

SOME USEFUL JAPANESE PHRASES

- Good morning - **Ohayo gozaimasu**
- Good afternoon (day) - **Konnichiwa**
- Good evening - **Konbanwa**
- Good-bye - **Sayonara**
- Good night - **Oyasuminasai**
- Yes—**Hai** No- **lie**
- Thank you very much – **Domo arigato gozaimasu**
- You're welcome - **Do itashi mashite**
- Excuse me (to get attention) - **Sumimasen**
- Excuse me (pardon me, I am sorry) - **Gomen nasai**
- Please (when requesting something- not service) – **Kudasai**
- Please (when requesting service or an action) – **Onegai-shimasu**
- Please (when offering something) -- **Dozo**
- How are you? - **O genki desu ka?**
- How do you do? – **Hajime mashite**
- Pleased to meet you -- **Dozo yoroshiku**
- I am fine - **Hai, genki desu** And you? -- **Anata wa?**
- Please show me - **Misete kudasai**
- Please write it - **Kaite kudasai**
- Let's go -- **Ikimasho**
- Do you speak English? - **Anata wa eigo o hanashimasu ka?**
- Do you understand? - **Wakarimasu ka?**
- Yes, I understand - **Hai, wakarimasu** (No-- **lie, wakarimasen**)
- Please say it again - **Mo ichido itte kudasai**
- What is your name? - **Anata-no namae wa?**
- My name is _____ - **Watashi no namae wa _____ desu**
- Where is it? - **Doko desu ka?**
- How much is it? - **Sore wa ikura desu ka?**
- I will take it - **Sore kudasai**
- No, thank you - **lie kekko desu**
- I like it - **Suki desu** I don't like it - **Kirai desu**
- It's beautiful - **Kirei desu** (note similarity to above)
- Hello (on telephone only) - **Moshi moshi**
- Where is the toilet? - **Toire wa doko desu ka?**
- Welcome !- **Irrasshaimase !** (this is what you hear on entering sushi bars)
- Thank you for the food I will eat (say this before a meal) - **Itadakimase**
(Literally: "I humbly receive", Figuratively: *Bon appetit*)
- Delicious! - **Oishi!**
- "It was a feast!" - **Gochiso-sama !**
- It was outstanding! - **Saiko deshta!**
- Beautiful! – **Kirei!**
- Wonderful! – **Subarishi!**
- Amazing! – **Sugoi!**

1-**ichi** 2-**ni** 3-**san** 4-**shi** 5-**go** 6-**roku** 7-**nana** 8-**hachi** 9-**ku** 10-**juu**

Note: The above Japanese words are rendered in the Roman alphabet. This is 1 of 4 ways of writing in Japanese, and is known as the *Romaji* system. The 3 other ways are: *Kanji*, which are pictograms derived from ancient Chinese characters, *hirikana* which are a set of Japanese syllabic phonemes used for native words, and *katakana*, which are another set of Japanese syllabic phonemes used for borrowed words from other languages. They are often combined in Japanese writing. Thus most linguists agree that the Japanese writing system is the most complex on the planet. But that doesn't stop foreigners from *speaking* Japanese. Give it a try using the above, and you'll very likely be understood (and appreciated).

A tip in terms of pronunciation: Try your best NOT to accent ANY syllable - this best approximates Japanese pronunciation.
- Dr. John Freedman