

Pronunciation Guide

Japanese pronunciation is phonetic to a fault. Courtesy of an English Language upbringing most of us have some difficulty speaking Japanese as phonetically represented in written English. The following is a 'map' of the language generally, after which the word list is reproduced with its (non-phonetic) English-sound equivalent.

A: "ah" (as in **Car**)

I: "ee" (as in **cheek**)

U: "u" or "oo" (as in **uke**, or **spook**)

E: "e" (as in **Elevator**)

O: "oh" (as in **Over**)

These five vowel sounds go together with the consonants k, t, m, n, h, r, s. For example:

Ka: Kah (**Ka**-boom)

Ki: "key" (**key**)

Ku: Koo (**Cool**)

Ke: Keh (**keg**)

Ko: koh (**Co**conuts)

However there are some irregularities:

Si = shi: "she"

Ti = chi: "Chee" (as in **CHEE**se)

Tu = tsu: no English equivalent but try saying **Su** as in (**soon**) with "t" said very quickly before it

What is with the double letters, like "Happo"?

Double letter indicate that the word has a "half beat pause" at the doubled letter. For example Happo is not said Hapo, but Hap (bring lips together) po.

"Ryo" how do you say that?

Japanese as mentioned earlier is made of letter that indicate either a vowel or a consonant and a vowel (with the exception of 'n'). Thus 'Ryo' is actually Ri-yo run together.

Word List

Japanese	Pronunciation	Meaning
Ai	"I"	Same/harmony
Ago	ah go	jaw
Ate	ah te	strike
Atemi	Ah te "me"	strike
Chi	"chee"	Earth
Do	Doh	stomach
Eri	"airy" or e ree	collar
Gaeshi	Ga-eh "she"	Turning
Gamae:	Gah mah e	posture
Gari	Gah ree	Sweep
Garame	"Gah Rah me"	Entanglement
Gatame	"gah tah me"	Lock
Gyaku	Gi-yah koo	opposite
Han	"Hahn"	Half
Hanmi	"Hahn me"	Stance
Happo	"hap (pause) poe"	eight directions
Hidari	"he" da ree	Left
Hiji	"he gee"	elbow
Hineri	"he neh ree"	twist
Hiza	"he zah"	Knee
Ho	"hoh" (as in Home)	Form, method
Irimi	"Ee ree me"	Enter
Kamae	Kah-mah-e	Posture
Kata	Kah Tah	"form"
Kata	Kah Tah	Shoulder
Kaiten	: ky ten	Rotary
Katate	Kah-tah-teh	One hand
Koshi	Koh "she"	Hip
Kokyu	Koh ki-"you"	Breath
Kote	Koh	The Wrist
Kiri	ki ree	Cut
Kubi	Koo "be"	Neck
Mae	Mah-e	Front
Mawashi	Mah wah "she"	turn inside
Migi	"Me" gi	Right
Morote	"moe row te"	two hands together
Mune	"moon e?"	Solar plexus
Nage	"nah gay"	Throw
Nodo	Noh "doe"	Throat
Omote	oh moe te	Front/ continue
Osae	oh sah e	Pin/lock
Rei	"ray"	Bow
Ryote	Ri-yo te	two hands separately
Shinto	"shin toe"	The Way of the gods
Shikko	: "sheek (pause) koh"	knee-walking
Shomen	"show men"	Front of the head
Soto	"so tow"	outside
Suwari	Sue wah ree	Kneeling
Tachi	"Tah chee"	standing
Taiso	"Tie sew"	Body
Tekubi	"the koo be"	The wrist

Ten	"ten"	Heaven
Tori	toh ree	Hold
Tsuki	Tsu "key"	Thrust
Ude	"oo deh"	Arm
Uchi	"Oo chee"	Strike
Uke	Oo keh	One who receives (falls)
Undo	"OO"-N-"dough"	Exercise
Ura	"Oo rah"	Rear
Ushiro	Oo-"she"- "row"	Behind
Yoko	"yoh koh"	Side
Za	Zah	Seated

Counting:

Ichi	"itchy"	1
Ni	"knee"	2
San	sah n	3
Shi or yon:	"she" or "yoh n"	4
Go	"go"	5
Roku	"roh koo"	6
Shichi or nana	"she chee" or "nah nah"	7
Hachi	"hah chee"	8
Kyu	"ki you"	9
Ju	"jew"	10

Counting units of 10

Ju	Jew	10
Ni ju	Knee ju	20
San ju	Sah n jew	30
Yon ju	Yoh n jew	40
Go ju	Goh jew	50
Roku ju	Roh koo jew	60
Nana ju	Nah nah jew	70
Hachi ju	Hah chee jew	80
Kyu ju	Ki you jew	90
Hyaku	"He"-yah koo	100

Weapons

Bokuto	Boh koo toh	wooden sword
jo	j-yoh	staff
kissaki	"Kee" (pause) "sah kee"	Point of sword
Saya	Sah yah	Scabbard / sheath
Tanto	Tahn toe	Dagger
Tsuba	Tsu bah	The swords guard
Tsuka	Tsu kah	Hilt