

# QUICK JAPANESE GUIDE

**HIRAGANA** (phonetic alphabet, for traditional words)

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-	
ん N	わ WA	ら RA	や YA	ま MA	は HA	な NA	た TA	さ SA	か KA	あ A
	ゐ WI	り RI		み MI	ひ HI	に NI	ち CHI	し SHI	き KI	い I
		る RU	ゆ YU	む MU	ふ FU	ぬ NU	つ TSU	す SU	く KU	う U
	ゑ WE	れ RE		め ME	へ HE	ね NE	て TE	せ SE	け KE	え E
	を WO	ろ RO	よ YO	も MO	ほ HO	の NO	と TO	そ SO	こ KO	お O

Ex: **sushi** = すし, **soba** = そば, **udon** = うどん

**KATAKANA** (phonetic alphabet, for imported words)

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-		
ン N	ワ WA	ラ RA	ヤ YA	マ MA	ハ HA	ナ NA	タ TA	サ SA	カ KA	ア A	-a
	ヰ WI	リ RI		ミ MI	ヒ HI	ニ NI	チ CHI	シ SHI	キ KI	イ I	-i
		ル RU	ユ YU	ム MU	フ FU	ヌ NU	ツ TSU	ス SU	ク KU	ウ U	-u
	ヱ WE	レ RE		メ ME	ヘ HE	ネ NE	テ TE	セ SE	ケ KE	エ E	-e
	ヲ WO	ロ RO	ヨ YO	モ MO	ホ HO	ノ NO	ト TO	ソ SO	コ KO	オ O	-o

Ex: **chocolate** = チョコレート, **beer** = ビール, **coffee** = コーヒー, **ramen** = ラーメン

**Modifiers:** ` ⇒ K → G, S → Z, T → D, H → B   ° ⇒ H → P

**KANJI** (each character has a meaning, several readings)

男 otoko man	女 onna woman	人 hito person	子 ko child	学 gaku study	口 guchi mouth	入 iri enter	出 de exit
左 hidari left	右 migi right	上 ue above	下 shita below	北 kita north	南 minami south	東 higashi east	西 nishi west
月 tsuki / gatsu moon / Mon / month	火 hi / ka fire / Tue	水 mizu / sui water / Wed	木 ki / moku tree / Thu	金 kin gold / Fri	土 tsuchi / do earth / Sat	日 hi / nichi sun / Sun / day	年 nen year
山 yama mountain	川 kawa river	林 hayashi wood	森 mori forest	田 ta rice field	竹 take bamboo	門 mon gate	手 te hand
丸 / ○ maru 0	一 ichi 1	二 ni 2	三 san 3	四 shi / yon 4	五 go 5	六 roku 6	七 nana / shichi 7
八 hachi 8	九 kyu / ku 9	十 juu 10	百 hyaku 100	千 sen 1000	万 man 10000	数 suu number	円 en yen
小 shou small	中 chuu medium	大 dai big	開 akeru open	閉 tojiru close	止 tome stop	車 kuruma car	電 den electricity
肉 niku meat	牛 gyuu beef	豚 buta pork	羊 hitsuji lamb	鳥 tori chicken	魚 sakana fish	丼 don rice bowl	野菜 yasai vegetable
酒 sake alcohol	寿司 sushi sushi	茶 (o)cha tea	抹茶 matcha matcha	花 hana flower	吉 yoshi luck	神社 jinja Shinto shrine	寺 ji Buddhist temple
店 mise shop	駅 eki train station	温泉 onsen hot spring	銭湯 sento bath house	京都 Kyoto Kyoto	日本 nihon Japanese	英 ei English	語 go language

# BASIC SENTENCES

## GREETINGS

**Hello / good afternoon** = Konnichiwa

**How are you?** = Genki des ka?

**Good morning** = Ohayou (gozaimas)

**Good evening** = Konbanwa

**Good night** = Oyasumi (nasai)

**See you tomorrow** = Dewa mata ashita

**Bye bye** = Sayonara

## BASIC COMMUNICATION

**Yes** = Hai / Ee

**No** = Iie

**Amazing!** = Sugoi!

**Really?!** = Honto ni?!

**I understood it / I do not understand (I don't know)** = Wakarimashita / Wakarimasen

**Wait a moment please** = Chotto matte kudasai

**What about you?** = Anata wa?

**Sorry, I cannot speak Japanese** = Sumimasen, watashi nihongo wa hanasemasen

**Can you speak English?** = Eigo o hanase maska?

## POLITENESS

**Excuse me** = Sumimasen

**Sorry** = Gomen (nasai)

**Please** = Kudasai

**Thank you (very much)** = (Domo) arigatou (gozaimas)

**Reject an offer** = Kore wa chotto...

**Nice to meet you** (first time) = Hajimemashite

**Please take care of me** = Yoroshiku onegaishimas

**Thank you for your hard work** = Otsukaresama deshita

**Excuse me for leaving first** = Osaki ni shitsurei shimas

**Excuse me (to interrupt)** = Shitsurei shimas

**Welcome** (only in shops) = Irrashaimase

**Are you okay?** = Daijobu des ka?

**Sorry for making you wait for me** = Omatase itashimashita

**Before beginning eating** = Itadakimas!

**After ending eating** = Gochisosama deshita!

**Good luck!** = Ganbatte! (lit. "do your best!")

**I am back (home)** = Tadaima! / **Welcome back (home)** = Okaeri (nasai)

## AT THE RESTAURANT

**Is there an English menu?** = Eigo no menyū wa arimasu ka?

**I am a vegetarian / vegan** = Watashi wa bejiterian / biigan des

**Do you have any vegetarian dishes?** = Niku mo sakana mo haitte inani ryōri ga arimasu ka?

**I cannot eat \_\_\_\_\_, is this okay?** = Watashi wa \_\_\_\_\_ o tabemasen, kore wa daijobu desu ka?

(**meat** = niku, **beef** = gyūniku, **pork** = butaniku, **fish** = sakana, **egg** = tamago, **honey** = hachimitsu)

**I don't drink alcohol** = Watashi wa osake o nomimasen

**I am allergic to gluten/peanuts** = Watashi wa komugi-guruten/piinatsu arerugi des

**I cannot eat it at all** = Zettai taberare masen

**If I eat it I will get sick** = Machigatte teberuto byōiki ni narimas

When entering a restaurant, tell the number of people: **I am alone** (hitori des), **we are 2** (futari des) and **we are N>2** (N nin des)

**We want non-smoking table please** = Kinenseki de onegaishimas

**What can you recommend?** = Osusume hin wa nan desu ka?

**I am ready to order** = Sumimasen! (lit. "please")

**I want (cold) water** = Ohia o kudasai

**I want a (draft) beer** = (Nama) biiru hitotsu kudasai

**The food is/was delicious!** = Oshii! / Oshikatta!

**Cheers!** = Campai! (lit. "empty your glass")

**Could we have the bill please?** = Okanjou o onegaishimas

When paying: **split the bill** = Betsu betsu ni onegashimas, **pay all together** = Issho ni haraimas

## SELF-INTRODUCTION

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_** = Watashi no namae wa \_\_\_\_\_ des

**What is your name?** = Anata no namae wa nan desu ka?

**I come from \_\_\_\_\_** = Watashi wa \_\_\_\_\_ jin des (e.g. **England** = Igirisu, **France** = Furansu)

**I am a researcher in mathematics** = Watashi wa suugaku no kenkyuusha des

**My major is** \_\_\_\_\_ = Watashi no senmon wa \_\_\_\_\_ des

(e.g. **maths** = sūgaku, **science** = rika, **physics** = butsurigaku, **statistics** = tōkeigaku)

**My phone number / email address is** \_\_\_\_\_ = Watashi no denwa-bango / meeru wa \_\_\_\_\_ des

## TRAVELING

**What is this?** = Kore wa nan des ka?

**How much is this?** = Kore wa ikura des ka?

**I would like to pay by credit card** = Kurejitto kādo de onegaishimas

**Where is** \_\_\_\_\_ **?** = \_\_\_\_\_ wa doko des ka? (e.g. **toilet** = otearai / toire, **university** = daigaku)

**Is it near?** = Chikai des ka?

**Is it far?** = Tōi des ka?

**Train** = densha

**Station** = eki

**Soon** (approaching) = Mamonaku

**Can you please show me where we are on the map?** = Watashitachi ga doko ni iru no ka, chizu de oshietekudasai

**Go straight** = Massugu itte kudasai

**Turn left/right** = Hidari/migi ni magatte kudasai

**Does this bus go to** \_\_\_\_\_ **?** = Kono basu wa \_\_\_\_\_ ni ikimasu ka?

In a taxi: **please can you take me to** \_\_\_\_\_ **?** = \_\_\_\_\_ made onegaishimas

(e.g. **this place** = kono basho, **this hotel** = kono hoteru, **the airport** = kuukou)

**How much is the fare?** = Ryoukin wa ikura des ka?

**I want to go to** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ e ikitai des

**Can I take a photograph here?** = Koko wa shashin wa daijobu des ka?

**Please could you take a photo of me/us?** = Shashin o totte itadakemas ka?

**Do you have Wi-Fi?** = Wi-Fi arimas ka?

**I like it/you** = Suki des

**This is interesting** = Omoshiroi des

**It is fun!** = Tanoshii des

**(Say it) one more time please** = Mou ichi do onegaishimas

**Japan is great!** = Nihon ga daisuki!