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TRACK LIST 43
Japanese is spoken by over 130 million people, both in Japan and in Japanese communities all around the world. In fact, you probably know a lot of Japanese words already! Words like sudoku, tsunami, bonsai, karate, samurai, karaoke, manga and origami have all become part of the English language. And it’s likely that your local supermarket stocks shiitake mushrooms, edamame beans and nashi pears!

Japanese isn’t as hard to learn as you might think – most sounds are similar to English and they are pronounced consistently. There are no genders, plurals or articles, and verbs stay the same whether “I” or “she” is doing it.

However, reading and writing in Japanese can be difficult because it uses a completely different writing system! Japanese is written in a combination of three scripts:

- **hiragana** “Japan”  
  にほん  
  (ni·ho·n)  
  each symbol = one sound

- **katakana** “Japan”  
  にホン  
  (ni·ho·n)  
  each symbol = one sound

- **kanji** “Japan”  
  日本  
  (ni “sun” · hon “origin”)  
  each symbol = an idea  
  and can be pronounced  
  different ways depending on the word

So, you’ll be glad to know that Japanese can also be written using **rōmaji** – “roman letters” – which we’ve used throughout this booklet.

**Gambatte kudasai!** – “Please try your best!”
Pronunciation guide

There are five basic vowel sounds in Japanese: a, i, u, e and o. They are similar to the following English sounds, but keep them short and crisp.

a – ah  i – eat  u – too  e – head  o – hot

There are also long vowel sounds: ā, ī, ū, ē and ō. These sounds are pronounced like the basic vowels – just hold them for twice as long!

And then there are some semi-vowel sounds: ya, yu and yo.

The more complex sounds are made by adding a consonant sound, such as k, g, s, sh, z, t, ch, j, d, etc., in front of one of the vowel sounds.

e.g.  ka  ki  ku  ke  ko
     kā  kī  kū  kē  kō
     kya  kyu  kyo
     kyā  kyū  kyō

Most consonant sounds are similar to English, but watch out for these:

g  as in get, but can also sound like ‘ng’
ts  it’s
f  between an ‘f’ and an ‘h’; almost like blowing out a candle
r  place your tongue where it would be if you were going to say an ‘l’, but then say an ‘r’

To break a word up into easier mouthfuls, just remember that syllables end with either a vowel or a final ‘n’ sound.

e.g.  kon-ni-chi-wa
     o-ha-yō go-za-i-ma-su
Easy Learning Japanese is a course specifically designed to help you to ask for the things you’re most likely to need when visiting Japan and to give you the skills to cope with situations you might find yourself in. This course is different from other courses in that you also learn to understand the likely replies to your questions. You hear key words and phrases used in dialogues between native speakers, so you learn not only how to say them but how they are used in conversation. To help you remember what you learn, the course makes use of all the latest techniques in memory building, backed up by regular revision. Unlike some other courses, Easy Learning Japanese isn’t just a collection of useful phrases to learn by rote; it allows you to practise them, gives you listening tips to help you to recognize what you hear, and tells you what to say when you don’t understand and need help.

Your course consists of audio files with an accompanying guide. At the beginning of each unit, you are introduced to your new key words and phrases. You can listen to them and repeat them as many times as you like. You will be talked through each new vocabulary item and given hints on how to remember them.

Then, you’ll hear the new language used in short conversations. First you will practise listening to help you pick out the key words and phrases and understand the gist of the conversations. After that, you’ll have a chance to try some of the phrases yourself. This step-by-step approach is designed to build up your confidence in understanding and speaking.

INTRODUCTION
Revision of the key words and phrases is built into the course, with a review section at the end of each unit. There is also a *Mō ichido* (“one more time”) section which reintroduces the key words and phrases in each unit so that you can revise and check what you know and decide whether you need to go back and listen to any of it again.

At the beginning of the first few units, and again some units later on, there will be a section called *Tuning in to Japanese*. These sections are there to switch your brain on to how Japanese sounds, and to get you used to hearing it. If you’re already feeling ‘tuned in’ then you can skip these tracks and move straight on to the new material.

At times during the course there will be sections after the review called *Taking it further*. *Taking it further* sections are an opportunity for you to try out some dialogues and to expand your vocabulary a little beyond the key structures covered in the unit. If you feel that you have enough to cope with already from the key words and phrases, then skip them for now. You can always come back to them later when you’re feeling more confident.

This guide contains the key phrases and selected conversations for each unit, with translations, for easy reference. It also gives learning tips, cultural information, extra vocabulary and simple explanations of how Japanese works.
UNIT 1  Greetings

Key phrases

- **konnichiwa**  hello
- **-san**  Mr, Mrs or Miss
- **ohayō**  good morning *(casual form)*
- **ohayō gozaimasu**  good morning *(polite form)*
- **hajimemashite**  how do you do?
- **dōzo yoroshiku**  pleased to meet you

Listening and speaking

**Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.**  Hello, Mr Smith.
**Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.**  Hello, Mrs Yamada.

**Ohayō gozaimasu, Sumisu-san.**  Good morning, Mr Smith.
**Ohayō gozaimasu, Honda-san.**  Good morning, Miss Honda.

**Sumisu-san, hajimemashite.**  Mr Smith, how do you do?
**Yamada-san, hajimemashite.**  Mrs Yamada, how do you do?

**Sumisu-san, dōzo yoroshiku.**  Pleased to meet you, Mr Smith.
**Honda-san, dōzo yoroshiku.**  Pleased to meet you, Miss Honda.
Greetings

Unit 1

Japanese names and -san
In Japanese, surnames come before first names. So, looking at the name Yamada Naomi, Yamada is her surname and Naomi is her first name.

When addressing someone, you should always add -san after their name unless you are very close to them. It is a sign of respect. For example, Mrs Naomi Yamada can be called either:

Yamada-san
Naomi-san

or

Yamada Naomi-san

You should never use -san with your own name. If your name is John Smith, call yourself Jon or Sumisu or Sumisu Jon, but not Jon-san or Sumisu-san!

You can ask someone’s name by saying Onamae wa? - Your name? And they will probably reply in this way: Watashi wa Tanaka desu - I’m Tanaka.

LANGUAGE LAB

Polite and casual forms
Some Japanese phrases have two forms: polite and casual. Generally the longer form is the more polite one. It is best to use the polite form when you talk to someone you don’t know well – the casual form may sound impolite. Use the casual form with your friends and family.

LANGUAGE LAB

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Naomi-san

or

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You should never use -san with your own name. If your name is John Smith, call yourself Jon or Sumisu or Sumisu Jon, but not Jon-san or Sumisu-san!

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Greetings

CULTURAL TIP
Meeting people
In Japan, people usually bow when they meet for the first time. A bow with a deeper and slower motion is thought to be more polite. Men place their hands on their thighs and women cross their hands in front of them when bowing. You should keep your chin pulled in towards your neck, so make sure the person you’re addressing isn’t too close before you start bowing!

On business occasions, people will also shake hands and exchange business cards (meishi – literally “name cards”). It is polite to offer your card with both hands and to bow slightly at the same time. You should also take the other person’s business card with both hands and examine it for a few moments to show your respect.

It is a good idea to get some business cards with your name printed on them in both English and Japanese script. Remember to put your surname first in Japanese!

LANGUAGE LAB
Muted sounds: ‘i’ and ‘u’
You may have noticed that the ‘i’ in hajimemashite and dōzo yoroshiku and the ‘u’ in Sumisu and ohayō gozaimasu are not pronounced. These sounds disappear when they are next to certain other sounds. But don’t worry too much about this – just try to repeat what you hear on the audio file.
UNIT 2 Attracting attention

Track 7

Key phrases

- **sumimasen**  // excuse me / sorry
- **Eigo ga wakarimasu ka?**  // do you understand English?
- **hai, wakarimasu**  // yes, I understand
- **Ie, wakarimasen**  // no, I don’t understand

Listening and speaking

**Sumimasen. Eigo ga wakarimasu ka?**  // Excuse me. Do you understand English?

*Ie, wakarimasen.*  // No, I don’t understand.

**Sumimasen. Eigo ga wakarimasu ka?**  // Excuse me. Do you understand English?

*Hai, wakarimasu.*  // Yes, I understand.

**Sumimasen. Nihongo ga wakarimasu ka?**  // Excuse me. Do you understand Japanese?

*Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.*  // Sorry, I don’t understand.

Tip

**ka**  // “?”
You can turn a statement into a question simply by adding **ka** to the end of it. Think of it as a spoken question mark.

Tip

**Nihon**  = Japan
**Nihongo**  = Japan
language (Japanese)

Tip

**Nihon**  = Japan
**Nihongo**  = Japan
language (Japanese)

LANGUAGE LAB

Omitting the obvious

In Japanese, when both you and the other speaker know what or who you are talking about, you don’t actually need to say it!

e.g. **Eigo ga wakarimasu ka?**  // Do (you) understand English?

*Hai, wakarimasu.*  // Yes, (I) understand (English).
Attracting attention

LANGUAGE LAB

Markers (1)

Japanese word order is quite flexible, so various “markers” or “particles” are used to give sentences more structure. A marker follows the word it refers to and indicates what function that word has in the sentence. Some markers have multiple uses, but don’t worry – we are only going to explain what is relevant to this course!

**ga**

...can mark the subject or object of certain sentences. All you need to know for now is that *ga* can be used to mark the object of sentences describing *ability* and *preference*. For example, in the sentence “I understand English”, “understand” is an ability, so *ga* is used to mark the object “English”.

\[
\text{E.g.} \quad \text{ga} \quad \text{wakarimasu}
\]

*English* (object) *understand*

**wa**

...indicates what the whole sentence is about – it’s the topic marker.

\[
\text{watashi} \quad \text{wa} \quad \text{Igirisu-jin} \quad \text{desu}
\]

*I* (topic) *British* *am*

See Unit 6 for some more markers.

CULTURAL TIP

You

It is advisable to avoid using the word *anata*, which means “you”, especially with your superiors. It is more respectful to use the person’s name followed by *-san*. 
UNIT 3 Nationalities

Key phrases

- watashi I'm British
- watashi wa Igirisu-jin desu Mr Smith, are you British?
- Sumisu-san wa
- Igirisu-jin desu ka? yes, that's right
- hai, só desu no, that's incorrect
- Òe, chigaimasu

Listening and speaking

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.
Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Honda-san.
Hello, Miss Honda.

Sumimasen. Sumisu-san wa Igirisu-jin desu ka?
Excuse me. Mr Smith, are you British?

Hai, só desu.
Yes, that's right.

LANGUAGE LAB

só desu = that's right
só desu ka = is that right?
Although só desu ka is a question, when said with a falling intonation it is simply an acknowledgement to show that you’re listening, similar to: “Oh, is that so?” “Really?” or “I see.” No answer is expected.
Nationalities

Dialogue 1

Konnichiwa, Buraun-san.
Hello, Mr Brown.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Sumimasen. Buraun-san wa Nyūjirando-jin desu ka?
Excuse me. Mr Brown, are you a New Zealander?

Hai, watashi wa Nyūjirando-jin desu.
Yes, I’m a New Zealander.

Sō desu ka.
Is that right?

Dialogue 2

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.
Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Honda-san.
Hello, Miss Honda.

Sumimasen. Sumisu-san wa Ōsutoraria-jin desu ka?
Excuse me. Mr Smith, are you Australian?

īe, chigaimasu. Watashi wa Igirisu-jin desu.
No, that’s incorrect. I’m British.

Honda-san wa?
And you, Miss Honda?

Watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.
I’m Japanese.

Sō desu ka.
Is that right?
Nationalities

To say what nationality you are, take the name of your country and add -jin, which means “person”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Igirisu</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerika</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanada</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ōsutoraria</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyūjirando</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airurando</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nihon</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And if you want to say that you are of mixed blood, half X and half Y, you can say X to Y no hāfu. To is “and”, no is “of”, and hāfu is “half”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Igirisu-jin to Nihon-jin no hāfu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerika-jin to Airurando-jin no hāfu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Loan words”

Japanese has borrowed many foreign words, like the country names Airurando and Ōsutoraria. It’s a good idea to try and learn some katakana, which is the script used to write foreign names and words. Not only will you be able to write your own name in Japanese but you’ll also be able to read some foreign menu items, such as aisukurīmu, hotto doggu and chīzubāgā, and take a reasonable guess as to what they might mean!
UNIT 4

Key phrases

kaishain wa kaishain desu
I’m a company employee

Korinzu no kaishain
I’m a Collins employee

watashi wa Korinzu no
kaishain desu

Sumisu-san wa kaishain
desu ka?
Mr Smith, are you a company employee?

Listening and speaking

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.
Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Sumisu-san wa kaishain desu ka?
Mr Smith, are you a company employee?

Hai, sō desu.
Yes, that’s right.

Konnichiwa, Gurīn-san.
Hello, Miss Green.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Gurīn-san wa gakusē desu ka?
Miss Green, are you a student?

īe, chigaimasu.
No, that’s incorrect.

Watashi wa kōmuin desu.
I’m a civil servant.

Yamada-san wa?
And you, Mrs Yamada?

Watashi wa enjīnia desu.
I’m an engineer.
**Sumimasen. Suzuki-san wa Korinzu no kaishain desu ka?**
Excuse me. Mr Suzuki, are you a Collins employee?

*I, chigaimasu.*

No, that’s incorrect.

**Watashi wa E–go no kyōshi desu.**
I’m an English teacher.

**Sō desu ka.**
Is that right?

---

**LANGUAGE LAB**

*Kaisha* means “company” and *-in* means “member”, so *kaishain* is literally “company member”. Here are some other common professions:

- kōmuin: civil servant
- gakusē: student
- kyōshi: teacher
- isha: doctor
- ryokōsha: traveller
- ongakuka: musician
- shashinka: photographer
- bengoshi: lawyer
- kēsatsukan: police officer
- konpyūtā puroguramā: computer programmer
- enjinia: engineer

*Sararīman* is another word for “company employee”. *Sararī* comes from the English word “salary” and *man* comes from “man”. Although strictly speaking anyone earning money can be a *sararī man*, this is used only to describe those who work for commercial companies.

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**CULTURAL TIP**

Don’t be offended if Japanese people ask you a lot of personal questions. Because of the importance of hierarchy and different politeness levels in Japanese speech, they are just trying to determine your status and how they should address you.
UNIT 5 Asking directions

Key phrases

doko where?  doko desu ka? where is...?
eki wa doko desu ka? where is the train station?
eki wa soko desu the train station is there
eki wa asoko desu the train station is over there
wakarimasen I don’t know
arigatō gozaimasu thank you
īe, dō itashimashite no, don’t mention it
eki train station
byōin hospital
kōban police box
resutoran restaurant
hoteru hotel
toire toilet
tsūrisuto infomēshon tourist information

Listening and speaking

Sumimasen. Eki wa doko desu ka? Excuse me. Where is the train station?
Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.
Sorry. I don’t know.

Sumimasen. Toire wa doko desu ka? Excuse me. Where is the toilet?
Toire wa soko desu.
The toilet is there.

Tip

There are no plurals in Japanese. So, toire wa doko desu ka can mean either “Where is the toilet?” or “Where are the toilets?”
Asking directions

Unit 5

Sumimasen. Resutoran wa doko desu ka?
Excuse me. Where is the restaurant?

Resutoran wa asoko desu.
The restaurant is over there.

Sō desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.
Is that right? Thank you.

Dialogue 1

Sumimasen. Eki wa doko desu ka?
Excuse me. Where is the train station?

Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.
Sorry. I don’t know.

Ja, kōban wa doko desu ka?
Well then, where is the police box?

Kōban wa asoko desu.
The police box is over there.

Sō desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.
Is that right? Thank you.

Itē.
No (don’t mention it).

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen. Ėgo ga wakarimasu ka?
Excuse me. Do you understand English?

Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.
Sorry. I don’t understand.

Sumimasen. Tsūrisuto infomēshon wa doko desu ka?
Excuse me. Where is tourist information?

Ēto... tsūrisuto infomēshon wa soko desu.
Let me see... tourist information is there.

Sō desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.
Is that right? Thank you.

īte, dō itashimashite.
No, don’t mention it.
Asking directions

**LANGUAGE LAB**

In Japanese there are also polite versions of “here”, “there”, “over there” and “where”. Hotel receptionists or shopkeepers might use the polite versions when they answer your questions.

- **koko** – here
- **soko** – there
- **asoko** – over there
- **doko** – where

- **kochira** – here (polite)
- **sochira** – there (polite)
- **achira** – over there (polite)
- **dochira** – where (polite)

**CULTURAL TIP**

**Showing your appreciation**

In Japan, you may even see people bowing while talking on their mobile phones. This is because they always bow slightly when they say “thank you” or “sorry”, so it becomes a habit! How deep you bow depends on what you are thanking someone for or why you are apologising. If someone has helped you with directions, just bow slightly to show your appreciation.

**CULTURAL TIP**

**Useful signs**

Here are some signs you should try to remember:

- お 便所 – toilet
- 男 – Gents
- 女 – Ladies
- 入口 – entrance
- 出口 – exit
Going places (1): where?

UNIT 6

Key phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>doko e ikimasu</td>
<td>where to?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doko e ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>where are you going?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanaka-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>where are you going, Mr Tanaka?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watashi wa Tōkyō e ikimasu</td>
<td>I’m going to Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sayōnara</td>
<td>goodbye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ja mata</td>
<td>see you later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listening and speaking

Konnichiwa. Sumisu-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?
Hello. Where are you going, Mr Smith?
Watashi wa Kyōto e ikimasu.
I’m going to Kyoto.

Konnichiwa. Buraun-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?
Hello. Where are you going, Mr Brown?
Watashi wa Ōsaka e ikimasu.
I’m going to Osaka.

Ohayō gozaimasu. Teirä-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?
Good morning. Where are you going, Mrs Taylor?
Watashi wa Tōkyō eki e ikimasu.
I’m going to Tokyo train station.
Going places (1): where?

Dialogue 1

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.
Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Sumisu-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?
Where are you going, Mr Smith?

Watashi wa Amerika e ikimasu.
I’m going to the USA.

Yamada-san wa?
And you, Mrs Yamada?

Watashi wa Ōsutoraria e ikimasu.
I’m going to Australia.

Shutchō desu.
It’s a business trip.

Sō desu ka. Sayōnara.
Is that right? Goodbye.

Sayōnara.
Goodbye.

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen. Chiketto o kudasai.
Excuse me. A ticket, please.

Doko e ikimasu ka?
Where are you going?

Sumimasen. Mō ichido.
Sorry. One more time.

Doko e ikimasu ka?
Where are you going?

Watashi wa Kyōto e ikimasu.
I’m going to Kyoto.

Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Arigatō gozaimasu.
Thank you.
**LANGUAGES LAB**

**Markers (2)**
The markers *ga* and *wa* were introduced in Unit 2. Here are some others you’ll meet over the next few units.

- **e**: can show movement in a certain direction. It is often translated as “to”.
  - *Tôkyô e ikimasu*
  - Tokyo (direction) go

- **de**: can indicate the tool/instrument you use to do something
  - *basu de ikimasu*
  - bus (by means of) go

- **o**: can mark the direct object of actions
  - *bîru o kudasai*
  - beer (object) please give

**CULTURAL TIP**

**Onsen (Hot springs)**

*Onsen* are a huge part of Japanese culture. Located all over the country, you pay a small entrance fee and can then relax in the natural hot water baths for as long as you like. Some *onsen* are indoors, some are outdoors, but all are very enjoyable and extremely good for you. You should shower and wash thoroughly before getting in. And be warned – no swimming costumes are allowed! *Onsen* are usually marked on maps and signs using the symbol: 🛀️.
**CULTURAL TIP**

Tōkyō is Japan’s capital and the country’s largest city. It’s one of the most exciting cities in the world, famous for its eclectic fashion, neon signs, huge electronic superstores and fast-paced way of life.

Asakusa is a suburb of Tōkyō with an old-town atmosphere. There you’ll find lots of different market stalls where you can buy traditional Japanese gifts.

Kōkyo (The Imperial Palace) is where the Japanese emperor and his family live in Tōkyō. Certain parts of it are open to the public and you can ask for a tour in English. It has beautiful gardens, too.

Kyōto is a city in central Japan, famous for its historical sights, temples and geisha.

Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion) is a beautiful temple in central Kyōto. It is completely covered in gold plate so it glistens in the sun.

Ōsaka is Japan’s second largest city. It’s only a 15-minute train ride from Kyōto. If you’re looking for nightlife and excitement, you should visit Ōsaka.

Ōsaka-jō (Osaka Castle) is one of Japan’s most famous castles. It played a major role in the unification of Japan during the 16th century. It is one of the symbols of Ōsaka.

Himeji-jō (Himeji Castle) is near Ōsaka. It is Japan’s most famous castle and it is nicknamed the “White Heron” because of its white plaster walls.

Fuji-san (Mt Fuji) is Japan’s highest mountain. It can be reached on a day trip from Tōkyō. And on a clear day you can also get a great view of it from the train on your way down to Ōsaka and Kyōto. Here -san means “mountain”, not Mr, Mrs or Miss!

For more information, visit the website of the Japan National Tourism Organization: http://www.jnto.go.jp/
UNIT 7 Going places (2): when?

Key phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kyō</td>
<td>today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ashita</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>konshūmatsu</td>
<td>this weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raishu</td>
<td>next week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itsu</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itsu Tōkyō e ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>when are you going to Tokyo?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kyō ikimasu</td>
<td>I’m going today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ashita ikimasu</td>
<td>I’m going tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>konshūmatsu ikimasu</td>
<td>I’m going this weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raishu ikimasu</td>
<td>I’m going next week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mada wakarimasen</td>
<td>I don’t know yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Listening and speaking

Tanaka-san wa itsu Tōkyō e ikimasu ka?
When are you going to Tokyo, Mr Tanaka?

Kyō ikimasu.
I’m going today.

Sumisu-san wa itsu Himeji-jō e ikimasu ka?
When are you going to Himeji Castle, Mr Smith?

Konshūmatsu ikimasu.
I’m going this weekend.

Sō desu ka. Ī desu ne.
Is that right? That’s nice, isn’t it?

Teirā-san wa itsu Ōsaka e ikimasu ka?
When are you going to Osaka, Mrs Taylor?

Mada wakarimasen.
I don’t know yet.

Sō desu ka.
Is that right?

Tip

- shū
  - The shū in raishu and konshūmatsu means “week”

- ne
  - When you add ne to the end of a statement it acts like a tag question, e.g. “isn’t it?”, “aren’t they?”

- ī
  - ī = good, OK, nice, fine, excellent, pleasant, etc.
Going places (2): when?

**LANGUAGE LAB**

When you go to your own home, company or country, you say *kaerimasu* instead of *ikimasu*. It means “go back” or “return”. For example, if you are British and you are going to the UK, you should say:

*watashi wa Igirisu e kaerimasu* – I’m going back to the UK

**CULTURAL TIP**

**Golden Week**

Four Japanese national holidays occur within one week from late April to early May, so many Japanese businesses close down for the whole period. This is called “Golden Week”. It is the longest holiday of the year for most Japanese people, so many of them take the opportunity to travel. Flights, trains and hotels are often fully booked and prices are significantly higher. Travelling to Japan should be avoided at this time of year, over the New Year (1–3 January) and during *Obon* (a mid-August holiday).
UNIT 8  Going places (3): how?

Key phrases

- **basu**  
  - bus
- **takushī**  
  - taxi
- **kuruma**  
  - car
- **densha**  
  - train
- **shinkansen**  
  - Japanese bullet train
- **chikatetsu**  
  - underground or subway
- **hikōki**  
  - plane
- **nani de ikimasu ka?**  
  - how are you going?
- **nani de Kyōto e ikimasu ka?**  
  - how are you going to Kyoto?
- **basu de ikimasu**  
  - I’m going by bus
- **shinkansen de ikimasu**  
  - I’m going by bullet train

Tip

- **nani** = “what”
- **nani de** = “by what” = “how”
- **nani-jin** = “what people” = “which nationality”
- **nani-go** = “what language”

Listening and speaking

**Sumimasen. Tanaka-san wa nani de Himeji-jō e ikimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. How are you going to Himeji Castle, Mr Tanaka?  
**Basu de ikimasu.**  
I’m going by bus.

**Sumimasen. Yamada-san wa nani de resutoran e ikimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. How are you going to the restaurant, Mrs Yamada?  
**Takushī de ikimasu.**  
I’m going by taxi.

**Sumimasen. Buraun-san wa nani de Tōkyō eki e ikimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. How are you going to Tokyo train station, Mr Brown?  
**Chikatetsu de ikimasu.**  
I’m going by subway.
Going places (3): how?

Dialogue 1

**Konnichiwa, Buraun-san.**  
Hello, Mr Brown.

**Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.**  
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

**Buraun-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?**  
Where are you going, Mr Brown?

**Fuji-san e ikimasu.**  
I’m going to Mt. Fuji.

I – desu ne.  
That’s nice, isn’t it?

**Nani de ikimasu ka?**  
How are you going?

**Densha de ikimasu.**  
I’m going by train.

**Sō desu ka. Ki o tsukete.**  
Is that right? Take care.

**Arigatō gozaimasu.**  
Thank you.

Dialogue 2

**Sumimasen. Řego ga wakarimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. Do you understand English?

**Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.**  
Sorry. I don’t understand.

**Watashi wa Kyōto e ikimasu.**  
I’m going to Kyoto.

**Kono densha wa Kyōto e ikimasu ka?**  
Does this train go to Kyoto?

**Hai, ikimasu.**  
Yes, it goes (to Kyoto).

**Sō desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.**  
Is that right? Thank you.

**Tē, dō itashimashite.**  
No, don’t mention it.
**LANGUAGE LAB**

Noriba rank, stop

Noriba means “a place to get on”. If you want to catch a taxi, you go to a takushi noriba, “taxi rank”. To catch a bus, you go to a basu noriba, “bus stop”.

**CULTURAL TIP**

Cars drive on the left in Japan. So remember to look right when you cross the road.

To flag down a taxi, simply stick out your hand. They should come to you even if they are on the other side of the road. The rear doors of the taxi are opened and closed automatically by the driver, so please don’t try to open or close them yourself. It’s disrespectful to the driver if you attempt to do so.

**CULTURAL TIP**

Train travel

Train stations in the major cities are likely to have ticket machines, and some of them have English instructions. So, it is always easier to buy your ticket at the machines if possible. However, if you need to reserve a seat or want to buy a ticket for another day, you will need to go to the ticket office. Have your destination and date of travel written down to avoid any misunderstanding.

Japanese trains are usually classified as (slowest to fastest) local (futsu), rapid (kaisoku), express (kyūkō) limited express (tokkyū) or super express (shinkansen). To know when your stop is coming up, listen out for the announcement “mamonaku [destination] desu”. Mamonaku means “soon” or “shortly”.

**Going places (3): how?**

**Unit 8**
UNIT 9 Food (1): wants

Track 56

Key phrases

- **nani**
  - tabetai desu
  - nani ga tabetai desu ka?
  - sushi ga tabetai desu
  - nan demo i desu

- what
- want to eat
- what do you want to eat?
- I want to eat sushi
- anything is fine

Tip

**final 'n' sound**
When a final 'n' comes before a 'b', 'm' or 'p', it is pronounced more like an 'm' – that's why it's tempura, not tenpura.

Track 57

Listening and speaking

**Konnichiwa. Sumisu-san wa nani ga tabetai desu ka?**
Hello. What do you want to eat, Mr Smith?

- **Sushi ga tabetai desu.**
  - I want to eat sushi.

**Konnichiwa. Teirä-san wa nani ga tabetai desu ka?**
Hello. What do you want to eat, Mrs Taylor?

- **Rāmen ga tabetai desu. Tanaka-san wa?**
  - I want to eat ramen noodles. And you, Mr Tanaka?

**Udon ga tabetai desu.**
I want to eat udon noodles.

**Buraun-san wa nani ga tabetai desu ka?**
Mr Brown, what do you want to eat?

- **Nan demo i desu.**
  - Anything is fine.
Food (1): wants

CULTURAL TIP

**sushi** – sticky vinegared rice, topped with fish, meat or vegetables. It can also be wrapped in seaweed or stuffed into a pocket of fried tofu.

**sashimi** – sliced raw fish which is often the first course in a formal Japanese meal.

**tempura** – seafood and vegetables deep fried in a very light batter. Although very popular in Japan, it is originally from Portugal.

**yakitori** – grilled chicken skewers. They are often served as a snack to eat while drinking alcohol.

**takoyaki** – fried octopus dumplings. They are a popular street-side snack and stalls selling them usually display a picture of an octopus.

**okonomiyaki** – Japanese style pancake/pizza. *Okonomi* means “what you like” and *yaki* means “grill” or “cook”, so you can literally “cook what you like”.

**rāmen** – thin, yellow noodles, usually served in a meat-based broth.

**udon** – thick, white noodles.

**soba** – thin, brown noodles.

**wagashi** – Japanese sweets, usually made from rice paste, bean paste and fruit.

**yakiniku** – Japanese-style barbeque, something that many foreign visitors really enjoy when they visit Japan.
Unit 9

Food (1): wants

Dialogue 1

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.
Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.
Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Sumisu-san wa nani ga tabetai desu ka?
What do you want to eat, Mr Smith?

Tempura ga tabetai desu.
I want to eat tempura.

Sō desu ka. Watashi mo desu.
Is that right? Me, too.

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen.
Excuse me.

Hai.
Yes.

Watashi wa sushi ga tabetai desu.
I want to eat sushi.

Sushi-ya wa doko desu ka?
Where is a sushi restaurant?

Ēto... Sushi-ya wa asoko desu.
Let me see... a sushi restaurant is over there.

Sumimasen. Namae o kaite kudasai.
Excuse me. Please write down the name.

Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Arigatō gozaimasu.
Thank you.
CULTURAL TIP

kaite kudasai
It’s very useful to ask someone to write down the names of places you’re going to in Japanese script. You can then show this to taxi drivers or anyone else you might need to ask for help. Kaite kudasai means “please write” and namae o kaite kudasai means “please write down the name”.

LANGUAGE LAB

Osusume wa nan desu ka?
If you don’t know what to order from the menu, you can always ask the waiter or waitress what they would recommend.

Osusume wa nan desu ka? What is your recommendation?

Or you can ask for:
something light, a snack: karui mono
something sweet: amai mono
something hot or spicy: karai mono

CULTURAL TIP

Famiresu – a family restaurant
It is always advisable to go to a specific place if you know what you want to eat (for example, a sushi-ya for sushi, a rāmen-ya for ramen noodles). However, if you’re not sure what you want or if everybody in your group wants something different, a famiresu might be a good idea. Famiresu serve a wide range of foods from traditional Japanese dishes to Western dishes, from snacks to desserts. Some famiresu are even open 24 hours.
UNIT 10  Food (2): likes and dislikes

Key phrases

nihon ryōri = Japanese food
niku ryōri = meat dishes
sakana ryōri = fish dishes
yasai ryōri = vegetable dishes
watashi wa nihon ryōri ga suki desu = I like Japanese food
watashi wa nihon ryōri ga suki dewa arimasen = I don’t like Japanese food
Sumisu-san wa nihon ryōri ga suki desu ka? = Mr Smith, do you like Japanese food?
hai, suki desu = yes, I like it
Tē, suki dewa arimasen = no, I don’t like it
Tē, chotto = no, not really

Listening and speaking

Sumisu-san wa nihon ryōri ga suki desu ka?
Mr Smith, do you like Japanese food?
Hai, suki desu.
Yes, I like it.

Watashi wa niku ryōri ga suki desu. Teirā-san wa?
I like meat dishes. And you, Mrs Taylor?
Watashi wa sakana ryōri ga suki desu.
I like fish dishes.

Buraun-san wa sushi ga suki desu ka?
Mr Brown, do you like sushi?
Tē, chotto...
No, not really...
**LANGUAGE LAB**

**How much do you like it?**

*suki desu* means “like”, and you can easily add other words in front of *suki* to say *how much* you like something.

*ichiban* literally means “number one”, so if something is your favourite you can say *sushi ga ichiban suki desu* – I like sushi the best/the most.

*totemō* means “very much”. So, you can say: *sushi ga totemo suki desu* – I like sushi very much.

And *māmā* means “so-so”. If you don’t really like something, it’s probably better to say: *sushi ga māmā suki desu* – I kind of like sushi, rather than saying you don’t like it!

**CULTURAL TIP**

**Table manners**

You might be shocked to hear Japanese people making loud slurping noises as they eat noodles. However, don’t judge them as being ill-mannered, because that’s the right way to eat noodles in Japan! The slurping actually cools the noodles down, allowing you to eat them while they’re still piping hot.

And when you use chopsticks, the following are considered bad manners:

- licking or chewing your chopsticks;
- putting back anything you’ve already picked up with your chopsticks; and
- dragging plates towards you with your chopsticks.

**Oshibori – steamed hand towels**

When you are seated in a restaurant or bar, you will receive a steamed hand towel (or sometimes a paper towel). This is for you to clean your hands. It’ll be either hot or cold depending on the season.
UNIT 11 Ordering drinks

Key phrases

nihonshu
nihonshu o kudasai
nihonshu to biru o kudasai
ippai
nihonshu o ippai kudasai
ippon
biru o ippon kudasai

Listening and speaking

Sumimasen. Nihonshu o kudasai.
Excuse me. Some Japanese rice wine, please.
Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Sumimasen. Hotto kōhī to aisukōhī o kudasai.
Excuse me. A hot coffee and an iced coffee, please.
Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Sumimasen. Nihoncha o ippai kudasai.
Excuse me. A cup of Japanese tea, please.
Hai. Nihoncha o ippai desu ne.
Yes (certainly). A cup of Japanese tea, isn’t it?

Tip
Kōhī – Coffee
Hot coffee is hotto kōhī and iced coffee is aisukōhī. Or why not order an esupresso or a kapuchīno?

Tip
Tea for two?
Two glasses or cups is nihai. Two bottles is nihon.

Tip
mizu = water
nama biru = draft beer
Dialogue

**Irasshaimase.**
Welcome.

**Sumimasen. Ŗgo ga wakarimasu ka?**
Excuse me. Do you understand English?

**Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.**
Sorry. I don’t understand.

**Sō desu ka. Ŗto... nihonshu o kudasai.**
Is that right? Let me see... some Japanese rice wine, please.

**Hai.**
Yes (certainly).

**Sorekara, yakitori o kudasai.**
And some grilled chicken skewers, please.

**Hai.**
Yes (certainly).

**Sumimasen. Okanjō o kudasai.**
Excuse me. The bill, please.

**Hai.**
Yes (certainly).

**Tip**

**ippai** and **ippun**
Remember double consonant sounds should be pronounced with a slight pause or a clipped sound.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

**A... / Some...**
When an amount isn’t specified (**ippai**, **ippun**, etc.) then **nihonshu o kudasai** could mean “a Japanese rice wine, please” or “some Japanese rice wine, please” and **bīru o kudasai** could mean “a beer, please” or “some beer, please”.

**LANGUAGE LAB**

Arabic numbers are widely used in Japan, but Chinese numbers are also used. Below are the numbers 1 to 5 in Chinese with their Japanese pronunciation. The English words in brackets might help you to remember how they’re pronounced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>一</th>
<th>ichi</th>
<th>(itchy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>二</td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>(knee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>三</td>
<td>san</td>
<td>(sun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>四</td>
<td>yon</td>
<td>(yawn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>五</td>
<td>go</td>
<td>(go)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CULTURAL TIP

Japanese drinks

nihonshu – Japanese rice wine or sake. It can be served hot or cold.
Osake usually means alcohol in general, so it’s best to remember nihonshu.
shōchū – A strong alcohol distilled mainly from sweet potatoes. It can also be served hot or cold. Hot shōchū with plums is very popular.
nihoncha – Japanese tea. Like osake, ocha is the generic word for non-alcoholic drinks and it can mean “English tea”, “Chinese tea”, “Japanese tea”… or even “coffee” in some contexts!
umeshu – Japanese plum liqueur.

CULTURAL TIP

Izakaya – Japanese bar

An izakaya is a popular place to socialise for all kinds of people: young and old, students and workers, men and women. Some izakaya serve food and drinks at very reasonable prices, and some even offer “all-you-can-drink” specials for a fixed price.

Once you take a seat in an izakaya, the staff will automatically serve you a small plate called oto–shi. This is an appetizer which is served to every customer. Otōshi aren’t free, and you can’t choose what to have, but it’s a good chance to taste something that you wouldn’t necessarily have chosen yourself. In fact, many people judge an izakaya by the quality of their oto–shi.

CULTURAL TIP

Cheers!

The Japanese toast is kampai (“empty glass”). When drinking alcohol, it is polite to serve each other. Hold your glass up with both hands whenever it is being refilled. Likewise, if your companions’ glasses are getting empty, you should pour some more for them. And, if you don’t want to drink any more, don’t empty your glass!
UNIT 12 Paying the bill

Key phrases

kore  this
sore   that
are    that over there
kore o kudasai this, please
kurejitto kādo credit card
toraberāzu chekku  traveller’s cheques
kurejitto kādo ga can I use credit card?
tsuikaemasu ka?  yes, you can use it
hai, tsukaemasu  sorry, you can’t use it
sumimasen. tsukaemasen

Listening and speaking

Sumimasen. Kore o kudasai.
Excuse me. This, please.
Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Kurejitto kādo ga tsukaemasu ka?
Can I use credit card?
Hai, tsukaemasu.
Yes, you can use it.

Sumimasen. Are o kudasai.
Excuse me. That over there, please.
Hai.
Yes (certainly).

Toraberāzu chekku ga tsukaemasu ka?
Can I use traveller’s cheques?
īe, tsukaemasen.
No, you can’t use them.

Tip

okane = money

kono/kore – “this”
Both of these words mean “this”, but with
kono you always need to specify what
you’re talking about, e.g. this train – kono densha, this credit
card – kono kurejitto kādo. If you just want to say “this” on
its own, use kore.
Paying the bill

**Sumimasen. Chiketto o kudasai.**
Excuse me. A ticket, please.

*Hai.*
Yes (certainly).

**Kurejitto kādo ga tsukaemasu ka?**
Can I use credit card?

*Hai, tsukaemasu.*
Yes, you can use it.

---

**Dialogue 1**

**Irasshaimase.**
Welcome.

*Sumimasen. Kore o kudasai.*
Excuse me. This, please.

**Hai. Arigatō gozaimasu.**
Yes (certainly). Thank you.

**Kurejitto kādo ga tsukaemasu ka?**
Can I use credit card?

*Sumimasen. Tsukaemasen.*
Sorry. You can’t use it.

**Sō desu ka.**
Is that right?

**Ja, ryōgaesho wa doko desu ka?**
Well then, where is the bureau de change?

**Asoko desu.**
It’s over there.

**Sō desu ka. Arigatō gozaimasu.**
Is that right? Thank you.

---

**Tip**

*ryo-gaejsho* = bureau de change
Dialogue 2

**Sumimasen. Okanjo– o kudasai.**
Excuse me. The bill, please.

_Hai._
Yes (certainly).

**Kurejitto kādo ga tsukaemasu ka?**
Can I use credit card?

_Hai, tsukaemasu._
Yes, you can use it.

_Sō desu ka._
Is that right?

**Gochisō sama deshita.**
I really enjoyed the meal, thank you.

_Arigatō gozaimasu._
Thank you.

---

CULTURAL TIP
Japanese people say _itadakimasu_ before they start eating. It literally means “I will receive” and is used in a similar way as “bon appétit”. And when they finish a meal, they say _gochisō sama deshita_, which literally means “it was a feast”. 
Paying the bill

CULTURAL TIP
In Japan, you don’t have to worry about tipping because a service charge is already included in your bill.

CULTURAL TIP
Japanese Yen
The Japanese currency is the yen (which is actually pronounced en in Japanese). There are six coins – 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 yen – and four notes – 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen. The 5 and 50 yen coins have a small hole in the middle of them. Each note features a different portrait of a famous Japanese person, including a philosopher, a novelist, a poet and a bacteriologist.

To prevent forgery, Japanese notes use different types of technology such as watermarks, micro-letters and special luminous ink. A hologram is used on 5,000 and 10,000 yen notes – cherry blossoms appear in the bottom left corner of the portrait side of the notes when they are turned at an angle.

CULTURAL TIP
Japan is still very much a “cash culture”, so it’s advisable to always have some cash on you to pay for things. Larger restaurants or department stores may accept some credit cards, but it’s best not to rely on this – especially outside of Tokyo. Also be aware that when you see a credit card sign, it may well be that they only accept credit cards issued in Japan. It pays to always ask first.
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