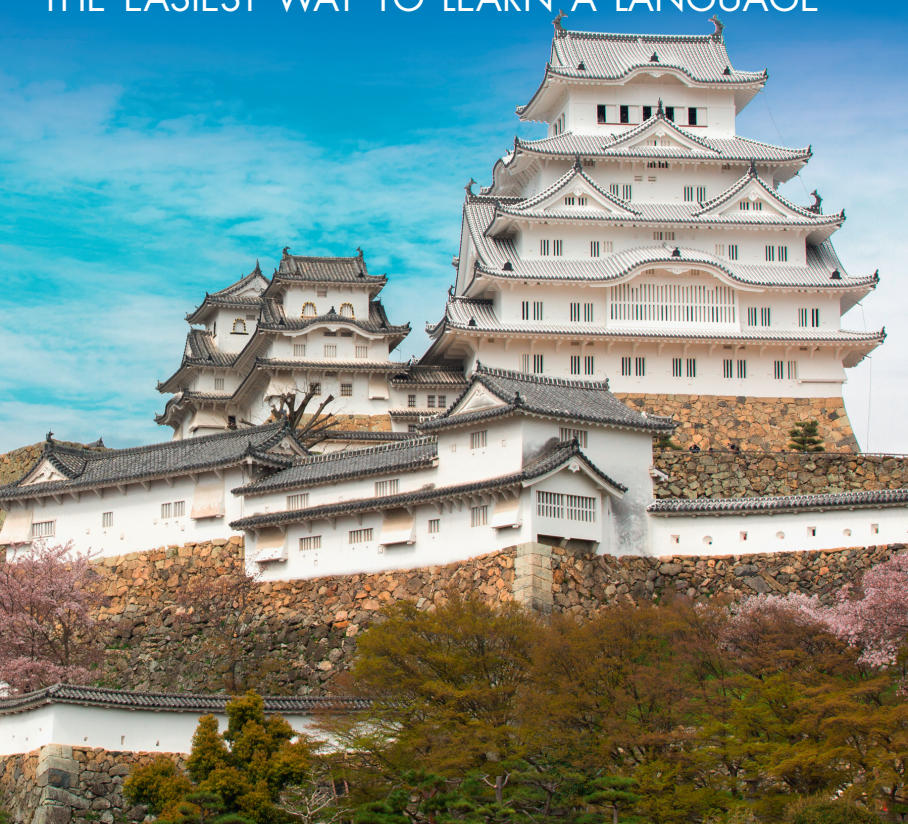


Collins easy learning

Japanese Audio Course

THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE



Collins easy learning

Japanese Audio Course



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WELCOME TO JAPANESE

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 **shītake** 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)	used for grammar and words for which there are no kanji each symbol = one sound
katakana	“Japan” ニホン (ni·ho·n)	used for emphasis, foreign names and “loan words” each symbol = one sound
kanji	“Japan” 日本 (ni “sun” · hon “origin”)	each symbol = an <i>idea</i> 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** – oo **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	<u>it’s</u>
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

INTRODUCTION

Track 1

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.

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

Track 2

Key phrases

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

Track 3

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.

Track 4

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.



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

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.



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

Tip

Nihon = Japan
Nihongo = Japanese language (Japanese)

sumimasen
Ēgo ga wakarimasu ka?
hai, wakarimasu
īe, wakarimasen

excuse me / sorry
 do you understand English?
 yes, I understand
 no, I don't understand

Track 8

Listening and speaking

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.

Sumimasen. Ēgo ga wakarimasu ka?
 Excuse me. Do you understand English?
īe, wakarimasen.
No, I don't understand.

Sumimasen. Ēgo 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.



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. **Ēgo ga wakarimasu ka?**
Hai, wakarimasu.

Do (you) understand English?
 Yes, (I) understand (English).



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”.

Ēgo	ga	wakarimasu
English	(object)	understand

wa

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

watashi	wa	Igirisu-jin	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

Track 11

Key phrases

Tip

desu = *is, am or are*

watashi

watashi wa Igrisu-jin desu

Sumisu-san wa

Igrisu-jin desu ka?

hai, sō desu

Īe, chigaimasu

I

I'm British

Mr Smith, are you British?

yes, that's right

no, that's incorrect

Track 12

Listening and speaking

Konnichiwa, Sumisu-san.

Hello, Mr Smith.

Konnichiwa, Honda-san.

Hello, Miss Honda.

Sumimasen. Sumisu-san wa Igrisu-jin desu ka?

Excuse me. Mr Smith, are you British?

Hai, sō desu.

Yes, *that's* right.



LANGUAGE LAB

sō desu = that's right

sō desu ka = is that right?

Although **sō 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.

Track 14

Tip

No articles

In Japanese there are no words for “the”, “a” or “an”. So to say “I’m a New Zealander”, you simply say “I New Zealander am” – **watashi wa Nyūjī rando-jin desu.**

Dialogue 1

Konnichiwa, Buraun-san.

Hello, Mr Brown.

Konnichiwa, Yamada-san.

Hello, Mrs Yamada.

Sumimasen. Buraun-san wa Nyūjīrando-jin desu ka?

Excuse me. Mr Brown, are you a New Zealander?

Hai, watashi wa Nyūjīrando-jin desu.

Yes, I’m a New Zealander.

Sō desu ka.

Is that right?

Track 15

Tip

... wa?

A person’s name followed by a questioning **wa** means “And you?”

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?



LANGUAGE LAB

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

Igirisu	UK	Igirisu-jin	British
Amerika	USA	Amerika-jin	American
Kanada	Canada	Kanada-jin	Canadian
Ōsutoraria	Australia	Ōsutoraria-jin	Australian
Nyūjīrando	New Zealand	Nyūjīrando-jin	New Zealander
Airurando	Ireland	Airurando-jin	Irish
Nihon	Japan	Nihon-jin	Japanese

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”.

Igirisu-jin to Nihon-jin
no hāfu

half British, half Japanese

Amerika-jin to Airurando-jin
no hāfu

half American, half Irish



CULTURAL TIP

“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 Occupations

Track 16

Tip

no means “of”, but works the opposite way round to English, e.g. an “English teacher” is a “teacher of English”, but in Japanese it becomes an “English of teacher” – **Ēgo no kyōshi**.

Key phrases

kaishain
watashi wa kaishain desu
Korinzu no kaishain
watashi wa Korinzu no
kaishain desu
Sumisu-san wa kaishain
desu ka?

company employee
 I'm a company employee
 a Collins employee

I'm a Collins employee

Mr Smith, are you a company employee?

Track 17

Tip

nyū, kyō, byō, ryō
 These are some of the more difficult syllables to pronounce. Just try and follow the audio, and remember that they should be pronounced as one sound, e.g. **nyū** is pronounced like “new”, not “knee-you”.

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 enjinia desu.

I'm an engineer.

Sumimasen. Suzuki-san wa Korinzu no kaishain desu ka?

Excuse me. Mr Suzuki, are you a Collins employee?

Īe, chigaimasu.*No, that's incorrect.***Watashi wa Ēgo 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.

**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

Track 29

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

Track 30

Listening and speaking

Tip

plurals

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

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.

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.

Track 32

Tip

ja = well, then ...
This is often used
when you change
the topic.

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.

Īe.*No (don't mention it).*

Track 33

Tip

ēto ... = Let me see ...
A useful phrase to
give yourself time to
think!

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen. Ēgo 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.

Īe, dō itashimashite.*No, don't mention it.*



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:

便所	or	お手洗い	toilet
男			Gents
女			Ladies
入口			entrance
出口			exit

UNIT 6

Going places (1): where?

Track 34

Key phrases

doko e	where to?
ikimasu	go
doko e ikimasu ka?	where are you going?
Tanaka-san wa doko e ikimasu ka?	where are you going, Mr Tanaka?
watashi wa Tōkyō e ikimasu	I'm going to Tokyo
sayōnara	goodbye
ja mata	see you later

Track 35

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. Teirā-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.

Track 37

Tip

Double consonant sounds

Sometimes consonant sounds get doubled. These should be pronounced with a slight pause or a clipped sound. e.g. chi-ke-**ttō** is like "I've got **to** go" shut**chō** is like got**cha**!"

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.

Track 38

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.

**LANGUAGE 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".

Tōkyō

Tokyo

e

(direction)

ikimasu

go

de

...can indicate the tool/instrument you use to do something

basu

bus

de

(by means of)

ikimasu

go

o

...can mark the direct object of actions

bīru

beer

o

(object)

kudasai

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.

Kōkyō (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?

Track 39

Key phrases

Tip

shū

The **shū** in **raishū** and **konshūmatsu** means “week”

kyō**ashita****konshūmatsu****raishū****itsu****itsu Tōkyō e ikimasu ka?****kyō ikimasu****ashita ikimasu****konshūmatsu ikimasu****raishū ikimasu****mada wakarimasen**

today

tomorrow

this weekend

next week

when

when are you going to Tokyo?

I'm going today

I'm going tomorrow

I'm going this weekend

I'm going next week

I don't know yet

Track 40

Listening and speaking

Tip

ī = good, OK, nice, fine, excellent, pleasant, etc.

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?

Tip

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?”

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?

**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 Igrisu 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?

Track 42

Key phrases

Tip

nani = “what”

nani de = “by what”
= “how”

nani-jin = “what
people” = “which
nationality”

nani-go = “what
language”

basu**takushī****kuruma****densha****shinkansen****chikatetsu****hikōki****nani de ikimasu ka?****nani de Kyōto e ikimasu ka?****basu de ikimasu****shinkansen de ikimasu**

bus

taxi

car

train

Japanese bullet train

underground or subway

plane

how are you going?

how are you going to Kyoto?

I'm going by bus

I'm going by bullet train

Track 43

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.

Track 45

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.

Ī 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.

Track 46

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen. Ēgo 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.

Īe, 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 **takushī 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 (**futsū**), 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”.

UNIT 9

Food (1): wants

Track 56

Key phrases

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.

nani**tabetai desu****nani ga tabetai desu ka?****sushi ga tabetai desu****nan demo ī desu**

what

want to eat

what do you want to eat?

I want to eat sushi

anything is fine

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. Teirā-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 ī desu.*Anything is fine.*

**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.

Track 59

Tip

watashi mo desu

watashi means “I” or “me” and **mo** means “too” or “also”, so **watashi mo desu** means “me, too”

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.

Sō desu ka.

Is that right?

Track 60

Tip

-ya

-ya means “shop” or “restaurant”, so a **sushi-ya** is a “sushi restaurant”, a **tempura-ya** is a “tempura restaurant” and a **rāmen-ya** is a ramen noodle bar.

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

Track 61

Key phrases

Tip

bejitarian =
vegetarian
bejitarian desu =
I'm a vegetarian

nihon ryōri

Japanese food

niku ryōri

meat dishes

sakana ryōri

fish dishes

yasai ryōri

vegetable dishes

watashi wa nihon ryōri

I like Japanese food

ga suki desu**watashi wa nihon ryōri ga**

I don't like Japanese food

suki dewa arimasen**Sumisu-san wa nihon ryōri**Mr Smith, do you like
Japanese food?**ga suki desu ka?****hai, suki desu**yes, I like it *or* yes, I like them**īe, suki dewa arimasen**no, I don't like it *or* no,

I don't like them

īe, chotto ...

No, not really ...

Track 62

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?

īe, 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*.

totemo 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.



CULTURAL TIP

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

Track 64

Key phrases

Tip

Kōhī - Coffee

Hot coffee is **hotto kōhī** and iced coffee is **aisu kōhī**. Or why not order an **esupresso** or a **kapuchīno**?

nihonshu

nihonshu o kudasai

Japanese rice wine
some Japanese rice wine,
please

nihonshu to bīru o kudasai some Japanese rice wine and
a beer, please

ippai

nihonshu o ippai kudasai

a glass of *or* a cup of
a glass of Japanese rice wine,
please

ippon

bīru o ippon kudasai

a bottle of
a bottle of beer, please

Track 65

Listening and speaking

Tip

Tea for two?

Two glasses or cups
is **nihai**. Two bottles
is **nihon**.

Sumimasen. Nihonshu o kudasai.

Excuse me. Some Japanese rice wine, please.

Hai.

Yes (certainly).

Sumimasen. Hotto kōhī to aisū kōhī o kudasai.

Excuse me. A hot coffee and an iced coffee, please.

Hai.

Yes (certainly).

Tip

mizu = water

nama bīru = draft
beer

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?

Track 67

Dialogue

Tip

ippai and **ippon**

Remember double consonant sounds should be pronounced with a slight pause or a clipped sound.

Irasshaimase.

Welcome.

Sumimasen. Ēgo ga wakarimasu ka?

Excuse me. Do you understand English?

Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.

Sorry. I don't understand.

Sō desu ka. Ēto... 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).

**LANGUAGE LAB****A... / Some...**

When an amount isn't specified (**ippai**, **ippon**, 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.

1	一	ichi	(itchy)
2	二	ni	(knee)
3	三	san	(sun)
4	四	yon	(yawn)
5	五	go	(go)

**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 **otōshi**. 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 **otōshi**.

**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

Track 68

Key phrases

Tip

okane = money

kore**sore****are****kore o kudasai****kurejitto kādo****toraberāzu chekku****kurejitto kādo ga****tsukaemasu ka?****hai, tsukaemasu****sumimasen. tsukaemasen**

this

that

that over there

this, please

credit card

traveller's cheques

can I use credit card?

yes, you can use it

sorry, you can't use it

Track 69

Listening and speaking

Tip

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**.

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.*

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.*

Track 71

Dialogue 1

Tip

.....
ryōgaejsho = bureau
 de change

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.*

Track 72

Dialogue 2

Sumimasen. Okanjō 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”.

**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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