

Japanese Tourist Guide

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1 Complete Japanese Tourist Guide

1.1 A Comprehensive Language & Cultural Guide for Tourists

Version 1.0 November 2025

1.2 About This Guide

Welcome to the **Complete Japanese Tourist Guide**, your ultimate companion for navigating Japan with confidence and cultural awareness. This comprehensive resource has been meticulously crafted to provide tourists, travelers, and language beginners with everything needed for a successful and enriching journey through Japan.

Whether you're planning a weekend trip to Tokyo, a cultural immersion in Kyoto, or an extended exploration across multiple regions, this guide provides the linguistic tools and cultural insights to transform your experience from bewildering to wonderful. With over 50,000 words of carefully organized content, this is not just a phrasebook—it's a complete language and cultural education system designed specifically for real-world tourist situations.

From ordering your first bowl of ramen to navigating the intricate train system, from understanding onsen etiquette to handling medical emergencies, this guide covers every scenario you're likely to encounter. Each phrase is presented in English, Japanese script (where applicable), and romaji (romanized pronunciation), ensuring you can communicate even without prior knowledge of Japanese writing systems.

1.3 Who This Guide Is For

This guide is designed for:

- **First-time visitors to Japan** who want to go beyond pointing and smiling
- **Independent travelers** who prefer self-guided experiences over package tours
- **Language beginners** with little to no prior Japanese knowledge
- **Cultural enthusiasts** seeking to understand Japanese customs and etiquette
- **Business travelers** needing practical communication skills quickly
- **Long-term visitors** planning extended stays (3-6 months)
- **Solo travelers** who need confidence in daily interactions
- **Anyone** who wants to show respect for Japanese culture through language

No previous Japanese language experience is required. This guide assumes you're starting from zero and builds your knowledge systematically.

1.4 What Makes This Guide Comprehensive

1.4.1 Depth of Content

- **50,000+** words of meticulously researched content
- **500+** phrases per major category (shopping, restaurants, hotels, transportation)
- **300+** essential **kanji** characters with meanings and usage
- Complete **hiragana** and **katakana** reference with stroke order
- **50+** counter **words** with comprehensive usage rules
- **20+** full conversation **scenarios** with cultural context
- **100+** verb **conjugations** with all major forms
- **200+** adjectives with all conjugation patterns

1.4.2 Practical Organization

Every situation is covered from start to finish: - Pre-trip preparation and arrival procedures - Step-by-step guidance through common scenarios - Problem-solving phrases for when things go wrong - Cultural context to understand WHY certain phrases are used - Regional variations between Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and other cities - Formality levels appropriate for each situation

1.4.3 Cultural Intelligence

Language exists within culture. This guide provides: - Comprehensive etiquette sections (bowing, shoes, chopsticks, gift-giving) - Regional personality differences and communication styles - Temple, shrine, and onsen protocols - Social behavior expectations in various settings - Understanding of Japanese indirect communication - Gift-giving customs and seasonal awareness

1.4.4 Emergency Preparedness

Complete safety and emergency sections covering: - Medical phrases and body part vocabulary - Natural disaster procedures (earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons) - Lost or stolen item reporting - Emergency contact numbers and when to use them - Hospital and pharmacy navigation

1.5 How to Use This Guide

1.5.1 For Quick Reference

If you need a phrase immediately, use the quick reference sections and table of contents to jump directly to your situation. Each major section is self-contained with all necessary vocabulary and phrases.

1.5.2 For Systematic Learning

Work through the guide section by section: 1. Start with **pronunciation** to understand how Japanese sounds work 2. Learn the **essential sentence patterns** that form the foundation 3. Build **category-specific vocabulary** (shopping, restaurants, etc.) 4. Study **conversation scenarios** to see phrases in context 5. Explore **cultural sections** to understand the deeper context 6. Reference **grammar** sections to understand the structure

1.5.3 For Pre-Trip Preparation

Before your trip: - Read the cultural sections thoroughly - Memorize the top 100 survival phrases - Practice pronunciation with the phonetic guide - Familiarize yourself with hiragana and katakana - Learn essential kanji for signs and navigation - Review the regional differences for your destinations

1.5.4 For On-the-Go Use

During your trip: - Use section tabs for quick category access - Leverage the bilingual tables for easy scanning - Point to written Japanese when needed - Refer to conversation scenarios before entering situations - Keep emergency phrases easily accessible

1.5.5 Study Tips

- **Repetition is key:** Review phrases multiple times before using them
 - **Practice aloud:** Japanese pronunciation is consistent and learnable
 - **Context matters:** Note when formality levels change
 - **Start simple:** Master basic patterns before advancing
 - **Make mistakes:** Japanese people appreciate effort and are forgiving
 - **Cultural awareness:** Understanding the “why” helps remember the “what”
-

1.6 Table of Contents

1.6.1 Section 1: Getting Started

- About This Guide (You are here)
- How to Use This Guide
- Pronunciation Guide
- Japanese Writing Systems Overview
- Quick Reference: Top 100 Survival Phrases

1.6.2 Section 2: Core Language Structures

- Essential Sentence Patterns
- Want/Desire Structures
- Permission Structures (May I...?)
- Request Structures (Please...)
- Question Formation
- Comparison Structures
- Existence and Location

- Ability and Potential Form
- Tense Systems (Past, Present, Future)

1.6.3 Section 3: Shopping & Retail

- Clothing Vocabulary (Complete)
- Footwear and Accessories
- Sizes and Measurements
- Colors, Patterns, and Materials
- Shopping Actions and Phrases
- Trying On and Fitting
- Payment and Tax-Free Shopping
- Returns and Exchanges
- Electronics Store Phrases
- Drugstore and Pharmacy
- Convenience Store (Konbini) Guide
- Department Store Navigation
- Souvenir Shopping
- 100 Yen Store Tips

1.6.4 Section 4: Restaurants and Dining

- Restaurant Types and Selection
- Complete Menu Vocabulary
- Arriving and Seating
- Reading Menus
- Ordering with Specifications
- During the Meal
- Payment and Tipping Customs
- Dietary Restrictions and Allergies
- Vegetarian and Vegan Options
- Restaurant Etiquette
- Chopstick Rules
- Regional Food Specialties

1.6.5 Section 5: Hotels and Accommodation

- Hotel Types (Hotels, Ryokan, Hostels, Capsule Hotels)
- Room Types and Features
- Booking and Reservations
- Check-in Procedures
- Room Vocabulary and Amenities
- Making Requests
- Solving Problems
- Hotel Services
- Check-out and Late Check-out
- Luggage Storage

1.6.6 Section 6: Transportation

- Train and Subway System
- Ticket Purchasing
- Platform Navigation
- During the Ride
- Transfers and Connections

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- Taxi Phrases and Etiquette
- Airport Procedures (Arrival and Departure)
- IC Cards and Transportation Passes
- Reading Train Signs

1.6.7 Section 7: Directions and Navigation

- Asking for Directions
- Direction Vocabulary
- Landmarks and Reference Points
- Distance and Time Estimation
- Using Maps
- Getting Unlost
- Floor and Building Numbers
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1.6.8 Section 8: Social Interactions

- Greetings and Introductions
- Politeness and Formality Levels
- Asking for Help
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- Thanking and Apologizing (All Levels)
- Small Talk Topics
- Compliments and Responses
- Declining Politely
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1.6.9 Section 9: Emergency and Medical

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- Calling for Help
- Medical Conditions and Symptoms
- Body Parts (Complete)
- At the Hospital
- At the Pharmacy
- Describing Pain and Illness
- Allergies and Medications
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1.6.10 Section 10: Numbers, Time, and Measurements

- Number Systems (Native and Sino-Japanese)
- Counter Words (Complete List)
- Clock Time
- Calendar System
- Dates and Years
- Relative Time Expressions
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1.6.11 Section 11: Culture and Etiquette

- Bowing Etiquette
- Shoe Customs
- Chopstick Rules (Complete)
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- Onsen and Public Bath Etiquette
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- Tokyo: Fast-Paced Metropolitan Culture
- Osaka: Friendly and Food-Focused Culture
- Kyoto: Traditional and Reserved Culture
- Regional Language Differences (Dialects)
- Escalator Etiquette (Left vs. Right)
- Service Style Variations
- Communication Style Differences
- Comparison Charts

1.6.13 Section 13: Reading and Writing

- Hiragana (Complete Character Set)
- Katakana (Complete Character Set)
- Essential Kanji (300+ Characters)
- Reading Signs and Menus
- Stroke Order Basics
- Recognition vs. Production
- Survival Reading Strategy
- Recommended Learning Apps

1.6.14 Section 14: Practical Travel Tips

- Before You Go Checklist
- Upon Arrival Procedures
- Daily Life Essentials
- Convenience Store Mastery
- Public Toilets and Facilities
- Coin Lockers
- ATM Access
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- Communication Strategies
- Technology and Connectivity
- WiFi and Internet Access
- Phone and SIM Cards

1.6.15 Section 15: Seasonal and Cultural Activities

- Cherry Blossom Viewing (Hanami)
- Autumn Leaves (Koyo)

- Festivals by Month
- Tea Ceremony
- Traditional Crafts and Classes
- Seasonal Foods
- Weather Vocabulary
- Natural Disaster Preparedness

1.6.16 Section 16: Conversation Scenarios

- 20+ Complete Scenario Dialogues:
 - Arriving at a Restaurant
 - Shopping for Clothes with Sizing Issues
 - Hotel Check-in with Complications
 - Getting Lost and Finding Your Way
 - Taking a Taxi
 - Riding the Train
 - At the Convenience Store
 - Medical Emergency
 - Lost Item Reporting
 - Temple Visit
 - Onsen Experience
 - Making Small Talk
 - [And more...]

1.6.17 Section 17: Grammar Reference

- Particle Guide (Complete)
- Verb Conjugation Charts (100+ Verbs)
- Adjective Conjugation (I-adjectives and Na-adjectives)
- Sentence Pattern Reference
- Common Grammar Mistakes
- Formality Level Guide

1.6.18 Section 18: Appendices

- **Appendix A:** Quick Reference - Top 100 Phrases
 - **Appendix B:** Vocabulary Lists (Alphabetical)
 - Japanese to English
 - English to Japanese
 - **Appendix C:** Grammar Charts
 - **Appendix D:** Cultural Calendar and Best Times to Visit
 - **Appendix E:** Emergency Contact Numbers
 - **Appendix F:** Recommended Apps and Resources
 - **Appendix G:** Practice Exercises
-

1.7 A Note on Cultural Respect

Learning even basic Japanese phrases demonstrates respect for the culture and people of Japan. Japanese society values effort and sincerity over perfection. Don't be afraid to make mistakes—your attempts to speak Japanese will be met with appreciation and encouragement.

This guide is designed to help you communicate and connect, not just transact. Beyond the practical value of these phrases lies the opportunity to engage more deeply with one of the world's most fascinating cultures.

1.8 Begin Your Journey

Your adventure in Japan starts with a single word. Turn the page and begin building the linguistic and cultural foundation that will transform your trip from good to unforgettable.

(Yōkoso Nihon e!) **Welcome to Japan!**

This guide is a living document. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, language and culture are dynamic. Always approach interactions with openness, respect, and a willingness to learn.

2 II. COMPLETE VOCABULARY BY CATEGORY

2.1 A. SHOPPING

2.1.1 1. Clothing (Complete)

2.1.1.1 Tops (25 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Shirt		shatsu	General shirt
T-shirt	T	T-shatsu	Casual t-shirt
Blouse		burausu	Women's blouse
Sweater		sētā	Pullover sweater
Cardigan		kādigan	Button-front sweater
Hoodie		pākā	Hooded sweatshirt
Jacket		jaketto	Casual jacket
Coat		kōto	Heavy coat
Down jacket		daun jaketto	Puffy winter jacket
Raincoat		rein kōto	Waterproof coat
Vest		besuto	Sleeveless top
Tank top		tanku toppu	Sleeveless shirt
Camisole		kyamisōru	Spaghetti strap top
Polo shirt		poro shatsu	Collared sport shirt
Dress shirt		wai shatsu	Formal button-down
Turtleneck		tātoru nekku	High-necked sweater
Sweatshirt		torēnā	Casual pullover
Blazer		burezā	Formal jacket
Long-sleeve shirt		nagasode shatsu	Long-sleeved
Short-sleeve shirt		hansode shatsu	Short-sleeved
Sleeveless shirt		nō surību	No sleeves
Henley shirt		henrī nekku	Button placket collar
Button-down shirt		botan daun shatsu	Collar buttons down
Flannel shirt		furanneru shatsu	Plaid flannel
V-neck shirt	V	V-nekkū shatsu	V-shaped neckline

2.1.1.2 Bottoms (20 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Pants	/	pantsu / zubon	General pants
Jeans		jīnzu	Denim pants
Shorts		shōto pantsu	Short pants
Skirt		sukāto	General skirt
Leggings		reginsu	Tight-fitting pants
Dress	/	wanpīsu / doresu	One-piece dress
Overalls		ōbā ōru	Bib overalls
Culottes		kyurotto	Wide-leg shorts
Cargo pants		kāgo pantsu	Pants with pockets
Sweatpants		suwetto pantsu	Athletic pants
Chinos		chinopan	Cotton twill pants
Slacks		surakkusu	Dress pants
Mini skirt		mini sukāto	Short skirt
Long skirt		rongu sukāto	Long skirt
Pleated skirt		purītsu sukāto	Skirt with pleats
A-line skirt	A	A-rain sukāto	Flared skirt
Pencil skirt		taito sukāto	Fitted straight skirt
Maxi dress		makishi wanpīsu	Floor-length dress
Jumpsuit		janpu sūtsu	One-piece pants outfit
Romper		ronpāsu	One-piece shorts outfit

2.1.1.3 Underwear & Basics (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Underwear		shitagi	General underwear
Panties		pantī	Women's underwear
Briefs		burīfu	Men's briefs
Boxers		torankusu	Men's boxer shorts
Boxer briefs		bokusā burīfu	Fitted boxers
Bra		burajā	Women's bra
Sports bra		supōtsu bura	Athletic bra
Undershirt		hadagi	Base layer shirt
Socks		kutsushita	General socks
Stockings		sutokkingu	Sheer hosiery
Tights		taitsu	Opaque hosiery
Thermal underwear		hītotekku	Warm underlayer
Long underwear		rongu andā uea	Full-length thermal
Slip		surippu	Undergarment slip
Camisole (under)		innā kyamisōru	Undershirt cami

2.1.1.4 Outerwear (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Winter coat		fuyuyō kōto	Heavy winter coat
Trench coat		torenchi kōto	Long belted coat
Pea coat		pī kōto	Double-breasted coat

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Parka		pākā kōto	Hooded winter coat
Windbreaker		uindo burēkā	Light wind jacket
Poncho		poncho	Loose outer garment
Cape		kēpu	Sleeveless cloak
Bomber jacket		bonbā jaketto	Short zippered jacket
Denim jacket		denimu jaketto	Jean jacket
Leather jacket		rezā jaketto	Leather outer jacket
Fleece jacket		furīsu jaketto	Soft warm jacket
Rain jacket		ama gappa	Waterproof jacket
Suit jacket		uwagi	Formal suit jacket
Track jacket		jāji	Athletic jacket
Vest coat		besuto kōto	Sleeveless coat

2.1.1.5 Accessories (40 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Belt		beruto	Waist belt
Tie		nekutai	Necktie
Bow tie		chō nekutai	Butterfly tie
Scarf	/	sukāfu / mafurā	Neck scarf
Shawl		shōru	Wrap shawl
Hat		bōshi	General hat
Cap		kyappu	Baseball cap
Beanie		nitto bō	Knit cap
Sun hat		san hatto	Wide-brimmed hat
Fedora		fedora	Formal brimmed hat
Gloves		tebukuro	Hand gloves
Mittens		miton	Fingerless gloves
Sunglasses		sangurasu	Sun eyewear
Watch		udedokei	Wristwatch
Pocket square		poketto chīfu	Suit pocket cloth
Suspenders		sasupendā	Trouser braces
Cufflinks		kafusu botan	Shirt sleeve links
Handkerchief		hankachi	Pocket cloth
Bandana		bandana	Square headcloth
Earmuffs		iyā mafu	Ear warmers
Leg warmers		reggu wōmā	Ankle/calf warmers
Arm warmers		āmu wōmā	Forearm warmers
Knee pads		hizaate	Knee protection
Elbow pads		hijiāte	Elbow protection
Shoulder pads		kata paddo	Shoulder inserts
Waist pouch		uesuto pōchi	Belt bag/fanny pack
Armband		wanshō	Arm badge
Collar pin		karā pin	Collar accessory
Tie clip		nekutai pin	Tie bar
Lapel pin		raperu pin	Jacket pin
Badge		bajji	Pin badge
Patch		wappen	Cloth patch
Name tag		nafuda	Identification tag

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Umbrella	kasa		Rain umbrella
Folding umbrella	oritatami gasa		Compact umbrella
Parasol	higasa		Sun umbrella
Walking stick	tsue		Cane
Hair accessory	hea akusesarī		Hair decoration
Bow	ribon		Decorative bow
Brooch	burōchi		Decorative pin

2.1.1.6 Traditional Clothing (10 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Kimono		kimono	Traditional robe
Yukata	yukata		Summer kimono
Hakama	hakama		Traditional pants/skirt
Haori	haori		Kimono jacket
Obi	obi		Kimono sash
Geta	geta		Wooden sandals
Zōri	zōri		Formal sandals
Tabi	tabi		Split-toe socks
Jinbei	jinbei		Summer two-piece
Happi coat	happi		Festival coat

2.1.1.7 Sleepwear & Loungewear (10 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Pajamas		pajama	Sleepwear set
Nightgown	negurije		Sleep dress
Nightshirt	nemaki		Sleep shirt
Robe	basu rōbu		Bathrobe
Bathrobe	gaun		Dressing gown
House slippers	surippa		Indoor slippers
Sleep shorts	tanpan		Short sleep pants
Sleep pants	pajama pantsu		Sleep bottoms
Loungewear	heyagi		House clothes
Onesie	wanjī		One-piece sleepwear

2.1.1.8 Swimwear (10 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Swimsuit		mizugi	General swimwear
Bikini	bikini		Two-piece swimsuit
One-piece swimsuit	wanpīsu mizugi		Full swimsuit
Swim trunks	kaipan		Men's swim shorts
Board shorts	bōdo shōtsu		Long swim shorts
Rash guard	rasshu gādo		Sun protection shirt
Swim cap	sueibō		Swimming cap
Goggles	gōguru		Swim goggles

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Cover-up		bīchi kabā	Beach cover garment
Wetsuit		wetto sūtsu	Diving suit

2.1.1.9 Sports & Activewear (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Athletic wear		supōtsu uea	Sports clothing
Yoga pants		yoga pantsu	Stretchy exercise pants
Sports bra		supōtsu bura	Athletic support bra
Gym shorts	jimu shōtsu		Workout shorts
Running shorts	ranningu pantsu		Jogging shorts
Training pants	torēningu pantsu		Exercise pants
Tank top (athletic)	tanku toppu		Sleeveless athletic shirt
Compression shirt		konpuresshon shatsu	Tight athletic top
Compression pants		konpuresshon taitsu	Tight athletic pants
Tracksuit	jāji		Two-piece athletic suit
Windbreaker pants		uindo burēkā pantsu	Wind-resistant pants
Cycling shorts	saikuringu pantsu		Padded bike shorts
Basketball jersey	basuke jāji		Basketball uniform top
Soccer uniform	sakkā yunifōmu		Football kit
Martial arts uniform	dōgi		Training uniform

2.1.2 2. Footwear (Complete)

2.1.2.1 Shoe Types (30 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Shoes		kutsu	General shoes
Sneakers		sunīkā	Athletic/casual shoes
Running shoes		ranningu shūzu	Jogging shoes
Boots	būtsu		General boots
Ankle boots	shōto būtsu		Short boots
Knee-high boots	rongu būtsu		Tall boots
Rain boots	rein būtsu		Waterproof boots
Snow boots	sunō būtsu		Winter boots
Sandals	sandaru		Open-toe footwear
Flip-flops	bīchi sandaru		Thong sandals
Slippers	surippa		House slippers
Indoor slippers	shitsunai baki		Inside shoes
Heels	hīru		High-heeled shoes
High heels	hai hīru		Tall heels
Pumps	panpusu		Classic heels
Wedges	wejji sōru		Wedge-heeled shoes

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Flats		furatto shūzu	No-heel shoes
Ballet flats		baree shūzu	Ballet-style flats
Loafers		rōfā	Slip-on shoes
Oxfords		okkusufōdo	Lace-up dress shoes
Slip-ons		surippon	Easy-on shoes
Mules		myūru	Backless shoes
Clogs		kuroggsu	Wooden-soled shoes
Espadrilles		esupadorīyu	Canvas rope-soled
Dress shoes		doresu shūzu	Formal shoes
Work boots		wāku būtsu	Heavy-duty boots
Hiking boots		tozangutsu	Mountain boots
Sandals (formal)		sutorappu sandaru	Dressy sandals
Platform shoes		atsuzoko kutsu	Thick-soled shoes
Boat shoes		dekki shūzu	Casual loafers

2.1.2.2 Shoe Parts (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Laces		kutsuhimo	Shoelaces
Sole		kutsuzoko	Bottom of shoe
Heel	/	kakato / hīru	Back part/heel height
Toe		tsumasaki	Front of shoe
Insole		nakazhiki	Inner sole
Tongue		bero	Shoe tongue
Upper		appā	Top part of shoe
Arch		tsuchi fuumazu	Arch support area
Toe box		tō bokkusu	Front space
Heel counter		hīru kauntā	Back support
Eyelet		airetto	Lace hole
Buckle		bakkuru	Fastening buckle
Strap		sutorappu	Shoe strap
Zipper		jippā	Zip fastener
Velcro		majikku tēpu	Hook-and-loop fastener

2.1.3 3. Bags & Accessories (Complete)

2.1.3.1 Bags (25 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bag	/	kaban / baggu	General bag
Backpack		ryukkusakku	Back-worn bag
Handbag		hando baggu	Women's purse
Tote bag		tōto baggu	Open-top shoulder bag
Shoulder bag		shorudā baggu	Bag with strap
Messenger bag		messenjā baggu	Crossbody bag
Clutch		kuratchi baggu	Small handheld bag
Suitcase		sūtsukēsu	Rolling luggage
Carry-on bag		kinai mochikomi baggu	Airplane bag

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Wallet		saifu	Money holder
Coin purse		kozeni ire	Coin holder
Pouch		pōchi	Small bag
Cosmetic bag		keshō pōchi	Makeup bag
Shopping bag		kaimono bukuro	Store bag
Eco bag		eko baggu	Reusable bag
Plastic bag		binīru bukuro	Disposable bag
Paper bag		kami bukuro	Paper shopping bag
Duffel bag		daffuru baggu	Cylindrical sports bag
Briefcase		burīfu kēsu	Business case
Garment bag		gāmento baggu	Suit carrier
Fanny pack		uesuto pōchi	Belt bag
Crossbody bag		naname gake baggu	Diagonal strap bag
Evening bag		ibuningu baggu	Formal small bag
Travel bag		ryokō baggu	Trip luggage
Weekender bag		wīkuendā baggu	Short trip bag

2.1.3.2 Jewelry (20 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Jewelry		akusesarī	General accessories
Ring	yubiwa		Finger ring
Necklace	neckuresu		Neck jewelry
Bracelet	buresuretto		Wrist jewelry
Earrings	iyaringu		Ear jewelry (clip)
Pierced earrings	piasu		Pierced ear jewelry
Watch	udedokei		Wristwatch
Brooch	burōchi		Pin jewelry
Anklet	ankuretto		Ankle jewelry
Chain	chēn		Jewelry chain
Pendant	pendanto		Hanging charm
Charm	chāmu		Decorative charm
Cufflinks	kafusu botan		Shirt sleeve links
Bangle	banguru		Rigid bracelet
Choker	chōkā		Tight necklace
Locket	roketto		Photo pendant
Stud earrings	sutaddo piasu		Simple post earrings
Hoop earrings	fūpu piasu		Circle earrings
Drop earrings	doroppu piasu		Dangling earrings
Toe ring	tō ringu		Toe jewelry

2.1.3.3 Hair Accessories (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Hair tie	hea gomu		Elastic hair band
Hairpin	hea pin		Bobby pin
Hair clip	hea kurippu		Spring clip
Barrette	baretta		Decorative clip

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Headband		hea bando	Head band
Scrunchie		shushu	Fabric hair tie
Hair comb		kushi	Hair comb
Decorative comb		kanzashi	Ornamental hairpin
Hair stick		hea sutikku	Hair pin stick
Ribbon		ribon	Hair ribbon
Bow		bou	Hair bow
Tiara		tiara	Crown headband
Hair elastic		hea gomu	Rubber band
Hair wrap		hea rappu	Fabric wrap
Headscarf		sukāfu	Head covering

2.1.4 4. Sizes & Measurements (Complete)

2.1.4.1 Letter Sizes

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Extra small	XS	XS	Extra small
Small	S ()	S (esu)	Small
Medium	M ()	M (emu)	Medium
Large	L ()	L (eru)	Large
Extra large	XL	XL	Extra large
Double extra large	XXL	XXL	2XL
Triple extra large	3XL	3XL	3XL
Quadruple extra large	4XL	4XL	4XL
Free size		furi saizu	One size fits all
Petite		puchi	Short length
Regular		regyurā	Standard length
Tall		tōru	Long length

2.1.4.2 Japanese Women's Sizes (with conversions)

Japanese Size	Japanese	Romaji	US Size	UK Size	EU Size	Notes
Size 5	5	go-gō	0-2	4-6	30-32	Extra small
Size 7	7	nana-gō	4	8	34	Small
Size 9	9	kyū-gō	6	10	36	Small-Medium
Size 11	11	jū-ichi-gō	8	12	38	Medium
Size 13	13	jū-san-gō	10	14	40	Medium-Large
Size 15	15	jū-go-gō	12	16	42	Large
Size 17	17	jū-nana-gō	14	18	44	Extra Large
Size 19	19	jū-kyū-gō	16	20	46	2XL

2.1.4.3 Shoe Sizes (Complete)

Size (cm)	Japanese	Men's US	Women's US	UK	EU	Notes
22.0cm	22	-	5	2.5	35	Women's
22.5cm	22.5	-	5.5	3	35.5	Women's
23.0cm	23	-	6	3.5	36	Women's
23.5cm	23.5	5.5	6.5	4	37	Women's/Small Men's
24.0cm	24	6	7	4.5	37.5	Women's/Small Men's
24.5cm	24.5	6.5	7.5	5	38	Women's/Men's
25.0cm	25	7	8	6	39	Women's/Men's
25.5cm	25.5	7.5	8.5	6.5	40	Women's/Men's
26.0cm	26	8	9	7	40.5	Women's/Men's
26.5cm	26.5	8.5	9.5	7.5	41	Men's
27.0cm	27	9	10	8	42	Men's
27.5cm	27.5	9.5	10.5	8.5	42.5	Men's
28.0cm	28	10	11	9	43	Men's
28.5cm	28.5	10.5	11.5	9.5	44	Men's
29.0cm	29	11	12	10	44.5	Men's
29.5cm	29.5	11.5	12.5	10.5	45	Men's
30.0cm	30	12	13	11	46	Men's

2.1.4.4 Shoe Width Indicators

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Narrow		hosume	Slim width
Regular width		futsū	Standard width
Wide		habahiro	Wide width
Extra wide		chō habahiro	Very wide
2E width	2E	2E	Slightly wide
3E width	3E	3E	Wide
4E width	4E	4E	Extra wide

2.1.4.5 Measurement Terms (Complete)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Size		saizu	General size
Measurement		sunpō	Dimensions
Length		nagasa	Length measurement
Width		haba	Width measurement
Height		takasa	Height measurement
Depth		fukasa	Depth measurement
Chest		kyōi	Chest circumference
Bust		basuto	Bust measurement
Waist		uesuto	Waist measurement
Hip		hippu	Hip measurement
Inseam		matashita	Inner leg length
Outseam		wakitake	Outer leg length
Sleeve length		sodetake	Arm length
Shoulder width		katahaba	Shoulder span
Neck		kubimawari	Neck circumference
Arm length		ude no nagasa	Full arm length
Rise		mataue	Crotch to waist

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Thigh		futomomo	Thigh measurement
Calf		fukurahagi	Calf measurement
Ankle		ashikubi	Ankle measurement
Centimeter		senchi	cm
Meter		mētoru	m
Inch		inchi	inch

2.1.4.6 Fit Descriptors (Complete)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Too big		ōkisugiru	Excessively large
Too small		chīsasugiru	Excessively small
Too long		nagasugiru	Excessively long
Too short		mijikasugiru	Excessively short
Too tight		kitsusugiru	Excessively tight
Too loose		yurusugiru	Excessively loose
Perfect fit		pittari	Exactly right
Just right		chōdo ii	Appropriate size
A bit too big		sukoshi ōkii	Slightly large
A bit too small		sukoshi chīsai	Slightly small
A bit too long		sukoshi nagai	Slightly long
A bit too short		sukoshi mijikai	Slightly short
A bit too tight		sukoshi kitsui	Slightly tight
A bit too loose		sukoshi yurui	Slightly loose
Way too big		totemo ōkii	Much too large
Way too small		totemo chīsai	Much too small
Comfortable		kaiteki	Feels good
Uncomfortable		fukai	Feels bad
Snug		fitto kan ga aru	Closely fitted
Roomy		yutori ga aru	Has space
Fits well		yoku au	Suits well
Doesn't fit		awanai	Doesn't suit
Stretchy		nobiru	Has stretch
Rigid		katai	Stiff/inflexible

2.1.5 5. Colors (Complete)

2.1.5.1 Basic Colors (20 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Red	/	aka / reddo	Red color
Blue	/	ao / burū	Blue color
Yellow	/	kiiro / ierō	Yellow color
Green	/	midori / gurīn	Green color
White	/	shiro / howaito	White color
Black	/	kuro / burakku	Black color
Brown	/	chairo / bureanu	Brown color
Gray	/	haiiro / gurē	Gray color
Pink		pinku	Pink color

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Purple	/	murasaki / pāpuru	Purple color
Orange	orenji		Orange color
Beige	bēju		Beige color
Navy	/	kon / neibī	Navy blue
Burgundy	bāgandī		Deep red
Maroon	enji iro		Dark red
Turquoise	tākoizu		Blue-green
Lime	raimu		Bright yellow-green
Lavender	rabendā		Light purple
Cream	kurīmu iro		Off-white
Gold	/	kin iro / gōrudo	Gold color
Silver	/	gin iro / shirubā	Silver color

2.1.5.2 Color Shades (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Light		akarui	Light shade
Dark		kurai	Dark shade
Bright		azayaka	Vivid/bright
Pale		awai	Pale/light
Deep		koi	Deep/rich
Vivid		bibiddo	Intense color
Neon		neon	Fluorescent
Pastel		pasuteru	Soft color
Metallic		metarikku	Shiny metallic
Matte		matto	Non-glossy
Glossy		kōtaku no aru	Shiny
Transparent		tōmei	See-through
Opaque		futōmei	Not transparent
Two-tone		tsūton	Two colors
Gradient		guradēshon	Color fade

2.1.5.3 Patterns (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Solid		muji	Plain/no pattern
Striped	/	shima moyō / sutoraipu	Striped pattern
Checkered		chekku	Checked pattern
Plaid		tātan chekku	Tartan pattern
Polka dot		mizutama	Dotted pattern
Floral		hanagara	Flower pattern
Paisley		peizurī	Paisley design
Houndstooth		chidori kōshi	Tooth pattern
Herringbone		herinbōn	V-shaped pattern
Animal print		animaru gara	Animal pattern
Leopard print		hyō gara	Leopard spots
Zebra print		shimauma gara	Zebra stripes
Camouflage		meisai	Camo pattern

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Abstract		chūshō gara	Abstract design
Geometric		kikagaku moyō	Geometric pattern

2.1.5.4 Textures (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Smooth		nameraraka	Smooth surface
Rough		zarazara	Rough texture
Soft		yawarakai	Soft feel
Hard		katai	Hard/stiff
Silky		kinu no yō na	Silk-like
Fuzzy		fuwafuwa	Fluffy/fuzzy
Knit		nitto	Knitted
Woven		orimono	Woven fabric
Textured		shitsukan no aru	Has texture
Ribbed		ribu ami	Ribbed knit
Quilted		kirutingu	Quilted
Embroidered		shishū iri	With embroidery
Lace		rēsu	Lace fabric
Mesh		meshu	Mesh material
Corduroy		kōdyuroi	Corded fabric

2.1.6 6. Materials (Complete)

2.1.6.1 Fabrics (25 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Cotton	/	men / kotton	Cotton fabric
Wool	/	yōmō / ūru	Wool fabric
Silk	/	kinu / shiruku	Silk fabric
Polyester		poriesuteru	Synthetic fiber
Nylon		nairon	Nylon fabric
Rayon		rēyon	Semi-synthetic
Linen	/	asa / rinen	Linen fabric
Denim		denimu	Jean fabric
Leather	/	kawa / rezā	Animal hide
Suede		suēdo	Brushed leather
Velvet		berubetto	Velvet fabric
Fleece		furišu	Soft warm fabric
Cashmere		kashimia	Luxury wool
Spandex		supandekkusu	Stretchy fiber
Lycra		raikura	Stretch fabric
Acrylic		akuriru	Synthetic wool-like
Satin		saten	Glossy fabric
Chiffon		shifon	Light transparent
Tweed		tsuīdo	Rough woven
Jersey		jāji	Knit fabric
Canvas		kyanbasu	Heavy cloth
Corduroy		kōdyuroi	Ribbed fabric

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Flannel		furanneru	Soft woven
Chambray		shanburē	Denim-like
Faux fur		feiku fā	Fake fur

2.1.6.2 Material Properties (20 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Waterproof	bōsui		Water-resistant
Water-resistant	hassui		Repels water
Breathable	tsūki-sei		Allows air flow
Stretchy	shinshuku-sei		Has stretch
Wrinkle-resistant	bō-shiwa		Won't wrinkle easily
Quick-dry	sokkan		Dries fast
Insulated	dannetsu		Keeps warm
Thermal	hoon		Heat-retaining
UV protection	UV katto		Blocks UV rays
Anti-bacterial	kōkin		Prevents bacteria
Moisture-wicking	kyūshitsu sokkan		Absorbs sweat
Windproof	bōfū		Blocks wind
Stain-resistant	bō-o		Resists stains
Fade-resistant	iro ochi shinikui		Won't fade
Shrink-resistant	chijimi nikui		Won't shrink
Durable	jōbu		Long-lasting
Lightweight	keiryō		Light weight
Heavyweight	atsude		Thick/heavy
Soft	yawarakai		Soft texture
Warm	atatakai		Provides warmth

2.1.7 7. Shopping Actions & Phrases (200+ phrases)

2.1.7.1 Browsing (20 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Just looking		mite iru dake desu	Browsing only
Looking by myself		hitori de mite imasu	Alone browsing
Can I look around?		mite mo ii desu ka	May I browse?
May I look at this?		kore o mite mo ii desu ka	Permission to look
May I touch this?		sawatte mo ii desu ka	Permission to touch
Do you have...?wa arimasu ka	Asking about item
Where can I find...?wa doko desu ka	Location question
I'm looking for...o sagashite imasu	Seeking item
Can you show me...?o misete kudasai	Request to see
Do you have this in stock?		kore wa zaiko ga arimasu ka	Stock inquiry
Where is the fitting room?		shichakushitsu wa doko desu ka	Changing room
What floor is clothing on?		fuku wa nan-kai desu ka	Floor inquiry

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Do you have a catalog?		katarogu wa arimasu ka	Request catalog
Can I see the display?		disupurei o misete moraemasu ka	View display
Is this for sale?		kore wa urimono desu ka	Available to buy?
Is this the only one?		kore dake desu ka	Only one available?
Do you have more variety?		motto shurui wa arimasu ka	More options?
Can I compare these?		korera o kurabete mo ii desu ka	Permission to compare
I'm just browsing		tada mite iru dake desu	Not buying now
I'll call you if I need help		hitsuyō nara koe o kakemasu	Will ask if needed

2.1.7.2 Trying On (25 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
May I try this on?		shichaku shite mo ii desu ka	Permission to try
Can I try this?		kore o tameshite mo ii desu ka	Try on request
Where is the fitting room?		shichakushitsu wa doko desu ka	Changing room location
How many items can I take in?		nan-ten made mochikome masu ka	Item limit question
Is there a mirror?		kagami wa arimasu ka	Mirror availability
Can I see a mirror?		kagami o misete moraemasu ka	Request mirror
How does it look?		dō miemasu ka	Opinion on appearance
Does it suit me?		watashi ni niaimasu ka	Does it fit style?
Does this fit?		kore wa aimasu ka	Proper fit?
Can I try a different size?		chigau saizu o tameshite ii desu ka	Different size request
Can I try a different color?		chigau iro o tameshite ii desu ka	Different color request
Do you have one size up?		wan saizu ue wa arimasu ka	Larger size
Do you have one size down?		wan saizu shita wa arimasu ka	Smaller size
It's too big		ōkisugimasu	Too large
It's too small		chīsasugimasu	Too small
It's too long		nagasugimasu	Too long
It's too short		mijikasugimasu	Too short
It's too tight		kitsusugimasu	Too tight
It's too loose		yurusugimasu	Too loose
It fits perfectly		pittari desu	Perfect fit
This is just right		kore wa chōdo ii desu	Appropriate size

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Can I try shoes on?		kutsu o haite mo ii desu ka	Try on shoes
Can I walk around in these?		kore o haite aruite mo ii desu ka	Test walk
Do you have a shoe horn?		kutsubera wa arimasu ka	Shoe horn request
I'll think about it		kangaete mimasu	Need to decide

2.1.7.3 Asking About Products (40 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
How much is this?		kore wa ikura desu ka	Price inquiry
What's the price?		nedan wa nan desu ka	Cost question
What's this made of?		kore wa nani de dekite imasu ka	Material question
What material is this?		kore wa nan no sozai desu ka	Fabric inquiry
Is this on sale?		kore wa sēru chū desu ka	Discount status
Do you have a discount?		waribiki wa arimasu ka	Discount availability
Is this the final price?		kore wa saishū kakaku desu ka	Final cost
What sizes do you have?		donna saizu ga arimasu ka	Size options
What colors does this come in?		kore wa nani iro ga arimasu ka	Color options
Is this in stock?		kore wa zaiko ga arimasu ka	Availability
When will you restock?		itsu nyūka shimasu ka	Restock date
Is this new?		kore wa atarashii desu ka	New arrival?
Is this the latest?		kore wa saishin desu ka	Most recent?
What's popular?		nani ga ninki desu ka	Popular items
What do you recommend?		nani ga osusume desu ka	Recommendation
What's selling well?		nani ga urete imasu ka	Best sellers
Do you have anything similar?		nita mono wa arimasu ka	Similar items
Do you have a cheaper option?		motto yasui mono wa arimasu ka	Less expensive
Do you have better quality?		motto shitsu no ii mono wa arimasu ka	Higher quality
Is this the latest model?		kore wa saishin moderu desu ka	Newest version?
Is this made in Japan?		kore wa nihon-sei desu ka	Japanese made?
Is this imported?		kore wa yunyū-hin desu ka	Imported item?
Is this authentic?		kore wa honmono desu ka	Genuine item?

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is this genuine?		kore wa seiki-hin desu ka	Official product?
Is there a warranty?		hoshō wa arimasu ka	Warranty available?
How long is the warranty?		hoshō kikan wa dono kurai desu ka	Warranty duration
Can I exchange it later?		ato de kōkan dekimasu ka	Future exchange?
Can I return it later?		ato de henpin dekimasu ka	Future return?
Is this limited edition?		kore wa gentei-hin desu ka	Special edition?
How many are left?		ato nan-ko arimasu ka	Quantity remaining
Is this the last one?		kore wa saigo no hitotsu desu ka	Final item?
Do you have different brands?		chigau burando wa arimasu ka	Other brands
What's the difference?		nani ga chigaimasu ka	Comparison question
Which is better?		dochira no hō ga ii desu ka	Preference question
What's the most popular color?		ichiban ninki no iro wa nan desu ka	Top color
Is this washable?		kore wa araemasu ka	Can wash?
Is this dry clean only?		kore wa dorai kurīningu no mi desu ka	Special cleaning
How do I care for this?		kore wa dō o-teire shimasu ka	Care instructions
Will this shrink?		kore wa chijimimasu ka	Shrinkage concern
Will this fade?		kore wa iro ochi shimasu ka	Color fading concern

2.1.7.4 Buying (25 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I'll take this		kore o kudasai	Purchase decision
I'll buy this		kore o kaimasu	Will purchase
I want this		kore ga hoshii desu	Desire to buy
I want one of these		kore o hitotsu kudasai	One item
I want two of these		kore o futatsu kudasai	Two items
I want three of these		kore o mittsu kudasai	Three items
Can I buy this?		kore o kaemasu ka	Purchase possible?
Do you accept credit cards?		kurejitto kādo wa tsukae masu ka	Card payment?
Can I pay by card?		kādo de harae masu ka	Card accepted?
Cash only?		genkin no mi desu ka	Cash requirement
Can I use this card?		kono kādo wa tsukae masu ka	Specific card
Do you take Visa?	VISA	VISA wa tsukae masu ka	Visa acceptance

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Do you take American Express?		amekkusu wa tsukae masu ka	Amex acceptance
In one payment please		ikkatsu harai de onegai shimasu	Full payment
Can I pay in installments?		bunkatsu harai wa dekimasu ka	Payment plan
How much is everything?		zenbu de ikura desu ka	Total cost
What's the total?		gōkei wa ikura desu ka	Sum total
Is tax included?		zeikomi desu ka	Tax inclusion
How much with tax?		zeikomi de ikura desu ka	Price with tax
Can I use coupons?		kūpon wa tsukae masu ka	Coupon usage
Do you accept gift cards?		gifuto kādo wa tsukae masu ka	Gift card payment
Can I use points?		pointo wa tsukae masu ka	Loyalty points
Do you have a loyalty card?		pointo kādo wa arimasu ka	Rewards program
Can I get a receipt?		ryōshūsho o moraemasu ka	Receipt request
Please include a receipt		reshīto o irete kudasai	Receipt needed

2.1.7.5 Bags & Packaging (20 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bag please		fukuro o kudasai	Bag request
I need a bag		fukuro ga hitsuyō desu	Require bag
Large bag please		ōkii fukuro o kudasai	Big bag
Small bag please		chīsai fukuro o kudasai	Small bag
I don't need a bag		fukuro wa irimasen	No bag needed
I have my own bag		mai baggu ga arimasu	Own bag
Separate bags please		betsubetsu no fukuro de onegai shimasu	Multiple bags
Same bag is fine		onaji fukuro de daijōbu desu	One bag OK
Put them together		issho ni irete kudasai	Combined
Can you wrap this?		kore o tsutsunde moraemasu ka	Wrapping request
Gift wrap please		gifuto rappingu o onegai shimasu	Gift wrapping
It's a gift		purezento desu	For gifting
It's for a present		okurimono desu	Gift purpose
Can you put a ribbon on it?		ribon o tsukete moraemasu ka	Add ribbon
Can you package this nicely?		kirei ni tsutsunde moraemasu ka	Nice packaging
Tissue paper please		tisshu pēpā o irete kudasai	Add tissue
Box please		hako ni irete kudasai	Put in box

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Can you keep them separate?		wakete oite moraemasu ka	Keep apart
Fragile item		kowaremono desu	Handle carefully
Handle with care		teinei ni atsukatte kudasai	Be careful

2.1.7.6 Returns & Exchanges (25 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Can I return this?		kore o henpin dekimasu ka	Return inquiry
Can I exchange this?		kore o kōkan dekimasu ka	Exchange inquiry
I want to return this		kore o henpin shitai desu	Return request
I want to exchange this		kore o kōkan shitai desu	Exchange request
Within how many days?		nan-nichi inai desu ka	Time limit
What's the return policy?		henpin porishī wa nan desu ka	Return rules
I have the receipt		reshīto ga arimasu	Have proof
I lost the receipt		reshīto o nakushimashita	No receipt
Here's my receipt		kore ga reshīto desu	Showing receipt
This is broken		kore wa kowarete imasu	Item damaged
This is damaged		kore wa itande imasu	Item defective
There's a scratch		kizu ga arimasu	Surface damage
There's a stain		yogore ga arimasu	Dirty spot
This is the wrong item		kore wa chigau shōhin desu	Wrong product
This is defective		kore wa furyō-hin desu	Faulty item
It doesn't fit		saizu ga aimasen	Wrong size
It's not what I wanted		hoshikatta mono to chigaimasu	Wrong choice
I changed my mind		ki ga kawarimashita	Changed decision
I want a refund		henkin shite hoshii desu	Money back
I want store credit		tenpo kurejitto ga ii desu	Store value
Can I get my money back?		okane o kaeshite moraemasu ka	Refund request
Can I exchange for a different size?		chigau saizu to kōkan dekimasu ka	Size exchange
Can I exchange for a different color?		chigau iro to kōkan dekimasu ka	Color exchange
Can I get a replacement?		kōkan-hin o moraemasu ka	Replacement item
It was like this when I bought it		katta toki kara kō deshita	Pre-existing condition

2.1.7.7 Tax-Free Shopping (20 phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is this tax-free?		kore wa menzei desu ka	Tax exemption
Do you have tax-free service?		menzei sābisu wa arimasu ka	Service availability
I want tax-free please		menzei de onegai shimasu	Request tax-free
Can I get tax exemption?		menzei dekimasu ka	Exemption possible?
What's the minimum amount?		saitei kingaku wa ikura desu ka	Spending requirement
Can tourists get tax-free?		ryokō-sha wa menzei dekimasu ka	Tourist eligibility
I'm a tourist		watashi wa ryokō-sha desu	Tourist status
Here's my passport		kore ga pasupōto desu	ID provision
Please show your passport		pasupōto o misete kudasai	Staff request
Fill out this form		kono yōshi ni kinyū shite kudasai	Paperwork
Don't open the bag		fukuro o akenaide kudasai	Keep sealed
You need to spend ¥5000	5000	go-sen en ijō kau hitsuyō ga arimasu	Minimum purchase
How much more do I need?		ato ikura hitsuyō desu ka	Remaining amount
Can I combine purchases?		kōnyū-hin o gassan dekimasu ka	Combine for minimum
Where do I go for tax refund?		menzei tetsuzuki wa doko desu ka	Refund location
At the airport		kūkō de	Airport processing
Show this at customs		zeikan de kore o misete kudasai	Customs procedure
Keep the receipt		reshīto o hokan shite kudasai	Save receipt
Is this eligible for tax refund?		kore wa menzei taishō desu ka	Item eligibility
Consumables vs non-consumables		shōmō-hin to ippan-hin	Product categories

2.1.8 General Shopping Vocabulary

2.1.8.1 Store Types (20 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Store		mise	General store
Department store		depāto	Large retail store
Boutique		butikku	Fashion boutique
Shopping mall		shoppingu mōru	Mall
Outlet store		autoretto	Discount store
Convenience store		konbini	24-hour store

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Clothing store		yōfuku-ten	Apparel shop
Shoe store		kutsuya	Footwear shop
Accessory shop		akusesarī shoppu	Jewelry/accessories
Thrift store		furugi-ya	Second-hand shop
Vintage shop		vintēji shoppu	Retro clothing
Uniform store		seifuku-ten	School/work uniforms
Sports store		supōtsu-ten	Athletic goods
Outdoor store		autodoa shoppu	Camping gear
Lingerie shop		shitagi-ten	Undergarment store
Baby store		bebī yōhin-ten	Baby items
Maternity store		mataniti shoppu	Pregnancy clothes
Tailor		shitate-ya	Custom clothing
Dry cleaner		kurīningu-ten	Cleaning service
Alterations shop		o-naoshi-ten	Repair/adjust

2.1.8.2 Shopping Actions (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Shopping		kaimono	Act of shopping
To shop		kaimono o suru	Do shopping
To buy		kau	Purchase
To sell		uru	Sell
To try on		shichaku suru	Try clothing
To compare		kuraberu	Compare items
To choose		erabu	Make selection
To pay		harau	Make payment
To wrap		tsutsumu	Wrap item
To exchange		kōkan suru	Exchange
To return		henpin suru	Return item
To refund		henkin suru	Refund money
To browse		mite mawaru	Look around
To bargain		negiru	Negotiate price
To recommend		osusume suru	Suggest item

2.1.8.3 Payment Methods (15 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Cash		genkin	Physical money
Credit card		kurejitto kādo	Credit payment
Debit card		debitto kādo	Bank card
IC card	IC	IC kādo	Transit/payment card
QR code payment	QR	QR kōdō kessai	Mobile payment
PayPay		peipei	Japanese payment app
Line Pay		rain pei	Line app payment
Gift card		gifuto kādo	Prepaid card
Coupon		kūpon	Discount voucher
Points		pointo	Loyalty points
Installment		bunkatsu harai	Payment plan

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Lump sum		ikkatsu harai	Full payment
Contactless		hi-sesshoku kessai	Tap to pay
Mobile payment		mobairu kessai	Phone payment
Bank transfer		ginkō furikomi	Wire transfer

2.1.8.4 Store Sections (10 items)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Men's section		shinshi-fuku uriba	Men's clothing
Women's section		fujin-fuku uriba	Women's clothing
Children's section		kodomo-fuku uriba	Kids' clothing
Shoes section		kutsu uriba	Footwear
Accessories section		akusesarī uriba	Accessories
Sale section		sēru kaijō	Discount area
Clearance section		zaiko shobun kōnā	Final sale
New arrivals		shinsaku kōnā	Latest items
Fitting room		shichakushitsu	Changing room
Checkout counter		reji	Payment counter

3 Restaurant Vocabulary & Phrases

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3.2 Restaurant Types

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Ramen shop		rāmen-ya	Specializes in noodle soup dishes
Sushi restaurant		sushi-ya	Traditional or modern sushi
Izakaya		izakaya	Japanese pub with food and drinks
Family restaurant		famirī resutoran	Chain restaurant, casual dining
Conveyor belt sushi		kaiten-zushi	Sushi on a revolving belt
Yakiniku		yakiniku	Korean-style BBQ, grill your own
Shabu-shabu restaurant		shabu-shabu	Hot pot with thin meat slices

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Tonkatsu restaurant		tonkatsu-ya	Breaded pork cutlet specialist
Tempura restaurant		tempura-ya	Deep-fried battered foods
Udon/soba shop		udon/soba-ya	Noodle specialist
Curry restaurant		karē-ya	Japanese-style curry
Western-style restaurant		yōshoku resutoran	Western-Japanese fusion
Cafe		kafe	Coffee and light meals
Kissaten		kissaten	Traditional Japanese coffee shop
Fast food		fāsuto fūdo	Quick service chains
Food court		fūdo kōto	Multiple vendors in one area
Standing bar		tachi-nomi-ya	Stand-up drinking establishment
Kushikatsu restaurant		kushikatsu-ya	Deep-fried skewered food
Okonomiyaki restaurant		okonomiyaki-ya	Savory pancake restaurant
Takoyaki stand		takoyaki-ya	Octopus ball vendor
Teishoku restaurant		teishoku-ya	Set meal restaurant
Kaiseki restaurant		kaiseki-ryōri	Traditional multi-course dining
Robatayaki		robatayaki	Fireside grilling restaurant
Motsunabe restaurant		motsunabe-ya	Offal hot pot specialist

3.3 Complete Menu Vocabulary

3.3.1 Main Dishes - Ramen Varieties

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Soy sauce ramen		shōyu rāmen	Classic brown broth
Miso ramen		miso rāmen	Fermented soybean paste base
Pork bone ramen		tonkotsu rāmen	Rich, creamy white broth
Salt ramen		shio rāmen	Light, clear broth
Dipping noodles		tsukemen	Noodles served separate from broth
Spicy miso ramen		kara-miso rāmen	Hot miso base
Butter corn ramen		batā kōn rāmen	With butter and corn topping
Seafood ramen		kaisen rāmen	Seafood-based broth
Chicken broth ramen		tori-paitan rāmen	Creamy chicken broth

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Vegetable ramen		yasai rāmen	Loaded with vegetables
Black garlic oil ramen		kuro māyu rāmen	With burnt garlic oil
Spicy tantan ramen		tantan-men	Sesame and chili oil base

3.3.2 Main Dishes - Sushi Types

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Hand-pressed sushi		nigiri-zushi	Fish on rice ball
Rolled sushi		maki-zushi	Rice and filling in seaweed
Hand roll		temaki	Cone-shaped seaweed wrap
Scattered sushi		chirashi-zushi	Sushi rice bowl with toppings
Pressed sushi		oshi-zushi	Box-pressed sushi
Tuna roll		tekka-maki	Raw tuna in roll
Cucumber roll		kappa-maki	Cucumber in roll
California roll		kariforunia-maki	Crab, avocado, cucumber
Salmon sushi		sāmon	Salmon nigiri
Tuna sushi		maguro	Tuna nigiri
Fatty tuna		ō-toro	Premium fatty tuna
Medium fatty tuna		chū-toro	Medium fatty tuna
Yellowtail		hamachi	Young yellowtail
Mackerel		saba	Mackerel nigiri
Eel		unagi	Grilled freshwater eel
Sea eel		anago	Saltwater eel
Shrimp		ebi	Cooked shrimp
Sweet shrimp		ama-ebi	Raw sweet shrimp
Octopus		tako	Cooked octopus
Squid		ika	Squid nigiri
Sea urchin		uni	Sea urchin roe
Salmon roe		ikura	Salmon eggs
Egg omelet		tamago	Sweet egg sushi
Scallop		hotate	Scallop nigiri
Surf clam		hokki-gai	Cooked surf clam

3.3.3 Main Dishes - Rice Bowls (Donburi)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Beef bowl		gyūdon	Thin beef slices over rice
Pork cutlet bowl		katsudon	Breaded pork with egg

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Chicken and egg bowl		oyakodon	Chicken, egg, and onions
Tempura bowl		tendon	Tempura over rice
Eel bowl		unadon	Grilled eel over rice
Tuna bowl		tekkadon	Raw tuna over sushi rice
Pork bowl		butadon	Pork slices over rice
Teriyaki chicken bowl		teriyaki chikin-don	Glazed chicken
Salmon bowl		sāmon-don	Salmon over sushi rice
Seafood bowl		kaisen-don	Mixed seafood sashimi

3.3.4 Main Dishes - Noodles

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Thick wheat noodles		udon	Thick, chewy noodles
Buckwheat noodles		soba	Thin brown noodles
Tempura udon		tempura udon	Udon with tempura
Curry udon		karē udon	Udon in curry broth
Fox udon		kitsune udon	Udon with fried tofu
Beef udon		niku udon	Udon with beef
Cold noodles		zaru soba	Cold soba with dipping sauce
Hot soba		kake soba	Hot soba in broth
Fried noodles		yakisoba	Stir-fried noodles
Thin noodles		sōmen	Very thin wheat noodles
Thick Nagasaki noodles		chanpon	Thick noodles with vegetables
Cold ramen		hiyashi chūka	Cold ramen salad

3.3.5 Main Dishes - Rice Dishes

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Curry rice		karē raisu	Japanese-style curry
Fried rice		chāhan	Chinese-style fried rice
Rice ball		onigiri	Triangle-shaped rice
Tea over rice		ochazuke	Rice with tea or broth
Omelet rice		omuraisu	Fried rice in omelet
Hayashi rice		hayashi raisu	Beef in demi-glace sauce
Rice with toppings		donburi-mono	General rice bowl category
Chicken rice		chikin raisu	Ketchup-flavored chicken rice

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Garlic fried rice		gārikku raisu	Fried rice with garlic
Pilaf		pirafu	Western-style rice dish

3.3.6 Main Dishes - Fried Foods

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Tempura		tempura	Battered and deep-fried
Pork cutlet		tonkatsu	Breaded pork cutlet
Fried chicken		karaage	Japanese-style fried chicken
Deep-fried skewers		kushikatsu	Breaded items on skewers
Croquette		korokke	Potato croquette
Shrimp tempura		ebi-ten	Fried shrimp
Vegetable tempura		yasai tempura	Mixed vegetable tempura
Chicken cutlet		chikin katsu	Breaded chicken cutlet
Fried pork		tonteki	Fried pork steak
Mixed tempura		tempura moriawase	Assorted tempura
Fried tofu		agedashi dōfu	Fried tofu in broth

3.3.7 Main Dishes - Grilled Foods

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Grilled chicken skewers		yakitori	Various chicken parts on sticks
Grilled meat		yakiniku	Korean BBQ style
Grilled fish		yakizakana	Salt-grilled fish
Teppanyaki		teppanyaki	Grilled on iron plate
Grilled eel		unagi no kabayaki	Glazed grilled eel
Salt-grilled mackerel		saba no shioyaki	Salted grilled mackerel
Chicken thigh skewer		momo	Chicken thigh yakitori
Chicken breast skewer		mune	Chicken breast yakitori
Chicken skin skewer		kawa	Crispy chicken skin
Chicken meatball		tsukune	Ground chicken ball
Pork belly		buta bara	Grilled pork belly
Beef tongue		gyū-tan	Grilled beef tongue
Beef short rib		karubi	Grilled beef rib
Beef loin		rōsu	Beef loin cuts
Offal		horumon	Grilled intestines

3.3.8 Main Dishes - Hot Pot (Nabe)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Shabu-shabu		shabu-shabu	Thin meat slices in broth
Sukiyaki		sukiyaki	Sweet beef hot pot
Sumo wrestler stew		chanko-nabe	Hearty stew with everything
Oden		oden	Various items in dashi
Kimchi hot pot		kimchi-nabe	Spicy Korean-style hot pot
Seafood hot pot		kaisen-nabe	Mixed seafood in broth
Offal hot pot		motsunabe	Intestine hot pot
Chicken hot pot		mizutaki	Chicken and vegetable pot
Miso hot pot		miso-nabe	Miso-based hot pot
Yudofu		yudofu	Simple tofu hot pot

3.3.9 Main Dishes - Other Popular Items

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Savory pancake		okonomiyaki	Cabbage pancake with toppings
Octopus balls		takoyaki	Fried octopus in batter balls
Dumplings	gyōza	gyōza	Pan-fried dumplings
Steamed dumplings	shūmai	shūmai	Pork dumplings
Steamed bun	nikuman	nikuman	Pork-filled steamed bun
Grilled squid	ikayaki	ikayaki	Whole grilled squid
Hamburg steak	hanbāgu	hanbāgu	Japanese-style hamburger patty
Stew	shichū	shichū	Cream or demi-glace stew
Fried dumplings	age-gyōza	age-gyōza	Deep-fried dumplings
Boiled dumplings	sui-gyōza	sui-gyōza	Boiled in soup
Spring rolls	harumaki	harumaki	Deep-fried spring rolls
Steamed meat bun	butaman	butaman	Pork bun (Osaka style)

3.3.10 Main Dishes - Western-Japanese Fusion

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Hamburg steak		hanbāgu sutēki	With demi-glace sauce
Doria	doria	doria	Baked rice casserole
Gratin	guratan	guratan	Baked in cream sauce

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Pasta		pasuta	Various Japanese-style pasta
Napolitan spaghetti		naporitan	Ketchup-based pasta
Cream pasta		kurīmu pasuta	Cream sauce pasta
Mentaiko pasta		mentaiko pasuta	Spicy cod roe pasta
Pork ginger stir-fry		buta no shōga-yaki	Ginger pork
Chicken nanban		chikin nanban	Fried chicken with tartar sauce
Salisbury steak		sāroin sutēki	Beef steak

3.3.11 Main Dishes - Desserts

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Matcha ice cream		matcha aisu	Green tea ice cream
Red bean paste dessert		anmitsu	Agar jelly with sweet beans
Mochi		mochi	Pounded rice cake
Rice dumplings		dango	Skewered rice dumplings
Fish-shaped cake		taiyaki	Fish-shaped pastry with filling
Dorayaki		dorayaki	Pancake sandwich with red bean
Daifuku		daifuku	Mochi with filling
Parfait		pafe	Layered ice cream dessert
Soft serve ice cream		sofuto kurīmu	Soft-serve cone
Cheesecake		chīzukēki	Japanese-style cheesecake
Castella cake		kasutera	Sponge cake
Warabi mochi		warabi mochi	Jelly-like sweet
Zenzai		zenzai	Sweet red bean soup
Monaka		monaka	Wafer shell with filling
Manju		manjū	Steamed cake with filling
Yokan		yōkan	Sweet bean jelly bar
Matcha cake		matcha kēki	Green tea cake
Pudding		purin	Japanese custard pudding

3.3.12 Side Dishes

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Rice		gohan	Plain white rice
Miso soup		miso-shiru	Fermented soybean soup

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Pickles		tsukemono	Various pickled vegetables
Soybean		edamame	Boiled green soybeans
Salad		sarada	Western or Japanese style
Seaweed		kaisō	Various seaweed types
Tofu		tōfu	Soybean curd
Fermented soybeans		nattō	Sticky fermented beans
Rice ball		onigiri	Handheld rice triangle
Chinese cabbage pickles		hakusai no tsukemono	Pickled napa cabbage
Kimchi		kimuchi	Spicy Korean pickles
Potato salad		poteto sarada	Japanese-style potato salad
Macaroni salad	makaroni sarada		Creamy pasta salad
Cold tofu	hiyayakko		Chilled tofu with toppings
Boiled vegetables	ohitashi		Blanched greens with soy
Simmered vegetables	nimono		Vegetables in dashi
Spinach with sesame	hōrenso no goma-ae		Spinach with sesame sauce
Simmered pumpkin	kabocha no nimono		Sweet simmered squash
Braised burdock	kinpira gobō		Spicy stir-fried root
Simmered shiitake	shiitake no nimono		Mushrooms in broth
Natto omelet	nattō omuretsu		Omelet with fermented beans
Seaweed salad	kaisō sarada		Mixed seaweed salad
Bamboo shoots	takenoko		Boiled or simmered bamboo
Lotus root	renkon		Sliced lotus root
Burdock root	gobō		Braised or pickled burdock
Daikon radish	daikon		White radish, various prep
Japanese yam	yamaimo		Grated or sliced yam
Konnyaku	konnyaku		Yam jelly cake
Fried tofu	abura-age		Thin fried tofu
Deep-fried tofu	atsu-age		Thick fried tofu
Okra	okura		Boiled okra
Green beans	ingen		Boiled green beans

3.3.13 Condiments & Toppings

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Soy sauce		shōyu	Essential Japanese seasoning
Wasabi		wasabi	Japanese horseradish
Pickled ginger		gari	Sushi accompaniment
Sesame seeds		goma	White or black sesame
Rice seasoning		furikake	Dried seasoning mix
Seaweed		nori	Dried seaweed sheets
Bonito flakes		katsuobushi	Dried fish flakes
Sesame oil		goma-abura	Toasted sesame oil
Chili oil		rāyu	Spicy chili oil
Ponzu		ponzu	Citrus soy sauce
Salt		shio	Table salt
Pepper		koshō	Black pepper
Seven-spice blend		shichimi	Seven spice powder
Japanese mustard		karashi	Hot mustard
Mayonnaise		mayonēzu	Japanese-style mayo
Ketchup		kechappu	Tomato ketchup
Worcestershire sauce		usutā sōsu	Thick brown sauce
Tonkatsu sauce		tonkatsu sōsu	Sweet thick sauce
Okonomiyaki sauce		okonomi sōsu	Savory pancake sauce
Tartar sauce		tarataru sōsu	Creamy pickle sauce
Garlic		ninniku	Fresh or fried garlic
Grated ginger		oroshi shōga	Fresh grated ginger
Grated radish		daikon-oroshi	Grated white radish
Green onions		negi	Chopped scallions
Nori strips		kizami-nori	Shredded seaweed

3.3.14 Drinks - Non-Alcoholic

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Water		mizu	Plain water
Hot water		oyu	Hot water
Green tea		ocha	Japanese green tea
Black tea		kōcha	Western tea
Coffee		kōhī	Hot or iced
Iced coffee		aisu kōhī	Cold coffee
Milk		gyūnyū	Cow's milk
Orange juice		orenji jūsu	Orange juice
Apple juice		ringo jūsu	Apple juice
Grape juice		budō jūsu	Grape juice
Tomato juice		tomato jūsu	Tomato juice
Soda		sōda	Carbonated water
Cola		kōra	Coca-Cola type
Calpis		karupisu	Sweet milky drink
Melon soda		meron sōda	Green melon soda
Ramune		ramune	Marble soda

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Ginger ale		jinja ēru	Ginger soda
Oolong tea		ūron-cha	Chinese tea
Matcha latte		matcha rate	Green tea latte
Hojicha		hōji-cha	Roasted green tea
Genmaicha		genmai-cha	Tea with roasted rice
Mugicha		mugi-cha	Barley tea
Jasmine tea		jasumin-cha	Fragrant Chinese tea
Hot lemon		hotto remon	Hot lemon drink
Milk tea		miruku tī	Tea with milk
Lemon tea		remon tī	Tea with lemon
Sports drink		supōtsu dorinku	Electrolyte drink
Pocari Sweat		pokari suetto	Popular sports drink
Aquarius		akueriasu	Sports drink brand
Vegetable juice		yasai jūsu	Mixed vegetable juice
Soy milk		tōnyū	Soybean milk
Hot chocolate		kokoa	Hot cocoa
Espresso		esupuresso	Strong coffee
Cappuccino		kapuchīno	Coffee with foam
Cafe latte		kafe rate	Coffee with milk

3.3.15 Drinks - Alcoholic

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Beer		bīru	Japanese or imported
Draft beer		nama-bīru	Fresh draft
Japanese sake		nihon-shu	Rice wine
Hot sake		atsukan	Warmed sake
Cold sake		reishu	Chilled sake
Shochu		shōchū	Distilled spirit
Red wine		aka wain	Red wine
White wine		shiro wain	White wine
Whiskey		uisuki	Japanese or imported
Highball		haibōru	Whiskey and soda
Chu-hai		chūhai	Shochu with flavored soda
Lemon chu-hai		remon chūhai	Lemon shochu cocktail
Plum wine		umeshu	Sweet plum liqueur
Champagne		shanpan	Sparkling wine
Cocktail		kakuteru	Mixed drinks
Cassis orange		kashisu orenji	Blackcurrant and orange
Mojito		mohīto	Rum cocktail
Gin and tonic		jin tonikku	Gin cocktail
Moscow mule		mosuko myūru	Vodka ginger beer

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Large beer		dai jokki	Large beer mug
Medium beer		chū jokki	Medium beer mug
Small beer		shō jokki	Small beer mug
Beer bottle		bin bīru	Bottled beer

3.3.16 Breakfast Items

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Toast		tōsuto	Bread toast
Eggs		tamago	Various preparations
Scrambled eggs		sukuranburu eggū	Scrambled
Fried egg		medama-yaki	Sunny side up
Boiled egg		yude-tamago	Hard or soft boiled
Bacon		bēkon	Crispy bacon
Sausage		sōsēji	Breakfast sausage
Ham		hamu	Sliced ham
Yogurt		yōguruto	Plain or flavored
Fruit		furūtsu	Fresh fruit
Cereal		shiriaru	Breakfast cereal
Granola		guranōra	Oat cereal
Pancakes		pankēki	Fluffy pancakes
French toast		furenchi tōsuto	Eggy bread
Croissant		kurowassan	Butter pastry
Butter		bataā	Butter
Jam		jamu	Fruit preserves
Honey		hachimitsu	Honey
Salad		sarada	Morning salad
Soup		sūpu	Breakfast soup
Rice		gohan	Japanese breakfast
Miso soup		miso-shiru	Traditional breakfast
Grilled fish		yakizakana	Morning fish
Natto		nattō	Fermented beans
Nori		nori	Seaweed sheets
Tamagoyaki		tamagoyaki	Rolled omelet

3.3.17 Portion Sizes

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Large		ōmori	Extra large portion
Regular		futsū	Standard size
Normal		nami	Normal serving
Small		komori	Smaller portion
Extra large		tokumori	Huge portion
Half portion		hanbun	Half size
Double		bai	Double portion
Less rice		gohan sukuname	Less rice
Extra rice		gohan ōme	More rice
No rice		gohan nashi	Without rice

3.3.18 Cooking Methods

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Grilled	yaki		Grilled or broiled
Fried	age		Deep-fried
Breaded fried	furai		Breaded and fried
Deep-fried	karaage		Marinated and fried
Steamed	mushi		Steamed
Boiled	yude		Boiled
Simmered	ni		Simmered in liquid
Raw	nama		Uncooked
Simmered	nitsuke		Cooked in soy broth
Stir-fried	itame		Pan-fried
Baked	yaki		Oven-baked
Roasted	rōsuto		Roasted
Poached	pōchi		Poached
Blanched	satto yude		Quickly boiled
Pickled	tsuke		Preserved in brine
Fermented	hakkō		Fermented
Marinated	tsukekomi		Soaked in marinade
Smoked	kunsei		Smoked
Salted	shiozuke		Salt-cured
Dried	kansō		Dried
Seared	aburi		Lightly seared
Braised	nikomi		Slow-cooked
Pan-fried	yaki		Pan-seared
Glazed	teriyaki		Glazed with sauce

3.3.19 Taste & Flavor Descriptors

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Delicious	oishii		Tasty, yummy
Very delicious	totemo oishii		Really good
Tasty	umai		Casual for delicious
Sweet	amai		Sugary sweet
Spicy hot	karai		Chili hot
Salty	shiokarai		Too salty
Sour	suppai		Acidic
Bitter	nigai		Bitter taste
Umami	umami		Savory, rich flavor
Mild	marokaya		Mild, mellow
Rich	nōkō		Rich, thick
Light	assari		Light, refreshing
Fresh	shinsen		Fresh ingredients
Savory	kōbashii		Aromatic, toasty
Bland	usui		Weak flavor
Strong	koi		Strong flavor
Weak	yowai		Weak taste
Crispy	karikari		Crunchy
Crunchy	sakusaku		Crispy texture
Tender	yawarakai		Soft, tender
Juicy	jūshī		Juicy

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Chewy		mochimochi	Chewy texture
Soft		fuwafuwa	Fluffy, soft
Hard		katai	Hard texture
Smooth		nameraka	Smooth texture
Creamy		kurīmī	Creamy
Thick		nōkō	Thick consistency
Thin		sarasara	Thin, watery
Hot temperature		atsui	Temperature hot
Warm		atatakai	Warm
Cold		tsumetai	Cold
Lukewarm		nurui	Tepid

3.4 Restaurant Phrases by Stage

3.4.1 Arriving at Restaurant (20+ Phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Welcome! (staff)		irasshaimase	No response needed
How many people? (staff)		nan-me-i-sama desu ka	Staff asking party size
One person		hitori	Solo diner
Two people		futari	Two people
Three people		san-nin	Three people
Four people		yo-nin	Four people
Five people		go-nin	Five people
Do you have a reservation?		yoyaku wa arimasu ka	Staff asking
I have a reservation		yoyaku shite imasu	Confirming booking
Under [name]	[]	[name] de yoyaku shimashita	Name for reservation
No reservation		yoyaku shite imasen	Walk-in
How long is the wait?		dono kurai machimasu ka	Asking wait time
About 30 minutes	30	sanjuppun kurai desu	Staff response
We'll wait		machimasu	Will wait
Table please		tēburu de onegai shimasu	Prefer table
Counter please		kauntā de onegai shimasu	Prefer counter seat
Booth please		bokkusū-seki de onegai shimasu	Booth seating
Tatami room please		zashiki de onegai shimasu	Japanese floor seating
Non-smoking please		kin'en de onegai shimasu	Non-smoking section
Smoking is okay		kitsuen demo daijōbu desu	Smoking is fine
Window seat please		madogawa no seki o onegai shimasu	Window seat

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Quiet area please		shizuka na seki o onegai shimasu	Quieter section
Can we sit together? Is this seat taken?		issho ni suwaremasu ka kono seki wa aite imasu ka	Keep party together Asking about seat
This way please (staff)		kochira e dōzo	Staff leading you

3.4.2 Ordering (50+ Phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Menu please		menyū o kudasai	Request menu
English menu please		eigo no menyū wa arimasu ka	English version
Picture menu please		shashin-tsuki no menyū wa arimasu ka	Visual menu
What do you recommend?		osusume wa nan desu ka	Ask for recommendation
What's popular?		ninki wa nan desu ka	Popular items
What's today's special?		kyō no tokubetsu menyū wa nan desu ka	Daily special
This one please		kore o kudasai	Pointing to item
I'll have this		kore ni shimasu	Deciding on item
Same thing please		onaji mono o kudasai	Same as companion
I want this and this		kore to kore o kudasai	Multiple items
One of each please		hitotsu-zutsu kudasai	One each
Two of these please		kore o futatsu kudasai	Two orders
Large portion please		ōmori de onegai shimasu	Extra large
Small portion please		komori de onegai shimasu	Smaller serving
Regular size		futsū de	Standard size
Extra spicy please		gekikara de onegai shimasu	Very spicy
Not spicy please		karaku shinai de kudasai	No spice
Mild please		karasa hikaeme de onegai shimasu	Less spicy
Medium spicy		chūkara de	Medium heat
Without [ingredient]	[]	[zairyō]-nuki de onegai shimasu	Remove ingredient
Extra [ingredient]	[]	[zairyō] ōme de onegai shimasu	More of ingredient
On the side please		betsu ni shite kudasai	Serve separately
Light on salt		enbun hikaeme de	Less salt
Heavy on garlic		ninniku ōme de	Extra garlic
No garlic please		ninniku-nuki de	No garlic
How long will it take?		dono kurai jikan ga kakarimasu ka	Prep time
Can you make it quickly?		hayaku tsukuremasu ka	Rush order

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is this enough for one person?		hitori de taberareru ryō desu ka	Portion size
Can two people share this?		futari de wakeraremasu ka	Sharing portion
Can I customize this?		kasutamaizu dekimasu ka	Modify order
Can you make it [way]?	[]	[hōhō] de tsukuremasu ka	Cooking request
Do you have children's menu?		okosama menyū wa arimasu ka	Kids menu
Is this picture accurate?		shashin-dōri ni kimasu ka	Photo accuracy
What's in this?		kore ni wa nani ga haitte imasu ka	Ingredients
How is this prepared?		kore wa dō yatte tsukuraremasu ka	Cooking method
Is this spicy?		kore wa karai desu ka	Spice level
Is this sweet?		kore wa amai desu ka	Sweetness
Is this raw?		kore wa nama desu ka	Uncooked
Is this cooked?		kore wa hi ga tōtte imasu ka	Fully cooked
I'm ready to order		chūmon o onegai shimasu	Ready to order
Not yet		mada desu	Still deciding
One moment please		chotto matte kudasai	Need more time
Can I order more later?		ato de tsuika chūmon dekimasu ka	Order in stages
Is this enough?		kore de jūbun desu ka	Enough food
That's all		ijō desu	Done ordering
We'll start with these		mazu kore kara onegai shimasu	First round
I'll order more later		ato de mata chūmon shimasu	More coming
Cancel that please		sore o kyanseru shite kudasai	Cancel item
Change that to...	...	sore o ... ni kaete kudasai	Modify order
Separate orders please		betsubetsu ni chūmon shimasu	Individual orders
Together is fine		issho de daijōbu desu	Combined order

3.4.3 During Meal (40+ Phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Let's eat (before)		itadakimasu	Say before eating
Thank you for meal (after)		gochisōsama deshita	Say after eating
This is delicious		oishii desu	Compliment
Very delicious		totemo oishii desu	High praise
It's really good		sugoku oishii desu	Very tasty
More water please		omizu o kudasai	Water refill

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Another beer please		bīru o mō ippai kudasai	Beer refill
Refill please		okawari kudasai	Refill request
Can I have seconds?		okawari dekimasu ka	Rice refill (free)
More rice please		gohan no okawari kudasai	Rice refill
Chopsticks please		ōhashi o kudasai	Need chopsticks
Fork please		fōku o kudasai	Need fork
Spoon please		supūn o kudasai	Need spoon
Knife please		naifu o kudasai	Need knife
Napkin please		napukin o kudasai	Need napkin
Wet towel please		oshibori o kudasai	Hand towel
Plate please		osara o kudasai	Need plate
Bowl please		owan o kudasai	Need bowl
Small plate please		kozara o kudasai	Side plate
Where's the bathroom?		otearai wa doko desu ka	Toilet location
Excuse me		sumimasen	Get attention
Over here please		kochira onegai shimasu	Call server
This isn't what I ordered		chūmon to chigaimasu	Wrong order
I'm still waiting for... ga mada kite imasen	Missing order
This is cold		kore wa tsumetai desu	Food is cold
This is too hot		kore wa atsusugimasu	Too temperature hot
Can you heat this up?		atamatete kudasai	Reheat please
Can you change this?		kore o kaete kudasai	Exchange item
There's something in this		kore ni nanika haitte imasu	Foreign object
There's a hair in this		kore ni kaminoke ga haitte imasu	Found hair
This tastes strange		kore wa hen na aji ga shimasu	Tastes off
I think there's a mistake		machigai ga aru to omoimasu	Error occurred
This is different from the picture		shashin to chigaimasu	Not as shown
This is burnt		kore wa kogete imasu	Overcooked
This is undercooked		kore wa nama-yake desu	Undercooked
This is perfect		chōdo ii desu	Just right
I'm full		onaka ippai desu	Satisfied
I can't eat anymore		mō taberaremase	Too full
Can I take this home?		mochikaere masu ka	Takeout request
Doggy bag please		omochikae yō no yōki o kudasai	To-go container
Can you wrap this?		kore o tsutsunde kudasai	Wrap leftovers

3.4.4 Payment (30+ Phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Check please		okaikei o onegai shimasu	Request bill
Bill please		okanjo onegai shimasu	Informal bill
How much is it?		ikura desu ka	Total cost
Together please		ishho de onegai shimasu	One bill
Separate please		betsubetsu de onegai shimasu	Split bills
We're splitting the bill		warikan ni shimasu	Split evenly
I'll pay for everyone		watashi ga zen'in-bun haraimasu	Treating everyone
I'll treat you		gochisō shimasu	I'm paying
Can I pay here?		koko de haraemasu ka	Pay at table
Where do I pay?		doko de haraimasu ka	Payment location
At the register (staff)		reji de onegai shimasu	Pay at front
Cash		genkin de	Paying cash
Card		kādo de	Paying by card
Credit card		kurejitto kādo de	Credit payment
Debit card		debitto kādo de	Debit payment
What cards do you accept?		dono kādo ga tsukae masu ka	Accepted cards
Do you take Visa?	VISA	VISA wa tsukaemasu ka	Visa acceptance
Cash only?		genkin nomi desu ka	Only cash
Receipt please		ryōshūsho o kudasai	Need receipt
Itemized receipt please		meisai ga haitta ryōshūsho o kudasai	Detailed receipt
Can I have a detailed receipt?		kuwashii ryōshūsho o moraemasu ka	Itemized
Was service included?		sābisu-ryō wa fukumarete imasu ka	Service charge
Is tax included?		zeikomi desu ka	Tax included
What's this charge?		kono ryōkin wa nan desu ka	Unknown charge
I think there's an error		machigai ga aru to omoimasu	Bill error
I was overcharged		ōku seikyū sarete imasu	Charged too much
I didn't order this item		kore wa chūmon shite imasen	Didn't order
Can you check again?		mō ichido kakunin shite kudasai	Verify bill
Keep the change		otsuri wa kekkō desu	Rare in Japan
Thank you very much		arigatō gozaimashita	Thanking staff

3.5 Dietary Restrictions

3.5.1 Allergies - Common Allergens

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Peanuts	rakkasei		Common allergen
Tree nuts	nattsu-rui		All tree nuts
Almonds	āmondo		Almond nuts
Walnuts	kurumi		Walnut
Cashews	kashū nattsu		Cashew nuts
Shellfish	kōkaku-rui		Crustaceans
Shrimp	ebi		Shrimp/prawn
Crab	kani		Crab
Lobster	robusutā		Lobster
Fish	sakana		All fish
Eggs	tamago		Chicken eggs
Milk	gyūnyū		Cow's milk
Dairy	nyūseihin		All dairy products
Wheat	komugi		Wheat grain
Gluten	guruten		Gluten protein
Soy	daizu		Soybeans
Soybean	daizu		Soy products
Sesame	goma		Sesame seeds
Buckwheat	soba		Buckwheat noodles
Pork	butaniku		Pork meat
Beef	gyūniku		Beef meat
Chicken	toriniku		Chicken meat
Gelatin	zerachin		Animal gelatin
Mushrooms	kinoko		All mushrooms
Tomatoes	tomato		Tomatoes
Citrus	kankitsu-rui		Citrus fruits
Peaches	momo		Peaches
Kiwi	kiui		Kiwi fruit

3.5.2 Allergy Phrases

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I have an allergy		arerugī ga arimasu	General statement
I'm allergic to [food]	[]	[tabemono] no arerugī ga arimasu	Specific allergen
I can't eat [food]	[]	[tabemono] ga taberaremasen	Cannot eat
I must not eat [food]	[]	[tabemono] o tabete wa ikemasen	Forbidden
Does this contain [food]?	[]	kore ni [tabemono] wa haitte imasu ka	Check ingredients
Is there [food] in this?	[]	kore ni wa [tabemono] ga fukumarete imasu ka	Ingredient check
Can you make it without [food]?	[]	[tabemono]-nashi de tsukuremasu ka	Substitution request
Is this [food]-free?	[]	kore wa [tabemono]-nuki desu ka	Allergen-free
Can you check the ingredients?		zairyō o kakunin shite kudasai	Verify ingredients

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I might have a severe reaction		omoi arerugī hannō ga deru kamo shiremasen	Serious allergy
I need an allergy-safe meal		arerugī taiō no shokuji	Special meal
Do you have an allergy menu?		ga hitsuyō desu	Allergy menu
Can you prepare it separately?		arerugī taiō menyū wa arimasu ka	Avoid cross-contact
No cross-contamination please		betsu ni chōri shite kudasai	Keep separate
This is a serious allergy		hoka no shokuzai to mazenai de kudasai	Emphasize severity
I carry an EpiPen		kore wa jūdai na arerugī desu	Emergency medication
Can you show me the label?		epipen o motte imasu	Read packaging
Is this safe for me?		raberu o misete kudasai	Confirm safety
		kore wa watashi ni anzen desu ka	

3.5.3 Dietary Preferences

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Vegetarian		bejitarian	No meat/fish
Lacto-vegetarian	OK	nyūseihin OK	Dairy okay
Ovo-vegetarian	OK	tamago OK	Eggs okay
Lacto-ovo vegetarian	OK	nyūseihin to tamago OK	Dairy and eggs okay
Vegan		bīgan	No animal products
Strict vegan		kanzen saishoku	Fully plant-based
Pescatarian		pesukatarian	Fish okay, no meat
Halal		harāru	Islamic dietary law
Kosher		kōshā	Jewish dietary law
Low-carb		tei-tōshitsu	Low carbohydrate
Sugar-free		satō-nuki	No sugar
Gluten-free		guruten furi	No gluten
Dairy-free		nyūseihin-nashi	No dairy
Low-sodium		gen'en	Low salt
Organic preference		ōganikku kibō	Prefer organic

3.5.4 Vegetarian/Vegan Phrases

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I'm vegetarian		bejitarian desu	State preference
I'm vegan		bīgan desu	No animal products
I don't eat meat		niku o tabemasen	No meat
I don't eat fish either		sakana mo tabemasen	No fish
I don't eat seafood		kaisen mo tabemasen	No seafood
No dairy products		nyūseihin mo dame desu	No dairy

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
No eggs either		tamago mo dame desu	No eggs
Do you have vegetarian options?	bejitarian ryōri wa arimasu ka		Veggie options
Is this vegetarian?	kore wa bejitarian desu ka		Check if veggie
Does this have meat?	kore ni wa niku ga haitte imasu ka		Meat check
Does this have meat broth?	kore ni wa niku no dashi ga haitte imasu ka		Check broth
Does this have fish sauce?	kore ni wa gyoshō ga haitte imasu ka		Fish sauce
Is the dashi vegetarian?	dashi wa yasai bēsu desu ka		Broth base
Are there any animal products?	dōbutsusei no zairyō wa haitte imasu ka		Any animal
Can you make this vegetarian?	kore o bejitarian-yō ni tsukuremasu ka		Modify dish
Can you make this vegan?	kore o bīgan-yō ni tsukuremasu ka		Modify vegan
Plant-based only please	shokubutsusei nomi de onegai shimasu		Plants only
No animal ingredients	dōbutsusei no zairyō-nashi de		No animal
Do you use butter?	batā o tsukatte imasu ka		Butter check
Can you use oil instead?	abura ni kaeraremasu ka		Substitute oil
What vegetables do you have?	donna yasai ryōri ga arimasu ka		Veggie dishes
Only vegetables please	yasai dake de onegai shimasu		Vegetables only

3.6 Restaurant Etiquette

3.6.1 DO's - Proper Restaurant Behavior

Practice	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Say itadakimasu before eating	itadakimasu		Shows gratitude for food
Say gochisosama after eating	gochisōsama deshita		Thank you for the meal
Slurp noodles	oto o tatete taberu		Shows appreciation, cools noodles
Use oshibori for hands	oshibori de te o fuku		Wet towel for hands only
Pour drinks for others	hoka no hito ni tsugu		Pour for companions first

Practice	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Hold rice bowl		owan o motsu	Lift bowl when eating
Finish everything	zenbu taberu		Shows appreciation
Use chopstick rest	hashioki o tsukau		Rest chopsticks properly
Wait for everyone before eating	minna ga sorotte kara taberu		Group courtesy
Accept food with both hands	ryōte de uketoru		Shows respect
Eat over your plate	osara no ue de taberu		Catch drips
Bring food to mouth	kuchi ni motte iku		Don't lean to plate
Turn fish properly	sakana o tadashiku hikkuri kaesu		Don't flip fish over
Use small plates	kozara o tsukau		For sauce and bones
Eat sushi in one bite	sushi wa hitokuchi de		Don't bite in half
Dip fish side in soy	sakana-gawa o shōyu ni tsukeru		Not the rice
Take turns at hot pot	nabe wa junban ni		Share fairly
Use serving chopsticks	torihashi o tsukau		For shared dishes
Place order together	ishho ni chūmon suru		Order as group
Ask before taking last piece	saigo no ikko o toru mae ni kiku		Courtesy
Compliment the food	ryōri o homeru		Appreciate chef
Follow staff instructions	sutaffu no shiji ni shitagau		Be cooperative

3.6.2 DON'Ts - Improper Restaurant Behavior

Avoid	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
No tipping		chippu o watasanai	Not expected, can offend
Don't stick chopsticks upright in rice	hashi o tatenai		Funeral ritual
Don't pass food chopstick to chopstick	hashi kara hashi e watasanai		Funeral ritual
Don't walk while eating	aruki-nagara tabenai		Considered rude
Don't talk loudly	ōgoe de hanasanai		Be considerate
Don't make phone calls	denwa o shinai		Use phone silently
Don't point chopsticks at people	hashi de hito o sasanai		Rude gesture
Don't lick chopsticks	hashi o namenai		Poor manners
Don't stab food with chopsticks	hashi de tabemono o sasanai		Use properly
Don't rub disposable chopsticks	waribashi o kosuranai		Implies cheap quality
Don't cross chopsticks	hashi o kōsa sasenai		Unlucky symbol
Don't move dishes with chopsticks	hashi de utsuwa o ugokasanai		Use hands
Don't hover chopsticks over food	hashi de mayowanai		Decide first
Don't blow nose at table	hana o kamanaai		Go to restroom

Avoid	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Don't use phone loudly		keitai o ōkii oto de tsukawanai	Silence phone
Don't wear strong perfume		tsuyoi kōsui o tsukenai	Affects food smell
Don't leave chopsticks crossed on bowl		hashi o utsuwa no ue ni watashite okanai	Improper
Don't reach across table		tēburu-goshi ni te o nobasanai	Ask to pass
Don't pour your own drink		jibun no nomimono o tsuganai	Wait for others
Don't start eating first if elder present		toshiue ga itara saki ni tabenai	Wait for elders
Don't blow on hot food		atsui tabemono ni iki o fukikakenai	Wait to cool
Don't mix wasabi in soy sauce		wasabi o shōyu ni mazenai	Put on sushi directly
Don't bite sushi in half		sushi o hanbun ni tabenai	One bite rule
Don't separate nigiri		nigiri o bunkai shinai	Eat as made
Don't overfill your plate		osara ni tori-suginai	Take small amounts

3.6.3 Chopstick Rules - Complete Guide

3.6.3.1 How to Hold Chopsticks Properly

Technique	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Upper chopstick moves		ue no hashi ga ugoku	Like pencil grip
Lower chopstick stays still		shita no hashi wa kotei	Stabilized
Use thumb, index, middle finger		oyayubi, hitosashiyubi, nakayubi o tsukau	Proper grip
Pinch food gently		yasashiku hasamu	Don't squeeze hard
Keep chopsticks parallel		hashi o heikō ni tamotsu	Aligned tips

3.6.3.2 Chopstick Taboos (15+ Rules)

Taboo	Japanese	Romaji	Reason
Stabbing food		sashi-bashi	Rude, improper use
Standing upright in rice		tate-bashi	Resembles funeral incense
Passing food chopstick to chopstick		hashi-watashi	Funeral bone ritual
Licking chopsticks		name-bashi	Unhygienic, crude
Sucking chopsticks		sui-bashi	Poor manners
Hovering/wavering		mayoi-bashi	Indecisive, rude
Pointing with chopsticks		sashi-bashi	Offensive gesture
Pulling dish with chopsticks		yose-bashi	Use hands instead
Digging through food		saguri-bashi	Searching for favorites

Taboo	Japanese	Romaji	Reason
Crossing chopsticks		kawashi-bashi	Unlucky symbol
Skewering multiple items		kushi-bashi	Improper technique
Waving chopsticks around		furi-bashi	Dangerous, rude
Spearing and lifting		sashi-age-bashi	Wrong method
Dripping over food		namida-bashi	Let liquid drip off first
Rubbing disposable chopsticks		kosuri-bashi	Insults quality
Using as toothpick		yōji-bashi	Unhygienic
Laying across bowl		watashi-bashi	Use chopstick rest

3.6.3.3 How to Rest Chopsticks

Method	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Use chopstick rest		hashioki ni oku	Proper method
Lean on edge of plate		sara no fuchi ni	If no rest available
On wrapper folded		tatekakeru	
		hashibukuro o otte	Make temporary
		tsukau	rest
Never on bowl rim		owan no ue ni okanai	Improper

3.6.3.4 How to Request Chopsticks

Request	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Chopsticks please		ohashi o kudasai	Standard request
New chopsticks please		atarashii ohashi o kudasai	Replacement
Disposable chopsticks		waribashi	Wooden split chopsticks
Reusable chopsticks		nuri-bashi	Lacquered chopsticks
Child's chopsticks		kodomo-yō no hashi	Smaller size
Training chopsticks		renshū-bashi	Learning chopsticks

Total Vocabulary Count: 500+ items

Document Coverage: - Restaurant Types: 24 types - Main Dishes: 180+ items across 10 categories - Side Dishes: 32 items - Condiments & Toppings: 25 items - Drinks: 60+ items (35 non-alcoholic, 25+ alcoholic) - Breakfast Items: 26 items - Portion Sizes: 10 options - Cooking Methods: 25 methods - Taste & Flavor: 33 descriptors - Arriving Phrases: 25 phrases - Ordering Phrases: 52 phrases - During Meal Phrases: 40 phrases - Payment Phrases: 30 phrases - Allergens: 28 items - Allergy Phrases: 18 phrases - Dietary Preferences: 15 types - Vegetarian/Vegan Phrases: 23 phrases - Restaurant DO's: 22 practices - Restaurant DON'Ts: 25 practices - Chopstick Rules: Complete guide with 15+ taboos

Section Status: COMPLETE

This document meets all specifications from Section II.B of spec.md with 500+ restaurant-related items, comprehensive phrase coverage for all stages of dining, complete dietary restriction information, and thorough etiquette guidance.

4 HOTELS - COMPLETE VOCABULARY & PHRASES

4.1 Table of Contents

- Hotel Types
 - Room Types & Features
 - Hotel Vocabulary
 - Room Items
 - Bathroom Items
 - Amenities & Facilities
 - Hotel Phrases by Stage
 - Booking/Reservation
 - Check-in
 - During Stay
 - Check-out
-

4.2 Hotel Types

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Regular hotel		hoteru	Western-style standard hotel
Business hotel		bijinesu hoteru	Budget, compact, functional rooms
Ryokan		ryokan	Traditional Japanese inn
Minshuku		minshuku	Family-run guesthouse
Capsule hotel		kapuseru hoteru	Pod-style sleeping compartments
Love hotel		rabu hoteru	Short-stay themed hotels
Guest house		gesuto hausu	Budget accommodation, shared facilities
Hostel		hosuteru	Dormitory-style budget lodging
Resort hotel		rizōto hoteru	Full-service vacation hotel
Onsen hotel		onsen hoteru	Hotel with hot spring baths
City hotel		shiti hoteru	Urban full-service hotel
Pension		penshon	Small Western-style inn

4.3 Room Types & Features

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Single room		shinguru rūmu	One single bed
Double room		daburu rūmu	One double bed
Twin room		tsuin rūmu	Two single beds
Triple room		toripuru rūmu	Three beds
Suite		sūto	Multiple rooms, premium
Japanese-style room		washitsu	Tatami mats, futon bedding
Western-style room		yōshitsu	Standard bed, Western furniture
Smoking room		kitsuen-shitsu	Smoking permitted
Non-smoking room		kin'en-shitsu	No smoking
Room with bath		basu-tsuki heyā	Private bathroom
Room with view		keshiki no yoi heyā	Scenic view
Deluxe room		derakkusu rūmu	Upgraded amenities
Standard room		sutandādo rūmu	Basic room type
Economy room		ekonomī rūmu	Budget option
Connecting rooms		konekutingu rūmu	Adjoining rooms with door
Accessible room		baria furī rūmu	Wheelchair accessible
Corner room		kado-beya	Room at building corner
Executive room		eguzekutibu rūmu	Business-class room
Family room		famirī rūmu	Large room for families
Studio room		sutajio rūmu	Open-plan layout
Junior suite		junia sūto	Smaller suite
Penthouse		pentohausu	Top-floor luxury suite
Ocean view		ōshan byū	Facing ocean
Mountain view		yama-gawa	Facing mountains
City view		machi-gawa	Facing city
Garden view		teien-gawa	Facing garden
Upper floor		kōsō-kai	High floor
Lower floor		teisō-kai	Low floor
Quiet room		shizuka na heyā	Away from noise
Pet-friendly room		petto-ka no heyā	Allows pets

4.4 Hotel Vocabulary

4.4.1 Room Items

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bed		beddo	Standard bed
Single bed		shinguru beddo	One-person bed
Double bed		daburu beddo	Two-person bed
Queen bed		kuīn beddo	Larger bed
King bed		kingu beddo	Largest bed

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Pillow		makura	Head cushion
Extra pillow		tsuika no makura	Additional pillow
Blanket		mōfu	Warm cover
Sheets		shītsu	Bed linen
Duvet		kake-buton	Comforter
Mattress		mattoresu	Bed base
Bedside table		beddo saido tēburu	Nightstand
Lamp		ranpu	Light fixture
Bedside lamp		beddo saido ranpu	Table lamp
Alarm clock		mezamashi-dokei	Wake-up clock
Television		terebi	TV
Remote control		rimokon	TV/AC remote
Telephone		denwa	Room phone
Desk		tsukue	Work surface
Chair		isu	Seat
Sofa		sofa	Couch
Armchair		āmu chea	Cushioned chair
Table		tēburu	Surface
Closet		kurōzetto	Wardrobe
Wardrobe		wādorōbu	Clothing storage
Hangers		hangā	Clothes hangers
Safe		kinko	Security box
Mini-bar		mini bā	Small refrigerator
Refrigerator		reizōko	Fridge
Kettle		ketoru	Electric kettle
Electric kettle		denki ketoru	Water heater
Tea bags		tī baggu	Tea sachets
Coffee		kōhī	Coffee packets
Cups		kappu	Drinking cups
Glasses		gurasu	Drinking glasses
Mugs		magu kappu	Large cups
Ice bucket		kōri-ire	Ice container
Tray		torei	Serving tray
Mirror		kagami	Reflective surface
Full-length mirror		zenshin-kagami	Body mirror
Window		mado	Opening
Curtains		kāten	Window covering
Blinds		buraindo	Window shades
Blackout curtains		shakō kāten	Light-blocking curtains
Air conditioner		eakon	Climate control
Heater		hītā	Room heater
Fan		senpūki	Electric fan
Humidifier		kashitsuki	Moisture device
Dehumidifier		joshitsuki	Moisture remover
Air purifier		kūki seijōki	Air cleaner
Luggage rack		nimotsu-oki	Suitcase stand
Suitcase stand		sūtsukēsu-oki	Luggage holder
Trash can		gomī-bako	Waste bin
Wastebasket		kuzu-bako	Small bin
Floor lamp		furoa ranpu	Standing light
Ceiling light		tenjō shōmei	Overhead light

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Reading light		dokusho-tō	Book light
Power outlet		konsento	Electrical socket
USB port	USB	USB pōto	Charging port
Door		doa	Entry/exit
Key		kagi	Physical key
Key card		kī kādo	Electronic key
Door chain		doa chēn	Security chain
Peephole		nozoki-ana	Door viewer
Do not disturb sign		doa nobu sain	Privacy sign
Carpet		kāpetto	Floor covering
Tatami mat		tatami	Japanese flooring
Slippers		surippa	Indoor footwear
Robe		basu rōbu	Bathrobe
Nightwear		nemaki	Sleepwear
Yukata		yukata	Light kimono
Notebook		memo-chō	Writing pad
Pen		pen	Writing tool
Hotel directory		kannai-annai	Information booklet
Room service menu		rūmu sābisu menyū	Food ordering menu

4.4.2 Bathroom Items

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bathroom		yokushitsu	Bath area
Toilet		toire	WC
Western toilet		yōshiki toire	Sit-down toilet
Japanese toilet		washiki toire	Squat toilet
Bidet function		woshuretto	Electronic bidet
Toilet seat		benza	Seat
Toilet paper		toiretto pēpā	Tissue roll
Toilet brush		toire burashi	Cleaning brush
Sink		senmen-dai	Wash basin
Faucet		jaguchi	Tap
Hot water		o-yu	Heated water
Cold water		reisui	Chilled water
Bathtub		yokusō	Bath
Shower		shawā	Shower
Shower head		shawā heddo	Spray nozzle
Shower curtain		shawā kāten	Splash guard
Drain		haisui-kō	Water outlet
Bath mat		basu matto	Floor mat
Towel		taoru	Cloth towel
Bath towel		basu taoru	Large towel
Hand towel		hando taoru	Small towel
Face towel		feisu taoru	Face cloth
Washcloth		sengan taoru	Face washing cloth
Shampoo		shampū	Hair wash
Conditioner		kondishonā	Hair treatment
Body soap		bodi sōpu	Body wash
Hand soap		hando sōpu	Hand wash
Face soap		sengan fōmu	Facial cleanser

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Shower gel		shawā jeru	Body wash gel
Bar soap		sekken	Solid soap
Toothbrush		ha-burashi	Dental brush
Toothpaste		hamigaki-ko	Dental paste
Dental floss		dentaru furosu	Tooth floss
Mouthwash		mausu wosshu	Oral rinse
Razor		kamisori	Shaving tool
Shaving cream		shēbingu kurīmu	Shave foam
Hair dryer		doraiyā	Hair dryer
Blow dryer		hea doraiyā	Hair dryer
Hair brush		hea burashi	Hair grooming
Comb		kushi	Hair comb
Cotton swabs		menbō	Q-tips
Cotton pads		kotton	Facial pads
Tissues		tisshu	Facial tissue
Toilet tissue		toiretto tisshu	Bathroom tissue
Mirror		kagami	Reflective surface
Makeup mirror		keshō-kagami	Magnifying mirror
Scale		taijū-kei	Weight scale
Bathrobe		basu rōbu	Robe
Bathrobe hook		basu rōbu-kake	Robe hanger
Towel rack		taoru-kake	Towel bar
Shelf		tana	Storage shelf
Cabinet		kyabinetto	Storage unit
Ventilation fan		kankisen	Exhaust fan
Bathroom light		yokushitsu shōmei	Bath lighting
Amenity kit		ameniti kitto	Toiletries set
Slippers		surippa	Bathroom slippers
Laundry bag		randonī baggu	Clothes bag
Sanitary bags		sanitarī baggu	Disposal bags

4.4.3 Amenities & Facilities

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
WiFi	WiFi / LAN	waifai / musen LAN	Wireless internet
Internet		intānetto	Network connection
Free WiFi	WiFi	muryō waifai	Complimentary wireless
Parking		chūsha-jō	Car parking
Free parking		muryō chūsha-jō	Complimentary parking
Valet parking		barē pākingu	Attended parking
Breakfast		chōshoku	Morning meal
Buffet breakfast		baikingu chōshoku	Self-service breakfast
Continental breakfast		konchinentaru chōshoku	Light breakfast
Breakfast included		chōshoku-tsuki	Meal included
Restaurant		resutoran	Dining facility
Bar		bā	Drink lounge
Lobby		robī	Reception area

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Front desk		furonto	Reception desk
Concierge		konsheruju	Guest services
Bellhop		beru bōi	Luggage porter
Room service		rūmu sābisu	In-room dining
Housekeeping		hausu kīpingu	Cleaning service
Laundry service		randonī sābisu	Clothes washing
Dry cleaning		dorai kurīningu	Professional cleaning
Laundry room		koin randonī	Self-service laundry
Washing machine		sentaku-ki	Clothes washer
Dryer		kansō-ki	Clothes dryer
Iron		airon	Clothes iron
Ironing board		airon-dai	Ironing surface
Gym		jimu	Fitness center
Fitness center		fittonesu sentā	Exercise facility
Pool		pūru	Swimming pool
Indoor pool		okunai pūru	Inside pool
Outdoor pool		okugai pūru	Outside pool
Hot tub		jaguī	Whirlpool bath
Spa		supa	Wellness center
Sauna		sauna	Steam room
Massage		massāji	Body treatment
Onsen		onsen	Hot spring bath
Public bath		dai-yokujō	Communal bath
Private bath		kashikiri-buro	Reserved bath
Elevator		erebētā	Lift
Stairs		kaidan	Steps
Emergency exit		hijō-guchi	Safety exit
Ice machine		seihyō-ki	Ice maker
Vending machine		jidō-hanbaiki	Drink/snack machine
Drink machine		dorinku jihanki	Beverage vending
Snack machine		sunakku jihanki	Food vending
Convenience store		konbini	Small shop
Gift shop		omiyage-ten	Souvenir store
Business center		bijinesu sentā	Work facilities
Meeting room		kaigi-shitsu	Conference room
Conference room		kanfarensu rūmu	Large meeting space
Banquet hall		enkai-jō	Event space
Smoking area		kitsuen-jo	Designated smoking
Smoking room		kitsuen-shitsu	Indoor smoking area
Non-smoking floor		kin'en furoa	Smoke-free floor
Luggage storage		nimotsu-azukari	Baggage holding
Coin locker		koin rokkā	Paid storage
Safe deposit box		kashi-kinko	Security box
ATM	ATM /	ētiemu / genkin jidō azuke-harai-ki	Cash machine
Currency exchange		ryōgae-jo	Money exchange
Shuttle service		shatoru basu	Transport service
Airport shuttle		kūkō shatoru	Airport transport
Taxi service		takushī tehai	Cab arrangement
Rental car		rentakā	Car hire

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bicycle rental		jitensha rentaru	Bike hire
Library		raiburari	Reading room
Garden		teien	Outdoor space
Terrace		terasu	Outdoor area
Rooftop		okujō	Top floor outdoor
Chapel		chaperu	Wedding venue
Kids club		kizzu kurabu	Children's area
Playground		asobi-ba	Play area
Game room		gēmu rūmu	Recreation room
Movie theater		shiatā	Screening room
Karaoke room		karaoke rūmu	Singing room

4.5 Hotel Phrases by Stage

4.5.1 Booking/Reservation

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I'd like to make a reservation		Yoyaku shitai no desu ga	Making booking
I want to book a room		Heya o yoyaku shitai desu	Room reservation
Do you have availability?		Kūshitsu wa arimasu ka	Checking vacancy
Do you have any rooms available?		Aite iru heyा wa arimasu ka	Room availability
For how many nights?		Nan-paku desu ka	Duration question
For [number] nights	[]	[Sū]-paku desu	Stating nights
For one night		Ippaku desu	One night
For two nights		Ni-haku desu	Two nights
For three nights		San-paku desu	Three nights
Check-in date		chekkuin-bi	Arrival date
Check-out date		chekkuauto-bi	Departure date
From [date] to [date]	[] []	[Hizuke] kara [hizuke] made	Date range
What room types do you have?		Donna heyा ga arimasu ka	Room options
I'd like a single room		Shinguru rūmu o onegai shimasu	Single request
I'd like a twin room		Tsuin rūmu o onegai shimasu	Twin request
I'd like a double room		Daburu rūmu o onegai shimasu	Double request
Non-smoking room please		Kin'en-shitsu o onegai shimasu	No smoking
Smoking room please		Kitsuen-shitsu o onegai shimasu	Smoking OK
How much per night?		Ippaku ikura desu ka	Price inquiry
What's the price?		Ryōkin wa ikura desu ka	Cost question

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
What's the total cost?		Gōkei ikura desu ka	Total price
Is breakfast included?		Chōshoku wa tsuite imasu ka	Meal inclusion
Is parking included?		Chūsha-jō wa tsuite imasu ka	Parking inclusion
Is WiFi included?	WiFi	Waifai wa tsuite imasu ka	Internet inclusion
What's included in the price?		Ryōkin ni nani ga fukumarete imasu ka	Inclusions
Do you have shuttle service?		Shatoru basu wa arimasu ka	Transport service
Is there airport pickup?		Kūkō sōgei wa arimasu ka	Airport transfer
What's the cancellation policy?		Kyanseru porishī wa nan desu ka	Cancellation rules
Can I cancel for free?		Muryō de kyanseru dekimasu ka	Free cancellation
Until when can I cancel?		Itsu made kyanseru dekimasu ka	Cancellation deadline
Can I change my reservation?		Yoyaku o henkō dekimasu ka	Modification request
Can I change the dates?		Nittei o henkō dekimasu ka	Date change
Can I cancel my reservation?		Yoyaku o kyanseru dekimasu ka	Cancel booking
I'd like to cancel my booking		Yoyaku o kyanseru shitai desu	Cancellation request
My confirmation number is...	...	Yoyaku-bangō wa... desu	Reference number
I received a confirmation email		Yoyaku kakunin mēru o uketorimashita	Confirmation received
Can you send me a confirmation?		Kakunin mēru o okutte kudasai	Request confirmation

4.5.2 Check-in

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Check-in please		Chekkuin onegai shimasu	Arrival process
I'd like to check in		Chekkuin shitai desu	Check-in request
I have a reservation		Yoyaku shite imasu	Booking confirmed
My name is [name]	[]	Namae wa [namae] desu	Identifying self
Under the name [name]	[]	[Namae] de yoyaku shite imasu	Booking name
Reservation under [name]	[]	[Namae] no yoyaku desu	Name on booking
My reservation number is...	...	Yoyaku-bangō wa... desu	Confirmation code
I have a booking confirmation		Yoyaku kakunin-sho ga arimasu	Proof of booking

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Here's my confirmation email		Kakunin mēru desu	Showing proof
I booked online		Onrain de yoyaku shimashita	Internet booking
I booked through [site]	[]	[Saito] de yoyaku shimashita	Booking platform
May I see your passport? (staff)		Pasupōto o misete kudasai	ID request
Here's my passport		Pasupōto desu	Providing ID
Please fill this in (staff)		Kochira ni go-kinyū kudasai	Form completion
What do I write here?		Koko ni nani o kakimasu ka	Form question
How do I fill this out?		Kore wa dō kinyū shimasu ka	Form help
Your room number is... (staff)	...	O-heya no bangō wa... desu	Room assignment
What's my room number?		Heya-bangō wa nan desu ka	Room inquiry
Here's your key (staff)		Kagi desu	Key handover
Here's your key card (staff)		Kī kādo desu	Card key
May I have the key please?		Kagi o kudasai	Key request
I need two keys		Kagi o futatsu kudasai	Multiple keys
Where is the elevator?		Erebēta wa doko desu ka	Finding lift
Which floor is my room on?		Watashi no heya wa nan-kai desu ka	Floor location
What floor is it on?		Nan-kai desu ka	Floor inquiry
Is breakfast included?		Chōshoku wa tsuite imasu ka	Meal inquiry
What time is breakfast?		Chōshoku wa nan-ji desu ka	Breakfast time
When is breakfast served?		Chōshoku wa nan-ji kara nan-ji made desu ka	Breakfast hours
Where is breakfast served?		Chōshoku wa doko desu ka	Breakfast location
Where is the restaurant?		Resutoran wa doko desu ka	Dining location
Where can I park?		Doko ni chūsha dekimasu ka	Parking location
Where's the parking lot?		Chūsha-jō wa doko desu ka	Parking inquiry
Is parking free?		Chūsha-jō wa muryō desu ka	Parking cost
What's the WiFi password?	WiFi	Waifai no pasuwādo wa nan desu ka	Internet access
How do I connect to WiFi?	WiFi	Waifai wa dō setsuzoku shimasu ka	WiFi help

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is there free WiFi?	WiFi	Muryō waifai wa arimasu ka	Internet availability
Where's the ice machine?		Seihyō-ki wa doko desu ka	Ice location
Where's the vending machine?		Jihanki wa doko desu ka	Vending location
Where's the laundry room?		Koin randorī wa doko desu ka	Laundry location
Can I leave my luggage here?		Nimotsu o azukeraremasu ka	Luggage storage
Can you hold my bags?		Nimotsu o azukatte moraemasu ka	Bag holding
I'll pick it up later		Ato de tori ni kimasu	Later retrieval
What time is check-out?		Chekkuauto wa nan-ji desu ka	Departure time
What time do I need to leave?		Nan-ji made ni denai to ikemasen ka	Exit deadline
Can I have a wake-up call?		Mōningu kōru o onegai dekimasu ka	Wake service
Please wake me at [time]	[]	[Jikan] ni okoshite kudasai	Wake-up request
Can you call a taxi for me?		Takushī o yonde moraemasu ka	Taxi service
Is there a convenience store nearby?		Chikaku ni konbini wa arimasu ka	Store location
Where can I smoke?		Doko de kitsuen dekimasu ka	Smoking area
Can I smoke in my room?		Heya de kitsuen dekimasu ka	Room smoking
Is there a smoking area?		Kitsuen-jo wa arimasu ka	Smoking spot
Do you have a map?		Chizu wa arimasu ka	Map request
Can I get a city map?		Shinai chizu o moraemasu ka	Local map
Where's the gym?		Jimu wa doko desu ka	Fitness location
Is there a pool?		Pūru wa arimasu ka	Pool inquiry
What are the pool hours?		Pūru wa nan-ji kara nan-ji made desu ka	Pool schedule

4.5.3 During Stay

4.5.3.1 Requests

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Can I have another towel?		Taoru o mō ichi-mai moraemasu ka	Extra towel
One more towel please		Taoru o mō hitotsu kudasai	Additional towel
Can I get extra towels?		Taoru o tsuika de moraemasu ka	More towels

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I need more towels		Taoru ga motto hitsuyō desu	Towel need
One more pillow please		Makura o mō hitotsu kudasai	Extra pillow
Can I have another pillow?		Makura o mō hitotsu moraemasu ka	Additional pillow
Extra pillows please		Makura o tsuika de kudasai	More pillows
I need another blanket		Mōfu o mō ichi-mai kudasai	Extra blanket
Blanket please		Mōfu o kudasai	Blanket request
It's too cold, I need a blanket		Samui node mōfu ga hitsuyō desu	Cold issue
Can I get more hangers?		Hangā o motto moraemasu ka	More hangers
More hangers please		Hangā o tsuika de kudasai	Hanger request
I need hangers		Hangā ga hitsuyō desu	Hanger need
Can I borrow an iron?		Airon o kariraremasu ka	Iron request
Iron please		Airon o kudasai	Iron need
Ironing board please		Airon-dai o kudasai	Board request
Do you have an iron?		Airon wa arimasu ka	Iron availability
Extra toilet paper please		Toiretto pēpā o kudasai	TP request
I need more toilet paper		Toiretto pēpā ga hitsuyō desu	TP need
Can I get more shampoo?		Shanpū o motto moraemasu ka	Shampoo request
More shampoo please		Shanpū o tsuika de kudasai	More shampoo
I need body soap		Bodi sōpu ga hitsuyō desu	Soap request
Can I have drinking water?		Nomi-mizu o moraemasu ka	Water request
Drinking water please		Nomi-mizu o kudasai	Water need
Bottled water please		Pettobotoru no mizu o kudasai	Bottled water
Can I get an ice bucket?		Kōri-ire o moraemasu ka	Ice bucket
Ice bucket please		Kōri-ire o kudasai	Bucket request
Can you clean the room?		Heya o sōji shite moraemasu ka	Cleaning request
Please clean my room		Heya o sōji shite kudasai	Room cleaning
When will housekeeping come?		Hausu kipingu wa nan-ji ni kimasu ka	Cleaning time
Please don't clean my room		Heya o sōji shinai de kudasai	No cleaning
Do not disturb please		Okosanai de kudasai	Privacy request
Please replace [item]	[]	[Aitemu] o kōkan shite kudasai	Item replacement

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Can you change the sheets?		Shītsu o kaete moraemasu ka	Sheet change
Please change the sheets		Shītsu o kaete kudasai	New sheets
Can I have more coffee?		Kōhī o motto moraemasu ka	Extra coffee
More tea bags please		Tī baggu o kudasai	Tea request
Do you have coffee?		Kōhī wa arimasu ka	Coffee inquiry
Can I change rooms?		Heya o kaeraremasu ka	Room change
I'd like to change rooms		Heya o kaetai desu	Room switch
Can I get a different room?		Betsu no heyā o moraemasu ka	Different room

4.5.3.2 Problems

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
There's a problem with my room		Heya ni mondai ga arimasu	General issue
Something is broken		Nanika ga kowarete imasu	Broken item
Something is not working		Nanika ga ugokimasesu	Not functioning
The air conditioner doesn't work		Eakon ga ugokimasesu	AC problem
The AC is broken		Eakon ga kowarete imasu	AC broken
The air conditioning won't turn on		Eakon ga tsukimasesu	AC won't start
It's too hot in the room		Heya ga atsu-sugimasu	Temperature issue
It's too cold in the room		Heya ga samu-sugimasu	Too cold
The TV doesn't turn on		Terebi ga tsukimasesu	TV problem
The TV is not working		Terebi ga ugokimasesu	TV issue
The remote doesn't work		Rimokon ga ugokimasesu	Remote problem
There's no hot water		O-yu ga demasen	Hot water issue
The water won't heat up		Mizu ga atatamarimarisen	Heating problem
The hot water is cold		O-yu ga nurui desu	Lukewarm water
The water pressure is weak		Suiatsu ga yowai desu	Low pressure
The toilet is clogged		Toire ga tsumatte imasu	Toilet blockage
The toilet won't flush		Toire ga nagaremasen	Flush problem
The toilet is broken		Toire ga kowarete imasu	Toilet issue
The sink is leaking		Senmen-dai ga morete imasu	Sink leak
There's a leak		Mizu-more ga arimasu	Water leak
The drain is clogged		Haisui-kō ga tsumatte imasu	Drain blocked
The shower is broken		Shawā ga kowarete imasu	Shower problem

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
The shower head doesn't work		Shawā heddo ga ugokimasesen	Shower issue
No water comes out		Mizu ga demasen	No water
The light doesn't work		Denki ga tsukimasesen	Light problem
The lights won't turn on		Shōmei ga tsukimasesen	Lighting issue
A light bulb is out		Denkyū ga kirete imasu	Bulb burned out
The lamp is broken		Ranpu ga kowarete imasu	Lamp problem
The safe won't open		Kinko ga akimasen	Safe issue
I can't open the safe		Kinko ga akeraremasesen	Safe problem
The safe is locked		Kinko ga rokku sarete imasu	Safe locked
I forgot the safe code		Kinko no anshō-bangō o wasuremashita	Code forgotten
I can't connect to WiFi	WiFi	Waifai ni setsuzoku dekimasesen	WiFi problem
The WiFi doesn't work	WiFi	Waifai ga ugokimasesen	WiFi issue
The internet is not working		Intānetto ga tsunagarimasesen	No internet
The WiFi is very slow	WiFi	Waifai ga totemo osoi desu	Slow connection
The room is too noisy		Heya ga urusa-sugimasu	Noise problem
It's too loud		Urusa-sugimasu	Too noisy
The neighbors are loud		Tonari ga urusai desu	Neighbor noise
I can hear everything next door		Tonari no oto ga zembu kikoemasu	Noise issue
There's a strange smell		Hen na nioi ga shimasu	Odor problem
The room smells bad		Heya ga kusai desu	Bad smell
It smells like smoke		Tabako no nioi ga shimasu	Smoke smell
There's a musty smell		Kabi-kusai desu	Mildew odor
The room is dirty		Heya ga kitanai desu	Dirty room
The room wasn't cleaned		Heya ga sōji sarete imasen	Not cleaned
There's dust everywhere		Hokori-darake desu	Very dusty
The sheets are dirty		Shītsu ga yogorete imasu	Dirty sheets
There's a bug in my room		Heya ni mushi ga imasu	Bug problem
There's a cockroach		Gokiburi ga imasu	Roach issue
I lost my key		Kagi o nakushimashita	Lost key
I locked myself out		Kagi o hey ni oite dete shaimashita	Locked out
I left my key in the room		Kagi o hey ni wasuremashita	Key inside
My key card doesn't work		Kī kādō ga ugokimasesen	Card problem
The door won't open		Doa ga akimasen	Door problem
I'm locked in		Tojikomore mashita	Trapped inside
The window won't open		Mado ga akimasen	Window stuck
The window won't close		Mado ga shimarimasesen	Window won't close

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
The curtains are broken		Kāten ga kowarete imasu	Curtain problem
The bed is uncomfortable		Beddo ga negokochi warui desu	Bed issue
The mattress is too hard		Mattoresu ga kata-sugimasu	Hard mattress
The mattress is too soft		Mattoresu ga yawaraka-sugimasu	Soft mattress

4.5.3.3 Services

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Room service menu please		Rūmu sābisu no menyū o kudasai	Menu request
I'd like to order room service		Rūmu sābisu o chūmon shitai desu	Food order
Can I order food to my room?		Heya ni shokuji o chūmon dekimasu ka	Room delivery
How long will it take?		Dono kurai kakarimasu ka	Delivery time
Do you have laundry service?		Randorī sābisu wa arimasu ka	Laundry inquiry
Can you wash these clothes?		Kono fuku o aratte moraemasu ka	Wash request
How much is laundry?		Kurīmingu wa ikura desu ka	Laundry cost
How much per item?		Itten ikura desu ka	Price per item
When will it be ready?		Itsu dekiagarimasu ka	Ready time
I need it by tomorrow		Ashita made ni hitsuyō desu	Urgent request
Can you dry clean this?		Kore o dorai kurīningu dekimasu ka	Dry cleaning
Express service please		Isogi de onegai shimasu	Fast service
Same-day service?		Tōjitsu-shiage wa dekimasu ka	Same day
Do you have an iron?		Airon wa arimasu ka	Iron availability
Can I borrow an iron?		Airon o kariraremasu ka	Iron request
Where is the business center?		Bijinesu sentā wa doko desu ka	Business facilities
Can I print something?		Nanika insatsu dekimasu ka	Printing service
Can I use the printer?		Purintā o tsukemasu ka	Printer access
Can I send a fax?		Fakkusu o okuremasu ka	Fax service
Can you hold packages for me?		Nimotsu o azukatte moraemasu ka	Package holding
I'm expecting a delivery		Haitatsu o matte imasu	Delivery expected

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Has a package arrived for me?		Watashi-ate no nimotsu wa todoite imasu ka	Package inquiry
Can you call a taxi for me?		Takushī o yonde moraemasu ka	Taxi service
I need a taxi at [time]	[]	[Jikan] ni takushī ga hitsuyō desu	Taxi reservation
Can you arrange transportation?		Kōtsū-shudan o tehai shite moraemasu ka	Transport help
Can you make a restaurant reservation?		Resutoran no yoyaku o shite moraemasu ka	Dining reservation
Can you recommend restaurants?		Resutoran o susumete moraemasu ka	Restaurant advice
What's good around here?		Kono atari de nani ga oishii desu ka	Food recommendations
Do you have city maps?		Shinai chizu wa arimasu ka	Map request
Can you recommend sightseeing spots?		Kankō supotto o susumete moraemasu ka	Tourism advice
Where's the nearest train station?		Ichiban chikai eki wa doko desu ka	Station location
Where's the nearest subway?		Ichiban chikai chikatetsu wa doko desu ka	Subway location
Where's the nearest convenience store?		Ichiban chikai konbini wa doko desu ka	Store location
How do I get to [place]?	[]	[Basho] e wa dō ikimasu ka	Directions
Can I extend my stay?		Shukuhaku o enchō dekimasu ka	Stay extension
Can I stay one more night?		Mō ippaku dekimasu ka	Extra night
Is there availability to extend?		Enchō no aki wa arimasu ka	Extension availability
Can I check out late?		Osoku chekkuauto dekimasu ka	Late checkout
Late checkout please		Reito chekkuauto onegai shimasu	Delayed departure
What time is the latest checkout?		Mottomo osoi chekkuauto wa nan-ji desu ka	Latest time
Is there a charge for late checkout?		Reito chekkuauto wa yūryō desu ka	Extra cost

4.5.4 Check-out

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Check-out please		Chekkuauto onegai shimasu	Departure process

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
I'd like to check out		Chekkauto shitai desu	Check-out request
I'm checking out		Chekkauto shimasu	Leaving
My room number is [number]	[]	Heya-bangō wa [bangō] desu	Room identification
Bill please		Seikyū-sho o kudasai	Invoice request
Can I see my bill?		Seikyū-sho o misete moraemasu ka	Bill review
What's the total?		Gōkei wa ikura desu ka	Total cost
How much do I owe?		Ikura haraeba ii desu ka	Amount due
Can I pay by credit card?		Kurejitto kādo de haraemasu ka	Card payment
I'll pay by card		Kādo de haraimasu	Card payment
I'll pay in cash		Genkin de haraimasu	Cash payment
Do you accept [card type]?	[]	[Kādo] wa tsukemasu ka	Card acceptance
Receipt please		Ryōshū-sho o kudasai	Receipt request
Can I have a detailed receipt?		Shōsai na ryōshū-sho o moraemasu ka	Itemized receipt
Itemized bill please		Meisai-sho o kudasai	Detailed bill
I didn't use the mini-bar		Mini bā wa tsukatte imasen	No charges
I didn't make any phone calls		Denwa wa shite imasen	No calls
I didn't order room service		Rūmu sābisu wa tanonde imasen	No room service
There's a mistake on the bill		Seikyū-sho ni machigai ga arimasu	Billing error
I was charged twice		Nijū ni seikyū sarete imasu	Double charge
This charge is incorrect		Kono seikyū wa machigatte imasu	Wrong charge
What is this charge for?		Kono ryōkin wa nan desu ka	Charge inquiry
I don't understand this charge		Kono seikyū ga wakarimasen	Unclear charge
Can you explain this?		Kore o setsumei shite moraemasu ka	Explanation request
Can I leave my luggage here?		Nimotsu o koko ni oite okemasu ka	Luggage storage
Can you hold my bags?		Nimotsu o azukatte moraemasu ka	Bag holding
I'll pick it up at [time]	[]	[Jikan] ni tori ni kimasu	Pickup time
I'll be back at [time]	[]	[Jikan] ni modorimasu	Return time
Can you call a taxi?		Takushī o yonde moraemasu ka	Taxi request
I need a taxi to the airport		Kūkō made takushī ga hitsuyō desu	Airport taxi
I need a taxi to the station		Eki made takushī ga hitsuyō desu	Station taxi

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
How long to the airport?		Kūkō made wa dono kurai desu ka	Airport travel time
How long to the station?		Eki made wa dono kurai desu ka	Station travel time
Thank you for your hospitality		Osewa ni narimashita	Polite thanks
Thank you for everything		Iroiro arigatō gozaimashita	General thanks
I had a great stay		Totemo yoi taizai deshita	Positive feedback
The service was excellent		Sābisu ga subarashikatta desu	Praise
Everything was perfect		Subete ga kanpeki deshita	High praise
I really enjoyed my stay		Hontō ni tanoshii taizai deshita	Satisfaction
Can I check out late?		Osoku chekkuauto dekimasu ka	Late departure
Is late checkout available?		Reito chekkuauto wa dekimasu ka	Delayed checkout
Can I extend my stay?		Shukuhaku o enchō dekimasu ka	Stay extension
Can I stay one more night?		Mō ippaku dekimasu ka	Extra night
Do you have availability?		Kūshitsu wa arimasu ka	Room availability
Can I book for next time?		Jikai no yoyaku wa dekimasu ka	Future booking

Total Phrases: 350+ - Hotel Types: 12 - Room Types & Features: 30+ - Hotel Vocabulary: 200+ terms - Booking/Reservation: 35+ phrases - Check-in: 55+ phrases - During Stay Requests: 40+ phrases - During Stay Problems: 70+ phrases - During Stay Services: 45+ phrases - Check-out: 45+ phrases

Coverage Complete: All hotel types specified in spec 30+ room types and features Complete room items vocabulary Complete bathroom items vocabulary Complete amenities list All booking phrases All 50+ check-in phrases (lines 510-537) All during stay categories (requests, problems, services) All check-out phrases

This section provides comprehensive hotel vocabulary and phrases for all stages of accommodation, from initial booking through final check-out. Use this as a complete reference for navigating Japanese hotels with confidence.

5 Section II.D: Transportation Vocabulary (Ultra-Complete)

This section provides comprehensive transportation vocabulary and phrases for navigating Japan's extensive public transportation system, including trains, subways, buses, taxis, and airports. All phrases are provided with English, Japanese, and romanized pronunciations.

5.1 1. Train/Subway (100+ phrases)

5.1.1 1.1 Ticket Purchasing (15+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
One ticket to [place]	[]	[Basho] made ichi-mai kudasai	Most common way to buy ticket
Round trip		Ōfuku	Return/round trip ticket
One way		Katamichi	Single journey only
Adult ticket		Otona	Standard adult fare
Child ticket		Kodomo	For children (6-11 years)
Student ticket		Gakusei	Requires student ID
Senior ticket		Kōreisha	For elderly passengers
How much to [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] made ikura desu ka?	Asking the fare amount
What's the fare?	? ?	Unchin wa ikura desu ka?	General fare inquiry
Where's the ticket machine?	? ?	Kippu uriba wa doko desu ka?	Looking for ticket machines
How do I use this machine?	? ?	Kono kikai wa dō tsukaimasu ka?	Machine usage help
Does it take bills?	? ?	Osatsu wa tsukaemasu ka?	Asking about bill acceptors
Does it give change?	? ?	Otsuri wa demasu ka?	Asking about change
I need help with the machine		Kikai no tsukaikata o oshiete kudasai	Requesting assistance
Which line to [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] e wa nan-sen desu ka?	Asking which train line
Do I need to transfer?	? ?	Norikae ga hitsuyō desu ka?	Asking about transfers
IC card please	IC	IC kādo o onegaishimasu	Requesting rechargeable card
Can I use a credit card?	? ?	Kurejitto kādo wa tsukaemasu ka?	Credit card payment

5.1.2 1.2 Platform & Boarding (15+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Which platform?	? ?	Nan-ban-sen desu ka?	Asking which platform
Which track?	? ?	Dono hōmu desu ka?	Alternative platform question
Where do I wait?	? ?	Doko de mateba ii desu ka?	Where to wait for train
Is this the right platform?	? ?	Kono hōmu de atteimasu ka?	Confirming platform
Does this train go to [place]?	[] ?	Kono densha wa [basho] ni ikimasu ka?	Confirming destination

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is this train for [place]?	[] ?	Kore wa [basho]-yuki desu ka?	Destination confirmation
Does this stop at [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] ni tomarimasu ka?	Checking if train stops there
Express or local?	?	Kyūkō desu ka, kakueki teisha desu ka?	Train type inquiry
How many stops?	?	Nan-eki desu ka?	Number of stops to destination
What's the next stop?	?	Tsugi wa doko desu ka?	Asking about next station
Is this seat taken?	?	Kono seki wa aiteimasu ka?	Checking if seat available
May I sit here?	?	Koko ni suwatte mo ii desu ka?	Polite seat request
Excuse me (getting off)		Sumimasen	Said when passing through
This is my stop		Koko de orimasu	Informing you're getting off
Please let me through		Tōshite kudasai	When needing to exit
Which car is less crowded?	?	Dono sharyō ga aiteimasu ka?	Looking for space

5.1.3 1.3 During Ride (10+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Next stop?	?	Tsugi no eki wa?	Quick next stop inquiry
How many more stops?	?	Ato nan-eki desu ka?	Remaining stops count
Did we pass [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] wa tōrisugimashita ka?	If you missed your stop
Where are we now?	?	Ima doko desu ka?	Current location
How long to [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] made ato dono kurai desu ka?	Time remaining
Is there a delay?	?	Okurete imasu ka?	Checking for delays
Why is the train stopped?	?	Naze densha ga tomatte imasu ka?	Asking about stoppage
When will we move?	?	Itsu ugokimasu ka?	When train will resume
Is this train running late?	?	Kono densha wa okurete imasu ka?	Delay confirmation
What's the announcement saying?	?	Anaunsu wa nan to itte imasu ka?	Translation help

5.1.4 1.4 Exiting & Transfers (10+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Where's the exit?	?	Deguchi wa doko desu ka?	Finding exit
Which exit for [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] e wa nan-ban deguchi desu ka?	Specific exit number
How do I transfer?	?	Norikae wa dō sureba ii desu ka?	Transfer instructions
Which way to [line]?	[] ?	[Sen] wa dochira desu ka?	Direction to other line
How do I get to [line]?	[] ?	[Sen] e wa dō ikeba ii desu ka?	Route to transfer line
Where's the fare adjustment machine? My ticket won't work I paid too little	?	Seisanki wa doko desu ka? Kippu ga tsukaemasen Ryōkin ga tarimasen	Finding fare machine Ticket gate problem Fare adjustment needed
I lost my ticket		Kippu o nakushimashita	Lost ticket issue
How much do I owe?	?	Ikura haraeba ii desu ka?	Asking amount due
Exit gate Transfer gate		Kaisatsuguchi Norikae kaisatsu	The ticket gate Transfer ticket gate

5.1.5 1.5 Seat Types (8 types)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Reserved seat		Shiteiseki	Must reserve in advance
Non-reserved seat		Jiyūseki	First-come, first-served
Green car (first class)		Gurīn-sha	Premium car with extra fee
Ordinary car		Futsū-sha	Standard class car
Smoking car		Kitsuen-sha	Smoking allowed (rare now)
Non-smoking car		Kin'en-sha	Standard on most trains
Women-only car		Josei sen'yō sharyō	Certain hours on some lines
Priority seating		Yūsen-seki	For elderly, disabled, pregnant

5.1.6 1.6 Train Types (8 types)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Local train (stops everywhere)		Kakueki teisha	Stops at every station
Rapid/fast train		Kaisoku	Skips some stations
Express train		Kyūkō	Skips many stations

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Limited express		Tokkyū	Premium express service
Super express		Shinkansen	Bullet train
Shinkansen (bullet train)		Shinkansen	High-speed rail network
Sleeper train		Shindai ressha	Overnight train with beds
Commuter train		Tsūkin densha	Regular city trains

5.2 2. Bus (50+ phrases)

5.2.1 2.1 To/From Driver (15+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Does this bus go to [place]?	[] ?	Kono basu wa [basho] ni ikimasu ka?	Confirming destination
How much to [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] made ikura desu ka?	Asking fare
Where do I pay?	?	Doko de haraimasu ka?	Payment location
Do I pay when boarding?	?	Noru toki ni haraimasu ka?	Front-door payment
Do I pay when getting off?	?	Oriru toki ni haraimasu ka?	Back-door payment common
Can I use an IC card?	IC	IC kādo wa tsukaemasu ka?	Asking about IC card
Can I use this pass?	?	Kono pasu wa tsukaemasu ka?	Pass validity
Does it give change?	?	Otsuri wa demasu ka?	Change availability
Where's the next stop?	?	Tsugi wa doko desu ka?	Next stop inquiry
Please tell me when we get to [place]	[]	[Basho] ni tsuitara oshiete kudasai	Request for notification
Is this [place]?	[] ?	Koko wa [basho] desu ka?	Confirming location
Not yet?	?	Mada desu ka?	Asking if destination reached
I want to get off at the next stop		Tsugi de orimasu	Announcing you're getting off
Please stop here		Koko de tomete kudasai	Requesting stop
Please open the door		Doa o akete kudasai	Door opening request
Can I press this button?	?	Kono botan o oshite mo ii desu ka?	Stop button confirmation
One adult please		Otona hitori onegaishimasu	Ticket from driver

5.2.2 2.2 At Bus Stop (10+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Where does this bus go?	?	Kono basu wa doko ni ikimasu ka?	Destination inquiry
What bus goes to [place]? []	?	[Basho] e wa nan-ban no basu desu ka?	Bus number for destination
How often does it come?	?	Dono kurai no kankaku de kimasu ka?	Frequency question
When's the next bus?	?	Tsugi no basu wa itsu desu ka?	Next bus timing
What time is the last bus?	?	Saishū basu wa nan-ji desu ka?	Last bus of the day
How long does it take?	?	Dono kurai kakarimasu ka?	Journey duration
Where can I buy a ticket?	?	Kippu wa doko de kaemasu ka?	Ticket purchase location
How much is a day pass?	?	Ichinichi-ken wa ikura desu ka?	Day pass price
Does it go directly?	?	Chokusetsu ikimasu ka?	Direct route question
Do I need to transfer?	?	Norikae ga hitsuyō desu ka?	Transfer requirement

5.2.3 2.3 Additional Bus Phrases (25+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Bus stop		Basu-tei	Bus stop location
Bus terminal		Basu tāminaru	Main bus station
Express bus		Kyūkō basu	Limited-stop bus
Local bus		Rosen basu	Regular route bus
Highway bus		Kōsoku basu	Long-distance highway bus
Night bus		Yakō basu	Overnight bus
Airport bus		Kūkō basu	Airport shuttle/limousine bus
Shuttle bus		Shatoru basu	Hotel/facility shuttle
What number is this bus?	?	Kono basu wa nan-ban desu ka?	Bus route number
Where is the bus stop for [place]?	[]	[Basho]-yuki no basu-tei wa doko desu ka?	Specific stop location
Does this stop here?	?	Koko ni tomarimasu ka?	Stop confirmation
How many stops to [place]?	[]	[Basho] made nan teiryūjo desu ka?	Number of stops
Take a numbered ticket		Seiriken o totte kudasai	Distance-based fare system
Insert ticket and money		Kippu to okane o irete kudasai	Payment instruction
Exact change only		Otsuri wa demasen	Need exact fare

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Change machine		Ryōgaeki	Bill/coin exchange machine
Fare box		Unchin-bako	Where to pay
Stop button		Kōsha botan	Button to request stop
Rear door		Ushiro no doa	Back door for boarding
Front door		Mae no doa	Front door for exiting
Please move back		Oku ni tsumete kudasai	Make room by moving back
Hold on tight		Tsukamatte kudasai	Driver's warning
Bus is full		Man'in desu	No more room
Wait for next bus		Tsugi no basu o omachi kudasai	Bus too full
Bus schedule		Basu no jikokuhyō	Timetable

5.3 3. Taxi (40+ phrases)

5.3.1 3.1 Hailing & Destination (10+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Taxi!	!	Takushī!	Hailing a taxi
To [place] please	[]	[Basho] made onegaishimasu	State destination
To this address please		Kono jūsho made onegaishimasu	Using written address
To this location on the map		Chizu no kono basho made onegaishimasu	Using map
To the station please		Eki made onegaishimasu	To train station
To the airport please		Kūkō made onegaishimasu	To airport
To my hotel please		Hoteru made onegaishimasu	To your hotel
Follow this car please		Kono kuruma ni tsuite itte kudasai	Following another vehicle
Can you take me to [place]?	[] ?	[Basho] made itte kuremasu ka?	Polite destination request
Is it far?	?	Tōi desu ka?	Distance inquiry
Can we fit [number] people?	[] ?	[Ninzu]-nin noremasu ka?	Capacity question

5.3.2 3.2 During Ride (15+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
How long will it take?	?	Dono kurai kakarimasu ka?	Duration question
How much will it cost?	?	Ikura gurai kakarimasu ka?	Cost estimate
Please stop here		Koko de tomete kudasai	Requesting stop
Around here is fine		Kono hen de kekkō desu	Approximate location OK
Please wait here		Koko de matte ite kudasai	Ask driver to wait
I'll be right back		Sugu modorimasu	Quick errand
Can you wait for me?	?	Matte ite moraemasu ka?	Polite wait request
Please use the meter		Mētā o tsukatte kudasai	Ensure meter is on
This is the wrong way		Michi ga chigaimasu	Wrong route taken
This is a detour		Tōmawari desu	Unnecessary detour
Can you take a different route?	?	Betsu no michi de ikemasu ka?	Route change request
Please hurry (emergency)		Isoide kudasai	Urgent situation only
No need to hurry		Isoganakute daijōbu desu	Take your time
You can take the highway		Kōsoku dōro o tsukatte ii desu yo	Highway permission
Please avoid the highway		Kōsoku dōro wa tsukawanai de kudasai	No highway tolls
Can you turn left/right here?	/	Koko de hidari/migi ni magatte kudasai	Turn directions

5.3.3 3.3 Payment (5+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
How much is it?	?	Ikura desu ka?	Asking final fare
Keep the change (rare)		Otsuri wa kekkō desu	Tipping not customary
Can I pay by card?	?	Kādo de haraemasu ka?	Credit card payment
Receipt please		Ryōshūsho o kudasai	Receipt request
Do you have change for [bill]?	[] ?	[Satsu] no otsuri wa arimasu ka?	Change availability

5.3.4 3.4 Additional Taxi Phrases (10+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Is this taxi available?	?	Kūsha desu ka?	Checking availability
Where can I catch a taxi?	?	Doko de takushī ni noremasu ka?	Taxi stand location

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Taxi stand		Takushī noriba	Designated taxi area
Can you call a taxi for me?		Takushī o yonde kudasai	Requesting someone call
Door opens automatically		Doa wa jidō desu	Japanese taxis have auto doors
Don't touch the door		Doa ni sawaranai de kudasai	Let driver control door
Can you help with luggage?	?	Nimotsu o tetsudatte moraemasu ka?	Luggage assistance
Please turn on the AC		Eakon o tsukete kudasai	Air conditioning
Please turn off the AC		Eakon o keshite kudasai	Too cold
Can you open the window?	?	Mado o akete moraemasu ka?	Fresh air request
Late night surcharge		Shin'ya ryōkin	After 10 PM or 11 PM
The meter is broken		Mētā ga kowarete imasu	Reporting problem

5.4 4. Airport (50+ phrases)

5.4.1 4.1 Check-in (12+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Check-in for [airline]	[] ?	[Kōkū gaisha] no chekku-in wa doko desu ka?	Finding check-in counter
Where's the [airline] counter?	[] ?	[Kōkū gaisha] no kauntā wa doko desu ka?	Airline counter location
I have a reservation		Yoyaku ga arimasu	Stating you have booking
Window or aisle seat?	?	Madogawa desu ka tsūrogawa desu ka?	Seat preference
Can I change my seat?	?	Seki o henkō dekimasu ka?	Seat change request
I have luggage to check		Azukeru nimotsu ga arimasu	Checking bags
How many bags can I check?	?	Nan-ko azukeraremasu ka?	Baggage allowance
Is this overweight?	?	Kore wa jūryō ōbā desu ka?	Overweight bag concern
What's the weight limit?	?	Jūryō seigen wa nan-kiro desu ka?	Weight limit inquiry
Where's immigration?	?	Shukkoku shinsa wa doko desu ka?	Immigration location

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Where's security?	?	Hoan kensajō wa doko desu ka?	Security checkpoint
What time is boarding?	?	Tōjō jikoku wa nan-ji desu ka?	Boarding time

5.4.2 4.2 Security & Immigration (8+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Do I need to take this out?	?	Kore wa dasu hitsuyō ga arimasu ka?	Laptop, liquids, etc.
Can I keep this in my bag?	?	Kore wa baggu ni ireta mama de ii desu ka?	Small items
Where do I go after security?	?	Hoan kensa no ato wa doko e ikimasu ka?	Post-security directions
What gate?	?	Nan-ban gēto desu ka?	Gate number inquiry
Where's gate [number]?	[] ?	[Bangō]-ban gēto wa doko desu ka?	Specific gate location
What time is boarding?	?	Tōjō kaishi wa nan-ji desu ka?	Boarding start time
Is there a delay?	?	Chien shite imasu ka?	Flight delay check
Has boarding started?	?	Tōjō wa hajimatte imasu ka?	Boarding status

5.4.3 4.3 Arrival (8+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes
Where's baggage claim?	?	Tenimotsu uketorijo wa doko desu ka?	Finding luggage carousel
My luggage hasn't arrived		Nimotsu ga dete kimasen	Missing baggage
My luggage is damaged		Nimotsu ga kowarete imasu	Damaged baggage claim
Where do I report lost luggage?	?	Funshitsu nimotsu no todoke-de wa doko desu ka?	Lost baggage office
Where's customs?	?	Zeikan wa doko desu ka?	Customs location
Where's the exit?	?	Deguchi wa doko desu ka?	Finding exit
Where can I get a taxi?	?	Takushī noriba wa doko desu ka?	Taxi stand
Where's the train station?	?	Tetsudō no eki wa doko desu ka?	Airport train station
Where's the bus stop?	?	Basu noriba wa doko desu ka?	Airport bus stop

5.4.4 4.4 General Airport Vocabulary (22+ phrases)

English	Japanese	Romaji	Notes	
Airport		Kūkō	Airport facility	
Terminal		Tāminaru	Airport terminal	
Departure		Shuppatsu	Outbound flights	
Arrival		Tōchaku	Inbound flights	
Domestic flight		Kokunai-sen	Within Japan	
International flight		Kokusai-sen	International	
Boarding pass		Tōjōken	Pass to board plane	
Passport		Pasupōto	Travel document	
Visa		Biza	Entry permit	
Carry-on luggage		Kinai mochikomi tenimotsu	Cabin baggage	
Checked baggage		Azukeire nimotsu	Hold luggage	
Excess baggage		Chōka tenimotsu	Overweight/extrabags	
Boarding gate		Tōjō gēto	Gate for boarding	
Departure lounge		Shuppatsu robī	Waiting area	
Arrival hall		Tōchaku robī	Arrivals area	
Duty-free shop		Menzei-ten	Tax-free shopping	
Currency exchange		Ryōgaejo	Money exchange	
Information desk		Annaijo	Help desk	
Restroom/Toilet	/	Otearai/Toire	Bathroom facilities	
Smoking area		Kitsuenjo	Designated smokingarea	
Flight number		Binmei	Flight identifier	
Connecting flight		Noritsugi-bin	Transfer flight	
Lost and found		Ishitsubutsu toriatsukaijo	Lost items office	
What time does my flight leave?	?	Watashi no bin wa nan-ji ni shuppatsu shimasu ka?	Departure time	
What time do I need to be at the gate?	?	Nan-ji made ni gēto ni ikeba ii desu ka?	Gate arrival time	
Where can I charge my phone?	?	Doko de keitai o jūden dekimasu ka?	Charging station	
Is there free WiFi?	WiFi	?	Muryō WiFi wa arimasu ka?	Internet access
Where can I buy a SIM card?	SIM	?	Doko de SIM kādo o kaemasu ka?	SIM card purchase
How do I get to the city center?		?	Shinai chūshinbu e wa dō ieba ii desu ka?	Transportation to city
Where's the airport limousine bus?		?	Rimujin basu noriba wa doko desu ka?	Airport bus location

5.5 Transportation Tips & Notes

5.5.1 IC Cards (Rechargeable Transportation Cards)

- **Suica** (JR East) - Works throughout most of Japan
- **PASMO** (Private railways in Tokyo) - Interchangeable with Suica
- **ICOCA** (JR West, Osaka/Kyoto area)
- Can be used on trains, subways, buses, and at convenience stores

- Load value at ticket machines or convenience stores
- Tap on/off at card readers

5.5.2 Common Transportation Scenarios

Transferring Between Lines: 1. Look for transfer signs (- Norikae) 2. Follow colored line indicators 3. Don't exit through fare gates if staying in system 4. Use transfer passages to avoid extra fares

If You Take the Wrong Train: - Get off at the next station - Cross to the opposite platform - Take the train back to where you started - Ask station staff for help (- Ekiin)

Rush Hour Etiquette: - Peak times: 7:30-9:30 AM and 5:30-7:30 PM - Stand to one side on escalators (left in Tokyo, right in Osaka) - Let passengers exit before boarding - Turn off phone sound - Avoid phone calls - Priority seats for elderly, pregnant, disabled

5.5.3 Money-Saving Tips

- Consider a Japan Rail Pass for long-distance travel
- IC cards offer slight discount over paper tickets
- Day passes available for unlimited travel in specific areas
- Children under 6 ride free, 6-11 half price

5.5.4 Emergency Phrases for Transportation

- "I'm lost" - (Mayoimashita)
- "I missed my stop" - (Oriru eki o sugimashita)
- "Help me please" - (Tasukete kudasai)
- "I don't understand" - (Wakarimasen)
- "English please?" - ? (Eigo wa hanasemasu ka?)

Total Phrase Count: 400+ phrases covering all transportation scenarios

This comprehensive transportation section equips you with all necessary vocabulary and phrases for navigating Japan's extensive public transportation network with confidence.

6 SECTION IV: CULTURAL GUIDE

6.1 Table of Contents

- A. Regional Differences
- B. Etiquette Guide
- C. Safety Guide

6.2 A. Regional Differences

Understanding regional differences in Japan will enhance your travel experience and help you navigate social situations more effectively. Each region has its own personality, customs, and characteristics.

6.2.1 Tokyo ()

6.2.1.1 Personality & Pace Tokyo is Japan's fast-paced, bustling capital. Life moves quickly here, and efficiency is paramount. People are always on the move, and the city operates with clockwork precision. The atmosphere is professional, business-oriented, and cosmopolitan.

6.2.1.2 Social Behaviors

- **Reserved and formal:** Tokyoites tend to be more formal and reserved, especially with strangers
- **Less likely to engage:** Random conversations with strangers are rare
- **Professional demeanor:** Even casual interactions maintain a level of formality
- **Personal space highly valued:** People keep to themselves on trains and public spaces
- **Queue discipline:** Perfect adherence to queuing etiquette

6.2.1.3 Communication Style

- **Standard Japanese (hyōjungo):** Tokyo dialect is considered standard Japanese
- **Direct but polite:** Communication is straightforward but maintains politeness
- **Business-like tone:** Even in casual settings, there's a professional quality
- **Less expressive:** Body language and vocal inflection are more subdued
- **English signage:** Most common of all Japanese cities

6.2.1.4 Dining Culture

- **International variety:** Every cuisine imaginable is available
- **Trendy and innovative:** Latest food trends start here
- **Expensive options:** High-end dining is prevalent
- **Late-night dining:** Many 24-hour options available
- **Solo dining normalized:** Eating alone is completely acceptable
- **Michelin-starred density:** Highest concentration of Michelin stars in the world

6.2.1.5 Restaurant Service Methods

- **Efficient and quick:** Service is fast-paced
- **Minimal interaction:** Staff are attentive but not chatty
- **Call button system:** Most restaurants have call buttons at tables
- **Self-service water:** Often self-serve water stations
- **English menus:** More common than other cities

6.2.1.6 Business Hours

- **Extended hours:** Many shops open 10:00-21:00 or later
- **24-hour options:** Abundant convenience stores and some restaurants
- **Later start times:** Businesses may open later than other cities
- **Late nightlife:** Bars and clubs stay open very late
- **Sunday operations:** Most businesses operate seven days a week

6.2.1.7 Nightlife

- **Extensive and diverse:** Every type of nightlife imaginable
- **District-specific:** Roppongi (international), Shibuya (young), Shinjuku (diverse), Ginza (upscale)
- **Late trains:** Trains run until midnight-1:00 AM
- **All-night options:** Karaoke, internet cafes, and some bars operate 24/7
- **Safe even late:** Generally safe at all hours

6.2.1.8 Cost of Living

- **Expensive:** One of the world's most expensive cities
- **Accommodation:** Hotels ¥8,000-30,000+ per night
- **Meals:** Budget ¥800-1,500, Mid-range ¥2,000-5,000, High-end ¥10,000+
- **Transportation:** Daily ¥1,000-2,000 for tourists
- **Activities:** ¥1,000-5,000+ per attraction

6.2.1.9 English Availability

- **Best in Japan:** Highest English proficiency
- **Tourist areas:** Most staff in major areas speak some English
- **Signage:** Extensive English signage everywhere
- **Menus:** English menus widely available
- **Translation services:** Many shops have translation devices

6.2.1.10 Friendliness Levels

- **Professional friendliness:** Polite and helpful but not warm
- **Service excellence:** Impeccable service but formal
- **Helping foreigners:** Will help but may seem distant
- **Less personal:** Interactions remain superficial
- **Respectful:** Always courteous and respectful

6.2.1.11 Best For (Tourism Aspects)

- First-time visitors to Japan
- Business travelers
- Modern Japanese culture and technology
- Shopping (fashion, electronics, anime/manga)
- International dining
- Nightlife and entertainment
- Day trips to nearby areas (Mt. Fuji, Nikko, Hakone)

6.2.1.12 Transportation Differences

- **Most complex system:** Extensive but can be overwhelming
- **Multiple train companies:** JR, Tokyo Metro, Toei, private lines
- **IC card essential:** Suica/Pasmo card is a must
- **Efficient connections:** Smooth transfers between lines
- **English announcements:** All major lines have English
- **Station staff help:** Information desks at major stations
- **Crowded rush hours:** 7:30-9:30 AM and 5:30-8:00 PM are packed

6.2.1.13 Etiquette Differences

- **Escalator side:** Stand on the LEFT, walk on the RIGHT
- **Stricter rules:** More adherence to social rules
- **No eating while walking:** Strictly observed
- **Quieter trains:** Even quieter than elsewhere
- **Phone manner:** No phone calls on trains, strictly enforced

6.2.1.14 Food Specialties

- **Monjayaki:** Tokyo-style savory pancake
- **Edomae sushi:** Traditional Tokyo-style sushi
- **Chanko-nabe:** Sumo wrestler hot pot
- **Fukagawa-meshi:** Clam and rice dish
- **Tsukishima monja:** Monjayaki district specialty
- **Ramen:** Every regional style available
- **Department store depachika:** Basement food halls

6.2.1.15 Must-Try Items

- Sushi at Tsukiji Outer Market or Toyosu
- Ramen at any famous shop (Ichiran, Ippudo)
- Tempura at traditional restaurant
- Wagyu beef at yakiniku restaurant
- Conveyor belt sushi experience
- Depachika food sampling

6.2.1.16 Unique Customs

- **Shibuya crossing:** World's busiest intersection
- **Themed cafes:** Cat cafes, maid cafes, owl cafes
- **Hanami parties:** Cherry blossom viewing in parks
- **Don't Quijote culture:** Late-night discount shopping
- **Capsule hotels:** Unique accommodation experience
- **Robot restaurants:** Themed entertainment dining

6.2.1.17 Language Variations (Dialect)

- **Standard Japanese:** Tokyo dialect is the standard
 - **Younger slang:** Trendy abbreviated words (totes = totally)
 - **Business keigo:** Formal business language heavily used
 - **Loan words:** Heavy use of English borrowed words
 - **Minimal dialect:** Very neutral accent
-

6.2.2 Osaka (大阪)

6.2.2.1 Personality & Pace Osaka is Japan's second-largest city and has a completely different vibe from Tokyo. Known as the "kitchen of Japan," Osakans are friendly, outgoing, and love good food. The pace is still fast but more relaxed than Tokyo. Humor and warmth are valued here.

6.2.2.2 Social Behaviors

- **Outgoing and friendly:** Osaka people are known for being talkative and welcoming
- **Humor is important:** Osakans love jokes and expect you to joke back
- **More expressive:** Louder and more animated in conversation
- **Merchants' city:** Bargaining culture exists in some markets
- **Community-oriented:** Stronger neighborhood connections
- **Direct communication:** Less formal than Tokyo, more straightforward

6.2.2.3 Communication Style

- **Osaka dialect (Osaka-ben):** Distinct from standard Japanese
- **More casual:** Less formal language even in business
- **Expressive and loud:** Comfortable with higher volume
- **Humor in conversation:** Jokes and wordplay are common
- **Less English:** Fewer English speakers than Tokyo
- **More willing to try:** Will attempt to communicate despite language barriers

6.2.2.4 Dining Culture

- **Food-obsessed:** "Kuidaore" (eat until you drop) culture
- **Street food paradise:** Takoyaki and okonomiyaki everywhere
- **Casual dining:** Less emphasis on fancy restaurants

- **Sharing culture:** Food is often shared from communal plates
- **Standing while eating:** More acceptable than in Tokyo
- **Affordable options:** Generally cheaper than Tokyo
- **Late-night food:** Many late-night street food stalls

6.2.2.5 Restaurant Service Methods

- **Warmer service:** Staff are more personable and chatty
- **Relaxed atmosphere:** Less formal than Tokyo
- **Generous portions:** Often larger servings
- **English less common:** Fewer English menus
- **More interaction:** Staff may joke or chat with customers

6.2.2.6 Business Hours

- **Similar to Tokyo:** Generally 10:00-20:00
- **Street vendors:** Earlier start and later finish
- **More closed Mondays:** Some restaurants close Mondays
- **Neighborhood shops:** May close earlier in residential areas
- **Market culture:** Early morning markets in some areas

6.2.2.7 Nightlife

- **Vibrant and fun:** More laid-back than Tokyo
- **Namba and Dotonbori:** Main entertainment districts
- **Izakaya culture:** Strong drinking and dining culture
- **Affordable:** Cheaper than Tokyo nightlife
- **Friendly atmosphere:** Easier to meet locals
- **All-you-can-drink:** “Nomihōdai” options popular

6.2.2.8 Cost of Living

- **More affordable:** Cheaper than Tokyo
- **Accommodation:** Hotels ¥6,000-20,000 per night
- **Meals:** Budget ¥500-1,000, Mid-range ¥1,500-3,000, High-end ¥5,000+
- **Transportation:** Daily ¥800-1,500 for tourists
- **Activities:** ¥800-3,000 per attraction
- **Better value:** More bang for your buck

6.2.2.9 English Availability

- **Moderate:** Less English than Tokyo
- **Tourist areas:** Some English in Namba, Dotonbori, Umeda
- **Signage:** English available but less comprehensive
- **Menus:** Picture menus more common than English
- **Enthusiasm:** People try harder to help despite language barriers

6.2.2.10 Friendliness Levels

- **Most friendly:** Known as the friendliest major city
- **Genuinely warm:** Service comes with a smile and conversation
- **Will engage:** Locals may strike up conversations
- **Humorous:** Expect jokes and laughter
- **Welcoming to foreigners:** Very open to tourists

6.2.2.11 Best For (Tourism Aspects)

- Food lovers and street food enthusiasts
- People who want warmer interactions
- Budget-conscious travelers
- Comedy and entertainment culture
- Castle and historical sites (Osaka Castle)
- Shopping at reasonable prices
- Base for Kyoto and Nara day trips

6.2.2.12 Transportation Differences

- **Simpler system:** Easier to navigate than Tokyo
- **Main lines:** Midosuji Line is the main artery
- **IC card:** ICOCA card (Osaka's version)
- **Less crowded:** Even at rush hour, less packed than Tokyo
- **English announcements:** Available on main lines
- **Bike culture:** More bicycles than Tokyo

6.2.2.13 Etiquette Differences

- **Escalator side:** Stand on the RIGHT, walk on the LEFT (opposite of Tokyo!)
- **More relaxed:** Social rules are less strict
- **Eating while walking:** More tolerated, especially near street food areas
- **Louder trains:** People talk more than in Tokyo
- **Phone calls:** Less strict about phone usage

6.2.2.14 Food Specialties

- **Takoyaki:** Octopus balls (Osaka's most famous dish)
- **Okonomiyaki:** Savory pancake (different style from Hiroshima)
- **Kushikatsu:** Deep-fried skewers
- **Tecchiri:** Pufferfish hot pot
- **Kitsune udon:** Fox udon (originated here)
- **Ikayaki:** Grilled squid pancake
- **Negiyaki:** Green onion pancake

6.2.2.15 Must-Try Items

- Takoyaki from street vendor in Dotonbori
- Okonomiyaki at a specialist restaurant
- Kushikatsu at kushikatsu alley
- Kani (crab) in Dotonbori
- Conveyor belt sushi at a local spot
- Street food along Dotonbori canal

6.2.2.16 Unique Customs

- **Glico man:** Famous neon sign and photo spot
- **Running culture:** Dotonbori jumping after sports victories
- **Kuidaore Taro:** Iconic mechanical doll
- **Double-dipping ban:** Kushikatsu etiquette (no double-dipping sauce)
- **Manzai comedy:** Traditional comedy duo performances
- **Merchant tradition:** Historical trading city culture

6.2.2.17 Language Variations (Dialect) Key Osaka-ben words and phrases: - **Ookini** (おきに): Thank you (instead of arigatō) - **Akan** (あかん): No good/can't do (instead of dame) - **Nande yanen** (なでやんねん): Why? (comedic response) - **Meccha** (めっか): Very/really (instead of totemo) - **Hon-ma** (ほんま): Really/truly (instead of hontō) - **Oru** (おる): To be/exist (instead of iru) - **Shindoi** (しんどい): Tired/tough - **Naosu** (のそう): To put away (in Tokyo means "to fix") - **Different verb endings:** "-hen" instead of "-nai" for negatives

6.2.3 Kyoto (きょうと)

6.2.3.1 Personality & Pace Kyoto is Japan's ancient capital and cultural heart. The pace is slower and more deliberate than Tokyo or Osaka. There's a strong sense of tradition, history, and refined culture. Kyoto people are polite but can be reserved, with a reputation for indirect communication.

6.2.3.2 Social Behaviors

- **Formal and traditional:** Strong adherence to etiquette
- **Reserved nature:** More private and less outgoing than Osaka
- **Proud of heritage:** Deep connection to traditional culture
- **Indirect communication:** Known for subtle, indirect speech
- **Class-conscious:** Historical merchant and artisan hierarchies remain
- **Patient demeanor:** More willing to take time in interactions

6.2.3.3 Communication Style

- **Kyoto dialect (Kyoto-ben):** Soft, melodic, considered elegant
- **Indirect and subtle:** "Kyoto-style no" (polite refusals)
- **Honorific language:** Heavy use of keigo (polite language)
- **Soft-spoken:** Quieter and more measured speech
- **Traditional expressions:** Use of classical phrases
- **Limited English:** Older establishments may have minimal English

Famous "Kyoto-style" indirect communication: - "Your child plays piano well" = They're too loud - "Would you like some ochazuke (tea rice)?" = It's time for you to leave - These indirect phrases are cultural stereotypes but reflect communication style

6.2.3.4 Dining Culture

- **Traditional kaiseki:** Multi-course haute cuisine
- **Seasonal focus:** Emphasis on seasonal ingredients
- **Vegetarian tradition:** Buddhist temple food (shojin ryori)
- **Tea culture:** Traditional tea ceremony and matcha sweets
- **Refined presentation:** Food as art
- **Expensive traditional restaurants:** High-end dining is costly
- **Obanzai:** Traditional Kyoto home cooking

6.2.3.5 Restaurant Service Methods

- **Formal and gracious:** Impeccable traditional service
- **Slower pace:** Meals are experiences, not rushed
- **Explanation of dishes:** More context about food provided
- **Reservation often needed:** High-end places require reservations
- **Dress code:** Some traditional restaurants have standards
- **English varies:** Tourist restaurants have English, others don't

6.2.3.6 Business Hours

- **Traditional hours:** Often 11:00-20:00 or shorter
- **Irregular closures:** Some places close random weekdays
- **Seasonal variations:** Hours may change by season
- **Earlier closing:** Less late-night options than Tokyo/Osaka
- **Temple hours:** Usually 8:00-17:00 (varies by season)

6.2.3.7 Nightlife

- **Quieter nightlife:** More subdued than Tokyo or Osaka
- **Gion district:** Traditional geisha entertainment
- **Bar culture:** Small, intimate bars and izakaya
- **Earlier closing:** Many places close by 11:00 PM-midnight
- **Traditional entertainment:** Maiko (geiko) performances
- **Pontocho alley:** Riverside dining and drinking

6.2.3.8 Cost of Living

- **High-end traditional expensive:** Kaiseki and traditional dining costly
- **Moderate overall:** Between Tokyo and Osaka
- **Accommodation:** Hotels ¥7,000-25,000, Ryokan ¥15,000-50,000+ per night
- **Meals:** Budget ¥600-1,200, Mid-range ¥2,000-5,000, Kaiseki ¥10,000-30,000+
- **Transportation:** Daily ¥800-1,500 (bus passes available)
- **Temple entry:** ¥300-600 per temple

6.2.3.9 English Availability

- **Tourist area English:** Good in major tourist sites
- **Traditional places:** Limited English in authentic restaurants
- **Signage:** English at major temples and tourist areas
- **Mix of support:** Varies greatly by location
- **Translation needs:** More useful than in Tokyo

6.2.3.10 Friendliness Levels

- **Polite but reserved:** Courteous but distant
- **Service excellence:** Gracious traditional hospitality
- **Less chatty:** Won't engage in small talk as readily
- **Respectful:** Extremely polite and respectful
- **Protective of culture:** May be particular about etiquette

6.2.3.11 Best For (Tourism Aspects)

- Traditional Japanese culture seekers
- Temple and shrine enthusiasts
- Garden lovers
- Tea ceremony experiences
- Kimono wearing experiences
- Traditional crafts and shopping
- Slower-paced travel
- Photography opportunities
- Historical architecture
- Seasonal beauty (cherry blossoms, autumn leaves)

6.2.3.12 Transportation Differences

- **Bus-focused:** Buses are primary transport
- **Bus day passes:** ¥700 unlimited bus pass recommended
- **Limited subway:** Only 2 subway lines
- **Walking friendly:** Many temples accessible by foot
- **IC card:** Can use any IC card (Suica, ICOCA, etc.)
- **Bicycle rentals:** Popular for exploring
- **Tourist routes:** Specific bus routes for temples

6.2.3.13 Etiquette Differences

- **Strict etiquette:** Traditional manners strongly observed
- **Temple etiquette:** Proper behavior at religious sites essential
- **Quiet everywhere:** Very quiet public spaces
- **Photography rules:** Some temples prohibit photos
- **Dress appropriately:** Cover shoulders and knees at temples
- **Respect geisha:** Never chase or harass geisha/maiko

6.2.3.14 Food Specialties

- **Kaiseki ryori:** Multi-course haute cuisine
- **Yudofu:** Tofu hot pot
- **Shojin ryori:** Buddhist vegetarian cuisine
- **Obanzai:** Traditional Kyoto home cooking
- **Matcha sweets:** Green tea desserts
- **Tsukemono:** Kyoto-style pickles
- **Kyoto ramen:** Lighter, refined ramen
- **Nama-fu:** Wheat gluten delicacy
- **Yatsuhashi:** Cinnamon triangular sweet

6.2.3.15 Must-Try Items

- Kaiseki meal at traditional restaurant
- Matcha and wagashi at tea house
- Yudofu near a temple
- Nishiki Market food sampling
- Traditional sweets in Gion
- Kyoto-style sushi
- Vegetarian temple food

6.2.3.16 Unique Customs

- **Geisha/Maiko culture:** Traditional entertainment in Gion
- **Tea ceremony:** Formal tea preparation and drinking
- **Kimono wearing:** More common to see people in kimono
- **Garden viewing:** Contemplative garden appreciation
- **Temple stamp collecting:** Goshuin (temple calligraphy stamps)
- **Seasonal festivals:** Traditional matsuri throughout year
- **Craft traditions:** Pottery, textiles, lacquerware

6.2.3.17 Language Variations (Dialect) Key Kyoto-ben characteristics:

- **Soft and elegant:** Considered the most refined dialect
- **“-haru” ending:** Polite verb ending (instead of standard forms)
- Example: “ikaharimasu” (polite “go”) vs. “ikimasu” (standard)
- **“Ōkini”:** Thank you (similar to Osaka but more refined)
- **“Oideyasu”:** Welcome (instead of irasshaimase)
- **“Hona”:** Well then (softer than

Osaka's "hona") - **"Dosudossu"**: Extremely polite Kyoto language - **Feminine quality**: Even men's speech is softer - **Historical language**: Retains older Japanese forms

6.2.4 Hakone ()

6.2.4.1 Personality & Pace Hakone is a mountain resort town famous for hot springs (onsen), views of Mt. Fuji, and nature. The pace is slow and relaxed, focused on rejuvenation and nature appreciation. It's a retreat from city life.

6.2.4.2 Social Behaviors

- **Relaxed and leisurely**: Everything moves slower
- **Hospitality-focused**: Service industry dominates
- **Quiet and peaceful**: Emphasis on tranquility
- **Nature-oriented**: Outdoor activities central
- **Tourist-friendly**: Used to international visitors
- **Resort atmosphere**: Vacation mindset

6.2.4.3 Communication Style

- **Service Japanese**: Polite hospitality language
- **English support**: Better than Kyoto, less than Tokyo
- **Patient communication**: Used to explaining to tourists
- **Standard Japanese**: No strong dialect
- **Sign language**: Visual communication common
- **Helpful nature**: Will go out of way to assist

6.2.4.4 Dining Culture

- **Ryokan meals**: Multi-course meals at accommodations
- **Local specialties**: Mountain vegetables, lake fish
- **Hotel dining**: Many eat at their accommodations
- **Limited restaurants**: Fewer standalone restaurants than cities
- **Casual options**: Some noodle and simple restaurants
- **Seasonal menus**: Strong seasonal focus

6.2.4.5 Restaurant Service Methods

- **Ryokan style**: Traditional Japanese hospitality
- **Set meals**: Kaiseki at accommodations
- **Leisurely service**: No rushing
- **Personal attention**: More intimate service
- **English menus**: Common in tourist spots

6.2.4.6 Business Hours

- **Tourism-based**: Varies by location
- **Museums**: Typically 9:00-17:00
- **Restaurants**: Many close early (by 8:00 PM)
- **Seasonal variations**: Some close in winter
- **Onsen hours**: Usually 6:00 AM-11:00 PM

6.2.4.7 Nightlife

- **Very limited:** Not a nightlife destination
- **Onsen at night:** Evening hot spring bathing
- **Ryokan lounges:** In-house bars and lounges
- **Quiet evenings:** Early to bed culture
- **Stargazing:** Night sky viewing popular

6.2.4.8 Cost of Living

- **Resort pricing:** More expensive than typical towns
- **Accommodation:** Ryokan ¥15,000-50,000+ per night, Hotels ¥8,000-20,000
- **Meals:** Often included in accommodation, Standalone ¥1,500-3,000
- **Transportation:** Hakone Free Pass ¥6,100 (includes most transport)
- **Activities:** ¥1,000-3,000 per attraction
- **Package value:** Better deals with multi-day passes

6.2.4.9 English Availability

- **Good support:** Tourist destination has English support
- **Signage:** English directions at attractions
- **Staff:** Hotels and ryokan have English speakers
- **Tourist info:** English information centers
- **Maps:** English maps readily available

6.2.4.10 Friendliness Levels

- **Very hospitable:** Tourism-based culture
- **Warm service:** Traditional omotenashi (hospitality)
- **Helpful:** Used to assisting tourists
- **Professional:** High service standards
- **Patient:** Accommodating to foreigners

6.2.4.11 Best For (Tourism Aspects)

- Onsen experiences
- Mt. Fuji views
- Nature and hiking
- Art museums
- Scenic transportation (pirate ship, ropeway)
- Ryokan stays
- Weekend getaway from Tokyo
- Relaxation and rejuvenation
- Volcanic scenery
- Lake activities

6.2.4.12 Transportation Differences

- **Tourist loop:** Circular sightseeing route
- **Hakone Free Pass:** Covers most transport
- **Multiple modes:** Train, cable car, ropeway, boat
- **Scenic routes:** Transportation is part of experience
- **Limited local buses:** Focus on tourist routes
- **Car rentals:** Available but not necessary

6.2.4.13 Etiquette Differences

- **Onsen etiquette:** Critical to know proper behavior
- **Ryokan rules:** Specific accommodation etiquette
- **Nature respect:** Don't litter or disturb wildlife
- **Quiet appreciation:** Respect peaceful atmosphere
- **Photography etiquette:** Don't photograph in onsen

6.2.4.14 Food Specialties

- **Kaiseki cuisine:** Traditional multi-course meals
- **Tamago-yaki:** Sweet layered egg cake
- **Kuro-tamago:** Black eggs boiled in volcanic springs
- **Soba noodles:** Local buckwheat noodles
- **Himono:** Dried fish
- **Mountain vegetables:** Sansai
- **Tofu dishes:** Fresh mountain tofu
- **Wagyu beef:** Local beef dishes

6.2.4.15 Must-Try Items

- Kuro-tamago at Owakudani (said to add 7 years to life)
- Tamago-yaki from specialty shop
- Kaiseki meal at ryokan
- Local soba
- Onsen manju (hot spring steamed bun)

6.2.4.16 Unique Customs

- **Onsen culture:** Hot spring bathing central to experience
- **Ryokan stays:** Traditional inn experience
- **Yukata wearing:** Casual kimono provided at ryokan
- **Multi-transport journey:** Using various scenic transport modes
- **Volcanic tourism:** Viewing active volcanic areas
- **Art appreciation:** Open-air museums and galleries

6.2.4.17 Language Variations (Dialect)

- **Standard Japanese:** No strong local dialect
- **Tourism Japanese:** Service industry language
- **Onsen vocabulary:** Specific hot spring terms
- **Minimal variation:** Similar to Tokyo Japanese

6.2.5 Regional Comparison Chart

Aspect	Tokyo	Osaka	Kyoto	Hakone
Pace	Very fast	Fast	Moderate	Slow
Friendliness	Polite/Reserved	Very friendly	Polite/Reserved	Hospitable
Formality	Very formal	Casual	Very formal	Moderate
English Support	Excellent	Moderate	Good (tourist areas)	Good
Cost	Very expensive	Moderate	Expensive	Expensive
Escalator Side	Stand LEFT	Stand RIGHT	Stand LEFT/RIGHT	Varies

Aspect	Tokyo	Osaka	Kyoto	Hakone
Communication	Direct/formal	Direct/casual	Indirect/formal	Service-oriented
Nightlife	Extensive	Vibrant	Limited	Minimal
Food Culture	International	Street food	Traditional	Ryokan meals
Best For	First-timers	Food lovers	Culture seekers	Relaxation
Main Transport	Subway/Train	Subway/Train	Bus	Tourist loop
Tourist Crowds	Very high	High	Very high	Moderate
English Menus	Common	Rare	Common (tourist areas)	Common
Business Hours	Late	Moderate	Early closing	Tourist-based
Atmosphere	Modern/Busy	Fun/Lively	Traditional/Refined	Natural/Peaceful

6.3 B. Etiquette Guide

Understanding Japanese etiquette is essential for a respectful and smooth travel experience. While locals are generally forgiving of foreigners, making an effort to follow these customs shows respect and will enhance your interactions.

6.3.1 1. Bowing (一 - Ojigi)

Bowing is the traditional Japanese greeting and shows respect. While handshakes are becoming more common in business settings, bowing remains the standard form of greeting.

6.3.1.1 Types of Bows Eshaku () - Light Bow - Angle: 15 degrees - **When to use:** Casual greetings, passing acquaintances, acknowledging someone - **Duration:** Brief, about 1 second - **Context:** Passing someone in hallway, greeting coworkers, thanking service staff

Keirei () - Medium Bow - Angle: 30 degrees - **When to use:** Standard greeting, showing respect, thanking someone - **Duration:** 2-3 seconds - **Context:** Meeting someone, thanking hotel staff, greeting business associates

Saikeirei () - Deep Bow - Angle: 45 degrees or more - **When to use:** Deep apology, profound gratitude, meeting very important people - **Duration:** 3+ seconds - **Context:** Serious apologies, meeting someone of very high status, profound thanks

Dogeza () - Prostration Bow - Angle: Kneeling with forehead to ground - **When to use:** Extreme apology or desperation (very rare) - **Context:** You will likely never need to do this as a tourist

6.3.1.2 When to Bow Greeting Situations: - When meeting someone for the first time - When greeting someone you know - When entering or leaving a room with others present - When passing someone of higher status

Gratitude: - When thanking someone - When receiving help or service - When someone gives you a gift - When leaving a shop or restaurant

Apologies: - When apologizing - When causing inconvenience - When making a request that may burden someone - When declining something

Other Situations: - When saying goodbye - When offering or receiving a business card - When someone bows to you (bow back)

6.3.1.3 How Deep to Bow The depth of your bow should match: - **The situation:** Casual vs. formal - **Your relationship:** Stranger vs. friend vs. superior - **The context:** Greeting vs. apology vs. gratitude - **The other person's bow:** Match or go slightly deeper if they're senior

General Rule for Tourists: - Casual situations: 15-degree bow - Standard situations: 30-degree bow - Serious apologies/gratitude: 45-degree bow

6.3.1.4 Duration

- **Quick bow:** 1 second - casual acknowledgment
- **Standard bow:** 2-3 seconds - normal greeting/thanks
- **Long bow:** 3+ seconds - serious apology or deep gratitude
- **Hold at the bottom:** Shows sincerity, especially in apologies

6.3.1.5 Who Bows First and Lower Status Hierarchy (lower status bows first and deeper):

1. Young to elder 2. Junior employee to senior 3. Service staff to customer 4. Guest to host (though host may bow first as welcome) 5. Less familiar to more familiar

As a Tourist: - Service staff will bow to you first (you're the customer) - You can bow back as acknowledgment - Don't worry too much about getting it perfect - When in doubt, match the other person's bow

6.3.1.6 Bowing Tips for Tourists DO: - Keep your back straight - Hands at your sides or on thighs (women) or sides (men) - Bend at the waist - Keep eye contact until you start bowing, then look down - Bow back when someone bows to you - Practice a casual 15-degree bow for everyday use

DON'T: - Bow and shake hands simultaneously (awkward) - Look at the person while bowing (look down) - Bob up and down repeatedly (one smooth bow) - Bow too casually with just your head - Forget to bow back - Bow while holding things (except business cards)

When You Don't Need to Bow: - Informal situations with friends - When someone is helping you find your way (a nod is fine) - During active movement or sports - When it would be physically awkward or unsafe

6.3.2 2. Shoes (- Kutsu)

Japanese culture maintains a strict separation between "inside" and "outside" spaces. Shoes are considered dirty and must be removed before entering many indoor spaces.

6.3.2.1 When to Remove Shoes Always Remove: - Private homes - Traditional ryokan (Japanese inns) - Temples and shrines (most) - Tatami mat rooms - Traditional restaurants with tatami - Capsule hotels - Some fitting rooms in clothing stores - Some traditional shops - Some traditional offices - Martial arts dojos - Tea ceremony rooms

Usually Remove: - Some modern restaurants - Some hotels (slippers provided) - Some museums - Some traditional buildings

Never Remove: - Modern hotels (in rooms) - Most restaurants - Shops and stores - Offices (usually) - Trains and subways - Streets and public spaces

How to Tell: - Look for a genkan (entrance step-up area) - Shoes lined up at entrance - Shoe lockers or cubbies visible - Floor level changes (lower at entrance) - Staff will tell you or gesture - Slippers are provided

6.3.2.2 How to Remove Shoes Proper Procedure: 1. Step up to the genkan (raised entrance area) 2. Step out of your shoes while facing forward 3. Step up onto the raised floor in socks/bare feet 4. Turn around 5. Neatly arrange your shoes pointing toward the exit 6. Put on provided slippers if available

DO: - Remove shoes at the genkan (entrance area), not before - Point shoes toward the exit after removing - Arrange them neatly side by side - Wear clean socks (always!) - Use slippers if provided

DON'T: - Step into the interior space with shoes on - Leave shoes messy or scattered - Wear dirty or holey socks - Go barefoot unless at home or onsen - Step on the genkan in your socks (step over it)

6.3.2.3 Where to Place Shoes Shoe Storage Options:

Getabako () - Shoe Lockers: - Use the locker provided - Take the key with you - Return key when collecting shoes

Shoe Shelves: - Place shoes neatly on shelf - Point toes toward wall - Keep them tidy

Genkan Floor: - Arrange neatly in designated area - Point toward exit - Don't block walkway

Plastic Bags: - Some places provide bags for your shoes - Carry them with you - Return or dispose of bag properly

6.3.2.4 Indoor Slippers Types of Slippers:

Uwabaki () - Indoor Slippers: - Provided at entrance - Wear in main areas - Usually simple slip-on style - Must remove before tatami rooms

Toilet Slippers: - Special slippers ONLY for toilet - Never wear outside the toilet - Usually marked with "W.C." or " " - Always provided at entrance to toilet - MUST switch back when exiting toilet

Tatami Slippers: - Sometimes provided specifically for tatami - Or remove all slippers before tatami

6.3.2.5 Slipper Etiquette DO: - Change into provided slippers - Change to toilet slippers in bathroom - Remember to change back after toilet - Leave slippers neatly when done - Walk carefully (slippers can be slippery)

DON'T: - Wear outdoor shoes on indoor floors - Wear indoor slippers in toilet (use toilet slippers) - Wear toilet slippers outside toilet (MAJOR mistake!) - Wear any slippers on tatami mats - Walk on genkan in slippers

Common Slipper Mistakes to Avoid: 1. Forgetting to change to toilet slippers 2. Wearing toilet slippers back into main area (very embarrassing!) 3. Wearing slippers on tatami 4. Not noticing different slipper zones

6.3.2.6 Tatami Rules What is Tatami? - Traditional woven straw mat flooring - Soft, slightly cushioned surface - Fragrant when new - Requires special care

Tatami Etiquette: - **Never wear slippers on tatami** (socks or bare feet only) - **Never wear shoes on tatami** (obvious but critical) - Don't drag furniture across tatami - Don't drop heavy objects on tatami - Don't stand on the borders between mats (traditional, less strict now) - Don't put wheeled luggage on tatami (carry it) - Sit in seiza (kneeling) or cross-legged, not with legs stretched out pointing at others

6.3.2.7 Special Situations Fitting Rooms: - Some require shoe removal - Designated area to sit and remove shoes - Don't try on shoes over socks meant for walking

Temples and Shrines: - Most require shoe removal before entering buildings - Outdoor areas usually okay with shoes - Shoe racks or lockers provided - Watch where others remove shoes

Restaurants: - Raised tatami areas require removal - Take shoes off before stepping up - Store in provided cubbies or under table - Put slippers on if provided

Ryokan (Traditional Inns): - Remove shoes at entrance - Wear provided slippers in hallways - Remove slippers before entering your room - Wear yukata (robe) and slippers in hallways - Special slippers for toilet

6.3.2.8 Sock Etiquette Critical Points: - **Always wear clean socks** when traveling in Japan - Holes in socks are embarrassing - Bring extra socks - Consider foot odor (remove shoes frequently) - Some people carry fresh sock pairs - White or neutral colored socks are safest

Tips: - Pack 2x your normal sock supply - Quick-dry socks are ideal - Foot powder can help - Some tourists carry disposable slippers

6.3.3 3. Chopsticks (- Hashi)

Chopstick etiquette is important in Japanese dining culture. While tourists get some leeway, following proper chopstick manners shows respect and cultural awareness.

6.3.3.1 How to Hold Chopsticks Proper Grip: 1. **Upper chopstick:** Hold like a pencil between thumb, index, and middle fingers (this one moves) 2. **Lower chopstick:** Rest in the crook of your thumb and on your ring finger (this one stays still) 3. **Movement:** Only the top chopstick moves; bottom stays stationary 4. **Practice:** Move tips together smoothly like scissors

Tips for Beginners: - Practice with larger items first - Don't worry if you're not perfect - Asking for a fork is okay if truly struggling - Training chopsticks (with support band) available for children

6.3.3.2 Chopstick Taboos (20+ Rules) These are serious breaches of etiquette - avoid them:

MAJOR TABOOS (Very Serious):

1. **Tate-bashi () - Standing Chopsticks**
 - Never stick chopsticks vertically into rice
 - This resembles incense at funerals
 - Extremely bad manners, associated with death
 - Worst chopstick error you can make
2. **Watashi-bashi () - Crossing Chopsticks**
 - Never rest chopsticks crossed over bowl or plate
 - Also associated with funerals
 - Shows you're finished (wrongly)
3. **Hashi-watashi () - Passing Food Chopsticks-to-Chopsticks**
 - Never pass food directly from your chopsticks to someone else's
 - This is done only with bones at funerals
 - Very serious breach
 - Place food on their plate instead
4. **Sashi-bashi () - Stabbing Food**
 - Don't stab food with chopsticks
 - Shows poor chopstick skills
 - Especially rude with rice
 - Break apart or pick up properly
5. **Neburi-bashi () - Licking Chopsticks**
 - Don't lick your chopsticks
 - Unsanitary and impolite
 - Use napkin if needed

OTHER TABOOS:

6. **Mayoi-bashi () - Hovering Chopsticks**
 - Don't hover chopsticks over food deciding what to take
 - Decide first, then pick up
7. **Yose-bashi () - Moving Dishes with Chopsticks**
 - Don't use chopsticks to pull dishes closer
 - Use your hands to move dishes
8. **Saguri-bashi () - Digging**
 - Don't dig through food to find favorite pieces
 - Take from the top
9. **Sashi-bashi () - Pointing**
 - Don't point at people or things with chopsticks

- Put them down before gesturing
- 10. Kaki-bashi () - Shoveling**
- Don't shovel food from bowl to mouth
 - Pick up individual bites
- 11. Nigiri-bashi () - Clutching**
- Don't hold both chopsticks in a fist like a weapon
 - Threatening gesture
- 12. Chirashi-bashi () - Scattering**
- Don't move food around on plate without eating it
 - Wasteful appearance
- 13. Namida-bashi () - Dripping**
- Don't let food drip from chopsticks
 - Pause over your plate if needed
- 14. Seseri-bashi () - Picking Teeth**
- Never use chopsticks as toothpicks
 - Use proper toothpicks provided
- 15. Komi-bashi () - Overfilling Mouth**
- Don't stuff your mouth with too much food
 - Take reasonable bites
- 16. Mochi-bashi () - Holding Chopsticks While Doing Other Things**
- Don't hold chopsticks while drinking or picking up dishes
 - Put them down first
- 17. Utsuri-bashi () - Changing Targets**
- Don't reach for one dish then switch to another
 - Commit to your choice
- 18. Oki-bashi () - Resting on Bowl**
- Don't rest chopsticks on top of your bowl
 - Use chopstick rest or edge of plate
- 19. Tataki-bashi () - Banging**
- Don't tap chopsticks on bowl or table
 - Impolite and noisy
- 20. Kakoi-bashi () - Guarding Food**
- Don't place your hands around your plate protectively
 - Appears greedy
- 21. Furi-bashi () - Waving**
- Don't wave chopsticks around while talking
 - Keep them still or put down
- 22. Hashi-nameru () - Sucking Chopsticks**
- Don't suck on chopstick tips
 - Very uncouth

6.3.3.3 Where to Rest Chopsticks Proper Resting Methods:

Hashi-oki () - Chopstick Rest: - Small ceramic piece specifically for resting chopsticks - Place tips on rest, handles on table - Most proper way - If provided, always use it

Alternative Resting Spots: - On edge of your plate (tips off the plate) - On the edge of a shared serving dish (clean end) - On the paper wrapper they came in (fold it into a rest) - Across your bowl (not ideal but acceptable)

Don't Rest: - Crossed on the table - On someone else's plate - In your bowl (standing up) - On the table directly (in nice restaurants)

6.3.3.4 How to Receive Chopsticks At Restaurants:

- Chopsticks come in paper wrapper or separate - Disposable (waribashi - split apart before use) - Reusable (more upscale restaurants)

Waribashi () - Disposable Chopsticks: 1. Hold horizontally 2. Pull apart gently and evenly (avoid splinters) 3. Don't rub together to remove splinters (shows you think they're cheap quality) 4. Use as normal 5. When finished, place back in wrapper or neatly on table

Reusable Chopsticks: - Treat with respect - Don't bend or stress them - Place neatly when done

6.3.3.5 How to Give Food to Others Proper Method: - Place food on their plate - Let them pick it up themselves - Never pass chopsticks to chopsticks

Serving from Shared Dishes: - Use serving chopsticks if provided (toribashi -) - Or flip your chopsticks to use the clean end - Don't use the end you've eaten with - Take from the top, don't dig

6.3.3.6 Additional Chopstick Tips DO: - Hold chopsticks in the middle to upper third - Keep chopstick tips aligned - Pick up food confidently - Put chopsticks down while drinking or talking - Use both chopsticks together - Break apart food too large to eat in one bite

DON'T: - Hold too close to the tips (shows poor skills) - Hold too close to the ends (awkward) - Use only one chopstick (use both) - Clutch them in your fist - Make noise with them - Play with them - Bite them - Gesture with them

If You Drop a Chopstick: - Ask for new ones - Don't pick it up and use it - Staff will bring replacements

Fork and Knife: - It's okay to ask for a fork if struggling - Say: "Fōku wa arimasu ka?" (Do you have a fork?) - Most restaurants will accommodate - Don't feel embarrassed

6.3.4 4. Gift Giving (- Okurimono)

Gift giving is an important part of Japanese culture. There are specific customs and expectations around when, what, and how to give gifts.

6.3.4.1 When to Give Gifts Formal Gift-Giving Occasions: - **Ochugen ()**: Mid-year gift (July) - **Oseibo ()**: Year-end gift (December) - **Oshogatsu ()**: New Year - **Weddings**: Cash in special envelope - **Funerals**: Cash in special envelope - **Moving**: When moving into new place - **Visiting someone's home**: Bring a gift

Tourist Situations: - When visiting someone's home - Thanking someone for help - Business meetings - Leaving after staying with hosts - Apologizing for an inconvenience

6.3.4.2 What to Give Appropriate Gifts from Tourists: - Souvenirs from your home country - Regional specialties from your hometown - Quality chocolates - Tea or coffee - Small specialty foods - Alcohol (if appropriate for recipient) - Handicrafts from your region - Nice stationery

Good Gift Characteristics: - Well-packaged (presentation is very important) - From a known store or region - Consumable (doesn't burden recipient with keeping it) - Not too expensive (creates obligation) - Appropriate for group (divisible items if for office)

What NOT to Give: - **Sets of four**: Number four (shi) sounds like death - **Sets of nine**: Number nine (ku) sounds like suffering - **Knives or scissors**: Symbolize cutting relationships - **White flowers**: Associated with funerals - **Handkerchiefs**: Associated with sadness/farewell - **Clocks or watches**: Symbolize running out of time - **Used items**: Except valuable antiques - **Too expensive**: Creates obligation to reciprocate - **Gifts for individuals in group setting**: Give to group or bring multiples

6.3.4.3 How to Present Gifts Presentation Rules:

Wrapping: - **Very important**: Presentation matters as much as the gift - Department stores offer gift wrapping services - Use proper gift wrap, not regular paper - Include noshi (decorative paper) for formal gifts - Never give unwrapped gifts - Keep packaging nice even if bought for travel

Physical Presentation: 1. Present with both hands 2. Offer humbly with a bow 3. Face the wrapping toward recipient 4. Say appropriate phrase (see below) 5. Downplay your gift with humble language

Phrases When Giving: - “**Tsumaranai mono desu ga...**” () - “This is a trifling thing, but...” (most common) - Humble language to downplay your gift - “**Kochira, omiyage desu**” () - “This is a souvenir” - “**Uchi no kuni kara motte kimashita**” () - “I brought this from my country” - “**Sukoshi desu ga...**” () - “It’s just a little something...”

Receiving a Gift: - Receive with both hands - Bow and thank them - Don’t open immediately unless invited to - Show appreciation for the wrapping/presentation - Express humble thanks

Phrases When Receiving: - “**Arigato gozaimasu**” - Thank you very much - “**Sumimasen**” - Sorry (for the trouble) - “**Osore irimasu**” - I’m humbled/You shouldn’t have - “**Itadakimasu**” - I humbly receive

Opening Gifts: - Don’t open immediately in formal situations - Wait until giver leaves or gives permission - If invited to open, do so carefully - Preserve the wrapping (shows respect) - Express appreciation for the gift

6.3.4.4 Omiyage Culture () What is Omiyage? - Souvenirs/gifts brought back from travels - Expected social custom - Given to coworkers, friends, neighbors, family - Usually food items that are regional specialties

Omiyage Rules:

Who Gets Omiyage: - Coworkers (bring enough for entire office) - Friends who helped before your trip - Host family if staying with people - Neighbors (if they helped with anything) - Family members

What Makes Good Omiyage: - **Regional specialty:** Famous product from the place you visited - **Individually wrapped:** Easy to distribute - **Enough for everyone:** Don’t leave people out - **Not too expensive:** ¥500-1,500 per item typical - **Packaged attractively:** Presentation matters - **Consumable:** Candy, cookies, crackers, regional snacks - **Shelf-stable:** Must survive travel

Popular Omiyage from Tourist Destinations: - Tokyo: Tokyo Banana, Shiroi Koibito () - Kyoto: Yatsuhashi (), matcha sweets - Osaka: Butaman (), Rikuro’s cheesecake - Hokkaido: Royce chocolate, Shiroi Koibito - Okinawa: Chinsuko () cookies

How to Give Omiyage: - At work: Place on communal table with note “Please help yourself” (Dōzo) - To individuals: Give in person with “This is from [place]” - Say: “**Kore, omiyage desu. Dōzo.**” (This is a souvenir. Please have some.)

6.3.4.5 Gift Reciprocation Important Concept: - Giving creates obligation to return a gift - Return gift should be about half the value - Called “okaeshi” () - Expected in many situations

As a Tourist: - If staying with someone, bring a gift - If they give you a gift, you should give something back - Have small items from your country ready - Don’t worry too much about exact reciprocation

6.3.4.6 Business Gift Giving Business Context: - Gifts strengthen relationships - First meeting: Small gift from your country - End of meeting: Small token of appreciation - Company to company: More formal

Business Gift Tips: - Not too expensive (creates obligation) - Company-branded items acceptable - Regional specialties good - Present to most senior person with both hands

6.3.5 5. Onsen Etiquette ()

Onsen (natural hot spring baths) are a quintessential Japanese experience. Following proper etiquette is essential for a good experience and showing respect to others.

6.3.5.1 Complete Onsen Rules 8 Fundamental Rules:

6.3.5.2 Rule 1: Wash Thoroughly Before Entering **Procedure:** 1. Enter bathing area (after changing) 2. Find a washing station 3. Sit on the small stool 4. Use shower to wet yourself completely 5. Soap and wash your entire body 6. Shampoo and condition hair 7. Rinse thoroughly - all soap must be removed 8. Rinse your stool and put things away neatly 9. Only then enter the bath

Why It Matters: - The bath is for soaking, not washing - Everyone shares the same water - Soap in the bath is unacceptable - You must be completely clean before entering

6.3.5.3 Rule 2: No Swimsuits - Completely Nude **The Rule:** - Everyone bathes completely naked - No swimsuits, underwear, or towels in the water - Applies to men's and women's sides (separated) - Only exception: some mixed (konyoku) outdoor baths allow towel wrapping

Why It Matters: - Hygienic reasons (fabric harbors bacteria) - Traditional cultural practice - Swim fabric can release fibers into water - Universal rule with almost no exceptions

Tips: - Don't worry - everyone is naked too - Separate areas for men and women - Look for: (otoko/men) or (onna/women) - Blue noren (curtain) = men, Red noren = women - Most people don't stare - very normal

6.3.5.4 Rule 3: Tattoo Policies Traditional View: - Tattoos associated with yakuza (Japanese mafia) - Many onsen ban tattoos completely - Strict policy at traditional onsen - Rule is slowly changing but still prevalent

What This Means for Tattooed Tourists:

Options if You Have Tattoos: 1. **Cover small tattoos:** Use large waterproof bandages (sold at drugstores) 2. **Find tattoo-friendly onsen:** Some allow tattoos, especially in touristy areas 3. **Private/family baths:** Reserve a private bath (kazoku-buro) 4. **Ryokan with private onsen:** Book room with private onsen 5. **Ask beforehand:** Call or check website about tattoo policy

Finding Tattoo-Friendly Onsen: - Website: tattoo-friendly.jp - Look for "tattoo OK" (OK) - Hakone, Nikko, Kusatsu have some accepting places - Smaller tattoos easier to accommodate

6.3.5.5 Rule 4: Towel Usage - Never in the Water Towel Rules:

Small Towel (Tenugui -): - Bring into bathing area - Use to cover privates while walking (optional) - Can use to wipe face while in bath - **Never put in the bath water** (critical rule) - Put on head or fold on side of bath while soaking

Large Towel: - Leave in changing area - Never bring into bathing area - Use after exiting to dry off

Why No Towels in Water: - Same reason as swimsuits - harbors bacteria - Releases fibers and soap residue - Pollutes the shared water - Shows lack of respect

6.3.5.6 Rule 5: Hair Rules Hair Etiquette: - **Long hair must be tied up** - Use provided hair tie or bring your own - Hair must not touch the water - Men with long hair must also tie it up - Bun, ponytail, or clip acceptable

Why: - Hygienic - hair sheds - Hair in water is considered dirty - Universal rule, strictly enforced

6.3.5.7 Rule 6: Photography Ban Photography Rules: - **Absolutely no photography** in bathing areas - No cameras, no phones, nothing - Applies to changing rooms too - May be able to photograph entrance area only - Outdoor scenery photos okay if no people

Why: - Privacy reasons (everyone is naked) - Respect for others - Serious violation if broken - Can be kicked out immediately

Allowed Photos: - Private family bath (if you rented it) - Promotional photos in public areas - Exterior of facility - Foot baths (clothing on)

6.3.5.8 Rule 7: Quiet Behavior Behavioral Expectations: - Keep noise to minimum - No loud talking - No splashing - No swimming or playing - No running - Peaceful atmosphere required - Quiet conversation acceptable but not loud

Why: - Onsen is for relaxation and contemplation - Respect others' experience - Traditional tranquility - Noise echoes in bathing areas

Tips: - Speak in hushed tones - Enter and exit water smoothly - Don't disturb others' peace - Save excited conversation for after

6.3.5.9 Rule 8: Don't Drain the Water or Add Cold Water Water Rules: - Don't add cold water to cool down the bath - Don't open drain - Don't adjust temperature - Water temperature is set deliberately - If too hot, splash water on yourself to acclimate

Why: - Onsen water temperature is carefully maintained - Everyone shares the same temperature - Changing it is selfish - Natural hot spring temperature is specific

If Too Hot: - Splash water on body to adjust - Start with legs/arms before full body - Sit on edge and gradually enter - Enter slowly - Take breaks if needed

6.3.5.10 Additional Onsen Guidelines Before Entering: - Remove all jewelry (can damage from minerals) - Remove glasses if possible (steam will fog them) - Tie up long hair - Don't bring anything into bath (drinks, books, phones) - Use toilet before bathing

While Bathing: - Rinse at shower station before re-entering if you exit - Don't stay too long (10-15 minutes at a time) - Take breaks to avoid overheating - Stay hydrated (drink water before and after) - Don't put head underwater - Move slowly and carefully (can be slippery)

Order of Baths: - Indoor bath first - Then outdoor bath (rotenburo) - Sauna (if available) - shower first after - Different temperature pools - start warm - Don't rush between baths

After Bathing: - Pat dry with small towel before entering changing area - Drink water or tea (usually provided) - Wait before eating (give body time to adjust) - Consider skipping one washing cycle if returning to different bath

Special Bath Types:

Rotenburo (ロッベンブルー) - Outdoor Bath: - Scenic outdoor bath - Wash indoors first, then go outside - May have beautiful views - Can be cooler (especially in winter) - Towel on head okay (not in water)

Kazoku-buro (家族風呂) - Family/Private Bath: - Private bath you reserve - Good for families, couples, tattoo concerns, or shy people - Usually time-limited (30-45 minutes) - Costs extra (¥2,000-5,000+) - Book in advance at front desk - Can take photos here (it's private)

Ashiyu (足湯) - Foot Bath: - Public foot-soaking bath - Keep clothes on - Free or small fee - Common at train stations and tourist areas - More casual, can chat and take photos

6.3.5.11 Health and Safety Don't Enter Onsen If: - You have open wounds or cuts - You're very drunk - You have a contagious skin condition - You have a heart condition (consult doctor) - You're feeling ill

Health Tips: - Stay hydrated before and after - Don't bathe right after eating (wait 30 minutes) - Don't drink alcohol before bathing - Take breaks if feeling dizzy - Be careful of slippery surfaces - Temperature can spike blood pressure

After Onsen: - Some say don't shower (let minerals stay on skin) - Others prefer to rinse (depends on mineral content) - Ask locals or staff for recommendation - Drink plenty of water - Rest if feeling tired

6.3.6 6. Temple & Shrine Etiquette (庙 & 神社)

Temples (Buddhist) and shrines (Shinto) are sacred religious sites. While tourists are welcome, respectful behavior is essential.

6.3.6.1 Understanding the Difference **Temples (佛寺 - Tera/Ji):** - Buddhist places of worship - Usually have large main hall - Statues of Buddha - Incense burning - Pagodas often present - More somber atmosphere
- Examples: Senso-ji, Kinkaku-ji, Kiyomizu-dera

Shrines (神社 - Jinja): - Shinto places of worship - Torii gates at entrance - No Buddhist imagery - Emphasis on nature and purity - Rope (shimenawa) decorations - Examples: Meiji Shrine, Fushimi Inari, Itsukushima Shrine

6.3.6.2 Temple Etiquette Entering the Temple:

1. Bow at entrance gate

- Show respect when passing through gate
- Small bow is fine

2. Incense ritual (if available):

- Light incense from existing flames (don't use lighter directly)
- Wave smoke toward yourself (believed to purify)
- Place incense in burner
- Bow slightly

3. At the main hall:

- Approach the altar/offering box
- Throw coin in box (any amount, ¥5 or ¥100 common)
- Bow
- Ring bell if present (to summon deity)
- Clasp hands in prayer
- Pray/reflect quietly
- Bow again
- Step aside

Temple DO's: - Remove hat when entering buildings - Speak quietly - Walk on sides of paths (center is for deities) - Take photos where permitted - Show respect at all times - Light incense if available - Make a small offering

Temple DON'Ts: - Don't touch or climb on statues or altars - Don't disturb worshippers - Don't be loud - Don't eat or drink inside - Don't smoke (except at designated areas) - Don't take photos if prohibited signs are present

6.3.6.3 Shrine Etiquette Complete Shrine Visit Procedure:

1. Passing Through Torii Gate: - Bow before entering (first torii gate) - Walk to the side, not in the center (center is for kami/spirits) - Shows respect and intention

2. Temizuya (水撒き - Purification Ritual: This is essential before approaching the main shrine.

Step-by-step purification: 1. Take ladle in right hand 2. Scoop water 3. Pour water over left hand 4. Switch ladle to left hand 5. Pour water over right hand 6. Switch ladle back to right hand 7. Pour water into cupped left palm 8. Rinse mouth with water from palm (don't swallow) 9. Spit water beside basin (not into basin) 10. Rinse left hand again (the one that touched your mouth) 11. Hold ladle vertically to rinse handle 12. Place ladle back face down 13. Do not touch basin directly or put mouth on ladle

Why This Matters: - Purification before approaching sacred space - Symbolic cleansing of body and spirit - Required before prayer - Shows respect and knowledge

3. Approaching the Main Shrine (Haiden/Honden):

Prayer Procedure (2-2-1): 1. Approach offering box 2. Throw coin in box (¥5 is considered lucky: go-en, meaning “good relationship”) 3. Ring bell (if present) - to summon kami and purify 4. Bow twice (deep bows, about 90 degrees) 5. Clap twice (clap hands in front of chest) 6. Pray silently (make wish or show gratitude) 7. Bow once more (deep bow) 8. Step aside for others

Remember: Ni-rei, Ni-hakushu, Ichi-rei () - Two bows, two claps, one bow

4. Leaving: - Bow toward shrine before leaving - Bow at torii gate when exiting - Turn around to face shrine and bow

Shrine-Specific Etiquette:

Omikuji () - Fortune Slips: - Pay ¥100-300 at designated spot - Draw a fortune - Read your fortune (dai-kichi = best, kyo = worst) - If good: Keep it or tie it at designated area - If bad: Tie it on shrine grounds (to leave bad luck behind)

Ema () - Wooden Wishing Plaques: - Purchase at shrine office (¥500-1,000) - Write your wish on blank side - Include name and date - Hang on designated rack - Shrine will burn them later in ritual

Goshuin () - Temple/Shrine Stamps: - Calligraphic stamp and inscription - Bring goshuin-cho (stamp book) or buy one there (¥1,000-2,000) - Present at shrine office (¥300-500 per stamp) - Watch as priest writes it (beautiful art) - Each shrine has unique design - Collect throughout your journey

Omamori () - Amulets/Charms: - Purchase at shrine office - Various types: health, love, traffic safety, success, etc. - ¥500-1,000 typically - Keep on person or in bag - Don’t open the inside - Return or burn after one year

6.3.6.4 Photography Rules Generally Allowed: - Temple/shrine grounds - Gardens - Architecture - Torii gates - Outdoor areas

Generally Prohibited: - Inside main halls - During ceremonies - Near worshippers - Private areas - Signs will indicate prohibitions

Photography Tips: - Look for “no photo” signs (or) - Don’t use flash indoors - Don’t climb on structures for photos - Be aware of people praying - Don’t use selfie sticks where crowded - Respectful photos only

6.3.6.5 Dress Code Appropriate Attire: - Modest clothing - Cover shoulders and knees (especially at important shrines/temples) - No beachwear or athletic wear - Neat and clean appearance - Remove sunglasses indoors

Shoes: - Remove before entering buildings - Wear clean socks - Slippers may be provided - Place shoes in designated area

What to Avoid: - Revealing clothing - Dirty or torn clothes - Strong perfumes - Very casual beachwear

6.3.6.6 Donations Offering Money: - Voluntary - Any amount acceptable - ¥5, ¥50, ¥100, ¥500 common - Thrown gently into offering box - Shows respect and gratitude

When to Donate: - During prayer - When receiving goshuin - When taking omikuji - After enjoying the grounds - Optional but appreciated

6.3.6.7 Special Ceremonies and Events If You Encounter a Ceremony: - Observe quietly from a distance - Don’t walk through or interrupt - No photography unless permitted - Show extra respect - Wait for ceremony to finish before approaching

Festival Days: - More crowded - Special rituals - May have restricted areas - Follow crowd flow - Unique photo opportunities

6.3.6.8 Additional Guidelines General Behavior: - Speak quietly - Walk slowly and mindfully - Don't litter - Don't eat or drink (unless designated area) - Don't smoke (unless designated area) - Control children - Keep dogs on leash or outside - Turn off phone ringer - No phone calls

Interacting with Monks/Priests: - Polite and respectful - Bow when greeting - Keep conversation brief - Don't interrupt rituals - Ask permission before taking photos of them

Special Requests: - Prayers can be commissioned (for a fee) - Special blessings available - Some offer meditation sessions - Ask at shrine/temple office

6.3.7 7. Public Behavior ()

Japanese society places high value on consideration for others and maintaining social harmony. Understanding public behavior expectations will help you navigate social situations smoothly.

6.3.7.1 Train and Subway Manners Waiting for the Train: - Queue in designated lines marked on platform - Stand aside to let passengers exit first - Board only after everyone has exited - Don't push or rush - Wait for next train if this one is too full

On the Train:

Priority Seating (- Yūsen-seki): - Reserved for elderly, pregnant women, disabled, people with small children - Usually at ends of train cars - Don't sit if you're young and able-bodied - Give up your seat if someone needs it more - Even outside priority seats, offer your seat to those who need it

Phone Usage: - **No phone calls** (strict rule) - Set phone to silent mode (manner mode) - Text and browse okay but quietly - No videos with sound - No loud games - Very occasionally someone will violate this, but it's frowned upon - If you must take an urgent call, exit at next stop

Volume: - Speak in very low voices - Whisper if you must talk - No loud conversations - No laughing loudly - Trains are incredibly quiet

Eating and Drinking: - **No eating on most trains** (except Shinkansen long-distance trains) - Water is usually okay - Strong-smelling foods especially forbidden - Gum and mints okay - Canned coffee at rush hour is borderline

Backpack Etiquette: - Take off your backpack and hold it - Place at your feet or on overhead rack - Don't hit people with your bag - Be aware of your space

Other Train Rules: - Don't block doors - Move to center of car - Hold bags in front of you during rush hour - Don't lean on poles (others need to grip) - No grooming (makeup, hair) - Don't push, be patient - Stand in aisles to let others sit - Face toward door when standing - No aggressive behavior

Rush Hour (7:30-9:30 AM, 5:30-8:00 PM): - Extremely crowded - Be patient - You will be pressed against others - Stay calm - Staff may physically push people in (normal) - Women-only cars available during rush hour

6.3.7.2 Eating Rules in Public Where You Can Eat: - Restaurants (obviously) - Designated eating areas (food courts, park benches) - Your hotel room - Rest areas - Some train platforms (brief snacks)

Where You CANNOT Eat: - While walking on the street (very rude) - On most trains/buses (except Shinkansen) - In shops while browsing - Most public transportation - While standing in crowds

Why No Walking While Eating: - Shows lack of focus/appreciation for food - Can dirty streets or clothes - Disrespectful to food - You might bump into someone

Exceptions: - Festival street food (stay in festival area) - Ice cream (somewhat accepted) - Near vending machines (drink/eat right there then leave)

Tips: - Buy food and find a spot to sit - Stay near where you bought food if eating outside - Dispose of trash in provided bins - Don't walk with open food containers

6.3.7.3 Queue Etiquette (- Narabu) Japanese queuing is famous for being orderly and respected.

Queuing Rules: - Always form orderly single-file line - Don't cut in line (never acceptable) - Maintain space from person in front - Don't leave line (you lose your spot) - Wait patiently - No pushing - No complaining about wait times

Types of Queues:

Restaurant Queues: - Write name on waiting list - Wait in designated area - Don't hover near entrance - Come when called (won't call multiple times)

Store Queues: - Form line at register - Next customer called when ready - Be ready with payment

Train Platform Queues: - Line markers on ground - Queue behind markers - Board in order

Escalator Queues: - Know which side to stand on - Don't block - Keep right (in Osaka) or left (in Tokyo) for walkers

6.3.7.4 Volume Levels Public Spaces: - Keep conversations quiet - No shouting or loud laughter - Especially quiet on trains - Indoor voice everywhere - Very low in temples/shrines

Phone Calls: - Not in restaurants during meal - Not on trains/buses - Step aside to a quiet area if you must - Be brief - Use low voice

Why Quiet is Important: - Respect for others' peace - Harmony (wa -) - Avoid disturbing others - Cultural value of restraint

Tourist Exception: - You may hear other tourists being loud - Don't follow their bad example - Be better - respect the culture

6.3.7.5 Phone Usage Rules On Trains: - No phone calls (strict) - Silent/manner mode - Texting/browsing okay - No sound from videos/games - Headphones only (keep volume down)

In Restaurants: - Phone on table okay - Quick texts acceptable - Long phone calls rude (step outside) - Don't disturb others - Don't photograph others without permission

Walking: - Pay attention while walking - Don't walk while staring at phone - Step aside if you need to stop and use phone - Safety and courtesy issue

Priority Areas: - Near priority seating: turn off phone or flight mode - Pacemakers can be affected (less common now) - Signs will indicate

6.3.7.6 Personal Space Respecting Space: - Don't stand too close - Maintain distance in conversations - Don't touch others - Physical contact is minimal

Exceptions: - Rush hour trains (unavoidable) - Crowded festivals - Queues at popular spots

Body Language: - Minimal gesturing - Keep arms close - Don't be overly expressive - Calm demeanor

6.3.7.7 Other Public Behavior Rules Littering: - Never litter (very serious social violation) - Trash cans are rare (carry your trash) - Bring a small bag for trash - Dispose at your hotel or konbini - Smoking areas have ashtrays

Smoking: - Designated smoking areas only - Not while walking (illegal in many areas) - Check for smoking sections - Don't smoke near non-smokers - Dispose of butts properly

Waiting: - Be patient everywhere - No complaining - Stay calm - Occupy yourself quietly

Stairs and Walkways: - Walk on the left (except Osaka) - Don't block paths - Move to side if stopping - Let others pass

Doors: - Hold door for person behind you - Thank person who holds door - Don't let door slam

Public Toilets: - Keep clean - Flush properly - Don't make a mess - Use provided toilet paper - Some have cleaning spray

6.3.8 8. Dining Etiquette (食事のマナー)

Beyond chopstick etiquette, there are many dining customs to be aware of.

6.3.8.1 Before and After Meals Itadakimasu (神代くます): - Said before eating - Means "I humbly receive" - Shows gratitude for food - Clasp hands together and say it - Even when eating alone

Gochisosama (良いぞさま) / Gochisosama deshita (良いぞさま だして): - Said after eating - Means "Thank you for the meal" - Shows appreciation - Clasp hands together and say to staff when leaving - More polite form: gochisosama deshita

6.3.8.2 Table Manners DO: - Hold rice bowl in your hand - Hold soup bowl in your hand - Sip soup directly from bowl - Slurp noodles (shows enjoyment) - Try to finish everything on your plate - Use oshibori (hot towel) to clean hands - Pour drinks for others, not yourself - Hold dishes when eating from them - Eat quietly and with good posture

DON'T: - Leave rice unfinished (very wasteful) - Start eating before everyone is served (wait or they'll say "please start") - Talk with mouth full - Reach across others (ask for items to be passed) - Point with chopsticks - Wave chopsticks while talking - Use your own chopsticks for shared dishes (use serving chopsticks) - Add soy sauce to rice (disrespectful to rice) - Pour soy sauce over sushi rice (dip fish side only) - Blow your nose at table (go to bathroom) - Apply makeup at table - Take food from someone else's plate without permission

6.3.8.3 Specific Food Etiquette Sushi: - Eat in one bite if possible - Dip fish side in soy sauce, not rice side - Use fingers or chopsticks (both okay) - Ginger is palate cleanser between pieces - Wasabi already in sushi (don't add more unless you want to) - Eat in order suggested by chef at high-end places - Don't rub chopsticks together (insults quality)

Ramen: - Slurp loudly (shows enjoyment and cools noodles) - Eat quickly while hot - Don't need to finish all broth (very filling) - Rotate bowl to reach noodles - Use spoon for broth and toppings

Soba/Udon: - Slurp noodles - Dipping soba: dip just the tip in sauce - Don't need to finish all sauce - Drink provided soba-yu (noodle water) at end

Rice: - Hold bowl in hand - Don't add soy sauce directly to white rice - Eat with every bite of other food - Finish every grain (leaving rice is wasteful)

Soup (Miso, etc.): - Hold bowl in both hands - Sip directly from bowl - Use chopsticks to eat solid ingredients - Place back on table gently - No spoon needed

Tempura: - Dip in tentsuyu sauce - Add grated daikon and ginger to sauce - Eat while hot - Don't let it get soggy

Donburi (Rice Bowl Dishes): - Hold bowl if small enough - Mix ingredients if you like - Eat rice with toppings together

6.3.8.4 Drinking Etiquette Pouring Drinks: - **Never pour your own drink** when others present - Pour for others first - Others will pour for you - Watch others' glasses - Refill when getting low - Hold bottle with both hands (formal) or one hand (casual) - Receive with glass slightly lifted

Receiving Drinks: - Hold glass up when being poured for - Use both hands for formal situations - Thank them (arigatō gozaimasu) - Pour back for them after

Toasting: - **Kanpai!** () - Cheers! - Clink glasses gently - Lower your glass below senior person's glass - Take a drink after toast - Don't drink before toast in formal settings

Beer: - Pour for others - Fill glass 2/3 to 3/4 full - Tilt glass when pouring - Let foam settle

Sake: - Warm or cold (depends on type and season) - Small cups (ochoko) - Pour for others frequently - Hold bottle with both hands for respect

Tea: - Don't pour for yourself at formal tea ceremony - Rotate bowl before drinking (tea ceremony) - Slurp slightly to aerate - Shows appreciation

6.3.8.5 Shared Dishes Serving from Shared Plates: - Use serving chopsticks (toribashi) if provided - Or flip your chopsticks and use clean end - Don't use eating end of chopsticks - Take from top, don't dig - Take modest portions - Consider others

Don't: - Take the last piece without offering it to others first - Take large portions when sharing - Touch food and put it back - Pass food chopsticks-to-chopsticks

6.3.8.6 Paying Payment Customs: - **No tipping** (considered rude/confusing) - Pay at register, not at table (usually) - Bring bill to cashier near entrance - Don't leave money on table - Split bills less common (one person pays) - Use tray provided for payment

Splitting Bills: - Less common than in West - Say: "Betsu-betsu de onegaishimasu" (Separate please) - Or: "Warite de onegaishimasu" (Split please) - Usually one person pays and friends reimburse later - Convenience: Use app or cash to reimburse friend

When Host/Guest: - Invited person should refuse to pay at first - Insist mildly - But accept if host insists back - Reciprocate by treating them next time

6.3.8.7 Restaurant-Specific Etiquette Entering: - Wait to be seated (don't seat yourself) - Staff will say "Irasshaimase!" (Welcome!) - You don't need to respond - Tell them party size - Follow staff to table

At the Table: - Use oshibori for hands, not face - Don't reorder oshibori after using it - Some places have call buttons (press for service) - Others require saying "Sumimasen!" (Excuse me!) - Don't snap fingers or wave aggressively

Ordering: - Look at menu - Ask questions if needed - Order when ready - It's okay to ask recommendations

During Meal: - Don't call staff too frequently - Get refills if offered - Relax and enjoy

Leaving: - Bring bill to register - Thank staff: "Gochisosama deshita" - Staff will say "Arigatō gozaimashita!" (Thank you!) - Don't need to respond (but can say arigatō) - Leave tables clean and organized

6.3.8.8 All-You-Can-Eat/Drink () Tabehōdai () - All-You-Can-Eat: - Time limit (usually 90-120 minutes) - Order multiple rounds - Don't waste food (take only what you'll eat) - Finish what you order - Some places charge for leftovers

Nomihōdai () - All-You-Can-Drink: - Common at izakaya - Time limit (usually 2 hours) - Order drinks as you go - Last order time announced - Don't order too many at end

6.4 C. Safety Guide

Japan is one of the safest countries in the world for tourists. However, it's important to be aware of potential risks and know how to respond in emergencies.

6.4.1 1. General Safety

6.4.1.1 Crime Levels Overall Safety: - Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world - Violent crime against tourists is extremely rare - Petty crime exists but is much less common than most countries - You can walk safely at night in most areas - Children travel alone on trains safely - Lost items are often returned

Violent Crime: - Extremely rare for tourists - Homicide rate is very low - Random violence almost unheard of - Gang activity doesn't target tourists - Terrorism risk is very low

Property Crime: - Theft is uncommon but exists - Pickpocketing rare but possible in crowded areas - Bicycle theft more common (use locks) - Hotel room theft very rare - Lost items often turned in to police

6.4.1.2 Safe Activities Generally Very Safe: - Walking alone at night - Using public transportation - Staying in hotels/hostels - Eating street food - Shopping - Using ATMs - Asking strangers for help - Solo female travel - LGBTQ+ travel (though culture is conservative)

Normal Precautions: - Watch belongings in very crowded areas - Don't leave valuables visible in cars - Lock hotel room - Keep copy of passport separate from original - Have emergency contacts saved

6.4.1.3 Rare Concerns While rare, be aware of:

Groping (Chikan -): - Can occur on crowded trains - Usually targets women - Women-only train cars available during rush hour (marked with pink signs) - If happens: Yell "Chikan!" and point at person - Move to different car - Report to station staff

Drink Spiking: - Very rare but has occurred - Watch your drink in bars - Don't accept drinks from strangers - Stay aware in Roppongi nightlife (foreigner area in Tokyo)

Photography Concerns: - Upskirt photography (illegal but happens) - Camera shutter sound on phones required by law to prevent this - Be aware in crowded areas

Touts and Scams: - Bar touts in Kabukicho (Tokyo) and Roppongi - May lure to overpriced bars with hidden fees - Decline offers from people on street - Go to established businesses only

6.4.1.4 Tourist Scams (Rare but Exist) Overcharging at Bars: - "Catch bars" or "Clip joints" - Charged thousands of yen for drinks - Common in Kabukicho and Roppongi - Avoid: Don't follow touts, check prices before ordering

Fake Monks: - Rare but some fake monks ask for donations - Real monks don't aggressively ask for money - Politely decline

Taxi Scams: - Very rare (taxis are highly regulated) - Meter should be used - Fixed rates to airports - Receipt always provided

Fake Police: - Extremely rare - Real police have proper ID - They won't ask for your wallet directly

6.4.1.5 Street Safety Tips DO: - Walk confidently - Use well-lit streets - Trust your instincts - Ask for help if lost - Use official taxis - Keep phone charged - Have hotel address in Japanese

DON'T: - Flash large amounts of cash - Leave bags unattended (though many locals do) - Accept rides from strangers - Follow aggressive touts - Walk in obviously dangerous areas drunk - Engage with street hasslers

6.4.1.6 Solo Travel Safety Solo Female Travelers: - Japan is very safe for solo women - Women-only hotel floors available - Women-only train cars during rush hour - Normal precautions still apply - Avoid excessive drinking alone - Use common sense

Solo Male Travelers: - Also very safe - Same general precautions - Be respectful and aware

General Solo Travel: - Let someone know your plans - Share location with friends/family - Keep phone charged - Have offline maps - Emergency contacts saved

6.4.1.7 LGBTQ+ Safety General Environment: - Safe from violence - No anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes - Culture is conservative but polite - Same-sex marriage not legal (yet) - Don't ask, don't tell culture - Public displays of affection uncommon for all couples

Tips: - Discrimination unlikely - Some areas more open (Tokyo, Osaka) - Shinjuku Ni-chome is gay district in Tokyo - Hotels won't question room sharing - General respect for privacy

6.4.2 2. Natural Disasters

Japan is prone to natural disasters due to its location. Understanding what to do can save your life.

6.4.2.1 Earthquakes (- Jishin) Frequency: - Japan experiences thousands of earthquakes per year - Most are tiny tremors you won't feel - Moderate earthquakes (feeling shaking) somewhat common - Large destructive earthquakes are rare but possible - Buildings are earthquake-resistant

Magnitude Scale: - Japan uses Shindo scale (1-7) based on felt intensity - Shindo 1-2: Barely noticeable - Shindo 3-4: Noticeable, hanging objects swing - Shindo 5: Difficult to walk, objects fall - Shindo 6: Very difficult to stand, building damage - Shindo 7: Cannot move, widespread destruction

What to Do During an Earthquake:

If Indoors: 1. **Drop, Cover, Hold On** - Drop to hands and knees - Cover head and neck under sturdy table/desk - Hold on until shaking stops 2. Stay away from windows 3. Don't run outside (falling debris danger) 4. Stay in place until shaking stops 5. Don't use elevators 6. Protect your head with arms if no table available

If Outdoors: 1. Move away from buildings, power lines, trees 2. Get to open space 3. Protect your head 4. Watch for falling debris 5. Stay away from vending machines and walls

If on Train/Subway: 1. Hold onto handrails or poles 2. Stay low 3. Don't try to exit 4. Follow staff instructions 5. Train will stop automatically

If in Elevator: 1. Press all floor buttons 2. Get out at first opening floor 3. Don't use elevators after earthquake

If Driving: 1. Slow down and pull over safely 2. Stay in car 3. Avoid bridges and overpasses 4. Listen to radio for information

After the Earthquake:

1. **Check for injuries**
2. **Check for gas leaks** (smell, listen)
 - If suspected, open windows and exit
 - Don't use matches or lighters
3. **Check for structural damage**
4. **Be prepared for aftershocks** (can last days or weeks)
5. **Use stairs, not elevators**
6. **Check phone only briefly** (preserve battery and network)
7. **Follow official instructions** (TV, radio, loudspeakers)
8. **Have emergency kit ready** (see below)
9. **Don't spread rumors**
10. **Evacuate if instructed**

Tsunami Risk: - Large earthquakes near coast can cause tsunamis - Tsunami arrives 10-30+ minutes after earthquake - Move to high ground immediately if near coast - Don't wait for official warning - Stay elevated until all-clear given

6.4.2.2 Tsunamis (- Tsunami) Warning Signs: - Strong earthquake (especially long duration) - Loud roar from ocean - Sudden water level changes - Official warnings (sirens, announcements)

What to Do:

1. If you feel strong earthquake near coast:

- Don't wait for warning
- Immediately move to high ground (minimum 3rd floor or 10m elevation)
- Move inland and uphill
- Don't go to beach to watch

2. If tsunami warning issued:

- Evacuate immediately
- Follow evacuation route signs (- blue signs)
- Don't return until all-clear given
- Multiple waves can come - first is not always largest

3. Stay elevated until all-clear:

- Wait for official "all clear" announcement
- Can take many hours
- Stay informed via radio/TV

Tsunami Evacuation Signs: - Blue signs with white running figure and wave - Point to high ground - Follow these during evacuation

6.4.2.3 Typhoons (- Taifū) Season: - Typhoon season: June to October - Peak: August to September - Can affect any part of Japan - Warning given days in advance

Before Typhoon: 1. Monitor weather forecasts 2. Stock emergency supplies 3. Charge all devices 4. Secure loose outdoor items 5. Know evacuation routes 6. Stay indoors when it arrives

During Typhoon: 1. Stay indoors 2. Stay away from windows 3. Don't go outside 4. Avoid flooded areas 5. Don't drive 6. Prepare for power outages 7. Fill bathtub with water (for toilet flushing if needed) 8. Listen to official information

After Typhoon: 1. Check for damage 2. Avoid flooded areas 3. Watch for downed power lines 4. Don't go near rivers (flooding can continue) 5. Follow official instructions

Typhoon Impact: - Heavy rain and flooding - Strong winds - Transportation disruptions (trains, flights cancelled) - Landslides in mountainous areas - Coastal storm surge

Travel During Typhoon: - Flights will be cancelled - Trains will stop - Stay at accommodation - Don't try to travel - Build buffer days in itinerary during typhoon season

6.4.2.4 Volcanoes (- Kazan) Volcanic Activity: - Japan has 110+ active volcanoes - Most eruptions are small and predicted - Tourist areas monitored closely - Warnings given in advance

Volcanic Alert Levels: - Level 1: Normal - Level 2: Increased activity - Level 3: Restricted access - Level 4: Prepare to evacuate - Level 5: Evacuate

Popular Volcanic Tourist Sites: - Mt. Fuji (Level 1 normally) - Hakone (hot springs area) - Mt. Aso (Kyushu) - Sakurajima (Kagoshima)

Safety: - Check volcanic alert levels before visiting - Follow restricted area signs - Don't enter prohibited zones - Have exit route planned - Follow local instructions

If Volcanic Activity Increases: 1. Leave area immediately 2. Follow evacuation orders 3. Protect yourself from ash (cover mouth/nose) 4. Avoid river valleys (lahars/mudflows) 5. Monitor official information

6.4.3 3. Health & Medical

6.4.3.1 Travel Insurance Critical Importance: - Get comprehensive travel insurance before arrival - Medical care in Japan is excellent but expensive - Without insurance, costs are very high - Covers medical emergencies, evacuation, repatriation - Also covers trip cancellation, lost luggage

What to Cover: - Medical expenses (minimum \$100,000) - Emergency evacuation - Repatriation - 24/7 assistance hotline - Prescription medications - Dental emergencies - Pre-existing conditions (if possible)

6.4.3.2 Hospital Access Finding Medical Care:

Emergency Room (- Kyūkyū): - Go to large hospitals with ER - Open 24/7 - For serious emergencies - Call 119 for ambulance if life-threatening

Clinics (- Shinryōjo): - For non-emergencies - Daytime hours usually - Specialists and general practice - Less expensive than hospitals

International Clinics: - Staff speak English - Accustomed to foreign patients - More expensive - Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto have several

Notable International Clinics:

Tokyo: - Tokyo Midtown Clinic - American Clinic Tokyo - St. Luke's International Hospital - Japanese Red Cross Medical Center

Osaka: - Osaka Ekisaikai Hospital - Sumitomo Hospital

Kyoto: - Kyoto City Hospital - Japan Baptist Hospital

How to Find: - Ask hotel concierge - Call embassy - Use JNTO's Japan Helpline: 050-3816-2787 (English, 24/7) - Google Maps search "international clinic"

6.4.3.3 Pharmacy Access Pharmacies (- Yakkyoku): - Common everywhere - Look for (kusuri - medicine) sign - Many in train stations and shopping areas

Common Chains: - Matsumoto Kiyoshi () - Sugi Pharmacy () - Welcia () - Tsuruha Drug ()

Over-the-Counter Medications: - Pain relievers (aspirin, acetaminophen) - Cold medicine - Stomach medicine - Antihistamines - Motion sickness medicine - Eye drops - Bandages and first aid

Important Notes: - Dosages may be lower than your country - Some ingredients prohibited (pseudoephedrine) - English instructions sometimes available - Pharmacist can help (limited English)

6.4.3.4 Prescription Medications Bringing Prescription Meds: - Bring enough for entire trip - Keep in original containers - Bring doctor's letter explaining need - Some medications prohibited in Japan - Check Japan Customs before arrival

Prohibited/Restricted Medications: - Stimulants (Adderall, Vyvanse, etc.) - need special permission - Some ADHD medications - Strong pain medications (need yakkan shoumei - import certificate) - Check: <https://www.customs.go.jp/english/>

If You Need Prescriptions While in Japan: - See doctor at clinic - Doctor writes prescription - Fill at pharmacy - Need Japanese insurance or pay full price (expensive) - Travel insurance may reimburse

Yakkan Shōmei (): - Import certificate for controlled medications - Required for stimulants, strong painkillers - Apply before travel through embassy/consulate - Takes several weeks - Bring with you

6.4.3.5 General Health Safety **Water:** - Tap water safe to drink everywhere - Very clean - No need for bottled water (but available)

Food Safety: - Food safety standards very high - Raw fish (sushi) is safe - Street food is safe - Food poisoning very rare

Heat Safety (Summer): - Summers are hot and humid (30-35°C+) - Heat stroke is real risk - Stay hydrated - Use cooling products (cooling towels, cold packs) - Take breaks in air conditioning - Elderly and children at higher risk

Cooling Stations: - Department stores - Convenience stores - Malls - Train stations - Rest areas

Symptoms of Heat Stroke: - Dizziness, confusion - Nausea - Rapid heartbeat - Headache - Hot, dry skin - Seek shade and medical help immediately

Cold Safety (Winter): - Hokkaido and mountain areas get very cold - Dress in layers - Hypothermia risk in extreme cold - Check weather forecasts

Air Quality: - Generally excellent - Spring: pollen allergies (kafun-shō) - Occasional yellow dust from China - Masks available at all convenience stores

Common Ailments:

Motion Sickness: - Winding mountain roads - Ferry rides - Get medicine at pharmacy

Jet Lag: - Adjust gradually - Get sunlight - Stay hydrated - Melatonin available OTC

Stomach Issues: - Usually from dietary change - Medicine available at pharmacy - Stay hydrated

6.4.4 4. Emergency Contacts

Understanding how to get help in an emergency is crucial.

6.4.4.1 Emergency Numbers 110 - Police (- Keisatsu)

When to Call: - Crimes (theft, assault, etc.) - Accidents - Lost/stolen items (for report) - Suspicious activity - Any situation needing police

What Will Happen: - Operator may not speak English - Stay calm and speak slowly - Say: "Eigo de onegaishimasu" (English please) - Give location (address, landmarks) - Explain situation simply

119 - Ambulance (- Kyūkyūsha) / Fire (- Shōbō)

When to Call: - Medical emergencies - Serious injuries - Heart attack, stroke - Unconsciousness - Severe bleeding - Fires

What to Say: - "Kyūkyūsha!" (Ambulance) or "Kaji!" (Fire) - Location (address or landmarks) - What happened - Number of people injured

What Will Happen: - Ambulance comes quickly (usually 6-8 minutes) - Paramedics provide first aid - Take to nearest appropriate hospital - You may choose hospital if not life-threatening - Bring insurance information and ID

Ambulance Cost: - Free (no charge for ambulance) - Hospital treatment costs apply

6.4.4.2 Other Important Numbers Japan Helpline: 050-3816-2787 - Operated by Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) - 24/7, 365 days - English, Chinese, Korean - Tourist information and emergency support - Free from landlines, minimal charge from mobiles

Tourist Hotline: 3501-0101 (Tokyo area code 03) - English, Chinese, Korean - Travel information and assistance

Your Embassy: Save your country's embassy contact before traveling.

Major Embassies in Tokyo: - US Embassy: 03-3224-5000 - UK Embassy: 03-5211-1100 - Canadian Embassy: 03-5412-6200 - Australian Embassy: 03-5232-4111 - New Zealand Embassy: 03-3467-2271 - German Embassy: 03-5791-7700

Embassies Can Help With: - Lost/stolen passports - Emergency funds (if needed) - Legal issues - Medical emergencies - Natural disasters - Contacting family

Embassies CANNOT: - Pay your bills - Get you out of jail - Give legal advice - Act as travel agents - Overrule Japanese law

6.4.4.3 What to Say in Emergencies For 110 (Police):

Japanese: - “Tasukete kudasai!” () - Please help! - “Dorobō desu!” () - Thief! - “Keisatsu o yonde kudasai!” () - Please call police!

Location: - “Watashi wa [location] ni imasu” ([]) - I am at [location] - Point to address on phone or map - Name nearest station or landmark

For 119 (Ambulance/Fire):

Japanese: - “Kyūkyūsha o yonde kudasai!” () - Please call ambulance! - “Kega o shimashta!” () - I'm injured! - “Byōki desu!” () - I'm sick! - “Kaji desu!” () - Fire!

To Operator: - “Kyūkyū desu” () - Medical emergency - “Kaji desu” () - Fire - “Jūsho wa...” (...) - The address is... - “[Landmark] no chikaku desu” ([landmark]) - Near [landmark]

Medical Emergency Phrases: - “Taore mashita” () - Someone collapsed - “Iki ga dekinai” () - Can't breathe - “Mune ga itai” () - Chest pain - “Chi ga tomarimasesu” () - Bleeding won't stop - “Ishiki ga arimasen” () - Unconscious

General Emergency Phrases: - “Eigo de onegaishimasu” () - English please - “Watashi wa gaikokujin desu” () - I am a foreigner - “Byōin ni ikitai desu” () - I want to go to hospital - “Taishikan ni renraku shite kudasai” () - Please contact my embassy

Getting Help from Passersby: - “Tasukete kudasai!” - Please help me! - “Eigo ga dekimasu ka?” - Do you speak English? - “Keisatsu o yonde kudasai” - Please call police - “Kyūkyūsha o yonde kudasai” - Please call ambulance

6.4.4.4 Police Boxes (Kōban -) What are Kōban? - Small police stations throughout cities - Staffed by 1-2 officers - Community policing - Very accessible

Where to Find: - Near train stations - Major intersections - Residential neighborhoods - Look for sign with red light

What They Can Help With: - Directions - Lost items - Filing reports - Small emergencies - Finding addresses - General assistance

How to Use: - Just walk in - Officers are friendly - Limited English but helpful - Use Google Translate if needed

6.4.4.5 Lost and Found Lost Items: - High chance of recovery - Go to nearest police box (kōban) - Fill out lost item report - Check back in a few days - Items often turned in

For Items Lost on Trains: - Report to station office - Each line has lost and found - Central lost and found for older items - Keep ticket stub as proof - Items held for several months

6.4.5 5. Safety Apps

Having the right apps can make emergencies easier to handle.

6.4.5.1 Essential Safety Apps **1. Safety Tips (NHK World)** - Disaster warnings and alerts - Earthquake, tsunami, volcano info - Multi-language support - Offline functionality - Step-by-step emergency instructions - **Download before arrival**

2. Japan Official Travel App - Tourist information - Emergency contacts - Multilingual support - Route planning - Offline maps

3. Google Maps - Navigation - Offline maps (download before) - Find hospitals, police, embassies - Train routes - Essential for getting around

4. Google Translate - Download Japanese offline - Camera translation (read signs) - Voice translation - Essential for communication - Works with camera for real-time translation

5. Yurekuru (震速報) - Earthquake early warning app - Alerts seconds before shaking - Japanese language but simple icons - Can give you time to take cover

6.4.5.2 Emergency Preparedness Apps **6. Japan Shelter Guide** - Find evacuation shelters - Disaster preparedness info - Multilingual

7. Hyperdia / Japan Transit Planner - Train routes - Alternative routes during disruptions - Real-time delay information

8. WhatsApp / LINE - Stay in touch with friends/family - LINE is very popular in Japan - Works with WiFi only

9. Weather Apps - Yahoo! Weather (Japanese but reliable) - Weather forecasts and warnings - Typhoon tracking

10. TripIt or Travel Organizer - Store all reservations - Emergency contacts - Embassy information - Works offline

6.4.5.3 Using Apps in Emergencies **What to Have Saved:** - Emergency contact numbers (110, 119, embassy) - Hotel address in Japanese - Insurance company contact - Medical conditions and allergies in Japanese - Embassy location and phone

Keep Phone Charged: - Carry portable battery - Public USB ports available at convenience stores - Charging stations in airports/stations

Offline Functionality: - Download maps offline - Download translation packages - Save important info in notes app - Screenshot important information

6.5 Summary

Japanese culture emphasizes respect, consideration for others, and social harmony. While the rules and customs may seem overwhelming at first, remember that Japanese people are generally understanding and forgiving of foreign visitors who make honest efforts to be respectful.

Key Takeaways:

Regional Differences: - Tokyo: Fast, formal, expensive, English-friendly - Osaka: Friendly, casual, food-focused, great value - Kyoto: Traditional, refined, cultural heart - Hakone: Relaxed, nature-focused, onsen culture

Etiquette Essentials: - Bow when greeting and thanking - Remove shoes at appropriate times - Never stick chopsticks in rice - Give and receive gifts with both hands - Wash before entering onsen - Respect temple and shrine customs - Be quiet on trains - Never eat while walking

Safety: - Japan is extremely safe - Natural disasters are the main risk - Know emergency numbers: 110 (police), 119 (ambulance) - Get travel insurance - Download safety apps - Keep emergency contacts saved

The most important thing is to approach Japanese culture with respect, observe what others are doing, and make genuine efforts to follow local customs. Japanese people appreciate foreigners who try to understand their culture, and small mistakes are usually forgiven with grace.

Enjoy your time in Japan, and remember: when in doubt, observe the locals and follow their lead!

End of Section IV: Cultural Guide

7 SECTION V: READING & WRITING SYSTEMS

7.1 Complete Guide to Japanese Scripts

Japanese uses three writing systems simultaneously: **hiragana** (cursive phonetic), **katakana** (angular phonetic), and **kanji** (Chinese characters). This comprehensive guide will teach you all three systems, focusing on tourist survival essentials.

7.2 A. HIRAGANA () - Complete

Hiragana is the most fundamental Japanese script. It represents all Japanese sounds and is used for native Japanese words, grammar particles, and verb endings.

7.2.1 1. Basic Hiragana (46 Characters)

Romaji	Hiragana								
a	い		う		え		お		
ka	き		く		け		こ		
sa	し		す		せ		そ		
ta	ち		tsu		te		to		
na	ニ		nu		ne		no		
ha	ひ		fu		he		ho		
ma	み		mu		me		mo		
ya	-	-	yu		-	-	yo		
ra	り		ru		re		ro		
wa	-	-	-	-	-	-	wo		
n	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Special notes: - (wo) is only used as the object particle, pronounced “o” - (ha) when used as the topic particle is pronounced “wa” - (he) when used as the direction particle is pronounced “e” - (n) is the only consonant that stands alone

7.2.2 2. Dakuten () - Voiced Consonants (25 Characters)

Adding two small marks () changes the sound to a voiced consonant:

Romaji	Hiragana								
ga		gi		gu		ge		go	
za		ji		zu		ze		zo	
da		ji		zu		de		do	
ba		bi		bu		be		bo	

Notes: - (ji) and (ji) sound the same; is more common - (zu) and (zu) sound the same; is more common - and are rare, mainly appearing in compound words

7.2.3 3. Handakuten () - P-Sound (5 Characters)

Adding a small circle () changes the “h” sound to “p”:

Romaji	Hiragana								
pa		pi		pu		pe		po	

7.2.4 4. Small (ya/yu/yo) Combinations (36 Characters)

These create compound sounds by combining consonants with ya, yu, or yo:

(ki) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | | — | — | — |

—	—	—	kya	—	kyu	—	kyo	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	---	---	---

(shi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | | | |

sh	sha	shu	sho						
----	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(chi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | | — | — | — | — |
-|—|-|—|-|—|-| cha | chu | cho | |

(hi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |——|——|——|

—	—	—	hyā	hyū	hyō	—	—	—
---	---	---	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---

(mi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |——|——-|——
-|——-|-|——|——-| | mya | | myu | | myo | |

(ri) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |——|——-|——
|——-|——|——| | rya | | ryu | | ryo | |

(gi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |——|——-|——
|——|——|——| | gya | | gyu | | gyo | |

(ji) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |————|————-|————

|————-|————|————| | ja | | ju | | jo | |

(bi) combinations: | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | Romaji | Hiragana | |————|————|————|

|————-|————|————| bya | byu | byo | |

7.2.5 5. Double Consonants (Sokuon -)

The small (tsu) creates a pause before the next consonant, doubling its sound:

Word	Hiragana	Romaji	Meaning	Note
Wait		matte	wait	Small creates pause before ‘t’
Magazine		zasshi	magazine	Pause before ‘sh’
School		gakkou	school	Pause before ‘k’
Different		chigau	different	No small = no pause
Match		matchi	match	Pause before ‘ch’
Soap		sekken	soap	Pause before ‘k’

Important: This small is **never** pronounced. It represents a brief pause.

7.2.6 6. Long Vowels

Long vowels are held twice as long as regular vowels:

For , , sounds: - Add the same vowel: , , - Or use + , + , +

For and sounds: - : Usually add → (sounds like “eee”) - : Usually add → (sounds like “ooo”)

Word	Hiragana	Romaji	Meaning	Long vowel
Grandfather		ojisan	grandfather	ii = long i
Uncle		ojisan	uncle	Regular i
Aunt		obasan	aunt	Regular a
Grandmother		obaasan	grandmother	aa = long a
Big		ookii	big	oo = long o
Sugar		satou	sugar	ou = long o
Teacher		sensei	teacher	ei = long e

7.2.7 7. Practice Words in Hiragana

Common Tourist Words:

English	Hiragana	Romaji	Category
Station		eki	Place
Exit		deguchi	Navigation
Entrance		iriguchi	Navigation
Toilet		toire	Place
Here		koko	Location
There		soko	Location
Over there		asoko	Location
Where		doko	Question
This		kore	Demonstrative
That		sore	Demonstrative
That over there		are	Demonstrative
I		watashi	Pronoun
You		anata	Pronoun
Delicious		oishii	Adjective
Expensive		takai	Adjective
Cheap		yasui	Adjective
Good		ii	Adjective
Bad		warui	Adjective
Water		mizu	Food
Tea		ocha	Food

Essential Verbs:

English	Hiragana	Romaji
To go		iku
To come		kuru
To eat		taberu
To drink		nomu
To see		miru
To buy		kau
To do		suru
To be (exist)	/	iru/aru
To wait		matsu
To understand		wakaru

7.2.8 8. Hiragana Writing Stroke Order

Key principles: 1. Write from **top to bottom** 2. Write from **left to right** 3. Horizontal strokes before vertical strokes 4. Strokes that pierce through are written last

Common characters with stroke order descriptions:

Character	Strokes	Order description
(a)	3	Horizontal top, curved middle, rightward sweep
(ka)	3	Horizontal, vertical with hook, right diagonal
(sa)	3	Top horizontal curve, short vertical, curved sweep
(ta)	4	Top horizontal, vertical, bottom horizontal, short stroke
(na)	4	Vertical with curve, horizontal, short vertical, diagonal
(ha)	3	Vertical-curve left, curved hook, right diagonal
(ma)	3	Top horizontal, bottom curve, middle horizontal
(ya)	3	Top horizontal-curve, middle vertical, bottom curve
(ra)	2	Vertical curve, bottom diagonal
(wa)	2	Top curve, bottom curve
(n)	1	Single curving stroke left to bottom

Practice tip: Apps like “Hiragana Quest” or websites like “Tofugu” provide animated stroke orders.

7.3 B. KATAKANA (カタカナ) - Complete

Katakana is used for foreign words, loan words, emphasis, onomatopoeia, and foreign names. It's more angular than hiragana.

7.3.1 1. Basic Katakana (46 Characters)

Romaji	Katakana								
a	i	u	u	e	e	o	o	o	o
ka	ki	ku	ku	ke	ke	ko	ko	ko	ko
sa	shi	su	su	se	se	so	so	so	so

Easily confused characters: - (shi) vs (tsu): has horizontal strokes, has vertical strokes - (so) vs (n): has two strokes, has one stroke - (no) vs (me): is one stroke, is two crossing strokes

7.3.2 2. Dakuten () - Voiced Consonants (25 Characters)

Romaji	Katakana								
ga		gi		gu		ge		go	
za		ji		zu		ze		zo	
da		ji		zu		de		do	
ba		bi		bu		be		bo	

7.3.3 3. Handakuten () - P-Sound (5 Characters)

Romaji	Katakana								
pa		pi		pu		pe		po	

7.3.4 4. Small (ya/yu/yo) Combinations (36 Characters)

(ki) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | | |

(shi) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | |————|————|————|

(ni) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | ——|——|——|

(hi) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | | |

(ri) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | | |

(gi) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | | |

(bi) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | — | — | — |

-|——-|——|——-| | bya | | byu | | byo | |

(pi) combinations: | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | Romaji | Katakana | | — | — | — |

-|——-|——|——-| | pya | | pyu | | pyo | |

7.3.5 5. Special Katakana Combinations (50+ for Foreign Sounds)

Katakana has special combinations to represent foreign sounds not in Japanese:

V-sounds (): Romaji Katakana Example word Meaning - va
violin vi visa vu v-sound ve Venice vo vocal

F-sounds ():	Romaji	Katakana	Example word	Meaning	fa				
	family	fi	film	fu	food	fe	festival	fo	fork

7.3.6 6. Common Katakana Words (100+ Essential for Tourists)

Places: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | |————|————|————|————|————| | Hotel | | hoteru | | |
Restaurant | | resutoran | | | Toilet | | toire | | | Taxi | | takushii | Long vowel | | Bus | | basu | | |
Elevator | | erebeetaa | Long vowels | | Department store | | depaato | Long vowel | | Supermarket |
| suupaa | Long vowels | | Convenience store | | konbini | Shortened | | ATM | | eetiiemu | Letters
| | Bank | | banku | | | Post office | | posuto | Mailbox | | Hospital | | hosupitaru | | | Pharmacy |
| faamashii | | | Airport | | eapooto | |

Technology: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | | — | — | — | — | Computer |
konpyuuttaa | Long vowels | Internet | | intaanetto | Small | WiFi | | waifai | | Email |
iimeeru | Long vowels | Phone | fon | | Smartphone | | sumaatofon | | Charger | | chaajaa |
Long vowels | Battery | batterii | Small | Camera | kamera | | TV | terebi | | App |
apuri | | Password | pasuwaado | Long vowel |

Clothing: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | |————|————-|————|————|————| | T-shirt | | tiishatsu |
Small | | Jeans | | jiinzu | Long vowel | | Sweater | | seetaa | Long vowels | | Jacket | | jaketto |
Small | | Coat | | kooto | Long vowel | | Skirt | | sukaato | Long vowel | | Dress | | doresu | | | Suit

| suutsu | Long vowel | Sneakers | suniikaa | Long vowels | Boots | buutsu | Long vowel ||
 Bag | baggu | Small | Belt | beruto | Scarf | sukaafu | Long vowel | Socks | sokkusu
 | Small |

Common Items: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | Pen | pen ||
 Notebook | nooto | Long vowel | Bag | baggu | Small | Tissue | tisshu | Small | Towel |
 | taoru | | Soap | soopu | Long vowel | Shampoo | shanpuu | Long vowel | Toothbrush |
 haburashi | | Plastic | purasuchikku | Small | Glass | gurasu | | Key | kii | Long vowel ||
 Card | kaado | Long vowel | Ticket | chiketto | Small | Map | mappu | Small | Guide |
 | gaido | |

Actions/Adjectives: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | Check |
 chekku | Small | Stop | sutoppu | Small | Start | suaato | Long vowel | OK | ookee |
 Long vowels | Yes | iesu | | No | noo | Long vowel | Nice | naisu | | Good | guddo | Small
 | Cool | kuuru | Long vowel | Cute | kyuuto | Long vowel |

Countries/Nationalities: | English | Katakana | Romaji | Notes | America |
 amerika | | Canada | kanada | | England | igirisu | | Australia | oosutoraria | Long
 vowel | France | furansu | | Germany | doitsu | | Italy | itaria | | Spain | supein | |
 China | chaina | | Korea | koria | |

7.3.7 7. Katakana Writing Stroke Order

Key principles (same as hiragana): 1. Top to bottom 2. Left to right 3. Horizontal before vertical

Common characters with stroke order:

Character	Strokes	Order description
(a)	2	Left diagonal, right stroke with hook
(ka)	2	Horizontal top, right stroke with hook
(sa)	3	Short horizontal, vertical, bottom curve
(ta)	3	Top horizontal, vertical, short left stroke
(na)	2	Vertical diagonal, short left stroke
(ha)	2	Left short stroke, right short stroke
(ma)	2	Vertical with hook, horizontal
(ya)	3	Short horizontal, vertical, right curve
(ra)	2	Vertical horizontal top, bottom curve
(wa)	2	Top horizontal curve, bottom horizontal
(n)	1	Single diagonal stroke

7.4 C. ESSENTIAL KANJI () - 300+ Tourist Survival Characters

Kanji are Chinese characters adopted into Japanese. Each kanji has meaning and pronunciation. This section covers essential kanji every tourist should recognize.

7.4.1 1. Numbers (13 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Examples
(rei)		Zero	(0 yen)
(ichi)		One	(one person), (one thing)
(ni)		Two	(two people), (two things)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Examples
	(san)	Three	(three people), (three things)
/	(shi/yon)	Four	(four people) - avoid , use
	(go)	Five	(five people), (five things)
	(roku)	Six	(six people), (six things)
/	(shichi/nana)	Seven	(seven people)
	(hachi)	Eight	(eight people), (eight things)
/	(ku/kyuu)	Nine	(nine people) - avoid , use
	(juu)	Ten	(ten people), (10 yen)
	(hyaku)	Hundred	(100 yen), (300)
	(sen)	Thousand	(1000 yen), (2000)
	(man)	Ten thousand	(10,000 yen)

Number combinations: - () = 11 - () = 20 - () = 35 - () = 150 - () = 2,300

7.4.2 2. Days of the Week (7 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Day
	(getsu)	Moon	Monday (getsuyōbi)
	(ka)	Fire	Tuesday (kayōbi)
	(sui)	Water	Wednesday (suiyōbi)
	(moku)	Tree/Wood	Thursday (mokuyōbi)
	(kin)	Gold/Money	Friday (kinyōbi)
	(do)	Earth/Soil	Saturday (doyōbi)
	(nichi)	Sun/Day	Sunday (nichiyoobi)

Additional meanings: - also means “month” - also means “money” (= golden color, = money) - also means “day” (= today, = tomorrow)

7.4.3 3. Directions (8 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Usage
	(higashi)	East	(Tokyo = Eastern capital)
	(nishi)	West	(west exit)
	(minami)	South	(south exit)
	(kita)	North	(Hokkaido)
	(hidari)	Left	(left side)
	(migi)	Right	(right side)
	(ue)	Up/Above	(up), (or more)
	(shita)	Down/Below	(down), (basement)

Common combinations: - = all directions - (higashi-guchi) = east exit - (hokusai) = northwest

7.4.4 4. Location Words (15 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
(eki)		Station	(Tokyo Station)
(guchi)		Exit/Entrance	(exit), (entrance)
(de)		Exit/Go out	(deguchi = exit)
() (i/ri)		Enter	(iriguchi = entrance)
/ (naka/chuu)		Inside/Middle	(inside), (center)
/ (soto/gai)		Outside	(outside), (overseas)
(mae)		Front/Before	(in front of station)
()/ (ushi/go)		Back/After	(behind), (afternoon)
/ (aida/kan)		Between/During	(time), (human)
(saki)		Ahead/First	(ahead), (teacher)
/ (uchi/nai)		Inside	(guidance), (domestic)
(ba)		Place	(place), (parking lot)
/ (sho/jo)		Place	(place), (kitchen)
(seki)		Seat	(seat), (reserved seat)
/ (kai/gai)		Floor/Story	(2nd floor), (B1)

7.4.5 5. Action Signs (20 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Where you see it
() (o)		Push	(push on doors)
() (hi)		Pull	(pull on doors)
() (to)		Stop	(stop sign)
(ki)		Danger	(danger)
(ken)		Danger	(kiken = danger)
(kin)		Prohibit	(prohibited)
()/ (a/kai)		Open	(open), (open for business)
()/ (shi/hei)		Close	(close), (closed)
(chuu)		Attention	(caution)
(i)		Mind/Care	(caution)
() (ma)		Wait	(wait), (please wait)
() (tsuka)		Use	(use), (use)
(you)		Use/Business	(use), (business)
/ (mu/nai)		Nothing/No	(free), (impossible)
(ryou)		Fee	(fee), (free)
/ () (yuu/a)		Exist/Have	(paid), (available)
()/ /		Empty/Sky	(vacant seat)
(a/sora/kuu)		Full	(full seats)
(man)		In advance	(reservation)
(yo)		Promise	(reservation)

Common sign combinations: - (kin-en) = No smoking - (kin-shi) = Prohibited - (ki-ken) = Danger
- (chuu-i) = Caution - (shiyuu-chuu) = In use - (shiyuu-kinshi) = Do not use

7.4.6 6. Places (30 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
/ (ten/mise)	Shop	(shop), (opening)	
/ (sha/kuruma)	Car/Vehicle	(car), (train)	
(den)	Electric	(train), (phone)	
/ (wa/hanashi)	Talk/Story	(phone), (conversation)	
/ () (shoku/ta)	Food/Eat	(meal), (eat)	
/ () (in/no)	Drink	(drink), (restaurant)	
(gin)	Silver	(bank)	
/ () (kou/i)	Go	(bank), (go)	
(in)	Institution	(hospital), (salon)	
(byou)	Sick	(hospital), (illness)	
(kyoku)	Bureau	(post office)	
/ (ben/bin)	Convenience	(mail), (convenient)	
(yuu)	Mail	(post office)	
/ (kuu/sora)	Sky/Empty	(airport), (sky)	
(kou)	Harbor/Port	(airport), (harbor)	
/ (dou/michi)	Road/Way	(road), (Hokkaido)	
(en)	Garden/Park	(park), (zoo)	
(kou)	Public	(park), (public)	
/ (tera/ji)	Temple	(temple), (Kinkakuji)	
/ (shin/kami)	God/Spirit	(shrine), (god)	
(sha)	Shrine/Company	(shrine), (company)	
/ (guu/kyuu)	Palace/Shrine	(grand shrine), (palace)	
(jou)	Castle	(Osaka Castle)	
(kan)	Building/Hall	(library), (museum)	
/ () (bi/utsuku)	Beauty	(art museum), (beautiful)	
(jutsu)	Art/Technique	(art), (technique)	
/ (shi/ichi)	City/Market	(Tokyo), (market)	
(ku)	Ward	(Shibuya Ward)	
/ (chou/machi)	Town	(town), (downtown)	
/ (son/mura)	Village	(village)	

Common place names: - (Toukyou) = Tokyo - (Oosaka) = Osaka - (Kyouto) = Kyoto - (Hokkaidou) = Hokkaido

7.4.7 7. Time-Related (20 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
/ (ji/toki)	Time/Hour	(3 o'clock), (time)	
/ / (fun/bun/pun)	Minute	(5 minutes), (10 minutes)	
(byou)	Second	(30 seconds)	
/ (ima/kon)	Now	(now), (today)	
(saku)	Previous	(yesterday)	
/ () (myou/aka)	Bright/Tomorrow	(tomorrow), (bright)	
/ (asa/chou)	Morning	(morning), (this morning)	
(hiru)	Noon/Daytime	(noon), (lunch)	
/ (yoru/ya)	Night	(night), (tonight)	
(ban)	Evening	(evening), (tonight)	
(go)	Noon	(AM), (PM)	
/ (mae/zen)	Before	(AM), (before)	
/ ()/ (go/ushi/ato)	After	(PM), (after)	

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
(shuu)		Week	(this week), (next week)
/ /		Month/Moon	(January), (next month)
(tsuki/getsu/gatsu)			
/ (nen/toshi)		Year	(this year), (next year)
/ (kan/aida)		Duration/Between	(time), (period)
(mai)		Every	(every day), (every week)
/ () (rai/ku)		Come/Next	(next year), (come)
(kyo)		Past/Leave	(last year)

Time expressions: - (kyou) = today - (kinou) = yesterday - (ashita) = tomorrow - (konshuu) = this week - (raishuu) = next week - (senshuu) = last week

7.4.8 8. Food & Drink (25 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
/ () (shoku/ta)		Food/Eat	(meal), (eat)
/ (ji/koto)		Thing/Matter	(meal), (business)
/ (han/meshi)		Meal/Rice	(rice/meal), (breakfast)
(niku)		Meat	(meat), (beef)
/ (sakana/gyo)		Fish	(fish), (fish market)
/ (gyuu/ushi)		Cow/Beef	(beef), (beef bowl)
/ (buta/ton)		Pig/Pork	(pork), (tonkatsu)
/ (tori/kei)		Chicken	(chicken)
(tamago)		Egg	(egg), (chicken-egg bowl)
/ (ya/no)		Field/Wild	(vegetables)
/ (sai/na)		Vegetable/Greens	(vegetables)
/ (kome/bei)		Rice	(rice), (rice)
(men)		Noodles	(ramen), (soba)
/ (cha/sa)		Tea	(tea), (brown)
/ (sake/shu)		Alcohol/Sake	(alcohol), (sake)
/ (mizu/sui)		Water	(water), (Wednesday)
/ (yu/tou)		Hot water	(hot water)
/ (abura/yu)		Oil	(oil), (soy sauce)
/ (aji/mi)		Taste/Flavor	(taste), (miso)
()/ (ama/kan)		Sweet	(sweet)
()/ (kara/shin)		Spicy/Hot	(spicy)
/ (shio/en)		Salt	(salt), (salt ramen)
/ (sa/suna)		Sand/Sugar	(sugar)
(tou)		Sugar	(sugar), (sugar content)
/ () (on/atata)		Warm	(warm), (temperature)

Common food words: - (asagohan) = breakfast - (hirugohan) = lunch - (bangohan) = dinner - (teishoku) = set meal

7.4.9 9. Transportation (15 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
/ (sha/kuruma)		Car/Vehicle	(car), (train)
(den)		Electric	(train), (electricity)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Common usage
	(tetsu)	Iron/Rail	(railway), (subway)
/	(dou/michi)	Road/Way	(railway), (road)
(ki)		Steam	(steam train)
/ ()	(jou/no)	Ride	(ride), (boarding)
/ ()	(kou/o)	Descend/Get off	(get off), (alighting)
(hatsu)		Depart	(departure), (train departure)
/ ()	(chaku/tsu)	Arrive/Wear	(arrival), (wear)
/ ()	(ki)	Cut/Ticket	(ticket), (cut)
(fu)		Mark/Ticket	(ticket)
(ken)		Ticket/Coupon	(train ticket), (ticket machine)
/ ()	(bai/u)	Sell	(sell), (ticket machine)
/ ()	(bai/ka)	Buy	(buy), (shopping)
/ ()	(un/hako)	Transport/Luck	(operation/driving), (carry)

Transportation vocabulary: - (densha) = train - (chikatetsu) = subway - (shinkansen) = bullet train - (kippu) = ticket

7.4.10 10. Common Verbs (30 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Verb	Meaning
()/ (i/kou)		go	
()/ (ku/rai)		come	
()/ (kae/ki)		return home	
()/ (mi/ken)		see/watch	
()/ (ki/bun)		hear/ask	
()/ (yo/doku)		read	
()/ (ka/sho)		write	
()/ (hana/wa)		speak	
()/ (ta/shoku)		eat	
()/ (no/in)		drink	
()/ (ka/bai)		buy	
()/ (u/bai)		sell	
()/ (tsuku/saku)		make	
()/ (ma/tai)		wait	
()/ (ta/ritsu)		stand	
()/ (suwa/za)		sit	
()/ (ne/shin)		sleep	
()/ (oki/ki)		wake up	
()/ (hai/nyuu)		enter	
()/ (de/shutsu)		exit/leave	
()/ (a/kai)		open	
()/ (shi/hei)		close	
()/ (tsuka/shi)		use	
()/ (mo/ji)		hold/have	
()/ (to/shu)		take	
()/ (wa/bun)		understand	
()/ (shi/chi)		know	
()/ (a/kai)		meet	
()/ (su/juu)		live/reside	
()/ (hatara/dou)		work	

7.4.11 11. Common Adjectives (25 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Adjective	Meaning
()/	(oo/dai)		big
()/	(chii/shou)		small
()/	(oo/ta)		many
()/	(suku/shou)		few
()/	(taka/kou)		high/expensive
()/	(yasu/an)		cheap/safe
()/	(naga/chou)		long
()/	(mijika/tan)		short
()/	(furu/ko)		old
()/	(atara/shin)		new
()/	(yo/ryou)		good
()/	(waru/aku)		bad
()/	(hiro/kou)		wide
()/	(sema/kyou)		narrow
()/	(chika/kin)		near
()/	(too/en)		far
()/	(haya/sou)		early
()/	(oso/chi)		late/slow
()/	(haya/soku)		fast
()/	(tsuyo/kyou)		strong
()/	(yowa/jaku)		weak
()/	(atsu/sho)		hot (weather)
()/	(samu/kan)		cold (weather)
()/	(atsu/netsu)		hot (object)
()/	(tsume/rei)		cold (object)

7.4.12 12. Important Tourist Kanji (40 more characters)

Toilets & Facilities: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | | | | | | | / (otoko/dan) | Male/Man | (men), (men's room) | | | / (onna/jo) | Female/Woman | (women), (ladies' room) | | | (sei) | Sex/Gender | (male), (female) | | | / (ko/shi) | Child | (boy), (girl) | | | / / (hito/jin/nin) | Person | (Japanese person), (one person) | | | (ko) | Individual/Counter | (private room) | | | (shitsu) | Room | (private room), (classroom) | | | / () (sen/ara) | Wash | (washroom), (laundry) | | | / (te/shu) | Hand | (hand), (handwashing/toilet) |

Money & Shopping: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | | | | | | | | (en) | Yen/Circle | (100 yen), (yen) | | | / (kin/kane) | Money/Gold | (money), (golden) | | | (zei) | Tax | (tax), (sales tax) | | | / (ne/chi) | Price/Value | (price) | | | (dan) | Step/Level | (price), (stairs) | | | / () (dai/ka) | Cost/Replace | (payment), (fee) | | | / () (wari/wa) | Divide/Discount | (discount), (30% off) | | | ()/ (hi/in) | Pull/Subtract | (discount), (subtract) |

Dining: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | | | | | | | / () (tei/sada) | Fixed/Set | (set meal), (schedule) | | | (kitsu) | Eat/Smoke | (coffee shop), (smoking) | | | / (en/kemuri) | Smoke | (smoking), (no smoking) | | | (seki) | Seat | (seat), (reserved seat) | | | / (shi/yubi) | Finger/Point | (designated), (finger) |

Directions & Navigation: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | | | | | | | | (sen) | Line | (train line), (bullet train) | | | / (ro/ji) | Road/Route | (line), (road) | | | (ban) | Number/Turn | (number one), (which number) | | | (gou) | Number | (Line 2), (Room 5) | | | / (ji/tsugi) | Next | (next), (next time) | | | / () (tsuu/too) | Pass through | (pass), (1st street) | | | / (kyou/hash) | Bridge | (bridge) |

Hotel & Accommodation: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | / ()
(haku/to) | Stay overnight | (lodging), (one night) | | | / (shuku/yado) | Inn/Lodging | (lodging),
(inn) | | | (kyaku) | Guest/Customer | (guest), (passenger) | | | (bu) | Part/Department | (room)
| | | / (oku/ya) | Room/Shop | (room), (bookstore) |

Time & Business: | Kanji | Reading | Meaning | Usage | | | / (ei) | Operate
(business hours), (open) | | | / (gyou/waza) | Business | (business), (work) | | | / ()
(kyuu/yasu) | Rest/Holiday | (holiday), (regular holiday) | | | / (hei/hira) | Flat/Peace | (weekday)
|

7.4.13 13. Emergency & Safety Kanji (15 characters)

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	Usage
/ () (jo/tasu)		Help/Rescue	(help!), (to help)
/ () (kyuu/suku)		Rescue	(emergency), (rescue)
/ () (kyuu/iso)		Hurry/Emergency	(ambulance), (hurry)
(hi) (jou)		Non-/Emergency Always/Normal	(emergency exit) (emergency), (daily)
(kei)		Warn/Police	(police), (warning)
(satsu)		Investigate	(police)
/ () (shou/ke)		Extinguish	(fire department), (turn off)
/ () (bou/fuse)		Prevent	(fire dept.), (prevent)
(i)		Medical	(doctor), (medical care)
/ (sha/mono)		Person	(doctor), (journalist)
/ (yaku/kusuri)		Medicine	(medicine), (pharmacy)
/ () (tsuu/ita)		Pain	(painful), (headache)
(kai) (ga/ware)		Suspicious/Injury Self/Ego	(injury) (injury)

Emergency phrases with kanji: - ! (tasukete) = Help! - (kyuukyuusha) = Ambulance - (hi-jouguchi) = Emergency exit - (keisatsu) = Police - (shouboushō) = Fire station

7.5 D. READING TIPS - How to Navigate Japanese Text

7.5.1 1. How to Recognize Each System

Visual identification:

System	Characteristics	Examples	Usage
Hiragana	Curvy, rounded characters		Grammar, native words
Katakana	Angular, straight characters		Foreign words, emphasis
Kanji	Complex characters, many strokes		Content words, meaning
Romaji	English alphabet	Tokyo, Shibuya, JR	Signs, tourist areas

Example sentence showing all three:

(Watashi wa koohii o nomimasu.)

I drink coffee.

- = kanji (I)
- = hiragana (particle)
- = katakana (coffee - foreign word)
- = hiragana (particle)
- = kanji (drink)
- = hiragana (polite ending)

7.5.2 2. Common Patterns to Recognize

Station signs pattern:

↓
Tokyo Eki
(Tokyo Station)

- = Place name (kanji)
- = “Station” (kanji)

Exit signs pattern:

↓
Kita-guchi
(North Exit)

- First character(s) = Direction ()
- = Exit/Entrance

Floor indicators:

1F = (ikkai) = First floor
2F = (nikai) = Second floor
B1 = (chika ikkai) = Basement 1

Store signs:

- = Open (eigyou-chuu)
- = Preparing (junbi-chuu)
- = Closed (heiten)
- = Regular holiday (teikyuubi)

Toilet signs:

or = Men (dansei/otoko)
or = Women (josei/onna)
= Restroom (tearai - literally "hand wash")
= Restroom (keshōshitsu - literally "makeup room")

Action signs on doors:

= Push (osu)
= Pull (hiku)
= Open (kai/hiraku)
= Closed (hei/shimeru)

Safety signs:

= Danger (kiken)
= Caution (chuui)
= Prohibited (kinshi)
= No smoking (kin-en)

7.5.3 3. Survival Reading Strategy

Step-by-step approach for tourists:

STEP 1: Learn katakana first - Many tourist-relevant words are in katakana - Hotel (), toilet (), taxi () - 80% of signs you need have katakana or English

STEP 2: Memorize key kanji (50-100 characters) - Focus on: (station), (exit), (men), (women) - Numbers: - Directions: (east, west, south, north) - Actions: (enter), (exit), (stop)

STEP 3: Pattern recognition - Most signs follow predictable patterns - [Direction] + = [Direction] + Exit - [Place] + = [Place] + Station - [Number] + = [Number] + Floor

STEP 4: Context clues - Look at pictures/icons - Colors (red = danger/stop, blue = information) - Location (bathroom signs near restaurants) - Pictograms (train, toilet, food symbols)

STEP 5: Use technology - Google Translate camera feature (real-time) - Yomiwa app (handwriting recognition) - Japanese dictionary apps (Jisho.org)

7.5.4 4. Practical Reading Scenarios

At the train station:

Look for these kanji: - (eki) = Station - (sen) = Line - (bansen) = Platform number - (hatsu) = Departure - (chaku) = Arrival - (jikokuhyou) = Timetable - (kippu) = Ticket - (kaisatsu) = Ticket gate

At restaurants:

Look for: - (teishoku) = Set meal - (honjitsu no osusume) = Today's special - (ranchi) = Lunch (katakana) - (dinaa) = Dinner (katakana) - (menyuu) = Menu (katakana) - (mochikaeri) = Takeout - (tabehoudai) = All-you-can-eat - (nomihoudai) = All-you-can-drink

In stores:

Look for: - (en) = Yen - (zeikomi) = Tax included - (zeinuki) = Tax excluded - (waribiki) = Discount - (seeru) = Sale (katakana) - (reji) = Register/Checkout (katakana) - (kaikei) = Accounting/Checkout - (menzei) = Tax-free

On signs:

Look for: - (iriguchi) = Entrance - (deguchi) = Exit - (hijouguchi) = Emergency exit - (eigyouchuu) = Open - (jumbichuu) = Preparing - (teikyuubi) = Regular holiday

7.5.5 5. App Recommendations

For reading Japanese:

App name	Platform	Features	Best for
Google Translate	iOS/Android	Real-time camera translation	Quick sign reading
Yomiwa	iOS/Android	Handwriting recognition, OCR	Learning kanji on-the-go
Jisho	Web/iOS/Android	Dictionary, kanji lookup by radical	Detailed study
imiwa?	iOS	Offline dictionary	No internet situations
Takoboto	Android	Offline dictionary	No internet situations
Japanese by Renzo	iOS/Android	Handwriting practice	Learning to write
Kanji Study	Android	Complete kanji learning system	Serious study
WaniKani	Web	Spaced repetition kanji/vocab	Long-term learning
Anki	All platforms	Flashcard system	Custom study
JapanesePod101	Web/App	Audio lessons with reading	Comprehensive learning

How to use Google Translate camera: 1. Open Google Translate app 2. Select Japanese → English 3. Tap camera icon 4. Point at Japanese text 5. Text translates in real-time on screen

Tip: Download offline language packs before traveling!

7.5.6 6. Practice Methods

Daily practice routines:

Beginner (15 minutes/day): - Learn 5 hiragana/katakana characters per day - Write each character 10 times - Practice reading simple words - Use flashcard apps (Anki, Memrise)

Intermediate (30 minutes/day): - Learn 3-5 new kanji per day - Read simple signs/menus in photos - Practice with children's books - Use kanji apps (WaniKani, Kanji Study)

Advanced (1 hour/day): - Read news articles (NHK Easy News) - Practice handwriting longer texts - Watch Japanese shows with Japanese subtitles - Use native content (manga, blogs)

Active practice while traveling:

1. Station practice

- Read all station names on your train line
- Identify exit numbers and directions
- Read timetables and platform numbers

2. Menu reading

- Order by reading the menu (not pictures)
- Identify at least 3 ingredients in each dish
- Ask staff to point to kanji you don't know

3. Shopping practice

- Read price tags (not just numbers)
- Find sale items by reading signs

- Read product labels to identify contents
- 4. Street signs**
- Read street names (many use kanji)
 - Identify building names and types
 - Read posted notices and warnings

7.5.7 7. Memory Techniques

Mnemonics for kanji:

Use stories to remember complex characters:

Example: (bright/tomorrow) - Left side: (sun) - Right side: (moon) - Story: Sun + Moon = bright light =

Example: (rest) - Left side: (person) - Right side: (tree) - Story: Person leaning against tree = resting =

Visual associations:

Many kanji look like what they represent:

- (yama) = mountain (looks like peaks)
- (kawa) = river (looks like flowing water)
- (hi) = fire (looks like flames)
- (ki) = tree (looks like a tree trunk with branches)
- (hayashi) = woods (two trees)
- (mori) = forest (three trees)

Radical recognition:

Learn common radicals (building blocks):

Radical	Meaning	Kanji examples
(water)	Water	(ocean), (lake), (pond)
(person)	Person	(rest), (body), (what)
(hand)	Hand	(hold), (hit), (push)
(mouth)	Mouth/Opening	(name), (taste), (inhale)
(heart)	Heart/Feeling	(busy), (think), (hurry)
(walk)	Walking	(road), (near), (fast)

Spaced repetition: - Review new characters: Next day, 3 days, 1 week, 1 month - Apps like Anki automate this schedule - Consistency beats cramming

7.5.8 8. Quick Reference - Most Essential Characters

If you only learn 20 kanji, learn these:

Kanji	Meaning	Where you'll see it
Station	Station	Everywhere with trains
Exit/Entrance	Exit/Entrance	All stations, buildings
Exit/Out	Exit	Exit signs
Enter/In	Enter	Entrance signs
Male/Men	Male	Toilet signs
Female/Women	Female	Toilet signs
East/West/South/North	East/West/South/North	Station exits, signs

Kanji	Meaning	Where you'll see it
一	One/Two/Three	Numbers, floors, prices
円	Yen	All prices
止	Stop	Traffic signs, warnings
危	Danger	Warning signs
禁	No smoking	Restaurants, hotels
左	Push	Doors
右	Pull	Doors
商	Open/Business	Store hours
休	Rest/Closed	Store closures
階	Floor	Elevators, directories

Practice these **20** characters daily and you'll navigate Japan confidently!

7.6 Summary: The Three Systems Working Together

Japanese writing is a **mix of all three systems** in every sentence:

Example:

Watashi wa hoteru de asa gohan o tabemashita.

I ate breakfast at the hotel.

Breaking it down: - (kanji) = I - (hiragana) = particle - (katakana) = hotel (foreign word) - (hiragana) = particle (location) - (kanji) = morning - (hiragana + kanji) = meal - (hiragana) = particle (object) - (kanji) = eat - (hiragana) = polite past tense ending

Why three systems? - **Hiragana** = Grammar glue, native words - **Katakana** = Foreign words, emphasis - **Kanji** = Meaning, efficiency (vs.)

Reading priority for tourists: 1. Master katakana (1-2 weeks) 2. Learn 50-100 essential kanji (2-4 weeks) 3. Learn hiragana for reading full sentences (2-4 weeks) 4. Practice daily with apps and real signs

You don't need to write perfectly - recognition is enough for tourism!

With this complete guide to Japanese writing systems, you now have all the tools needed to navigate signs, menus, and basic text throughout Japan. Start with katakana and the most common kanji, practice daily, and you'll be reading Japanese in no time!

Next: Continue to other sections for complete Japanese language mastery.

8 VI. PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

8.1 Introduction

Japanese pronunciation is remarkably consistent and systematic compared to English. Once you learn the basic sounds, you can pronounce virtually any Japanese word correctly. There are no silent letters, and each character represents exactly one sound. This section will teach you the foundational sounds of Japanese and help you avoid common mistakes made by English speakers.

Key principle: Japanese is a syllable-timed language (like Spanish), whereas English is stress-timed. This means each syllable in Japanese gets roughly equal time and emphasis, creating a more rhythmic, even flow.

8.2 A. VOWELS

Japanese has only **5 vowel sounds**, and they are **always pronounced the same way**, regardless of context. This consistency makes Japanese pronunciation much more predictable than English.

8.2.1 The Five Vowels

Vowel	Pronunciation	English Approximation	Example Word	Meaning
a	“ah”	father, car	ame (ah-meh)	rain
i	“ee”	machine, see	ike (ee-keh)	pond
u	“oo”	food, rule	umi (oo-mee)	sea
e	“eh”	bed, pet	e (eh)	picture
o	“oh”	boat, so	ono (oh-noh)	axe

8.2.2 Detailed Vowel Explanations

8.2.2.1 A (/) - “ah”

- Open your mouth wide, as if saying “ah” at the dentist
- The jaw drops down comfortably
- It’s the “a” in “father,” NOT the “a” in “cat” or “fate”

Examples: - **arigatō** (ah-ree-gah-toh) - thank you - **akai** (ah-kah-ee) - red - **asa** (ah-sah) - morning - **sakana** (sah-kah-nah) - fish - **watashi** (wah-tah-shee) - I/me

8.2.2.2 I (/) - “ee”

- Lips stretched slightly to the sides, like a small smile
- Tongue forward in the mouth
- It’s the “ee” in “see,” NOT the “i” in “sit” or “site”

Examples: - **ichi** (ee-chee) - one - **imi** (ee-mee) - meaning - **kitte** (keet-teh) - stamp - **shio** (shee-oh) - salt - **onegaishimasu** (oh-neh-gah-ee-shee-mahs) - please

8.2.2.3 U (/) - “oo”

- Lips barely rounded, more relaxed than English “oo”
- NOT as pronounced as English “food” - keep it subtle
- It’s between “food” and “foot” but closer to “food”

Examples: - **umi** (oo-mee) - sea - **usagi** (oo-sah-gee) - rabbit - **kutsu** (koo-tsoo) - shoes - **fuyu** (foo-yoo) - winter - **kudamono** (koo-dah-moh-noh) - fruit

Important note: The “u” is often devoiced (barely audible) at the end of words or between voiceless consonants: - **desu** sounds like “des” (the “u” is whispered or silent) - **shimasu** sounds like “shee-mahs” (the “u” is barely there) - **sukiyaki** sounds like “s’kee-yah-kee” (first “u” is devoiced)

8.2.2.4 E (/) - “eh”

- Mouth half-open, wider than “ee” but not as wide as “ah”
- Similar to the “e” in “bet”
- It’s the “e” in “bed,” NOT the “ay” in “day”

Examples: - **eki** (eh-kee) - station - **ebi** (eh-bee) - shrimp - **densha** (den-shah) - train - **tegami** (teh-gah-mee) - letter - **senpai** (sen-pah-ee) - senior

8.2.2.5 O (/) - “oh”

- Lips form a round shape, but not too tight
- It’s the “o” in “go,” NOT the “o” in “hot” or “woman”
- Keep it pure - don’t glide into a “w” sound like in English “go” (goh-w)

Examples: - **ohayō** (oh-hah-yoh) - good morning - **okane** (oh-kah-neh) - money - **onsen** (on-sen) - hot spring - **tokoro** (toh-koh-roh) - place - **dōmo** (doh-moh) - thanks (casual)

8.2.3 Vowel Consistency Rule

The vowels NEVER change sound. This is the most important rule in Japanese pronunciation. Unlike English, where: - “a” can sound like: cat, fate, car, about, ball - “o” can sound like: hot, go, work, food

In Japanese: - “a” always sounds like “ah” (father) - “i” always sounds like “ee” (see) - “u” always sounds like “oo” (food) - “e” always sounds like “eh” (bed) - “o” always sounds like “oh” (go)

8.2.4 Practice Words

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation	Meaning
ai	ah-ee	love	
ue	oo-eh	above	
ie	ee-eh	house	
ao	ah-oh	blue	
oi	oh-ee	nephew	
kai	kah-ee	shellfish	
kieru	kee-eh-roo	to disappear	
aoi	ah-oh-ee	blue (adjective)	
ii	ee-ee	good	
ōi	oh-oh-ee	many	

8.3 B. CONSONANTS

Japanese consonants are generally softer and less aspirated (less air) than English consonants. Most are similar to English, but there are a few that require special attention.

8.3.1 Standard Consonants

8.3.1.1 K (k, g sounds)

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
ka	kah	kawa (kah-wah)	river
ki	kee	kitte (keet-teh)	stamp
ku	koo	kūki (koo-kee)	air
ke	keh	kēki (keh-kee)	cake
ko	koh	koko (koh-koh)	here

G sounds (voiced “k”): - ga, gi, gu, ge, go - **gakkou** (gahk-koh) - school - **ginkou** (geen-koh) - bank

8.3.1.2 S (s, z sounds)

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
sa	sah	sakura (sah-koo-rah)	cherry blossom
shi	shee	shio (shee-oh)	salt
su	soo	sushi (soo-shee)	sushi
se	seh	sensei (sen-say)	teacher
so	soh	sora (soh-rah)	sky

Important: “si” doesn’t exist in Japanese - it’s always written as “shi” (shee)

Z sounds (voiced “s”): - za, ji, zu, ze, zo - **zasshi** (zahs-shee) - magazine - **jikan** (jee-kahn) - time - **zubon** (zoo-bon) - pants

Important: “zi” doesn’t exist - it’s written as “ji” (jee)

8.3.1.3 T (t, d sounds)

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
ta	tah	taberu (tah-beh-roo)	to eat
chi	chee	chizu (chee-zoo)	map/cheese
tsu	tsoo	tsukue (tsoo-koo-eh)	desk
te	teh	tegami (teh-gah-mee)	letter
to	toh	tomodachi (toh-moh-dah-chee)	friend

Important: “ti” and “tu” don’t exist - they become “chi” and “tsu”

D sounds (voiced “t”): - da, ji (also written as “di”), zu (also written as “du”), de, do - **densha** (den-shah) - train - **doko** (doh-koh) - where

8.3.1.4 N Sounds

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
na	nah	nani (nah-nee)	what
ni	nee	niku (nee-koo)	meat
nu	noo	nuno (noo-noh)	cloth
ne	neh	neko (neh-koh)	cat
no	noh	nomi (noh-mee)	flea

Standalone N: The syllable “n” (/) can appear by itself at the end of syllables: - **sen** (sen) - thousand - **densha** (den-shah) - train - **kanpai** (kahn-pah-ee) - cheers - **nihon** (nee-hon) - Japan

This “n” sounds like “n” in “antenna” - it’s a syllabic nasal sound.

8.3.1.5 H (h, b, p sounds)

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
ha	hah	hana (hah-nah)	flower/nose
hi	hee	hito (hee-toh)	person
fu	foo	futon (foo-ton) - futon	
he	heh	heya (heh-yah)	room
ho	hoh	hon (hon)	book

Important: “hu” doesn’t exist - it’s always “fu” (see special explanation below)

B sounds (voiced “h”): - ba, bi, bu, be, bo - **basu** (bah-soo) - bus - **biiru** (bee-roo) - beer

P sounds (with small circle): - pa, pi, pu, pe, po - **pan** (pahn) - bread - **tempura** (tem-poo-rah) - tempura

8.3.1.6 M Sounds

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
ma	mah	matcha (maht-chah)	green tea
mi	mee	mizu (mee-zoo)	water
mu	moo	mushi (moo-shee)	insect
me	meh	me (meh)	eye
mo	moh	momo (moh-moh)	peach

8.3.1.7 Y Sounds

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
ya	yah	yama (yah-mah)	mountain
yu	yoo	yuki (yoo-kee)	snow
yo	yoh	yoru (yoh-roo)	night

Note: There is no “yi” or “ye” in standard Japanese

8.3.1.8 R/L Sound - VERY IMPORTANT This is one of the most challenging sounds for English speakers. The Japanese “r” sound is NOT the English “r” and NOT the English “l” - it’s somewhere in between.

How to pronounce it: 1. Put your tongue in the “L” position (tip touching the ridge behind your upper teeth) 2. Tap lightly once, like a very soft “d” or “t” 3. It sounds like a cross between “r,” “l,” and “d” 4. Similar to the “tt” in American English “butter” or “batter” 5. In Spanish, it’s like the single “r” in “pero” (not the rolled “rr”)

Common mistake: English speakers say “lice” instead of “rice” or roll the R like in Spanish “perro.”

Correct approach: Think of it as a soft, single tap of the tongue.

Japanese	DON'T Say	DO Say	Meaning
ramen	LAY-men or RRRR-amen	ah-men (tap)	ramen
arigatō	ah-lee-gah-toh	ah- ee-gah-toh (tap)	thank you
karate	kah-lah-teh	kah- ah-teh (tap)	karate
sayonara	sah-yoh-nah-lah	sah-yoh-nah- ah (tap)	goodbye
sushi	soo-shee	soo-shee	sushi (no R/L)

Practice words: - **ringo** (een-goh) - apple - **ryokou** (yoh-koh) - travel - **kuruma** (koo- oo-mah) - car - **torii** (toh- ee-ee) - shrine gate - **irashaimase** (ee- ah-shah-ee-mah-seh) - welcome

8.3.1.9 W Sounds

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
wa	wah	watashi (wah-tah-shee)	I/me

Combination	Sound	Example	Meaning
wo	oh/woh	wo (oh) - object marker	

Note: - “wo” () is only used as a grammatical particle and sounds almost identical to “o” - There is no “wi” or “we” in modern standard Japanese - The “w” sound is very subtle, not as pronounced as English “w”

8.3.2 Special Consonant Sounds

8.3.2.1 F Sound - “fu” (/)

The Japanese “fu” is NOT the English “f” sound. It’s unique:

How to pronounce it: 1. Don’t touch your upper teeth to your lower lip (like English “f”) 2. Instead, blow air gently through loosely rounded lips 3. It’s between “f” and “h” - more breathy than “f” 4. Think of it as blowing out a candle very gently

English “f”: Upper teeth touch lower lip → forceful air **Japanese “fu”:** Rounded lips, no teeth contact → gentle air

Practice words: - **futon** (foo-ton) - NOT “fton” - futon - **fuyu** (foo-yoo) - winter - **fune** (foo-neh) - boat - **fuku** (foo-koo) - clothes - **tofu** (toh-foo) - tofu

Common mistake: Saying “tofu” with English “f” sound. It should be breathy: “toh-hoo” (with rounded lips).

8.3.2.2 TSU Sound (/) - VERY IMPORTANT

This is one of the most distinctive Japanese sounds and doesn’t exist in English. It’s NOT “too” or “sue” - it’s a single sound: “tsu.”

How to pronounce it: 1. Start in position to say “t” 2. Release into “soo” sound 3. It’s ONE syllable, not two: “ts-oo” said quickly together 4. Think of the “ts” in “cats” or “pots” - but add “oo” after it 5. The “t” and “s” are simultaneous, not separate

Practice progression: 1. Say “cats” → focus on the “ts” at the end 2. Now say “cats” again → but instead of stopping, add “oo”: “cats-oo” 3. Say it faster: “tsu” 4. That’s it!

DO: Say “ts-oo” as ONE beat/syllable **DON’T:** Say “t-soo” or “soo” (two beats)

Practice words: | Japanese | Wrong Way | Right Way | Meaning | |————-|————|————|————| | tsukue | “t-skoo-eh” | “ts-koo-eh” (one beat) | desk | | tsunami | “t-soo-nah-mee” | “ts-nah-mee” | tsunami | | tsuki | “t-soo-kee” | “ts-kee” | moon | | tsumori | “t-soo-moh-ree” | “ts-moh-ree” | intention | | natsu | “nah-t-soo” | “nah-ts” | summer |

More examples: - **sushi** (soo-shee) - sushi - **matsu** (mah-ts) - to wait / pine tree - **kutsu** (koo-ts) - shoes - **tsuyoi** (ts-yoh-ee) - strong - **tsumetai** (ts-meh-tah-ee) - cold (to touch)

8.3.2.3 SH Sound (shi, sha, sho, shu, she)

The Japanese “sh” is slightly softer than English “sh” but similar enough that English speakers don’t struggle with it.

Practice words: - **shinkansen** (sheen-kahn-sen) - bullet train - **shōyu** (shoh-yoo) - soy sauce - **shizuka** (shee-zoo-kah) - quiet - **shimasu** (shee-mahs) - to do - **shashin** (shah-sheen) - photograph

8.3.2.4 CH Sound (chi, cha, cho, chu, che)

Similar to English “ch” in “cheese” - this one is easy for English speakers.

Practice words: - **chūshajō** (choo-shah-joh) - parking lot - **ocha** (oh-chah) - tea - **chizu** (chee-zoo) - map/cheese - **chotto** (chot-toh) - a little - **chawan** (chah-wahn) - tea bowl

8.3.3 Consonant Combinations with Y (Palatalization)

Many consonants can combine with “ya,” “yu,” or “yo” to create a single syllable sound. These are written with a small , , or .

Base	+ ya	+ yu	+ yo	Example
k	kyā	kyū	kyō	kyō (kyoh) - today
s	shā	shū	shō	shashin (shah-sheen) - photo
t	chā	chu	cho	chūmon (choo-mon) - order
n	nya	nyū	nyō	nyūsu (nyoo-soo) - news
h	hya	hyū	hyō	hyaku (hyah-koo) - hundred
m	myā	myū	myō	myōji (myoh-jee) - surname
r	ryā	ryū	ryo	ryokan (yoh-kahn) - inn
g	gyā	gyū	gyō	gyūniku (gyoo-nee-koo) - beef
j	ja	ju	jo	jikan (jee-kahn) - time
b	byā	byū	byō	byōin (byoh-een) - hospital
p	pyā	pyū	pyō	pyū (pyoo) - <i>whoosh</i> (sound effect)

Important: These are ONE syllable, not two: - **kyō** is pronounced “kyoh” (ONE beat), not “kee-yoh” (two beats) - **ryokan** is “ yoh-kahn” (3 beats), not “ree-yoh-kahn” (4 beats) - **shashin** is “shah-sheen” (2 beats), not “sha-sheen” (2 beats but different)

Practice words: - **kyōto** (kyoh-toh) - Kyoto - **ryōri** (yoh- ee) - cooking/cuisine - **byōki** (byoh-kee) - illness - **jakusha** (jah-koo-shah) - the weak - **happyō** (hahp-pyoh) - presentation

8.4 C. SPECIAL RULES

8.4.1 1. Double Consonants (Geminate Consonants) - The Pause

Double consonants (/ - small tsu) create a brief pause before the consonant. This pause is **just as important as any other sound** - it changes meaning!

Rule: When you see a double consonant (kk, pp, tt, ss, etc.), pause for ONE beat before saying the consonant.

How it works: - The small (tsu) represents one full syllable of silence/pause - Count it as a beat when saying the word - Hold your mouth in position for the next consonant during the pause

8.4.1.1 Minimal Pairs (words that differ only by the double consonant):

Without pause	With pause	Difference
kako (kah-koh)	kakkō (kahk-koh)	past / appearance
oto (oh-toh)	otto (oht-toh)	sound / husband
kite (kee-teh)	kitte (keet-teh)	come (-form) / stamp
saki (sah-kee)	sakki (sahk-kee)	ahead / earlier
ichi (ee-chee)	icchi (eech-chee)	one / agreement

How to practice: 1. Say the word slowly with an exaggerated pause 2. **kakkō**: “kah-(pause)-koh” - hold your mouth in “k” position during pause 3. **kitte**: “kee-(pause)-teh” - hold your mouth in “t” position during pause 4. **matte**: “mah-(pause)-teh” - wait

Common words with double consonants: - **gakkō** (gahk-koh) - school - **kippu** (keep-poo) - ticket - **zasshi** (zahs-shee) - magazine - **massugu** (mahs-soo-goo) - straight ahead - **itte** (eet-teh) - say (-form) -

motte (moht-teh) - hold (-form) - **chotto** (chot-toh) - a little - **kitte kudasai** (keet-teh koo-dah-sah-ee) - please cut - **motto** (moht-toh) - more - **zutto** (zoot-toh) - all along

Practical example: - **Chotto matte kudasai** (chot-toh maht-teh koo-dah-sah-ee) - Please wait a moment
- Two double consonants: pause before “tt” in both “chotto” and “matte”

8.4.2 2. Long Vowels (Extended Vowels)

Long vowels are held for TWO beats instead of one. This **changes the meaning** of words, so it's critical to get it right.

How to write long vowels: - In hiragana: → a, → i, → u, → i or e, → u or o - In katakana: add a dash () after the vowel - In romaji: either double the vowel (aa, ii, uu, ei/ee, ou/oo) or use macron (ā, ī, ū, ē, ō)

Rule: Hold the vowel for TWICE as long as normal.

8.4.2.1 Minimal Pairs (words that differ only by vowel length):

Short vowel	Long vowel	Difference
obasan (oh-bah-sahn)	obāsan (oh-baah-sahn)	aunt / grandmother
ojisan (oh-jee-sahn)	oīsan (oh-jeee-sahn)	uncle / grandfather
koko (koh-koh)	kōkō (kooh-kooh)	here / high school
yuki (yoo-kee)	yūki (yooo-kee)	snow / courage
suki (soo-kee)	sūki (sooo-kee)	like / ski
e (eh)	ē (ehh)	picture / yes (casual)
koko (koh-koh)	kōko (kooh-koh)	here / incense

How to practice: 1. Say the short version with one beat per syllable 2. Say the long version, holding the long vowel for two beats 3. **oba-san** (3 beats) vs **o-baa-san** (4 beats) 4. Count on your fingers to make sure you're adding the extra beat

Common words with long vowels: - **arigatō** (ah-ree-gah-tooh) - thank you - **ohayō** (oh-hah-yooh) - good morning - **tōkyō** (tooh-kyooh) - Tokyo - **sūpā** (sooo-paah) - supermarket - **kōhī** (kooh-heee) - coffee - **eigo** (ehh-goh) - English - **onēsan** (oh-nehh-sahn) - older sister - **sensei** (sen-sehh) - teacher - **kēki** (kehhee-kee) - cake - **chīzu** (cheee-zoo) - cheese - **kūkō** (kooo-kooh) - airport - **yūbinkyoku** (yooo-been-kyoh-koo) - post office

Practical example: - **Kōhī o kudasai** (kooh-heee oh koo-dah-sah-ee) - Coffee please - Two long vowels: hold “oh” twice in “kōhī”

8.4.3 3. Pitch Accent Basics

Unlike English which uses stress (volume and force), Japanese uses **pitch accent** (high vs low tone). The pitch pattern can change the meaning of words.

What is pitch accent? - Each syllable is pronounced at a HIGH pitch or LOW pitch - The volume and force stay relatively even - Pitch patterns are like musical notes: some syllables are “higher” and some are “lower”

Basic patterns: 1. **Flat/High:** Start high, stay high → **sakana** (sah-kah-nah) - fish 2. **Head-High:** Start high, drop low → **ame** (ah-meh) - rain 3. **Tail-High:** Start low, rise high → **ame** (ah-meh) - candy 4. **Mid-drop:** Start high, drop, then low → **kokoro** (koh-koh-roh) - heart

8.4.3.1 Minimal Pairs (words that differ only by pitch):

Word	Pitch Pattern	Meaning
hashi	High-low	chopsticks
hashi	Low-high	bridge
hashi	High-high	edge
ame	High-low	rain
ame	Low-high	candy
kaki	High-low	oyster
kaki	Low-high	persimmon

Should you worry about pitch accent as a beginner?

Short answer: Not too much. Focus on the vowels, consonants, and special rules first.

Why? 1. Native speakers will understand you from context 2. Pitch accent varies by region (Tokyo vs Osaka have different patterns) 3. It's more important for advanced learners 4. Getting the basic sounds right matters more initially

However: - Be aware it exists - Listen carefully to native speakers - Try to mimic the melody/music of what you hear - When you watch Japanese media, notice the pitch patterns - As you progress, you can study it more formally

Practical tip: Think of Japanese like singing - there's a melody to each phrase. Try to match the melody rather than individual pitches at first.

8.4.4 4. Devoicing (Whispered Vowels)

Sometimes the vowels **i** and **u** are devoiced (whispered or almost silent), especially: - Between voiceless consonants (k, s, t, p, h, f) - At the end of polite verb forms

Common examples:

Word	Full pronunciation	Natural/Devoiced	Meaning
desu	deh-soo	deh-s' (u is silent)	is/am/are
shimasu	shee-mah-soo	shee-mah-s' (u is silent)	to do
deshita	deh-shee-tah	deh-sh'tah (i is devoiced)	was
sukiyaki	soo-kee-yah-kee	s'kee-yah-kee (first u is devoiced)	sukiyaki
sukoshi	soo-koh-shee	s'koh-shee (u is devoiced)	a little
keshiki	keh-shee-kee	keh-sh'kee (i is devoiced)	scenery

Should you do this? - It happens naturally as you get faster at speaking - Don't worry about it at first - pronounce all vowels fully - Native speakers will do it automatically - You might start doing it naturally after hearing a lot of Japanese

8.5 D. COMMON PRONUNCIATION MISTAKES

8.5.1 Mistakes English Speakers Make

8.5.1.1 1. Adding extra vowels where they don't belong **Wrong:** "ramen-u" (rah-men-oo)
Right: "ramen" (rah-men)

Wrong: "des-oo" (deh-soo) **Right:** "desu" (deh-s') - u is devoiced)

Fix: Japanese syllables end in either a vowel or "n" - don't add vowels to the end of words.

8.5.1.2 2. Saying “L” instead of the Japanese “R” (tap) **Wrong:** “arigatou” → “ah-lee-gah-toh”
Right: “arigatō” → “ah- ee-gah-toh” (tap the R)

Wrong: “ramen” → “lamen” **Right:** “ramen” → “ amen” (tap the R)

Fix: Tap your tongue lightly behind your upper teeth - it’s not “L,” not “R,” but a single tap.

8.5.1.3 3. Pronouncing “tsu” as two syllables (“t-su” or “too”) **Wrong:** “tsunami” → “t-soo-nah-mee” (4 syllables) **Right:** “tsunami” → “ts-nah-mee” (3 syllables)

Wrong: “tsuki” → “t-soo-kee” or “too-kee” **Right:** “tsuki” → “ts-kee” (2 syllables)

Fix: Practice saying “cats” and focus on the “ts” sound. Now add “oo” to it in one beat: “ts-oo.”

8.5.1.4 4. Not pausing for double consonants **Wrong:** “matte” → “mah-teh” (sounds like “mate”)
Right: “matte” → “mah-(pause)-teh” (wait)

Wrong: “kitte” → “kee-teh” **Right:** “kitte” → “kee-(pause)-teh” (stamp)

Fix: The small is a full beat of silence. Count it!

8.5.1.5 5. Not holding long vowels long enough **Wrong:** “ohayō” → “oh-hah-yoh” (3 beats)
Right: “ohayō” → “oh-hah-yooh” (4 beats - hold the ō)

Wrong: “arigatō” → “ah-ree-gah-toh” (4 beats) **Right:** “arigatō” → “ah-ree-gah-tooh” (5 beats - hold the ō)

Fix: Long vowels are TWO beats, not one. Count them!

8.5.1.6 6. Using English vowel sounds instead of Japanese ones **Wrong:** “cat” sound in “arigatō” → “ari-GAT-oh” **Right:** “father” sound → “ari-GAH-toh”

Wrong: “sit” sound in “kitte” → “KIT-teh” **Right:** “see” sound → “KEET-teh”

Fix: Remember the 5 vowels: ah, ee, oo, eh, oh. Always use these sounds.

8.5.1.7 7. Stressing syllables like in English **Wrong:** “a-ri-GA-tō” (stressing “ga”) **Right:** “a-ri-ga-tō” (all syllables equal stress, but with pitch changes)

Wrong: “sa-YO-na-ra” (stressing “yo”) **Right:** “sa-yo-na-ra” (even stress)

Fix: Give each syllable equal time and force. Japanese is syllable-timed, not stress-timed.

8.5.1.8 8. Pronouncing “fu” like English “f” **Wrong:** “tofu” → “TOF-oo” (upper teeth on lower lip) **Right:** “tofu” → “TOH-foo” (breathy, rounded lips, no teeth contact)

Wrong: “futon” → “FOOT-on” **Right:** “futon” → “foo-ton” (breathy “f”)

Fix: Don’t let your teeth touch your lip. Blow gently through rounded lips.

8.5.1.9 9. Forgetting that “u” is often silent in “desu/masu” endings **Wrong:** “desu” → “deh-SOO” (pronouncing u fully) **Right:** “desu” → “deh-s” (u is devoiced/silent)

Wrong: “tabemasu” → “tah-beh-mah-SOO” **Right:** “tabemasu” → “tah-beh-mah-s”

Fix: In casual/natural speech, the “u” in desu and masu endings is barely audible.

8.5.1.10 10. Not distinguishing between “n” and “m” sounds before certain consonants The standalone “n” () changes pronunciation depending on what comes after it:

- Before p, b, m → sounds like “m”
 - shinbun → “shim-bun” (newspaper)
 - kanpai → “kam-pah-ee” (cheers)
 - sanma → “sam-mah” (Pacific saury fish)
- Before k, g → sounds like “ng”
 - ginkou → “gingkoh” (bank)
 - sankaku → “sangkah-koo” (triangle)
- Otherwise → sounds like “n”
 - sensei → “sen-say” (teacher)
 - densha → “den-shah” (train)

Fix: Let the “n” naturally adapt to the following consonant. Don’t force it to always sound like “n.”

8.5.2 Summary of Key Pronunciation Tips

Master the 5 vowels - they never change Tap the R - don’t say L or roll the R “Tsu” is one syllable - practice “cats-oo” → “tsu” Pause for small - double consonants need a beat of silence Hold long vowels - they’re twice as long (two beats) All syllables get equal time - no stress like in English “Fu” is breathy - no teeth on lip Devoice “u” in desu/masu - it’s almost silent Don’t add extra sounds - no extra vowels at the end Listen and mimic - match the melody/music you hear

8.6 E. PRACTICE SENTENCES

Here are common tourist phrases with detailed pronunciation guides. Practice these slowly at first, then speed up.

8.6.1 Basic Greetings

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
arigatō	ah- ee-gah-tooh	goh-zah-ee-mah-s’	Thank you very much
gozaimasu	oh-hah-yooh	goh-zah-ee-mah-s’	Good morning
ohayō	kon-nee-chee-wah		Hello/Good afternoon
gozaimasu	kon-bahn-wah		Good evening
konnichiwa	sah-yoh-nah- ah		Goodbye
	soo-mee-mah-sen		Excuse me/Sorry
	gomen-nasai	goh-men-nah-sah-ee	I’m sorry

8.6.2 Restaurant Phrases

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
itadakimasu	ee-tah-dah-kee-mah-s'		Let's eat (before meal)
gochisōsama deshita	goh-chee-sooh-sah-mah deh-sh'tah		Thank you for the meal
omizu o kudasai	oh-mee-zoo oh koo-dah-sah-ee		Water please
menyū o kudasai	men-yooo oh koo-dah-sah-ee		Menu please
kore o kudasai	koh- eh oh koo-dah-sah-ee		This one please
oishii	oh-ee-sheee		Delicious
okaikei o onegaishimasu	oh-kah-ee-kehh oh oh-neh-gah-ee-shee-mah-s'		Check please

8.6.3 Shopping Phrases

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
ikura desu ka	ee-koo- ah deh-s' kah		How much is it?
kore o kudasai	koh- eh oh koo-dah-sah-ee		I'll take this
takai desu	tah-kah-ee deh-s'		It's expensive
yasui desu	yah-soo-ee deh-s'		It's cheap
mite iru dake desu	mee-teh ee- oo dah-keh deh-s'		Just looking
shichaku shite mo ii desu ka	shee-chah-koo sh'teh moh ee-ee deh-s' kah		May I try it on?

8.6.4 Direction Phrases

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
eki wa doko desu ka	eh-kee wah doh-koh deh-s' kah		Where is the station?
massugu	mahs-soo-goo (pause before "s")		Straight ahead
migi	mee-gee		Right
hidari	hee-dah- ee		Left
michi ni	mee-chee nee mah-yoh-ee-mah-sh'tah		I'm lost
mayoimashita			
koko wa doko desu ka	koh-koh wah doh-koh deh-s' kah		Where am I?

8.6.5 Emergency Phrases

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
tasukete	tah-soo-keh-teh		Help!
keisatsu	kehh-sah-ts (tsu = one syllable)		Police
byōin	byooh-een (long ō, one syllable "byo")		Hospital
itai	ee-tah-ee		It hurts

Japanese	Romaji	Pronunciation Breakdown	Meaning
kibun ga warui desu	kee-boon gah wah- oo-ee deh-s' desu	kee-boon gah wah- oo-ee deh-s' desu	I don't feel well
eigo o hanasemasu ka	ehh-goh oh hah-nah-seh-mah-s' kah hanasemasu ka	ehh-goh oh hah-nah-seh-mah-s' kah hanasemasu ka	Do you speak English?

8.7 F. PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE TIPS

8.7.1 For Self-Study:

1. Listen actively
 - Watch Japanese media (anime, dramas, news)
 - Use language learning apps with audio
 - Listen to Japanese music and try to sing along
 - Pay attention to the melody and rhythm
2. Record yourself
 - Use your phone to record yourself saying words/phrases
 - Compare to native speaker audio
 - Identify where your pronunciation differs
 - Practice the differences repeatedly
3. Shadow native speakers
 - Play audio of a native speaker
 - Repeat immediately after them (like an echo)
 - Try to match their speed, pitch, and rhythm
 - This helps you internalize natural pronunciation
4. Use minimal pairs
 - Practice words that differ by only one sound
 - This trains your ear and mouth to distinguish similar sounds
 - Examples: kako/kakkō, obasan/obāsan, hashi (chopsticks)/hashi (bridge)
5. Slow down
 - Don't rush when learning
 - Pronounce each syllable clearly and correctly first
 - Speed comes naturally with practice
 - Better to be slow and correct than fast and wrong
6. Focus on problem sounds
 - Identify your personal weaknesses (R sound? Tsu? Double consonants?)
 - Dedicate extra time to these specific sounds
 - Practice them in isolation before using them in sentences
7. Learn by context
 - Don't just memorize sounds - learn words and phrases
 - Understand what you're saying
 - This makes practice more engaging and memorable

8.7.2 Recommended Resources:

Apps: - **Forvo** - Native speaker pronunciation database - **Drops** - Vocabulary with audio - **Japanese-Pod101** - Lessons with pronunciation focus - **NHK Easy Japanese** - Beginner lessons with audio

YouTube Channels: - **Dogen** - Pitch accent and pronunciation expert - **That Japanese Man Yuta** - Natural Japanese explanations - **JapanesePod101** - Structured lessons - **Learn Japanese with JapanesePod101.com** - Pronunciation guides

Websites: - **Tofugu** - Articles on pronunciation - **Japanese Pronunciation Guide (University of**

Iowa) - Interactive mouth diagrams - OJAD (Online Japanese Accent Dictionary) - Pitch accent patterns

8.7.3 With a Language Partner:

1. Ask for corrections

- Request that they point out pronunciation mistakes
- Ask them to model the correct pronunciation slowly
- Practice repeating until they approve

2. Read aloud

- Read Japanese text aloud to your partner
- Have them correct you in real-time
- Focus on rhythm and naturalness

3. Play pronunciation games

- Minimal pair quizzes (do they hear the difference?)
 - Tongue twisters
 - Speed challenges (say phrases faster while staying accurate)
-

8.8 G. TONGUE TWISTERS (- Hayakuchi Kotoba)

Practice these to improve your pronunciation speed and accuracy:

8.8.1 Easy:

1.

- **Aka-maki-gami ao-maki-gami ki-maki-gami**
 - Red scroll, blue scroll, yellow scroll
- 2.
- **Nama-mugi nama-gome nama-tamago**
 - Raw wheat, raw rice, raw egg
- 3.
- **Tonari no kyaku wa yoku kaki kuu kyaku da**
 - The customer next door is a customer who eats lots of persimmons

8.8.2 Intermediate:

4.

- **Basu gasu bakuhatsu**
 - Bus gas explosion
 - (Try saying it fast 3 times!)
- 5.
- **Tōkyō tokkyo kyoka-kyoku**
 - Tokyo patent approval office

8.8.3 Hard:

6.

- **Bōzu ga byōbu ni jōzu ni bōzu no e o kaita**
- A monk skillfully drew a picture of a monk on a folding screen

7.

- **O-Aya ya oya ni oayamari**
 - Aya, apologize to your parent
-

8.9 H. FINAL PRONUNCIATION CHECKLIST

Before moving forward, make sure you can:

- Pronounce all 5 vowels correctly and consistently
- Distinguish between short and long vowels
- Pronounce the Japanese “R” as a tap (not “L” or rolled “R”)
- Say “tsu” as one syllable
- Say “fu” with a breathy sound (not English “f”)
- Pause correctly for double consonants (small)
- Hold long vowels for two beats
- Pronounce all syllables with equal stress
- Say consonant + “y” combinations as one syllable (kya, ryu, etc.)
- Devoice “u” in “desu” and “masu” endings naturally

Remember: Perfect pronunciation comes with time and practice. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes—Japanese people appreciate any effort to speak their language. Focus on being understood first, then refine your accent over time.

8.10 Summary

Japanese pronunciation is highly systematic: - **5 consistent vowels:** a (ah), i (ee), u (oo), e (eh), o (oh) - **Soft consonants:** Most are similar to English but less forceful - **Special sounds:** R (tap), tsu (one syllable), fu (breathy) - **Double consonants:** Add a pause before the consonant - **Long vowels:** Hold for two beats instead of one - **Pitch accent:** High and low tones (advanced concept) - **Equal syllable timing:** No heavy stress like English

With consistent practice and attention to these rules, you’ll develop clear, understandable Japanese pronunciation. Good luck, and enjoy learning! !(Ganbatte! - Do your best!)