

# Gendered Language in Japanese {Cheat Sheet}

This Cheat Sheet was written by Koichi, from [Tofugu.com](http://Tofugu.com)

## Referring to oneself

- **Ore:** Informal (and sometimes vulgar) used primarily by younger men w/ friends or girlfriends
- **Jibun:** “myself” - has a militaristic feel to it
- **Boku:** Boyish sounding word - only recently have some women started using it (sounds tomboyish)
- **Watashi:** In formal speech used by both men and women, informal only used by women
- **Atashi:** Cuter version of “watashi.” Informal, childish, innocent sound - only used by girls.
- **Watakushi:** Used by both men and women for polite / formal speech

## Referring to Others

- **Teme:** Old fashioned (though still used) - very direct, can definitely be pretty rude.
- **Koitsu:** “this person.” Talks down on the person, only used by men.
- **Omae:** Direct and informal. Can definitely be rude in the wrong situation. Used with close friends or girlfriends (kind of like calling a girl “baby”)
- **Kimi:** Primarily used by men with close women friends (or empowered women talking down to men)
- **Anta:** informal - mostly used by women to talk down to men
- **Anata:** Polite form for men, normal form for women

## Sentence Enders

For Boys	For Girls
日本人だ	日本人
日本人だ	日本人だわ
日本人だよ	日本人よ・日本人だわよ
高い	高いわ
高いよ	高いわよ
高いね	高いわね
高いんだ	高いの
行く	行くわ
行くよ	行くわよ
行くね	行くわね
行くんだ	行くの

## Asking Questions

For Boys	For Girls
日本人？	日本人？
日本人かい？	日本人？
日本人なのかい？	日本人なの？
高い？	高い？
高いかい？	高い？
高いなのかい？	高いの？
行く？	行く？
行くかい？	行くの？
行かないか？	行かない？
何？	何？
何だい？	なに？
どんな人なんだい？	どんな人なの？
いつ行くんだい？	いつ行くの？