the queen. (*polite form*)  
 お母さんに新しいパソコンをもらいました！ // I got a new computer from my mother! (*polite form*)

The verb いただく is a humble verb, and is used when you receive something from a superior or wish to show respect.

Example:

わたし、せんせい  
私は先生にペンをいただきました。 // I received a pen from the teacher.

## Actions

When the object being given or received is an action (and thus expressed by a verb) you can attach use it in the て-form in place of the object.

(Giver) は	(Verb in ~て form)	(Verb of giving) ◦
(Receiver) に		(Verb of receiving) ◦

Note that for receiving an action, you cannot use "から".

Examples for giving, "I washed the car for her," or "I did the laundry for him." Here are some examples in Japanese:

わたし  
私はアパートの掃除をしてあげました。 // I cleaned the apartment (for him/her). (*polite form*)  
 わたし、ばん、はん、つく  
私は晩ご飯を作った。 // I made dinner (for him or her). (*plain form*)

Examples for receiving, "The dentist examined my teeth for me," or "Mom cleaned up my room for me." Here are some examples:

いしゃ、み  
医者に診てもらいました。 // The doctor examined me (for me). (*polite form*)  
 かれし、あたら、くるま、か  
彼氏に新しい車を買ってもらった！ // My boyfriend bought a new car for me! (*plain form*)

## Notes and references

- The verb "やる" is rather disrespectful and would only be used by boys joking with each other.
- In this case, 誕生日に、梓はお父さん"から"~ may be better because you can avoid "に、... に" form

## See also

- [Japanese/Grammar/Politeness](#)

## Grammar/Comparisons

### Comparative

The main methods of constructing comparative sentences use the words "より" and "方". They can be used individually or together. The former indicates inferiority while the latter superiority (but note that *superiority* can indicate "lower", "cheaper", "smaller", etc).

<superior object>の方が<inferior object>より<adjective>です

#### Related content

- [Adjectives](#)

#### Related lesson

- [Pure \(い-\)adjectives](#)
- [Adjectival nouns \(な-adjectives\)](#)

Let's look at a few examples asserting that pizza (ピザ) is more delicious than sushi (寿司). Take the noun that is superior (in this case, more delicious) and affix "の方が" to it. Then, take the inferior noun and append it with "より":

### Related vocabulary

- Adjectives

ピザの方が寿司より

This essentially means "Pizza is more than sushi." but we have yet to explain in what fashion pizza out-does sushi. In this case, we are describing how delicious so we choose "おいしい". To be polite, we will add the polite copula "です" to the end of the sentence.

ピザの方が寿司よりおいしいです。

The adjective can be changed to anything you'd like.

ピザの方が寿司より臭いくさです。 // Pizza is smellier than sushi.  
ピザの方が寿司より安いやすです。 // Pizza is cheaper than sushi.

## Variations

It doesn't matter which part comes first; "～の方が" or "～より" so the following are both grammatically correct:

ピザの方が寿司よりおいしいです。  
寿司よりピザの方がおいしいです。

The adjective, however, must always come last with the copula.

One may drop one of "より" or "の方" when the comparison is clear from context.

そのピザはおいしいですか？ — Is that pizza tasty?  
はい、でも寿司の方がおいしかったです。 — Yes, but the sushi was tastier.  
はい、寿司よりです。 — Yes, better than the sushi.

Though it is not standard, "の方が" can be replaced with "は". Some people may find this easier to remember.

Instead of "より", you can say "よりも". This is mostly restricted to speech and adds emphasis. Others may use it simply because they like to say it instead of plain "より". You can choose for yourself which you'd like to use.

ピザの方が寿司よりもおいしいですよ！

There is also "もっと" which means "more" or "to a greater degree".

一緒だともっと楽しいです。 — It's more enjoyable together.

## Superlative

In Japanese one can express the superlative by stating that it is "the most ~", or that is "more ~ than anything/anyone".

### The most ~

Depending on formality, you may use "もっとも" or "一番" (いちばん, e. number one). The superlative is formed by prepending this to the adjective.

<subject> は/が	もっとも 一番	<adjective>	です だ	。
---------------	------------	-------------	---------	---

一番おいしい // The most delicious.  
一番高いたか // The most expensive (or The highest).  
一番長いなが // The longest.  
一番悲しいかな // The saddest.



With a subject:

すてき ひと  
 一番素敵な人です。 // The greatest person.  
 かのじよ わたし いちばんすてき ひと  
 彼女にとって、私は一番素敵な人です。 // From my girlfriend's point of view, I am the greatest person.

You can also modify a noun by placing it after the adjective. Take a look at these examples:

しょうせつ ゆうめい  
 この小説は一番有名です。 // This novel is the most famous.  
 ゆうめい しょうせつ  
 これは一番有名な小説です。 // This is the most famous novel.  
 えいが かな  
 その映画は一番悲しいです。 // That movie is the saddest.  
 かな えいが  
 それは一番悲しい映画です。 // That is the saddest movie.

## More than anything

This method has two forms with the same structure, but a different word depending on whether it refers to something that is animate or inanimate.

<b>animate</b>	<Name, pronoun or creature>	は	だれ 誰	より (Adjective) です。
<b>inanimate</b>	<Noun>		なに 何	

Instead of just "何より" or "誰より", you can say "何よりも" or "誰よりも". It's up to you which form you choose to use. Here are some examples!

かあ こい  
 お母さんは誰より恋しいです。 // I miss my mother more than anyone.  
 てがみ たいせつ  
 この手紙は何より大切にす！ // This letter is more important to me than anything!  
 うた  
 この歌は何よりもきれいですね。 // This song is prettier than anything, isn't it?

## See also

- Compare and Contrast (<http://www.guidetojapanese.org/compare.html>) on the Japanese guide to Japanese grammar (<http://www.guidetojapanese.org/>).
- Jim's Japanese Grammar Summary ([http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/j\\_gram\\_summ.html](http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/j_gram_summ.html))

## Lesson/Simultaneous action

Simultaneous action is designated by replacing the "～ます" ending of the polite present positive tense of the first verb with "～ながら". The tense is then determined by the latter verb. Both actions should be performed by the same person.

### Related content

- Japanese/Verb conjugation table

Those more comfortable thinking in terms of the dictionary form can see this as adding "～ながら" to the stem of vowel-stem verbs, or the い-row of consonant-stem verbs (e.g. 飲む -> 飲みながら example below). The irregular verbs are also put in the い-row making them identical to the consonant-stem verbs.

<sentence start>	<vowel-stem verb stem>	ながら <second verb>
	<consonant-stem verb stem in い-row>	

The tense of the sentence is given with the second verb.

## Examples

Dictionary form	ながら-form	example	meaning
<b>Vowel stem verbs</b>			
見る (みる)	見ながら	テレビを見ながらりんごを食べた。	I ate an apple while I watched television.
食べる (たべる)	食べながら	りんごを食べながらテレビを見る。	I watch television while eating an apple.
<b>Consonant stem verbs</b>			
会う (あう)	会いながら		
行く (いく)	行きながら	学校へ行きながら友だちと喋った。	I talked with my friends on our way to school.
泳ぐ (およく)	泳ぎながら	泳ぎながら歌を歌った。	I sang a song while swimming.
話す (はなす)	話しながら		
待つ (まつ)	待ちながら		
ぬ			
遊ぶ (あそぶ)	遊びながら		
飲む (のむ)	飲みながら	コーヒーを飲みながら友達と喋っていました。	I chatted with friends over coffee.
喋る (しゃべる)	喋りながら		
<b>Irregular verbs</b>			
する	しながら		
くる	きながら		

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
テレビ	television		
見る	to see, to watch	みる	This verb changes thus: "見る" -> "見ます" -> "見ながら".
パン	bread		
食べる	to eat	たべる	This verb changes thus: "食べる" -> "食べます" -> "食べながら"
コーヒー	coffee		
公園	a (public) park	こうえん	
友達	a friend	ともだち	
飲む	to drink	のむ	
喋る	to talk, to chat	しゃべる	
歩く	to walk	あるく	

## Grammar/Transitivity

Many Japanese verbs have pairs of *transitive* and *intransitive* verbs. In Japanese these are known as 他動詞 (other move verb) and 自動詞 (self move verb). Formally, the difference between these is that a transitive verb can take on a direct object, whereas an intransitive verb can not. There are a few pairs of distinct verbs in English that correlate to this: "raise"/"rise", "fell"/"fall" and "lay"/"lie".

Transitive verbs can be thought of as more causative which requires an agent to perform the action. Intransitive verbs move on their own and can be thought of as just existing.

This is best explained by example. Contrast the following two sentences:

	English	Verb	Japanese
<b>Transitive</b>	(I) close the door.	閉める (しめる)	ドアを閉める。
<b>Intransitive</b>	The door closes.	閉まる (しまる)	ドアが閉まる。
<b>Transitive</b>	The teacher starts the class.	始める (はじめる)	先生が授業を始める。
<b>Intransitive</b>	The class starts.	始まる (はじまる)	授業が始まる。
<b>Transitive</b>	The sun melts the ice.	溶かす (とかす)	太陽が氷を溶かす。
<b>Intransitive</b>	The ice melts.	溶ける (とける)	氷が溶ける。

The general patterns for transitive and intransitive sentences is:

<subject> は/が	<direct object> を/が	<transitive verb> ◦
<subject> が		<intransitive verb> ◦

The topics of intransitive verbs are usually inanimate.

Some pairings are listed in the following table:

じどうし 自動詞 (intransitive verb)		たどうし 他動詞 (transitive verb)	
-eru → -asu			
to go out	で 出る <i>deru</i>	だ 出す <i>dasu</i>	to get out
to escape	に 逃げる <i>nigeru</i>	にが 逃す <i>nigasu</i>	to let escape
to melt	と 溶ける <i>tokeru</i>	と 溶かす <i>tokasu</i>	to melt something
to wither	か 枯れる <i>kareru</i>	か 枯らす <i>karasu</i>	to let wither
-eru → -yasu			
to increase (by self)	増える <i>fueru</i>	増やす <i>fuyasu</i>	to increase (something else)
to cool down (by self)	冷える <i>hieru</i>	冷やす <i>hiyasu</i>	to cool something down
to grow	生える <i>haeru</i>	生やす <i>hayasu</i>	to grow something
-iru → -osu			
to wake up	起きる <i>okiru</i>	起こす <i>okosu</i>	to wake somebody up
to get off	降りる <i>oriru</i>	降ろす <i>orosu</i>	to offload
to fall	落ちる <i>ochiru</i>	落とす <i>otosu</i>	to let fall
to elapse (time)	過ぎる <i>sugiru</i>	過ごす <i>sugosu</i>	to spend (time)
-u → -asu			
to decline	減る <i>heru</i>	減らす <i>herasu</i>	to decrease something
to boil	沸く <i>waku</i>	沸かす <i>wakasu</i>	to bring something to a boil
to dry (self)	乾く <i>kawaku</i>	乾かす <i>kawakasu</i>	to dry something
to be glad	喜ぶ <i>yorokobu</i>	喜ばす <i>yorokobasu</i>	to cheer somebody
-u → -eru			
to get open	開く <i>aku</i>	開ける <i>akeru</i>	to open something
to reach	届く <i>todoku</i>	届ける <i>todokeru</i>	to deliver
to grow up	育つ <i>sodatsu</i>	育てる <i>sodateru</i>	to rear
to stand	立つ <i>tatsu</i>	立てる <i>tateru</i>	to stand up
-ru → -seru			
to board	乗る <i>noru</i>	乗せる <i>noseru</i>	to let board
to approach	寄る <i>yoru</i>	寄せる <i>yoseru</i>	to let near
-ru → -su			
to return	返る <i>kaeru</i>	返す <i>kaesu</i>	to bring back
to go through	通る <i>tōru</i>	通す <i>tōsu</i>	to let through
to turn (by self)	回る <i>mawaru</i>	回す <i>mawasu</i>	to turn something
to get repaired	直る <i>naoru</i>	直す <i>naosu</i>	to repair
to cross	渡る <i>wataru</i>	渡す <i>watasu</i>	to bring to the other side
-reru → -su			
to break up	離れる <i>hanareru</i>	離す <i>hanasu</i>	to separate
to disengage	外れる <i>hazureru</i>	外す <i>hazusu</i>	to release
to tumble	倒れる <i>taoreru</i>	倒す <i>taosu</i>	to overthrow
to become dirty	汚れる <i>yogoreru</i>	汚す <i>yogosu</i>	to dirty
to appear	現れる <i>arawareru</i>	現す <i>arawasu</i>	to let appear
to get broken	壊れる <i>kowareru</i>	壊す <i>kowasu</i>	to break
-aru → -eru			
to be decided	決まる <i>kimaru</i>	決める <i>kimeru</i>	to decide
to close	閉まる <i>shimaru</i>	閉める <i>shimeru</i>	to close something
to gather	集まる <i>atsumaru</i>	集める <i>atsumeru</i>	to collect
to begin			to begin something

	始まる <i>hajimaru</i>	始める <i>hajimeru</i>	
to be found	見付かる <i>mitsukaru</i>	見付ける <i>mitsukeru</i>	to find something
to hang	掛かる <i>kakaru</i>	掛ける <i>kakeru</i>	to hang something up
to be saved	助かる <i>tasukaru</i>	助ける <i>tasukeru</i>	to save
-waru → -eru			
to change (yourself)	変わる <i>kawaru</i>	変える <i>kaeru</i>	to change something
to join	加わる <i>kuwawaru</i>	加える <i>kuwaeru</i>	to add
-eru → -u			
to burn	焼ける <i>yakeru</i>	焼く <i>yaku</i>	to burn something
to be sold	売れる <i>ureru</i>	売る <i>uru</i>	to sell
to come out	抜ける <i>nukeru</i>	抜く <i>nuku</i>	to draw out
to come loose	解ける <i>hodokeru</i>	解く <i>hodoku</i>	to loosen
others			
to be visible	見える <i>mieru</i>	見る <i>miru</i>	to see
to be audible	聞こえる <i>kikoeru</i>	聞く <i>kiku</i>	to hear
to extinguish	消える <i>kieru</i>	消す <i>kesu</i>	to delete
to enter	入る <i>hairu</i>	入れる <i>ireru</i>	to put in
to end	終わる <i>owaru</i>	終える／終わる <i>oeru/owaru</i>	to end something
to become	なる <i>naru</i>	する <i>suru</i>	to do

The rule of thumb is that intransitive verbs usually take nouns with the particles 「が」 (*ga*) or 「は」 (*wa*) that act as subjects, whereas transitive verbs take object nouns marked with 「を」 (*o*). Transitive verbs can also take a *ga*-subject or *wa*-subject, although it may be omitted. Note that some intransitive verbs can take an *o*-object that indicates a location. For example, 出る ("to leave") can be used with a direct object that is a location from which the subject is to leave from. See the table below for more examples:

	English	Verb	Japanese
<b>Transitive with を</b>	(I) took out my wallet from my bag.	出す (だす)	財布をカバンから出した。
<b>Transitive with は and を</b>	I took out my wallet from my bag.	出す (だす)	私は財布をカバンから出した。
<b>Intransitive with を</b>	(I) left home.	出る (でる)	家を出た。
<b>Intransitive with は and を</b>	I left home.	出る (でる)	私は家を出た。

## See also

- 70 transitive/intransitive pairs with descriptive animations (<http://www.mlcjapanese.co.jp/Download/JidoushiTadoushi70Pairs.swf>)
- Well-presented grammar explanation (<http://www.guidetojapanese.org/learn/grammar/in-transitive>)
- [[learnjapaneseonline.info/2016/12/27/mastering-transitivity-pairs-remembering-japanese-transitive-and-intransitive-verbs-the-easy-way/](http://learnjapaneseonline.info/2016/12/27/mastering-transitivity-pairs-remembering-japanese-transitive-and-intransitive-verbs-the-easy-way/)]

## Verb conjugation table

Pronouncing and understanding Japanese phonetics is very easy if the basic foundations are learnt correctly before advancing to more evolved structure. For example, there are five sounds that can be represented by the 5 vowels ( in this order 'a' 'i' 'u' 'e' 'o' pronounced "a as in 'a bird'" "i pronounced 'ee' 'u like the first ooo in the sound a monkey makes "oo oo oo" "e said like the e in tech' and 'o said like as in knots') of the 26 letters of this language. These 5 sounds remain unchanged except for variations dictated by the prior consonant and semantics that indicate a brief pause or hold in the relative frequency.

All forms of a verb are derived from the root form of a verb. All verbs end in an 'u' sound. If it is 'ru' it is easy to conjugate; otherwise, there is a set of rules described somewhat in the below table.

Past +	Past -	Present +	Present -	Imperative	-te form	Volitional	Plain
Past +	Past -	Present +	Present -	Imperative	-te form	Volitional	Polite
-tari form	Subjunctive	Conditional	Provisional	Passive	Causative	Potential	

### 五段動詞 (consonant stem verbs)

～う

った	わなかった	う	わない	え	って	おう
いました	いませんでした	います	いません	え	って	いましょう
ったり	い	ったら	えば	われる	わせる	える

～く

いた	かなかった	く	かない	け	いて	こう
きました	きませんでした	きます	きません	け	いて	きましょう
いたり	き	いたら	けば	かれる	かせる	ける

～ぐ

いだ	がなかった	ぐ	がない	げ	いで	ごう
ぎました	ぎませんでした	ぎます	ぎません	げ	いで	ぎましょう
いだり	ぎ	いだら	げば	がれる	がせる	げる

～す

した	さなかった	す	さない	せ	して	そう
しました	しませんでした	します	しません	せ	して	しましょう
したり	し	したら	せば	される	させる	せる

～つ

った	たなかった	つ	たない	て	って	とう
ちました	ちませんでした	ちます	ちません	て	って	ちましょう
ったり	ち	ったら	てば	たれる	たせる	てる

～ぬ

んだ	ななかった	ぬ	なない	ね	んで	のう
にました	にませんでした	にます	にません	ね	んで	にましょう
んだり	に	んだら	ねば	なれる	なせる	ねる

～ぶ

んだ	ばなかった	ぶ	ばない	べ	んで	ぼう
びました	びませんでした	びます	びません	べ	んで	びましょう
んだり	び	んだら	べば	ばれる	ばせる	べる

～む

んだ	まなかった	む	まない	め	んで	もう
みました	みませんでした	みます	みません	め	んで	みましょう
んだり	み	んだら	めば	まれる	ませる	める

～る

った	らなかった	る	らない	れ	って	ろう
りました	りませんでした	ります	りません	れ	って	りましょう
ったり	り	ったら	れば	られる	らせる	れる

一段動詞 (vowel stem verbs)

～る

た	なかった	る	ない	ろ	て	よう
ました	ませんでした	ます	ません	ませ	まして	ましょう
たり	—	たら	れば	られる	させる	られる

Irregular Verbs

する (e. to do)

した	しなかった	する	しない	しろ+せよ	して	しよう
しました	しませんでした	します	しません	しませ	しまして	しましょう
したり	し	したら	すれば	される	させる	できる

くる (e. to come)

きた	こなかった	くる	こない	こ来い	きて	こ来よう
来ました	こませんでした	きます	こ来ません	こ来ませ	こ来まして	こ来ましょう
きたり	こ来	きたら	こ来れば	こ来られる	こ来される	こ来(ら)れる

だ (the copula)

だった	ではなかった じゃなかった	だ	ではない じゃない	-	で	だろう
でした	ではありませんでした じゃありませんでした	です	ではありません じゃありません	-	でして	でしょう
だったり	-	だったら	なら	-		

でしたり

でしたら

Other forms of the copula can be obtained by replacing it with である.

## Vocabulary

### Elementary vocabulary

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- [Colors](#)
- [Clothes and accessories](#)
- [Animals](#)
- [Numbers](#)
- [Time and dates](#)
- [Directions](#)
- [Food and drink](#)
  - [Sushi](#)
- [Body parts](#)
- [Family and people](#)
- [Weather and seasons](#)
- [Verbs](#)
- [Adjectives](#)

### Proper

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- [Countries and languages](#)
- [Regions and prefectures of Japan](#)

### Specialized

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- [Academic Subjects](#)
  - [Astronomy](#)
  - [Biology](#)
  - [Chemistry](#)
  - [Glaciology](#)
  - [Mathematics](#)
  - [Linguistics](#)
  - [Law](#)
- [Aviation](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Banking](#)
- [Computing](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Government and politics](#)
- [Punctuation](#)
- [Vocations](#)
- [Units](#)

### Cultural

- [Music](#)
- [Videogame](#)

### By origin

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- [Gairaigo](#)
- [Onomatopoeia](#)

## Vocabulary/Academic Subjects

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
人類学	Anthropology	じんる いがく	
生物学	Biology	せいぶ つがく	
科学	Sciences	かがく	
化学	Chemistry	かがく	"科学" and "化学" have the same pronunciation. Therefore in order to distinction these two words, Japanese person sometimes pronounces chemistry as "Ba-Ke-Ga-Ku".
経済学	Economics	けいざ いがく	
英語	English	えいご	
美術	Fine Arts	びじゅ つ	
地理	Geography	ちり	
雪氷学	Glaciology	せつ びょう がく	
史学 / 歴史	History	しがく / れき し	
家庭科	Home Economics	かてい か	
国語	Japanese	こくご	Analogous to the study of most languages by native speakers, this is not the learning of the language but a mixture of its study with literature and creative composition.
日本語	Japanese	にほん ご	
文献	Literature	ぶんが く	
数学	Mathematics	すうが く	
理科	Natural Sciences	りか	
哲学	Philosophy	てつが く	
体育	Physical Education	たいい く	
物理	Physics	ぶつり	
心理学	Psychology	しんり がく	
政治	Politics	せいじ	
宗教	Religion	しゅう きょう	
社会学	Sociology	しゃか いがく	

#### Related vocabulary

- [Astronomy](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Glaciology](#)

## Vocabulary/Animals

### Mammals

#### Related vocabulary

- [Food and Drink](#)
- [Sushi](#)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
アルパカ	Alpaca		loan word from the American Spanish word alpaca
オポッサム	Australian Possum		loan word from the English word opossum
蝙蝠	Bat	こうもり	individually both kanji mean bat but are read differently
熊	Bear	くま	
ビーバー	Beaver		loan word from the French derived English word beaver
駱駝	Camel	らくだ	white horse (駱) hunchback (駝)
猫	Cat	ねこ	
チンチラ	Chinchilla		loan word from the Spanish word chinchilla
ハナグマ	Coatimundi		nose (ハナ) bear (グマ)
牛	Cow	うし	also used for ox
コヨーテ	Coyote		loan word from the American Spanish word coyote
鹿	Deer	しか	
デグー			loan word from the South American word degu
犬	Dog	いぬ	
海豚	Dolphin	いるか	sea (海) pig (豚). When written in kana, katakana is commonly used.
驢馬 兎馬	Donkey	ろば うさぎうま	donkey (驢) horse (馬) or rabbit (兎) horse (馬)
儒艮	Dugong	じゅごん	loan word from the Latin word dugong
象	Elephant	ぞう	
鼬 いたち	Ferret		
狐	Fox	きつね	
砂鼠	Gerbil	すなねずみ	sand (すな) mouse (ねずみ)
麒麟	Giraffe	きりん	
山羊	Goat	やぎ	mountain (山) sheep (羊)
ゴリラ	Gorilla		
ウッドチャック	Groundhog		loan word from the English words wood chuck
モルモット	Guinea pig		loan word from the French word marmotte
ハムスター	Hamster		loan word from the German word hamster
針鼠 or 蝟	Hedgehog	はりねずみ	needle (ハリ) mouse (ネズミ)
河馬	Hippopotamus	かば	river (河) horse (馬)
馬	Horse	うま	
キンカジュウ	Kinkajou		loan word from the Indian word kinkajou, meaning honey bear
子猫 / 仔猫	Kitten	こねこ	child (子 / 仔) cat (猫)
獅子 ライオン	Lion	しし	loan word from Chinese (Shizi) loan word from the English lion
ラマ	Llama		loan word from the Spanish word llama
海牛	Manatee	かいぎゅう	ocean (海) cow (牛)
ミンク	Mink		loan word from the English word mink
猿	Monkey	さる	
鼠	Mouse	ねずみ	
川獺 / 獺	Otter	かわうそ	
パンダ	Panda	ぱんだ	loan word from the French word panda
豚	Pig	ぶた	
北極熊	Polar bear	ほっきょくぐま	北極= North Pole, 熊= Bear
子犬 / 仔犬	Puppy	こいぬ	child (子 / 仔) dog (犬)
兎	Rabbit	うさぎ	also used for hare or coney
洗熊	Raccoon	あらいぐま	to wash (洗う) bear (熊)
狸	Raccoon dog	たぬき	
溝鼠 ラット	Rat	どぶねずみ	ラット is a loan word from the English rat and used more commonly than どぶねずみ



レッサーパンダ	Red panda		ressa is the loan word for the English word lesser and panda from the French panda
犀	Rhinoceros	さい	
海豹	Seal	あざらし	海 (sea) 豹(panther)
海驢	Sea lion	あしか	海 (sea) 驢 (donkey). When written in kana, katakana is commonly used.
羊	Sheep	ひつじ	
コモリネズミ	Short tailed opossum		コモリ (komori) ネズミ (mouse)
スカンク	Skunk		loan word from the English word skunk
栗鼠	Squirrel	りす	chestnut (栗) mouse (鼠)
虎	Tiger	とら	
袋鼠	Virginia opossum	ふくろねずみ	sack/bag (袋) mouse (鼠). The English loan word ポッサム (possamu) is often used
鼬	Weasel	いたち	
鯨	Whale	クジラ	when written in kana, katakana is commonly used
狼	Wolf	おおかみ	
クズリ	Wolverine		
縞馬	Zebra	しまうま	stripe (縞) horse (馬)

## Birds

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
鳥	Bird	とり	
金糸雀	Canary	かなりあ / かなりや	
鶏	Chicken (domestic)	にわとり	
鶴	Crane	つる	
鸕	Cormorant	う	
烏 / 鴉	Crow (or raven)	からす	
郭公	Cuckoo	かっこう	
家鴨	Duck (domestic)	あひる	family/house (家) wild duck (鴨)
鴨	Duck (wild)	かも	
鷲	Eagle	わし	
エミュー	Emu		loan word from the Portuguese word emu
フラミンゴ	Flamingo		
鵞鳥	Goose	がちょう	goose (鵞) bird (鳥)
鷹	Hawk (or falcon)	たか	
燕	Swallow	つばめ	
駝鳥	Ostrich	だちょう	ostrich (駝) bird (鳥)
鸚哥	Parakeet	いんこ	written in Katakana インコ。 source (my 日本語のせんせい。)
雉子 / 雉	Pheasant	きじ	
鳩	Pigeon (or dove)	はと	
鷗(鷗)	Seagull	かもめ	
雲雀	Skylark	ひばり	cloud (雲) sparrow (雀)
雀	Sparrow	すずめ	
七面鳥	Turkey	しちめんちょう	seven faces (七面) bird (鳥)
秃鷹	Vulture	はげたか	baldness (秃) hawk (鷹)

## Reptiles, fish and other sea life

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
鱷	Alligator (or crocodile)	わに	
鯉	Carp	こい	
蟹	Crab	かに	
龍 (or 竜)	Dragon	りゅう (or たつ)	both 龍 and 竜 can be read as either ryuu or tatsu
鰻	Eel	うなぎ	
魚	Fish	さかな (or うお)	
蛙	Frog	かえる	
イグアナ	Iguana		loan word from the Spanish word iguana
金魚	Goldfish	きんぎょ	gold (金) fish (魚)
水母 (or 海月)	Jellyfish	くらげ	water (水) mother (母) or sea (海) moon (月)
コモドドラゴン	Komodo dragon		loan word from the Indonesian island Komodo and the English word dragon
蛸 / 章魚	Octopus	たこ	when written in kana, katakana is commonly used
海獣	Sea animal	かいじゅう	sea (海) animal (獣)
海牛	Sea slug	うみうし	sea (海) cow (牛). More commonly written using kana (katakana) instead of kanji
鮫	Shark	さめ	
海老 / 蝦	Shrimp	えび	
蝸牛	Snail	かたつむり, or でんでんむし, or かぎゅう	snail (蝸) cow (牛). 蝸牛 can be read in all three ways and still mean snail
蛇	Snake (or serpent)	へび	
伊勢海老	Spiny lobster	いせえび	Ise (伊勢) shrimp (蝦)
墨魚	Squid	ぼくぎょ	ink (墨) fish (魚).
鮪	Tuna	まぐろ	
亀	Turtle (or tortoise)	かめ	

## Insects

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
虫 (or 昆虫)	Insect	むし (or こんちゅう)	
害虫	Harmful insects	がいちゅう	
益虫	Beneficial insects	えきちゅう	
兜虫 (or 甲虫)	Beetle	かぶとむし	lit. headpiece (兜) insect (虫)
锹形虫	Stag beetle	くわがたむし	lit. Hoe-shape insect
蟋蟀	Cricket	こおろぎ	
蚊	Mosquito	か	
蠍	Scorpion	さそり	
蜘蛛	Spider	くも	
蝶	Butterfly	ちょう	
蛍	Firefly	ほたる	
蟻	Ant	あり	
蛾	Moth	が	
螳螂	Mantis	かまきり	
蜚蠊	Cockroach	ごきぶり	
蜻蛉	Dragonfly	とんぼ	
蜜蜂	Bee	みつばち	
雀蜂 or 胡蜂	Hornet	すずめばち	
团子虫	Pillbug	だんごむし	lit. dumpling insect
草鞋虫	Sow bug	わらじむし	lit. Waraji insect
蚯蚓	Earthworm	みみず	
蝇 or 蠅	Fly	はえ	
天道虫	Ladybug	てんとうむし	lit. insect of path in the heavens
蝉 or 蟬	Cicada	せみ	

## Vocabulary/Banking

### Related vocabulary

- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Business](#)
- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Economy](#)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
口座	account	こうざ	
チェック口座 当座預金口座	checking account	チェックこうざ とうざよきんこうざ	
法人口座	corporate account	ほうじんこうざ	
個人口座	personal account	こじんこうざ	
セービング口座 普通預金口座	savings account	セービングこうざ ふつうよきんこうざ	
年利	annual percentage yield (APY)	ねんり	
銀行	bank	ぎんこう	
信用組合	credit union	しんようくみあい	
金融機関	financial institution	きんゆうきかん	
支店	branch	してん	
定期預金口座	certificate of deposit (CD)	ていきよきんこうざ	
入金	deposit	にゆうきん	
入金する	to deposit (to one's own account)	にゆうきんする	
出金	withdrawal	しゅつきん	
出金する	to withdraw	しゅつきんする	
振込	electronic funds transfer/wire funds	ふりこみ	
振り込む	to wire/direct deposit (by third-party)	ふりこむ	
口座自動振替	automatic bill payer	こうざじどうふりかえ	
為替	money order	かわせ	
小切手	cheque/check	こぎって	
現金	cash	げんきん	
紙幣	banknote	しへい	
硬貨	coin	こうか	
外貨	foreign currency	がいか	
外貨両替	foreign exchange	がいかりょうがえ	
為替レート	exchange rate	かわせれーと	
ペイオフ 預金保険制度	FDIC insurance	べいおふ よきんほけんせいど	from the English payoff
利子	interest paid	りし	
利息	interest earned	りそく	
口座に利息が付く	an account earns interest	こうざにりそくがつく	
利率	interest rate	りりつ	
投資	investment	とうし	
投資する	to invest	とうしする	
株	stocks	かぶ	
証券取引所	stock exchange	しょうけんとりひきじょ	
国債	savings bond	こくさい	
株価	stock price	かぶか	
株価指数	stock price index	かぶかしすう	

## Vocabulary/Body parts

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
体 胴	body	からだ どう	
頭	head	あたま	

### Related vocabulary

- Japanese/Vocabulary/Health

## Head

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
髪 (の毛)	hair	かみ (のけ)	
顔	face	かお	
額	forehead	ひたい	
眉	eyebrow	まゆ	
睫毛	eyelash	まつげ	
目	eye	め	
鼻	nose	はな	
口	mouth	くち	
唇	lips	くちびる	
舌	tongue	した	
歯	teeth	は	
顳顬	temple	こめかみ	
歯茎	gums	はぐき	
頬 or 頬	cheek	ほほ or ほお	
顎	chin	あご	
耳	ear	みみ	
首	neck	くび	
喉	throat	のど	

## Torso

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
肩	shoulder	かた	
胸	chest, breast	むね	
背中	back	せなか	
臍	navel, bellybutton	へそ	
腰	hips, waist, lower back	こし	
お腹 腹	belly	おなか はら	
お尻* 尻	buttocks	おしり しり けつ	

## Limbs

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
膝	lap, knee	ひざ	
腕	arms	うで	
肘	elbow	ひじ	
手首	wrist	てくび	
手	hand	て	
指	finger	ゆび	
親指	thumb	おやゆび	
爪	nail (finger or toe)	つめ	
脚	leg	あし	
足首	ankle	あしくび	
足	foot, feet	あし	
踵	heel	かかと	
足の指 足指	toes	あしのゆび あしゆび	

## Fingers

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
親指	Thumb	おやゆび	
人差し指	Index Finger	ひとさしゆび	
中指	Middle Finger	なかゆび	
薬指	Ring Finger	くすりゆび	
小指	Little Finger	こゆび	
指先	Fingertip	ゆびさき	

## Organs and tissue

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
膀胱	bladder	ぼうこう	
血 血液	blood	ち けつえき	
骨	bone	ほね	
骨髓	bone marrow	こつずい	
脳	brain	のう	
軟骨	cartilage	なんこつ	
食道	esophagus	しょくどう	
胆嚢	gallbladder	たんのう	
心臓	heart	しんぞう	
腸	intestines	ちょう	
腎臓	kidney	じんぞう	
喉頭	larynx	こうとう	
肝臓	liver	かんぞう	
肺臓	lung	はいぞう	
筋肉	muscle	きんにく	
膵臓	pancreas	すいぞう	
咽頭	pharynx	いんとう	
肌	skin	はだ	
脾臓	spleen	ひぞう	
胃	stomach	い	
気管	windpipe	きかん	

- 「お」 adds politeness here

## Vocabulary/Colors

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
赤	red	あか	
橙色	orange	だいだ いろいろ オレンジ	
黄色	yellow	きいろ	
緑	green	みどり	グリーン is also commonly used when referencing the color of clothing, shoes or other manufactured items. みどり however, is more often used when describing green that is found in nature (ie. green color found on leaves or grass)
水色	light blue	みずいろ	
青	blue	あお	あお originally encompassed both blue and green. It is mainly used for blue in modern times. The green traffic-light is called <small>あおしんごう</small> 青信号
紫	purple	むらさき	
茶色	brown	ちゃいろ	
白	white	しろ	
グレー グレイ 灰色 鼠色	gray	はいいろ ねずみいろ	グレー (also spelled as グレイ) is used more colloquially than ねずみいろ or 灰色 which are traditional Japanese words, meaning mouse-color and ash color, respectively.
黒	black	くろ	
ピンク 桃色	pink	ももいろ	ピンク (a transliteration of 'pink') is more commonly used than ももいろ (lit. peach colour) which is a traditional Japanese word.
金色	gold	きんいろ	
銀色	silver	ぎんいろ	

- Note that the six basic colors, black, white, red, yellow, brown, and blue are in their noun forms. Adding -い(-i) to the end of these colors will make them adjectives, allowing them to be placed before a noun: 赤い red (adj.), 青い blue (adj.), 黄色い yellow (adj.), 茶色い brown (adj.), 白い white (adj.), 黒い black (adj.).

## Advanced

English	わごふくご 和語/複合語 (native words and compound words)	かんご 漢語 (Chinese words)	がいらいご 外来語 (Loanwords)	note
red	あか / あかいろ 赤 / 赤色	せきしよく 赤色	レッド	
orange	だいだい 橙色	とうしよく (橙色)	オレンジ	
pale orange	はだいろ / うすだいだい 肌色 / 薄橙色		パールオレンジ	
golden yellow	やまぶき 山吹色		ゴールドイエロー	
yellow	き / きいろ 黄 / 黄色	おうしよく 黄色	イエロー	
yellowish green	きみどり / きみどりいろ 黄緑 / 黄緑色	おうりよくしよく 黄緑色		
green	みどり / みどりいろ 緑 / 緑色	りよくしよく 緑色	グリーン	
aqua blue	みずいろ 水色	すいしよく (水色)	(アクアブルー)	
blue	あお / あおいろ 青 / 青色	せいしよく (青色)	ブルー	
indigo	あいろ 藍色	らんしよく (藍色)	インディゴブルー	
purple	むらさき / むらさきいろ 紫 / 紫色	ししよく (紫色)	パープル	
brown	ちゃいろ / くりいろ 茶色 / 栗色	かつしよく 褐色	ブラウン	茶色い服 (brown wear)、栗色の髪 (brown hair)、褐色の肌 (brown skin)
white	しろ / しろいろ	はくしよく		



	白 / 白色	白色	ホワイト	
gray	ねずみいろ 鼠色 / はいいろ 灰色	かいしょく (灰色)	グレイ/グレイ	
black	くろ 黒 / くろいろ 黒色	こくしょく 黒色	ブラック	
pink	ももいろ 桃色	たんこうしょく (淡紅色)	ピンク	
gold	きんいろ 金色 / こがねいろ 黄金色	こんじき 金色	ゴールド	
silver	ぎんいろ 銀色 / しろがねいろ 白銀色	ぎんじき (銀色)	シルバー	

## Verbs

grammar rules:

adj → **become** ~verb (～になる)

～い → ～む (e.g. 悲しい → 悲しむ, 赤い → 赤む)

noun → **take on** ~verb (～を帯びる)

～ → ～ばむ (e.g. 汗 → 汗ばむ, 赤 → 赤ばむ)

verb → **passive verb**

～ → (imperfective form of ～)る (e.g. 忘る → 忘れる)

English intransitive	Japanese intransitive	intransitive example	English transitive	Japanese transitive	transitive example	notes
become red	あか 赤む あか 赤らむ あか (赤らぶ) あか 赤ばむ	ほほ 頬が赤らむ	make (it) red	あか 赤める あか 赤らめる あか (赤らべる) あか 赤ばめる	ほほ 頬を赤める	
become blue	あお 青む あお 青ばむ	かお 顔が青ばむ	make (it) blue	あお 青める あお 青ばめる		青む+褪める=青ざめる
become yellow	き 黄ばむ	ふく 服が黄ばむ	make (it) yellow	き 黄ばめる	ふく 服を黄ばめてしま う	
become black	くろ 黒む くろ 黒ばむ くろ 黒ずむ	はだ 肌が黒ずんだ	make (it) black	くろ 黒める くろ 黒ばめる くろ 黒ずめる		
become white	しろ 白む しろ 白む しろ 白ばむ	空が白む	make (it) white	しろ 白める しろ 白める しろ 白ばめる		

## Variant nouns

English	Japanese	English	Japanese	English	Japanese
sense of red	あか 赤さ	degree of red	あか 赤み	if anything, red	あか 赤め
sense of blue	あお 青さ	degree of blue	あお 青み	if anything, blue	あお 青め
sense of green	みどり 緑さ	degree of green	みどり 緑み	if anything, green	みどり 緑め
sense of yellow	きいろ 黄色さ	degree of yellow	き 黄み	if anything, yellow	きいろ 黄色め
sense of black	くろ 黒さ	degree of black	くろ 黒み	if anything, black	くろ 黒め
sense of white	しろ 白さ	degree of white	しろ 白み	if anything, white	しろ 白め

## External links

- Japanese color and its pronunciation ([http://www.learningchocolate.com/node/55?st\\_lang=ja](http://www.learningchocolate.com/node/55?st_lang=ja))
- Japanese Color Names Cheat Sheet (<http://nihongoup.com/blog/japanese-color-names/>)
- Japanese Traditional Color Names (<http://www.colordic.org/w/>)
- Japanese colors with English names ([http://www.color-guide.com/e\\_index.htm](http://www.color-guide.com/e_index.htm))

# Vocabulary/Computing

## Software

### Related vocabulary

[Gmail interface](#)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
オペレーションシステム/O S/ <small>オーエスきほん</small> 基本ソフト	operation system		
アプリケーション/アプリ/ <small>おうよう</small> 応用ソフト	application		
ソフトウェア/ソフト	software		
プラグイン	plugin		
アドオン	addon		
コーデック	codec		
<small>かくちょう</small> 拡張	extension		
ユーザーインターフェース	user interface		
コンソール	console		
<small>たんまつ</small> 端末/ターミナル	terminal		
<small>じゅーあーい</small> GUI	GUI		
テーマ	theme		
<small>がいそう</small> スキン/外装	skin (user interface)		
<small>ひながた</small> テンプレート/雛形	template		
モード	mode		
ファイル	file		
フォルダ	folder		
<small>しょこ</small> ディレクトリ/書庫	directory		
デスクトップ	desktop		
<small>かくちょうし</small> 拡張子	filename extension		
アイコン	icon		
コンテキストメニュー	context menu		
ショートカット	shortcut		
クラッシュ (noun), クラッシュする (verb), <small>お</small> 落ちる (verb)	crash		
フリーズ/ハング (noun), フリーズする/ハングする/ <small>かた</small> 固まる (verb)	freeze/hang		
バグ	bug		
バギー	buggy		
バグる	became buggy		
セグメンテーション違反/ <small>いはん</small> セグメンテーションフォルト/セグフォ	segmentation fault		

## Internet

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
コンピュータ	computer		
インターネット	the Internet		
ウェブ	web		
モデム	modem		
イーサネット	Ethernet		
ラン LANケーブル	Ethernet Cable		
ワイファイ WiFi	WiFi		
ゆうせん 有線	wired		
むせん 無線	wireless		
オンライン	online		
オフライン	offline		
アイピー IP アドレス	IP address		
めい ホスト名	host name		
ほんごう ポート番号	port number		
サーバ	server		
クライアント	client		
ルーター	router		
スイッチ	switch		
ハブ	hub		
プロキシ	proxy		
ブラウザ	browser		
メール	e-mail		less commonly: <small>でんし</small> 電子メール
メールアドレス	e-mail address		
メーラー	e-mail client		
チャット	chat		
ソフトフォン	softphone		
でんわほんごう 電話番号	phone number		
テルネット	Telnet		

## Hardware

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ハードウェア	hardware		
シーピーユー C P U	CPU		
メモリ	memory		
ディスク	disk		
ディスプレイ	display		
スクリーン	screen		
スピーカー	speaker		
イヤホン	earphone		
マイク	microphone		
マウス	mouse		
キーボード	keyboard		
ジョイスティック	joystick		
ゲームパッド	gamepad		
ウェブ Webカメラ	webcam		
プリンター	printer		
スキャナ	scanner		
ピーシー PC ケース	computer case		
マザーボード/マザボ	motherboard		
ファン	fan		
ジーピーユー G P U	GPU		
グラフィックボード/グラボ	graphic board		
チップセット	chipset		

## Programming

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
プログラム	computer program		
プログラマ	programmer		
ソフトウェア開発者 かいほつしゃ	software developer	ソフトウェアかいほつしゃ	
プログラミング	computer programming		
プログラミング言語 げんご	programming language	プログラミングげんご	
アセンブリ言語 げんご	assembly language	アセンブリげんご	
きかいご 機械語	machine language	きかいご	
アセンブラ	assembler		
コンパイラ	compiler		
インタプリタ	interpreter		
コボル	COBOL		
オープンソース	open source		

## Security

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ウィルス	virus		
マルウェア	malware		
ハッキング	hacking		
ウィルス対 策ソフト <small>たいさく</small>	Antivirus software	ウィルスたいさくソフト	
クラック	crack		
ファイアーウォール	firewall		
レイド	RAID		
ふくごうか (復号化)	Decryption		
あんごうか (暗号化)	Encryption		

## Companies

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### Software Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
マイクロソフト	Microsoft		
アドビ システムズ	Adobe Systems		
オラクル	Oracle		
オートデスク	Autodesk		sometimes written as "自動機" <small>じどうつくえ</small>
シマンテック	Symantec		
トレンドマイクロ	Trend Micro		
アイビーエム I B M	IBM	アイビーエム	

### PC Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
エヌイーシー N E C	NEC		
れんそうしゅうだん レノボ/联想 集团	Lenovo		
ふじつう 富士通	Fujitsu		
とうしば 東 芝	Toshiba		
エイチピー H P	HP		
デル	Dell		
ソニー	Sony		
エイサー	Acer		
アスース/エイスース	Asus		

### Smartphone Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
アップル	Apple		
シャープ	Sharp		
パナソニック	Panasonic		sometimes called as old consumer electronics brand name "ナショナル" and old company name <sup>まつしたでんき</sup> 松下電器 (Matsushita Electric).
サムスン電子 <sup>でんし</sup>	Samsung Electronics		
エイチティーシー H T C	HTC		
ファーウェイ/ <sup>かい</sup> 華為 ぎじゅつ 技術	Huawei		
モトローラ	Motorola		
ブラックベリー	Blackberry		
エルジー L G	LG		
ノキア	Nokia		

## Peripheral Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
バッファロー	BUFFALO		
アイ・オー・データ <sup>アイオー</sup> IO データ	IODATA		
サンワサプライ	Sanwa Supply		
Logicool/ロジクール	Logitech		

## Printer Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
エプソン	EPSON		
ブラザー	Brother		
キャノン	Canon		

## Processor Makers

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
インテル	Intel		
エヌビディア	Nvidia		
エーエムディー A M D	AMD		sometimes called as "アムド"
クアルコム	Qualcomm		
ルネサス	Renesas		
ふじつう 富士通	Fujitsu		

## Web Services

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Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
グーグル	Google		search engine
ビング	Bing		search engine
ヤフー ジャパン Yahoo! JAPAN	Yahoo! JAPAN		portal site
アマゾン	Amazon		EC
らくてんいちば 楽天市場	Rakuten		EC
ヤフー Yahoo!ショッピング	Yahoo! Shopping		EC
フェイスブック	Facebook		SNS
ツイッター	Twitter		SNS
ミクシィ	Mixi		SNS
グーグルプラス	Google+		SNS
ユーチューブ	Youtube		Video hosting service. sometimes called as "ようつべ".
ニコニコ動画/ニコ動 <small>どろが どう</small>	Nico Nico Douga		Video hosting service
エフツー F C 2	FC2		Video hosting service
ユーストリーム	Ustream		Video hosting service
に 2ちゃんねる	2ch		BBS

## Operating Systems

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ウインドウズ	Windows		
マック	Mac		
ユニックス	UNIX		
リナックス	Linux		
グヌー	GNU		
オーエス クローム OS	Chrome OS		
アイオーエス i OS	iOS		
アンドロイド	Android		
シンビアン	Symbian		
フリービーエスディー	FreeBSD		
ソラリス	Solaris		

## Vocabulary/Clothes and accessories

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ベルト	belt		
ブラウス	blouse		
ピアス	earrings		From: pierce/piercings
眼鏡	glasses	めがね	
手袋	gloves	てぶくろ	
帽子	hat, cap	ぼうし	
ジャケット	jacket		
ジーンズ	jeans		
ネックレス	necklace		
ズボン	pants		
指輪	ring	ゆびわ	
サンダル	sandals		
スカーフ or マフラー	scarf		
シャツ	shirt		
靴	shoes	くつ	
靴下	socks	くつした	
スーツ	suit		
トレーナー	sweatshirt		From: trainer
時計	watch	とけい	

## Traditional clothing

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
着物	kimono	きもの	
浴衣	yukata	ゆかた	
帯	obi	おび	
甚兵衛	jinbei, informal male summer jacket and pants	じんべえ	
下駄	geta, (wooden) clogs	げた	
地下足袋	(jika)tabi, split toe heavy cloth shoes with rubber soles(ninja shoes)	じかたび	

## Vocabulary/Countries, languages and nationalities

### Languages - 言語

In most cases, the name of a language will be the name of the country where it is spoken with the suffix "語". Example: "France/French" becomes "フランス/フランス語". There are exceptions to these and they are so noted in the country names below.

English is spoken in several countries. These are all called 英語 except in the case of the United States, the language of which is sometimes referred to as 米語.

### Nationalities - 国籍

The nationality of a person from a particular country is generally that of the country appended with "人". For example: A Chinese person is "中国人" and a Canadian would be カナダ人.

### Continents - 大陸



Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
大陸	Continent	たいりく	
アフリカ大陸	Africa	アフリカたいりく	
南極大陸	Antarctica	なんきょくたいりく	
アジア大陸 亜細亜大陸	Asia	アジアたいりく	
オーストラリア大陸	Australia	オーストラリアたいりく	
ヨーロッパ大陸 一般的にはアジア大陸とヨーロッパ大陸を一緒にしてユーラシア大陸と呼ばれることが多い	Europe	ヨーロッパたいりく	
北アメリカ大陸 北米	North America	きたアメリカたいりく ほくべい	
南アメリカ大陸 南米	South America	みなみアメリカたいりく なんべい	

## Africa - アフリカ

|english = Sudan |japanese= スーダン  
スーダン・アラブ共和国 |reading = スーダン  
スーダン・アラブきょうわこく }}

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
アルジェリア アルジェリア民主人民共和国	Algeria	アルジェリア アルジェリアみんしゅじんみんきょうわこく	
チャド チャド共和国	Chad	チャド チャドきょうわこく	
エジプト エジプト・アラブ共和国	Egypt	エジプト エジプト・アラブきょうわこく	
ガーナ ガーナ共和国	Ghana	ガーナ ガーナきょうわこく	
リビア リビア国	Libya	リビア リビアこく	
南アフリカ 南アフリカ共和国	South Africa	みなみアフリカ みなみアフリカきょうわこく	

## Asia - アジア

### East Asia - 東アジア

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
中国 中華人民共和国	China	ちゅうごく ちゅうかじんみんきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
香港 香港特別行政区	Hong Kong	ホンコン ホンコンとくべつぎょうせいこく	(informal) (formal)
日本 日本国	Japan	にほん / にっぽん にほんこく / にっぽんこく	(informal) (formal)
マカオ マカオ特別行政区	Macao	マカオ マカオとくべつぎょうせいこく	(informal) (formal)
モンゴル モンゴル国	Mongolia	モンゴル モンゴルこく	(informal) (formal)
北朝鮮 朝鮮民主主義人民共和国	North Korea	きたちょうせん ちょうせんみんしゅしゅぎじんみんきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
韓国 大韓民国	South Korea	かんこく だいかんみんこく	(informal) (formal)
台湾 中華民国	Taiwan	たいわん ちゅうかみんこく	(informal) (formal)

- Japan categorizes Mongolia as an East Asian nation (Mongolia is considered a central Asian nation)
- The Korean peninsula is called 朝鮮半島 (ちょうせんはんとう)

## Southeast Asia - 東南アジア

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
東南アジア	Southeast Asia	とうなんアジア	
ブルネイ ブルネイ・ダルサラーム国	Brunei	ブルネイ・ダルサラームこく	(informal) (formal)
カンボジア カンボジア王国	Cambodia	カンボジアおうこく	(informal) (formal)
東ティモール 東ティモール民主共和国	East Timor	ひがしティモール ひがしティモールみんしゅぎょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
インドネシア インドネシア共和国	Indonesia	インドネシアきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
ラオス ラオス人民民主共和国	Laos	ラオスじんみんみんしゅぎょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
マレーシア	Malaysia		(informal) (formal)
ミャンマー ミャンマー連邦	Myanmar	ミャンマーれんぽう	(informal) (formal)
比律賓 フィリピン フィリピン共和国	Philippines	フィリピン フィリピン フィリピンきょうわこく	(Kanji) (informal) (formal)
新嘉坡 シンガポール共和国	Singapore	シンガポール シンガポールきょうわこく	(Kanji) (formal)
泰 タイ王国	Thailand	タイ たいおうこく	(informal) (formal)
越南 ベトナム社会主義共和国	Vietnam	ベトナム ベトナムしゃかいしゅぎょうわこく	(informal) (formal)

## South Asia - 南アジア

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
南アジア	South Asia	みなみアジア	
バングラデシュ人民共和国	Bangladesh	バングラデシュ バングラデシュじんみんきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
ブータン王国	Bhutan	ブータン ブータンおうこく	(informal) (formal)
印度	India	いんど インド	(informal) (formal)
モルディブ共和国	Maldives	モルディブ モルディブきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
ネパール王国	Nepal	ネパール ネパールおうこく	(informal) (formal)
パキスタン・イスラム共和国	Pakistan	パキスタン パキスタン・イスラムきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
スリランカ民主社会主義共和国	Sri Lanka	スリランカ スリランカみんしゅしゃかいしゅぎょうわこく	(informal) (formal)

## Middle East - 中東

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### Central Asia - 中央アジア

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
イラン・イスラム共和国	Iran	イラン イラン・イスラムきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
アフガニスタン・イスラム共和国	Afghanistan	アフガニスタン アフガニスタン・イスラムきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
カザフスタン共和国	Kazakhstan	カザフスタン カザフスタンきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
キルギスタン	Kyrgyzstan	キルギスタン きるぎすたん	(informal) (formal)
タジキスタン	Tajikistan	タジキスタン たじきすたん	(informal) (formal)
トルクメニスタン	Turkmenistan	トルクメニスタン とるくめにすたん	(informal) (formal)
ウズベキスタン	Uzbekistan	ウズベキスタン うずべきすたん	(informal) (formal)

- Middle East (Central Asia, West Asia) tables will be fixed later. Some difficulties due to Japan system of categorizing countries.
- Some Middle Eastern/Central Asian countries are lumped into Europe category as NIS諸国 (Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union)
- NIS list: (Armenia), (Azerbaijan), (Belarus), (Georgia), (Kazakhstan), (Kyrgyzstan), (Moldova), (Russian Federation), (Tajikistan), (Turkmenistan), (Ukraine), (Uzbekistan)
- Resource: [1] ([http://www.musashi.jp/persons/newjinbun\\_pub/others/odori2/odori2-3.htm](http://www.musashi.jp/persons/newjinbun_pub/others/odori2/odori2-3.htm)) & [2] ([http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/world/ichiran/i\\_nis.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/world/ichiran/i_nis.html))

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
日本	Japan	にほん にっぽん	(informal) (formal)
台湾	Taiwan	たいわん	
中国 中華人民共和國	China	ちゅうごく ちゅうかじんみんきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
韓国 大韓民国	South Korea	かんこく だいかんみんこく	(informal) (formal)
北朝鮮 朝鮮民主主義人民共和國	North Korea	きたちょうせん ちょうせんみんしゅしゅぎじんみんきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
インド	India	インド	
パキスタン	Pakistan	パキスタン	
ベトナム ベトナム社会主義共和国	Vietnam	ベトナム ベトナムしゃかいしゅぎきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)
ラオス	Laos	ラオス	
タイ タイ王国	Thailand	タイ タイおうこく	(informal) (formal)
マレーシア	Malaysia	マレーシア	
シンガポール シンガポール共和国	Singapore	シンガポール シンガポールきょうわこく	(informal) (formal)

## Europe - ヨーロッパ

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
アイスランド	Iceland	アイスランド	
愛蘭	Ireland	アイルランド	
アルバニア	Albania	アルバニア	
アンドラ	Andorra	アンドラ	
伊太利	Italy	イタリア	
烏克蘭	Ukraine	ウクライナ	
エストニア	Estonia	エストニア	
奥太利	Austria	オーストリア	
阿蘭陀	Netherlands (Holland)	オランダ	
希臘	Greece	ギリシア / ギリシャ	
クロアチア	Croatia	クロアチア	
瑞西	Switzerland	スイス	
瑞典	Sweden	スウェーデン	
スロバキア	Slovakia	スロバキア	
スロベニア	Slovenia	スロベニア	
西班牙	Spain	スペイン	
捷克	Czech Republic	チェコ	
丁抹	Denmark	デンマーク	
独逸	Germany	ドイツ	
土耳其	Turkey	トルコ	
諾威	Norway	ノルウェー	
洪牙利	Hungary	ハンガリー	
芬蘭	Finland	フィンランド	
仏蘭西	France	フランス	The kanji is quite formal. When written in kanji, the language is 仏語 <sup>ふつご</sup>
白ロシア	Belarus	ベラルーシ	
勃牙利	Bulgaria	ブルガリア	
白耳義	Belgium	ベルギー	
ボスニア・ヘルツェゴビナ	Bosnia and Herzegovina	ボスニア・ヘルツェゴビナ	
波蘭	Poland	ポーランド	
葡萄牙	Portugal	ポルトガル	
マルタ	Malta	マルタ	
モルドバ	Moldova	モルドバ	
セルビア・モンテネグロ	Serbia Montenegro	セルビア・モンテネグロ	
ラトビア	Latvia	ラトビア	
リトアニア	Lithuania	リトアニア	
ルクセンブルク	Luxembourg	ルクセンブルク	
羅馬尼亞	Romania	ルーマニア	
露西亞	Russia	ロシア	

## The United Kingdom - イギリス

The English language is called <sup>えいご</sup>英語.

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
英吉利 英国	The United Kingdom	イギリス えいこく	
英蘭	England	イングランド	
蘇格蘭 / スコットランド	Scotland		
ウェールズ	Wales		
北愛蘭	Northern Ireland	きたアイルランド	

## North America - 北アメリカ

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
加奈陀	Canada	カナダ	The English language is called <sup>えいご</sup> 英語
亜米利加(合衆国) 米国	The United States of America	アメリカ(がっしゅうこく) べいこく	The English language is called <sup>えいご</sup> 英語 and <sup>べいご</sup> American English 米語
墨西哥	Mexico	メキシコ	
巴拿馬	Panama	パナマ	
玖馬	Cuba	キューバ	
牙買加	Jamaica	ジャマイカ	
ドミニカ国 土弥尼加	Dominica	ドミニカこく どみにか	
ハイチ	Haiti	ハイチ	

## South America - 南アメリカ

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
アルゼンチン	Argentina	アルゼンチン	
ボリビア	Bolivia	ボリビア	
ブラジル	Brazil	ブラジル	
チリ	Chile	チリ	
コロンビア	Colombia	コロンビア	
エクアドル	Ecuador	エクアドル	
フランス領ギアナ	French Guiana	フランス領ギアナ	

## Pacific Nations - 太平洋諸国

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
豪州 オーストラ リア	Australia	ごうしゅう	The kanji, 豪州, is rarely used. The katakana rendering is more common. The language is called <sup>えいご</sup> 英語.
新西蘭	New Zealand	ニュージーラ ンド	The kanji has standard readings similar to the country's name (にい, せい, らん) but is read with a non-standard way to sound similar to the English. <sup>えいご</sup> The language is called 英語.

## Vocabulary/Direction

### Cardinal

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
北	north	きた	きたむ きたかぜ きたにほん e.g. 北向き (facing north)・北風 (north wind)・北日本 (northern Japan)
東	(n) east	ひがし	
南	(n,vs) South, proceeding south/(P)/	みなみ	
西	(n) west	にし	
ほくとう 北東 (direction)・東北 (region)	northeast		かぜ ちほう e.g. 北東の風、東北地方
ほくせい 北西 (direction)・西北 (region)	northwest		
なんとう 南東 (direction)・東南 (region)	southeast		
なんせい 南西 (direction)・西南 (region)	southwest		
北北東	north-northeast	ほくほくとう	
東北東	east-northeast	とうほくとう	

## Relative

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
左	(a) left	ひだり	
右	(a) right	みぎ	
上	up	うえ	
下	down	した	
左上	upper left	ひだりうえ	
左下	lower left	ひだりした	
右上	upper right	みぎうえ	
右下	lower right	みぎした	
前	forward	まえ	
後ろ	backward	うしろ	
真っ直ぐ	straight	まっすぐ	Typically written "真っすぐ".
縦	vertical	たて	
横	horizontal	よこ	
斜め	diagonal	ななめ	

## Vocabulary/Family and people

### Family and people

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
家族	/(n) family/members of a family/(P)/	かぞく	
お母さん/母さん	/(n) (hon) mother/(P)/	おかあさん/かあさん	
お父さん/父さん	/(n) (hon) father/(P)/	おとうさん/とうさん	
兄弟	/(n) (hum) siblings/(P)/	きょうだい	
姉	/(n) (hum) older sister/(P)/	あね	
お姉さん/姉さん	/(n) (hon) older sister/(vocative) "Miss?"/(P)/	おねえさん/ねえさん	
兄	/(n) (hum) older brother/(P)/	あに	
お兄さん/兄さん	/(n) (hon) older brother/(vocative) "Mister?"/(P)/	おにいさん/にいさん	
妹	/(n) (hum) younger sister/(P)/	いもうと	
弟	/(n) younger brother/faithful service to those older/brotherly affection/	おとうと	
お爺さん/おじいさん	/(n) grandfather/male senior-citizen/	おじいさん	
お婆さん/おばあさん	/(n) grandmother/female senior-citizen/	おじいさん	

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
奥様/奥さん	/(n) (hon) wife/your wife/his wife/married lady/madam/(P)/	おくさま/おくさん	
家内	/(n) (hum) wife/(P)/	かない	
御主人	/(n) (hon) your husband/her husband/	ごしゅじん	

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
伯母	/(n) (hum) aunt (older than one's parent)/	おば	
叔母	/(n) aunt (younger than one's parent)/(P)/	おば	
伯父	/(n) (hum) uncle (older than one's parent)/	おじ	
叔父	/(n) uncle (younger than one's parent)/(P)/	おじ	

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
女	/(n) woman/girl/daughter/	おんな	
男	/(n) man/(P)/	おとこ	
女の子	/(n) girl/(P)/	おんなのこ	
男の子	/(n) boy/(P)/	おとこのこ	

## Occupations

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
店員	shop assistant	てんいん	
俳優	actor, actress	はいゆう	

## Related resources

"For Japanese, family names are the worst growing pains" (<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?ek20041028ks.htm>)

## Vocabulary/Food and Drink

### Foods (食べ物)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
食べ物	Food	たべもの	
肉	Meat	にく	
御飯 / ご飯	Rice (cooked); (also Meal)	ごはん	
米	Rice (uncooked)	こめ	

#### Related vocabulary

- [Sushi](#)

### Fruit (果物)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
林檎 / 苹果	Apple	リンゴ	Also written equally as often in Hiragana.
	Orange	オレンジ	
梅	Japanese plum	うめ	
西瓜	Watermelon	すいか	
葡萄	Grape	ぶどう	
西洋梨	Pear	せいやなし	
	Grapefruit	グレープフルーツ	
甘蕉	Banana	バナナ	
桜桃	Cherry	さくらんぼ	
莓 / 莓	Strawberry	いちご	
桃	Peach	もも	

## Vegetables (野菜)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
野菜	Vegetable	やさい	
人参 / 人蔘	Carrot	にんじん	
玉ねぎ / 玉葱	Onion	たまねぎ	
葱	Spring (green) onion	ねぎ	

## Spices & Condiments

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
胡椒	Pepper	こしょう	
塩	Salt	しお	

## Pastry

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ケーキ	Cake		

## Drink (飲み物)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
飲み物	Drink	のみもの	
(お)茶	Green Tea	おちゃ	
紅茶	Black tea	こうちゃ	
珈琲	Coffee	コーヒー	
牛乳	Milk	ぎゅうにゅう	
	Milk	ミルク	
	Juice	ジュース	
	Orange juice	オレンジジュース	

## Alcoholic beverages (酒)



Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
酒	Alcoholic beverages in general	さけ	
	Alcoholic beverages in general	アルコール >> Highball	
梅酒	Plum wine	うめしゅ	
日本酒	Sake; Japanese rice wine	にほんしゅ	
麦酒	Beer	ビール	
生ビール	Draft beer	なまビール	
	Wine	ワイン	
	Sherry	シェリー	
三鞭酒	champagne	シャンパン	
白ワイン	White wine	しろワイン	
赤ワイン	Red wine	あかワイン	
焼酎	Distilled spirits; liquor	しょうちゅう	
	Whiskey	ウイスキー	
	Vodka	ウォッカ	
	Gin	ジン	
	Scotch	スコッチ	
	Tequila	テキーラ	
	Brandy	ブランデー	
	Rum	ラム	

## Vocabulary/Health

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
病気	sickness	びょうき	
具合	condition	ぐあい	
頭痛	headache	ずつう or あたまいた	
歯痛	toothache	はいた or しつう	
胃痛	stomachache	いつう	
鼻水	runny nose	はなみず	
咳	cough	せき	
熱	fever	ねつ	
目眩 (or 眩暈)	dizzy	めまい	
風邪	cold	かぜ	
(流感)	influenza	インフルエンザ (or りゅうかん)	
薬	medicine	くすり	
注射	injection	ちゅうしゃ	

### Related vocabulary

- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Body parts](#)

## Vocabulary/Numbers

### Related vocabulary

- [Japanese/Time](#)
- [Japanese/Dates](#)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
ゼロ/零/〇	Zero	ぜろ/れい	
一	One	いち	also called ひい
二	Two	に	also called ふう
三	Three	さん	also called み
四	Four	し/よん	also called よ
五	Five	ご	also called いつ
六	Six	ろく	also called む
七	Seven	なな/しち	
八	Eight	はち	also called や
九	Nine	きゅう/く	
十	Ten	じゅう	also called とお
十一	Eleven	じゅういち	
十二	Twelve	じゅうに	
十三	Thirteen	じゅうさん	
二十	Twenty	にじゅう	
二十一	Twenty One	にじゅういち	
三十	Thirty	さんじゅう	
三十五	Thirty Five	さんじゅうご	
四十	Forty	よんじゅう	
五十	Fifty	ごじゅう	
六十	Sixty	ろくじゅう	
七十	Seventy	ななじゅう	
八十	Eighty	はちじゅう	
九十	Ninety	きゅうじゅう	
百	One Hundred	ひゃく	
二百	Two Hundred	にひゃく	
三百	Three Hundred	さんびゃく	
四百	Four Hundred	よんひゃく	
五百	Five Hundred	ごひゃく	
六百	Six Hundred	ろっぴゃく	
七百	Seven Hundred	ななひゃく	
八百	Eight Hundred	はっぴゃく	
九百	Nine Hundred	きゅうひゃく	
千	One Thousand	せん	
万	Ten Thousand	まん	
百万	One Million	ひゃくまん	
億	10 <sup>8</sup>	おく	
兆	10 <sup>12</sup>	ちよう	
京	10 <sup>16</sup>	けい	
垓	10 <sup>20</sup>	がい	

**Further reading:** [w:ja:数の比較](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%96%B9%E3%81%8C%E3%81%87%E3%81%81%E3%81%89%E3%81%88%E3%81%86%E3%81%85%E3%81%83%E3%81%82%E3%81%81%E3%81%80%E3%81%7F%E3%81%7E%E3%81%7D%E3%81%7C%E3%81%7B%E3%81%7A%E3%81%79%E3%81%78%E3%81%77%E3%81%76%E3%81%75%E3%81%74%E3%81%73%E3%81%72%E3%81%71%E3%81%70%E3%81%6F%E3%81%6E%E3%81%6D%E3%81%6C%E3%81%6B%E3%81%6A%E3%81%69%E3%81%68%E3%81%67%E3%81%66%E3%81%65%E3%81%64%E3%81%63%E3%81%62%E3%81%61%E3%81%60%E3%81%5F%E3%81%5E%E3%81%5D%E3%81%5C%E3%81%5B%E3%81%5A%E3%81%59%E3%81%58%E3%81%57%E3%81%56%E3%81%55%E3%81%54%E3%81%53%E3%81%52%E3%81%51%E3%81%50%E3%81%4F%E3%81%4E%E3%81%4D%E3%81%4C%E3%81%4B%E3%81%4A%E3%81%49%E3%81%48%E3%81%47%E3%81%46%E3%81%45%E3%81%44%E3%81%43%E3%81%42%E3%81%41%E3%81%40%E3%81%3F%E3%81%3E%E3%81%3D%E3%81%3C%E3%81%3B%E3%81%3A%E3%81%39%E3%81%38%E3%81%37%E3%81%36%E3%81%35%E3%81%34%E3%81%33%E3%81%32%E3%81%31%E3%81%30%E3%81%2F%E3%81%2E%E3%81%2D%E3%81%2C%E3%81%2B%E3%81%2A%E3%81%29%E3%81%28%E3%81%27%E3%81%26%E3%81%25%E3%81%24%E3%81%23%E3%81%22%E3%81%21%E3%81%20%E3%81%1F%E3%81%1E%E3%81%1D%E3%81%1C%E3%81%1B%E3%81%1A%E3%81%19%E3%81%18%E3%81%17%E3%81%16%E3%81%15%E3%81%14%E3%81%13%E3%81%12%E3%81%11%E3%81%10%E3%81%0F%E3%81%0E%E3%81%0D%E3%81%0C%E3%81%0B%E3%81%0A%E3%81%09%E3%81%08%E3%81%07%E3%81%06%E3%81%05%E3%81%04%E3%81%03%E3%81%02%E3%81%01%E3%81%00) ("comparison of numbers") at Japanese Wikipedia.

## Vocabulary/Time

Related vocabulary

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
分	minutes	ふん	The reading depends on the sound before it. See below.
秒	seconds	びょう	
午前 (の～)	a.m. in the morning	ごぜん (の～)	
午後 (の～)	p.m. at night	ごご (の～)	

- Numbers
- Dates

## Absolute time

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
～時	~ o'clock	～じ	
一時	1:00	いちじ	
二時	2:00	にじ	
三時	3:00	さんじ	
四時	4:00	よじ	
五時	5:00	ごじ	
六時	6:00	ろくじ	
七時	7:00	しちじ	
八時	8:00	はちじ	
九時	9:00	くじ	
十時	10:00	じゅうじ	
十一時	11:00	じゅういちじ	
十二時	12:00	じゅうにじ	
一分	:01	いっぶん	
二分	:02	にぶん	
三分	:03	さんぶん	
四分	:04	よんぶん/よんぶん	
五分	:05	ごぶん	
六分	:06	ろっぶん	
七分	:07	ななぶん	
八分	:08	はっぶん/はちぶん	
九分	:09	きゅうぶん	
十分	:10	じゅうぶん/じゅうぶん	
十一分	:11	じゅういっぶん	
十二分	:12	じゅうにぶん	
十三分	:13	じゅうさんぶん	
十四分	:14	じゅうよんぶん/じゅうよんぶん	
十五分	:15	じゅうごぶん	
～半	half past ~	～はん	

## Others

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
今	now	いま	
再来月	the month after next	さらいげつ	
再来週	the week after next	さらいしゅう	
先週	last week	せんしゅう	
近頃	lately, recently	ちかごろ	
長期	long time period	ちょうき	
徹夜	all night	てつや	
当時	at that time	とうじ	
昔	olden days	むかし	
来週	next week	らいしゅう	

## Vocabulary/Weather and seasons

### Seasons (季節)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
四季	the four seasons	しき	
春夏秋冬	the four seasons	しゅんかしゅうとう	
季節	season	きせつ	
春	spring	はる	
夏	summer	なつ	
秋	autumn	あき	
冬	winter	ふゆ	
乾季	dry season	かんき	
雨期	rainy season	うき	
梅雨	rainy season	つゆ	mainly refers to the rainy season of Japan in June and July

#### Related vocabulary

- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Geology](#)
- [Japanese/Vocabulary/Meteorology](#)

### Weather (天気)

Japanese	English	Reading	Notes
気象	weather	きしょう	
天気	weather	てんき	
天気予報	weather forecast	てんきよほう	
太陽	sun	たいよう	
晴れ	sunny	はれ	
雲	cloud	くも	
曇り	cloudy	くもり	
雨	rain	あめ	
台風	typhoon	たいふう	
ハリケーン	hurricane		
サイクロン	cyclone		
霧	fog	きり	
朝霧	morning fog	あさぎり	
夕霧	evening fog	ゆうぎり	
雪	snow	ゆき	
温度	temperature	おんど	
湿度	humidity	しつど	
暑い	hot	あつい	
暖かい	warm	あたたかい/あったかい	
寒い	cold	さむい	
涼しい	cool	すずしい	

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