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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 *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” used for grammar and words for which there are no kanji
  
  (ni·ho·n) each symbol = one sound

- **katakana** “Japan” used for emphasis, foreign names and “loan words”
  
  (ni·ho·n) each symbol = one sound

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

Welcome to Collins *Easy Learning Japanese*. This course is 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. It is different from other courses in that you’ll also learn to understand the likely replies to your questions. You’ll hear key words and phrases used in dialogues between native speakers, so you’ll 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 recognise what you hear, and tells you what to say when you don’t understand and need help.

Your course consists of three CDs and this booklet. Everything you need for learning is included on the CDs.

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 handy 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. At the end of each CD 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 at the beginning of each CD, there will be a section called *Tuning into 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 booklet contains the key phrases and selected conversations for each unit, with translations, for easy reference. It also gives learning tips, lots of cultural information, some extra vocabulary and simple explanations of how Japanese works. You don’t need to use the booklet, but it’s here if you want it.

So, let’s get started!
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.
Greetings

Unit 1

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 youroshiku 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 CD.
**UNIT 2**  
**Attracting attention**

---

**Key phrases**

- **sumimasen**  
  excuse me / sorry

- **Égo ga wakarimasu ka?**  
  do you understand English?

- **hai, wakarimasu**  
  yes, I understand

- **ñe, wakarimasen**  
  no, I don’t understand

---

**Listening and speaking**

**Sumimasen. Égo ga wakarimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. Do you understand English?  
**ñe, wakarimasen.**  
No, I don’t understand.

**Sumimasen. Nihongo ga wakarimasu ka?**  
Excuse me. Do you understand Japanese?  
**Sumimasen. Wakarimasen.**  
Sorry, I don’t understand.

---

**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.** **Égo ga wakarimasu ka?**  
Do (you) understand English?  
**Hai, wakarimasu.**  
Yes, (I) understand (English).
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”.

\[
\text{Watashi wa Igirisu-jin desu} \\
\text{(topic) British am}
\]

\[
\text{Ego ga wakarimasu} \\
\text{English (object) understand}
\]

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

\[
\text{Watashi wa Igirisu-jin desu} \\
\text{I (topic) British am}
\]

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

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, sō desu.
Yes, that’s right.

Tip
desu = is, am or are

- so– desu = that’s right
- so– desu ka = is that right?

Although so– 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?

Te, 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

**LANGUAGE LAB**
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>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Igirisu</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerika</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanada</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Canadian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ösutoraria</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyūjirando</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>New Zealander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airurando</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nihon</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japanese</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”.

Igirisu-jin to Nihon-jin no hāfu  
Amerika-jin to Airurando-jin no hāfu  
half British, half Japanese  
half American, half Irish

**CULTURAL TIP**

“Loan words”

Japanese has borrowed many foreign words, like the country names Airurando and Ösutoraria. 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 chizubāgā, and take a reasonable guess as to what they might mean!
**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?

**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 gakusei 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 Ėgo 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kōmuin</td>
<td>civil servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gakusē</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kyōshi</td>
<td>teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isha</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ryokōsha</td>
<td>traveller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ongakuka</td>
<td>musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shashinka</td>
<td>photographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bengoshi</td>
<td>lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kēsatsukan</td>
<td>police officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>konpyūtā puroguramā</td>
<td>computer programmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enjinia</td>
<td>engineer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sara rīman* is another word for “company employee”. *Sara rī* comes from the English word “salary” and *man* comes from “man”. Although strictly speaking anyone earning money can be a *sara rīman*, 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

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.
Asking directions

**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.

*Te.*
No (don’t mention it).

**Tip**

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

**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 tour information?

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

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

*Te, dō itashimashite.*
No, don’t mention it.

**Tip**

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

- 便所 or お手洗い – toilet
- 男 – Gents
- 女 – Ladies
- 入口 – entrance
- 出口 – exit
UNIT 6 Going places (1): where?

Key phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>doko e ikimasu</td>
<td>where to?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doko e ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>go</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. 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.
Unit 6

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.
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 **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

biru **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: 🌠.
Going places (1): where?

**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

- **kyō**  today
- **ashita**  tomorrow
- **konshūmatsu**  this weekend
- **raishū**  next week
- **itsu**  when
- **itsu Tōkyō e ikimasu ka?**  when are you going to Tokyo?
- **kyō ikimasu**  I’m going today
- **ashita ikimasu**  I’m going tomorrow
- **konshūmatsu ikimasu**  I’m going this weekend
- **raishū ikimasu**  I’m going next week
- **mada wakarimasen**  I don’t know yet

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. Ō 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?
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>bus</td>
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<td>takushi</td>
<td>taxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuruma</td>
<td>car</td>
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<tr>
<td>densha</td>
<td>train</td>
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<tr>
<td>shinkansen</td>
<td>Japanese bullet train</td>
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<tr>
<td>chikatetsu</td>
<td>underground or subway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hikōki</td>
<td>plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nani de ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>how are you going?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nani de Kyōto e ikimasu ka?</td>
<td>how are you going to Kyoto?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>basu de ikimasu</td>
<td>I'm going by bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shinkansen de ikimasu</td>
<td>I'm going by bullet train</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Ėgo 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.

Te, dō itashimashite.
No, don't mention it.
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”.

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.

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

Key phrases

- **nani** (what)
- **tabetai desu** (want to eat)
- **nani ga tabetai desu ka?** (what do you want to eat?)
- **sushi ga tabetai desu** (I want to eat sushi)
- **nan demo ō desu** (anything is fine)

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 ō 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.
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.
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

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 ramen-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

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Translation</th>
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<td>Japanese food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>niku ryōri</td>
<td>meat dishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sakana ryōri</td>
<td>fish dishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yasai ryōri</td>
<td>vegetable dishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watashi wa nihon ryōri ga suki desu</td>
<td>I like Japanese food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watashi wa nihon ryōri ga suki dewa arimasen</td>
<td>I don’t like Japanese food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumisu-san wa nihon ryōri ga suki desu ka?</td>
<td>Mr Smith, do you like Japanese food?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hai, suki desu</td>
<td>yes, I like it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いえ, suki dewa arimasen</td>
<td>no, I don’t like it or yes, I like them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いえ, chotto...</td>
<td>no, I don’t like them or no, I don’t like them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>いいえ,ちっとも...</td>
<td>No, not really...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Key phrases

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

Listening and speaking

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

Sumimasen. Hotto kōhī to aisu kōhī 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 aisu kōhī. Or why not order an espresso or a kapuchino?

Tip

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

Tip

mizu = water
nama bīru = draft beer
Dialogue

**Irasshaimase.**
Welcome.

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

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

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

**Hai.**
Yes (certainly).

*Sōrekara, 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.

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

Key phrases

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

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

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.

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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