

USEFUL JAPANESE EXPRESSIONS

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THE ASSOCIATION FOR OVERSEAS TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP [AOTS]

GENERAL FEATURES OF The JAPANESE LANGUAGE

- I . The predicate verb always comes at the end of the sentence.
- II . A verb has no ending to indicate person or number.
- III . There are no articles.
- IV . A noun does not change form to indicate number; it can mean either the singular or the plural form of the word.
- V . The case of a noun or a pronoun is indicated by means of various particles occurring after the noun or pronoun.
- VI . Subject and object are often omitted, if they are understood from the context.

JAPANESE CHARACTERS

We use three kinds of characters in Japanese: "kanji" (the Chinese ideographic script), "hiragana" and "katakana".

A sentence in Japanese is usually written using a combination of kanji and hiragana. Foreign names and words of foreign derivation are written in katakana. Besides these, we use "Romaji" (Romanized characters). These, however, are not normally used, except in some dictionaries or on signboards.

ex. 1 Japanese language

日本語	kanji
にほんご	hiragana
ニホンゴ	katakana
ni ho n go	rōmaji

ex. 2 I study Japanese at Tokyo Kenshu Center.

Tō kyō Ken shū Se n tā de Ni hon go o ben kyō shi ma su.
東京研修 センター で日本語を 勉強します。
kanji katakana hiragana kanji hiragana kanji hiragana

Nihon-go no Hatsuon (Pronunciation of Japanese)

1. Nihon-go no onsetsu (Japanese syllables)

a	i	u	e	o
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
sa	shi	su	se	so
ta	chi	tsu	te	to
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ha	hi	fu	he	ho
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
ya	(i)	yu	(e)	yo
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
wa	(i)	(u)	(e)	(o)

kyा	kyु	kyօ
sha	shu	shօ
cha	chu	chօ
nya	nyu	nyօ
hya	hyu	hyօ
mya	myu	myօ
rya	ryu	ryօ

ga	gi	gu	ge	go
za	ji	zu	ze	zo
da	(ji)	(zu)	de	do
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po

gyա	gyւ	gyօ
ja	ju	jo
bya	byu	byօ
pya	pyu	pyօ

n

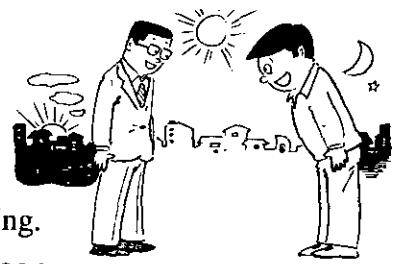
2. Tanboin to Chōboin (Short vowels and long vowels)

a i u e o
ā ii ū ē, ei ō

obasan (aunt) :	obāsan (grandmother),	ojisan (uncle) :	ojiisan (grandfather),
yuki (snow) :	yūki (courage),		
e (picture) :	ē (yes),	heya (room) :	heiya (plain),
koko (here) :	kōkō (high school),	toru (take) :	tōru (pass along)

3. Nijū shiin/Sokuon (Double consonants)

oto (sound)	:	otto (husband),	kako (past)	:	kakko (parenthesis),
isai (detail)	:	issai (one year old),			
kippu (ticket),	motto (more),	matchi (matches)			



Conversational Expressions

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ohayō (gozaimasu). 2. Konnichiwa. 3. Konbanwa. 4. Sayōnara. 5. Oyasuminasai. 6. Dōzo. 7. Onegai-shimasu. 8. Ganbatte kudasai. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good morning. 2. Good afternoon. 3. Good evening. 4. Good-bye. 5. Good night. 6. Please. 7. Please.(lit. ask a favor) 8. Do your best. |
|---|--|

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arigato (gozaimasu).
- Dō itashimashite. 2. Gomennasai.
- Iie, kamaimasen. 3. Sumimasen.
- Iie, kamaimasen. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you.
- Not at all. 2. Excuse me./ I'm sorry.
- No, it's nothing. 3. Excuse me./ I'm sorry./ Thank you.
- No, it's nothing. |
|--|---|

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wakarimasu ka.
- Hai, wakarimasu.
- Iie, wakarimasen. 2. Shitte imasu ka.
- Hai, shitte imasu.
- Iie, shirimassen. 3. Arimasu ka.
- Hai, arimasu.
- Iie, arimasen. 4. Ii desu ka.
- Hai, ii desu
Iie, dame desu. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you understand?
- Yes, I understand.
- No, I don't understand. 2. Do you know?
- Yes, I know.
- No, I don't know. 3. Do you have? (Is there ...?)
- Yes, I have. (Yes, there is.)
- No, I don't have. (No, there isn't.) 4. Okay? / May I ...?
- Yes, okay.
- No, it's not okay./No, you can't. |
|--|--|

Kaiwa

Tanaka: Konnichiwa.
Chan: Konnichiwa.
Tanaka: [O-]genki desu ka.
Chan: Hai, genki desu.
Anata wa?
Tanaka: Watashi mo genki desu.
Chan: Samui desu ne.
^(a)
Ii [o-]tenki desu ne.
^(b)
Tanaka: Sō desu ne.

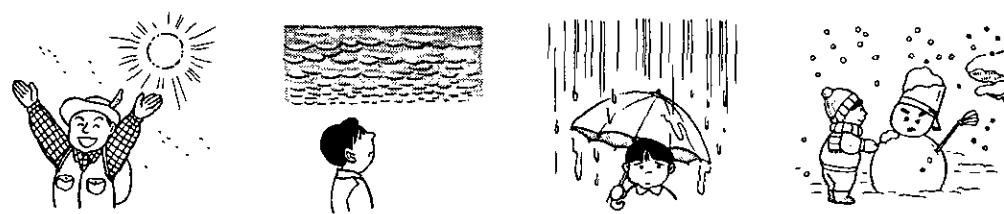
Conversation

Tanaka: Good afternoon.
Chan: Good afternoon.
Tanaka: How are you? (Are you fine?)
Chan: Yes, I'm fine.
And you?
Tanaka: I'm fine, too.
Chan: It's cold, isn't it?
It's fine weather, isn't it?
Tanaka: Yes, it is

(a)

samui	cold [weather]	atsui	hot
suzushii	cool	atatakai	warm

(b)



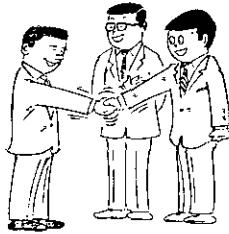
ii [o-]tenki
good weather

kumori
cloudy

ame
rain

yuki
snow

Jiko-shōkai



Self-Introduction

Watashi wa Rao desu.

I am Rao.

(Watashi wa) Indo kara kimashita.

(I) come (came) from India.

Dōzo yoroshiku.

How do you do?

* * * * *

1. Anata wa donata desu ka.

1. Who are you?

- Watashi wa Rao desu.
- (Watashi wa) Tōkyō-denki no kenshūsei desu.

- I am Rao.

- (I) am a Tokyo Electric trainee.

2. Anata wa Nihon-jin desu ka.

2. Are you a Japanese?

- Hai, watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.
- Hai, sō desu.
- Iie, watashi wa Nihon-jin dewa arimasen.
- Iie, sō dewa arimasen.

- Yes, I am a Japanese.

- Yes, I am.

- No, I am not a Japanese.

- No, I am not.

3. Anata wa Rao-san desu ka.

3. Are you Mr. Rao?

- Hai, watashi wa Rao desu.
- Hai, sō desu.
- Iie, watashi wa Rao dewa arimasen.
- Iie, sō dewa arimasen.

- Yes, I am Rao.

- Yes, I am.

- No, I am not Rao.

- No, I am not.

watashi	I	anata	you	Nihon-jin	Japanese
...-san		Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.		Indo-jin	Indian
donata/dare	who			-jin	people

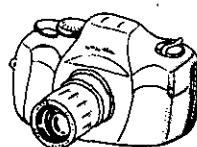
hon

book



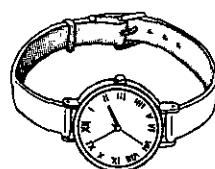
kamera

camera



tokei

watch, clock



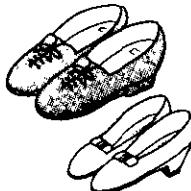
kippu

ticket



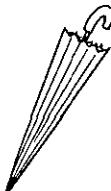
kitte

postage stamp



kutsu

shoes



kasa

umbrella



nekutai

necktie

Nan desu ka.

What . . . ?

1. Kore
Sore
Are } wa hon desu.

1. This
That
That over there } is a book.

2. Kore wa watashi no hon desu.

2. This is my book.

3. Kono
Sono
Ano } hon wa watashi no desu.

3. This book
That book
That book over there } is mine.

4. Sore wa nan desu ka.

4. What is that?

- Tokei desu.

- It's a watch.

kore this thing here

→ **kono** hon this book

sore that thing there

→ **sono** hon that book

are that thing over there

→ **ano** hon that book over there

before noun

watashi no hon my book

anata no hon your book

watashi no mine

anata no yours

Doko desu ka.

Where ?

1. Chotto sumimasen.

Otearai wa doko desu ka.

(a)

- Asoko } desu.

- Achira } (b)

1. Excuse me.

Where is the toilet?

- It's over there.

(a)

denwa	telephone	uketsuke	information desk	eki	station
resutoran	restaurant	depāto	department store	hoteru	hotel
yūbinkyoku	post office	切符 kippu	ticket	chizu	map
入口 iriguchi	the way in/entrance		出口 deguchi		the way out/exit
taishikan	embassy		Indo-taishikan		Indian embassy

(b)

koko	here/this place	soko	that place
kochira	this way (direction)	sochira	that way (direction)
asoko	that place over there	doko	where
achira	that way (direction)	dochira	which way (direction)

eki no mae in front of the station

eki no ushiro behind the station

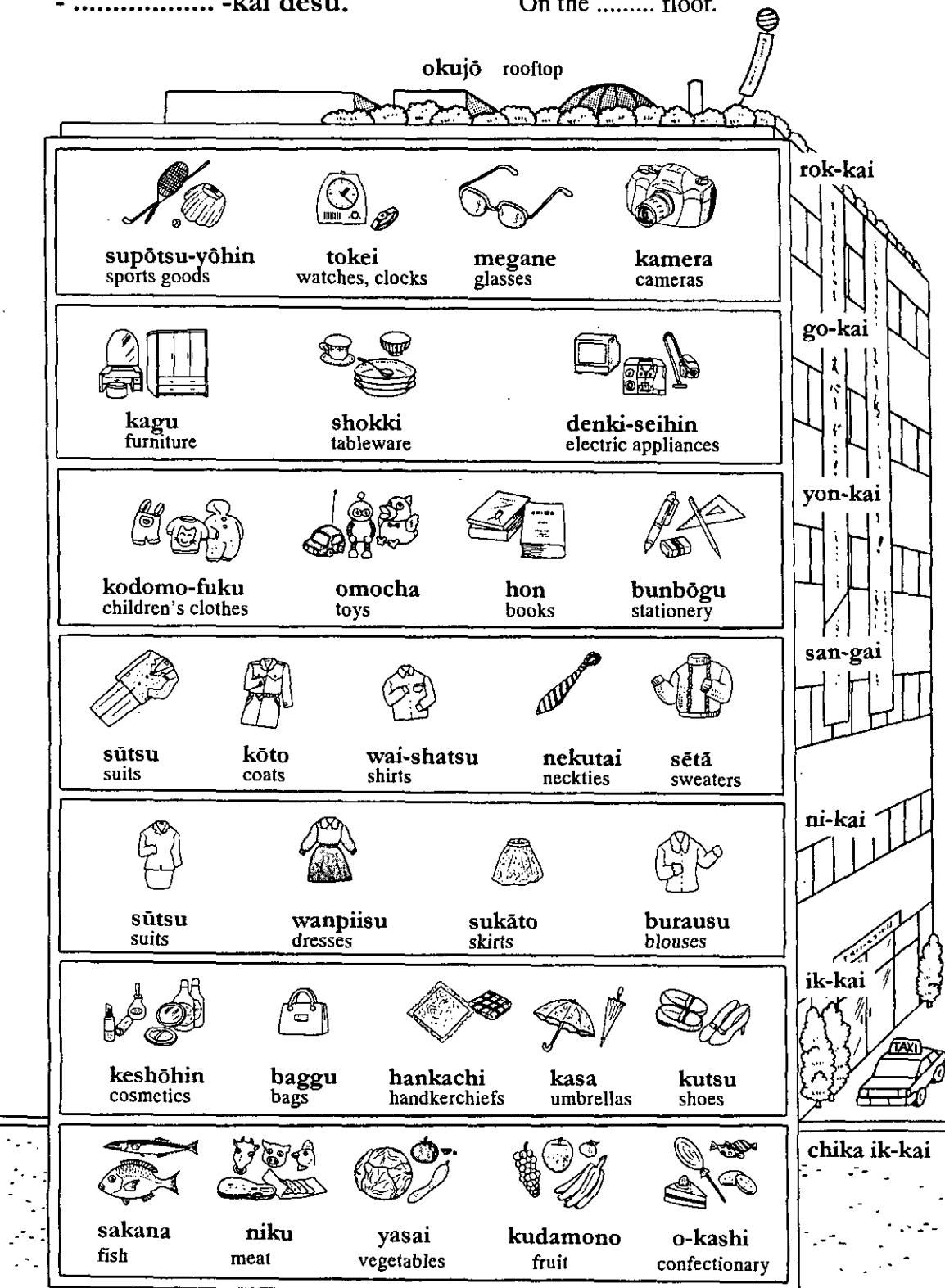
mae	front, before	ushiro	behind, back
migi	right	hidari	left
ue	on, above	shita	under, below, beneath
naka	in, inside	soto	outside
chikaku/soba	near	tonari	next [door]

Depāto

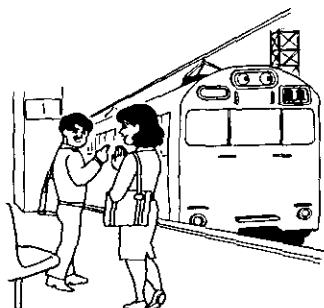
Department Store

..... wa doko desu ka.
- -kai desu.

Where can I get?
On the floor.



...-kai floor
chika basement, underground



Eki de

At a station

(a)	densha	electric train	basu	bus	chikatetsu	subway
(b)	ikimasu	go				

(c) **Tōkyō** } -iki [train] for **Tokyo**
Ueno } -iki [train] for **Ueno**
Ōsaka } -iki [train] for **Osaka**

norimasu	get on, ride
	densha ni norimasu get on a train
orimasu	get off
	densha o orimasu get off a train
norikaemasu	change trains

Takushii de (1)

By taxi (1)

1. Dochira e ikimasu ka.

- Ginza e itte kudasai.
- (a) (b)

2. Ginza no doko desu ka.

- (a)
- Tōkyō-biru no mae e.
- (c)

1. Where would you like to go?

- To Ginza, please.



2. Where in Ginza?

- The front of the Tokyo Building.

(a)	Asakusa あさくさ	Akihabara あきはばら	Ginza ぎんざ	Shinjuku しんじゅく	Tōkyō とうきょう
	Ueno うえの	Yokohama よこはま	Ōsaka おおさか	Kōbe こうべ	Sakae さかえ

(b)	ikimasu come	go	→	itte kudasai Please go.	
	kimasu return	come	→	kite kudasai Please come.	
	kaerimasu return	return	→	kaette kudasai Please return.	

(c)	biru building	kōen park	Hibiya-kōen Hibiya Park	ginkō bank	Nippon Gink The Bank of Japan
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Takushii de (2)

By taxi (2)

1. Koko wa doko desu ka.

- Ginza 4-chōme desu.

1. Where are we?

- (This place is) Ginza 4-chome.

2. A, asoko o migi e itte kudasai.

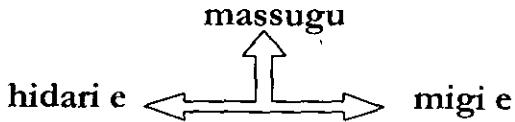
(a)

2. Oh, please turn right over there.

3. Soko de tomete kudasai.

(b)

3. Please stop there.

(a)	migi right	hidari left	massugu straight
		massugu 	

(b)	tomemasu stop	→	tomete kudasai Please stop.
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sūji/kazu

Numbers

1	ichi	10	jū	100	hyaku	1,000	sen
2	ni	20	ni-jū	200	ni-hyaku	2,000	ni-sen
3	san	30	san-jū	300	san-byaku	3,000	san-zen
4	yon, shi	40	yon-jū	400	yon-hyaku	4,000	yon-sen
5	go	50	go-jū	500	go-hyaku	5,000	go-sen
6	roku	60	roku-jū	600	rop-pyaku	6,000	roku-sen
7	nana, shichi	70	nana-jū	700	nana-hyaku	7,000	nana-sen
8	hachi	80	hachi-jū	800	hap-pyaku	8,000	has-sen
9	kyū, ku	90	kyū-jū	900	kyū-hyaku	9,000	kyū-sen
10	jū					10,000	ichi-man
11	jū-ichi					20,000	ni-man
12	jū-ni					:	
13	jū-san					100,000	jū-man
14	jū-shi, jū-yon					200,000	ni-jū-man
15	jū-go					:	
						1,000,000	hyaku-man

- 150 hyaku-go-jū
 253 ni-hyaku go-jū-san
 502 go-hyaku ni
 3,840 san-zen hap-pyaku yon-jū
 793,000 nana-jū-kyū-man san-zen
 3,564,590 san-byaku-go-jū-roku-man yon-sen go-hyaku kyū-jū

sūji	jikan time, o'clock	tsuki months	yōbi days of the week
1	ichi-ji	ichi-gatsu	
2	ni-ji	ni-gatsu	nichi-yōbi Sunday
3	san-ji	san-gatsu	getsu-yōbi
4	yo-ji	shi-gatsu	Monday
5	go-ji	go-gatsu	ka-yōbi
6	roku-ji	roku-gatsu	Tuesday
7	shichi-ji	shichi-gatsu	sui-yōbi
8	hachi-ji	hachi-gatsu	Wednesday
9	ku-ji	ku-gatsu	moku-yōbi
10	jū-ji	jū-gatsu	Thursday
11	jū-ichi-ji	jū-ichi-gatsu	kin-yōbi
12	jū-ni-ji	jū-ni-gatsu	Friday
?	nan-ji what time	nan-gatsu which month	do-yōbi
			Saturday
			nan-yōbi
			what day of the week

A: Ashita wa watashi no tanjōbi desu.

B: Sō desu ka.

Omedetō gozaimasu.

A: Tomorrow will be my birthday.

B: Is that so?

Congratulations!





Kaimono (1)

Shopping (1)

1. Chotto sumimasen.

Sore o misete kudasai.

(a)

- Hai, dōzo.

1. Excuse me.

Please show me that.

- Here you are.

2. Kore wa ikura desu ka.

(b)

- San-byaku-en desu.

2. How much is this?

- It's 300 yen.

3. Dewa kore o kudasai.

(c)

3. Well then. I'll take it.

Give me this.

(a) misemasu show → misete kudasai Please show me.

(b) ikura desu ka how much?

(c) kudasai Please give me.

kagi mizu haizara	} o kudasai → Please give me	{ the key. some water. the ashtray.
-------------------------	------------------------------	---

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

百	千	万	円
100	1,000	10,000	¥
hyaku	sen	man	en

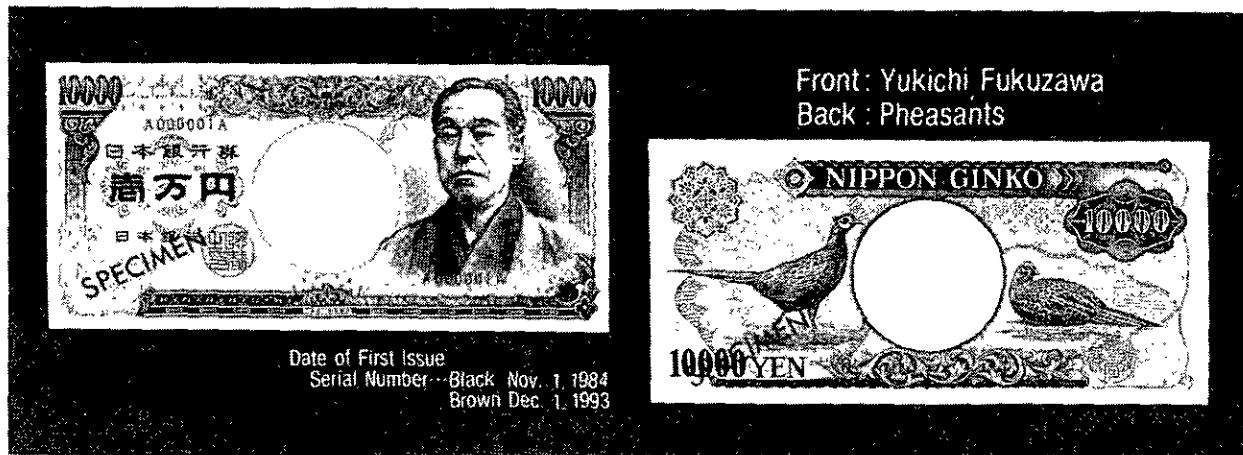
¥400	{ 四百円 4百円 yon-hyaku-en	¥25,000	{ 二万五千円 2万5千円 ni-man go-sen-en
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Nihon no okane (1) : Japanese Banknotes

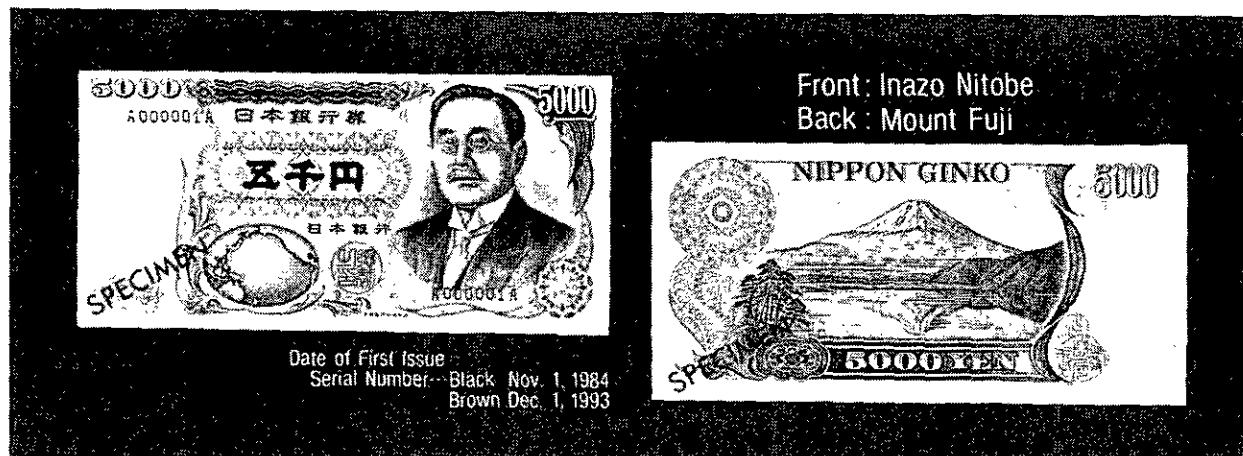
Photos © The Bank of Japan

As of December 1994

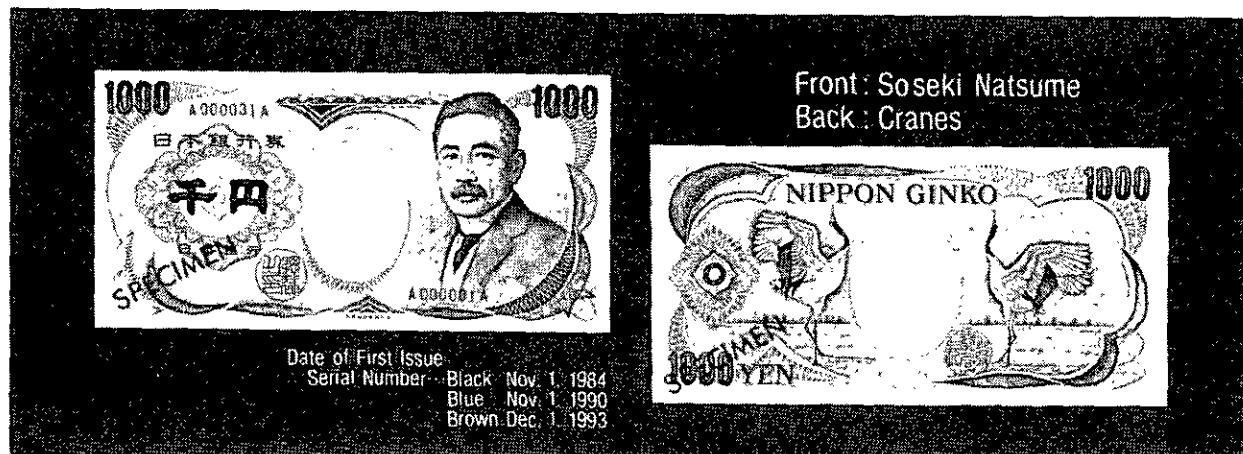
▼10,000yen (76×160mm)



▼5,000yen (76×155mm)



▼1,000yen (76×150mm)

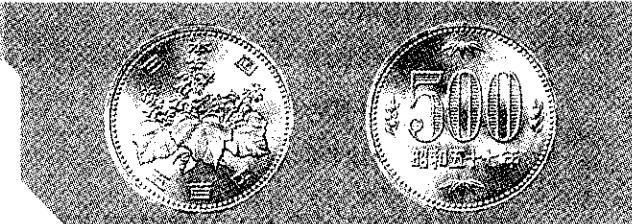


Nihon no okane (2) : Japanese Coins

Photos © The Bank of Japan

As of December 1994

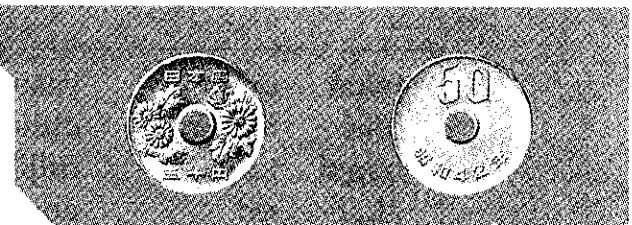
500-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 26.5mm Weight: 7.2g



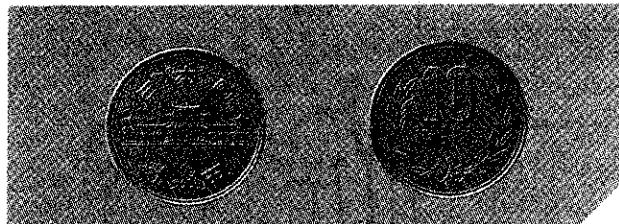
100-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 22.6mm Weight: 4.8g



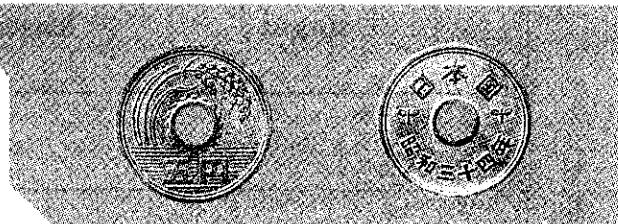
50-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 21mm Weight: 4.0g



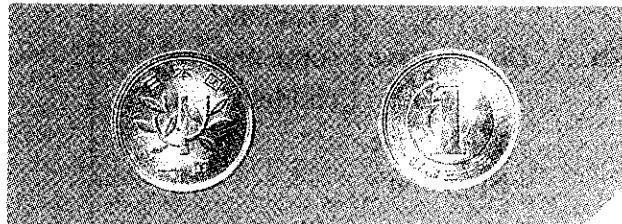
10-yen Bronze Coin Diameter: 23.5mm Weight: 4.5g



5-yen Brass Coin Diameter: 22mm Weight: 3.75g



1-yen Aluminum Coin Diameter: 20mm Weight: 1.0g



Kaimono (2)

1. Irasshaimase.
2. Sono kamera o misete kudasai.
- Kore desu ka.
Hai, dōzo.
3. Kore wa ikura desu ka.
- San-man go-sen-en desu.
4. Takai desu ne.
^(a)
Motto yasui no ga arimasu ka.
^(b) ^(c)
- Hai, arimasu
Kore wa ikaga desu ka.
Ni-man-en desu.
5. Dewa kore o kudasai.

Shopping (2)

1. Welcome.
2. Please show me that camera.
- You mean this?
Here you are.
3. How much is it?
- It's 35,000 yen.
4. That's expensive!
- Do you have a cheaper one?
- Yes, we do.
How about this?
It's 20,000 yen.
5. Well then, I'll take it.

(a)

takai	expensive	yasui	inexpensive, cheap
ōkii	big, large	chiisai	small
nagai	long	mijikai	short
akai	red	aoi	blue
shiroi	white	kuroi	black

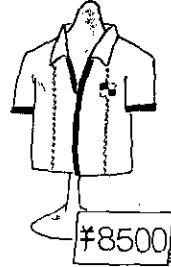


ōkii

chiisai

(b)

motto	{ yasui ōkii nagai }	no	{ cheaper bigger longer }	one
-------	----------------------------	----	---------------------------------	-----



¥8500



¥600

takai

yasui

(c)

arimasu have/there is

Anata wa	{ kamera okane kodomo }	ga arimasu ka.
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- Hai, arimasu.
- Iie, arimasen.

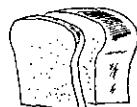
Do you have { a camera?
some money?
children? }

- Yes, I have.
- No, I don't.

Tabemono

Food

pan
bread



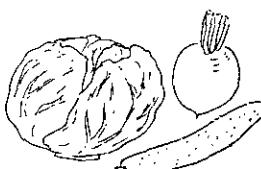
gohan
rice



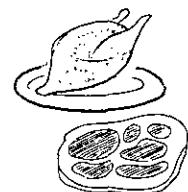
sakana
fish



yasai
vegetable



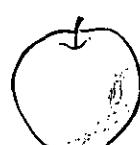
niku
meat



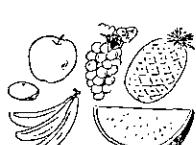
tamago
egg



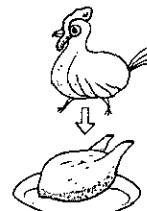
ringo
apple



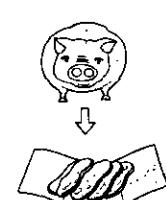
kudamono
fruit



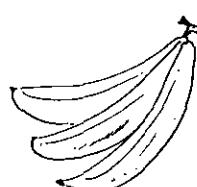
toriniku
chicken



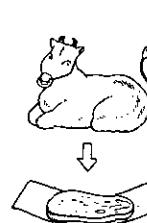
butaniku
pork



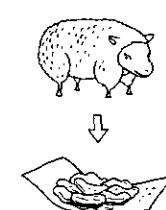
banana
banana



gyūniku
beef



maton
mutton



mizu
cold water



miruku
milk



kōcha
black tea



kōhii
coffee



o-sake
liquor/rice-wine



biiru
beer



oishii	tasty
mazui	not tasty
atsui	hot
tsumetai	cold [for things]
amai	sweet
karai	hot / pungent / salty

Kissaten/Resutoran de

1. Menyū o misete kudasai.

Ei-go no menyū ga arimasu ka.
 - Hai, arimasu.
 - Iie, arimasen.

2. Sandoitchi ga arimasu ka.

- Hai, yasai-sando *to hamu-sando
 *to mikkusu-sando ga arimasu.

3. Dowa mikkusu-sando *to tomato-jūsu o kudasai.

*to and
 kore to are this and that
 kōhii to kōcha coffee and tea

At a coffee shop/restaurant

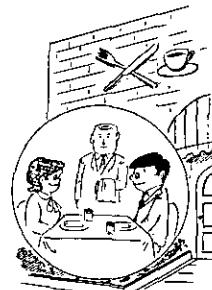
1. Please show me the menu.

Do you have an English menu?
 - Yes, we do.
 - No, we don't.

2. Do you have sandwiches?

- Yes, we have vegetable sandwiches,
 ham sandwiches and mixed
 sandwiches.

3. Well, I'll have a mixed sandwich and a tomato juice.



NOMIMONO: Drinks

jūsu	juice
orenji-jūsu	orange juice
banana-jūsu	banana juice
painappuru-jūsu	pineapple juice
kōhii	coffee
kōcha	tea
miruku	milk
biiru	beer
mizu	water
kokoa	cocoa
wain	wine
uisukii	whisky

SHOKUJI: Food

pan	bread
gohan	rice, meal
sutēki	steak
sarada	salad
tōsuto	toast
hotto-doggu	hot dog
hanbāgā	hamburger
piza	pizza
supagetti	spaghetti
sandoitchi	sandwich
tamago-sando	egg sandwich
chiizu-sando	cheese sandwich
yasai-sando	vegetable sandwich
karē	curry
biifu-karē	beef curry
chikin-karē	chicken curry
poku-karē	pork curry

...-te kudasai.

1. Kudasai.
2. Misete kudasai.
3. Totte kudasai.
4. Okutte kudasai.
5. Kite kudasai.
6. (Issho ni) itte kudasai.
7. Tetsudatte kudasai.
8. Kaite kudasai.
9. Yonde kudasai.
10. Denwa o kakete kudasai.
11. Oshiete kudasai.
12. Kaete kudasai.

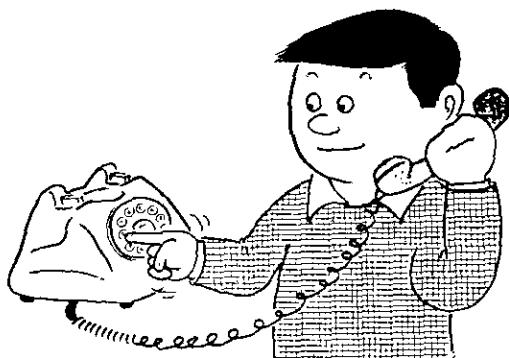
Please

1. Please (give me).
2. Please show me.
3. Please take
4. Please send
5. Please come.
6. Please go (together).
7. Please help me.
8. Please write.
9. Please read.
10. Please make a phone call.
11. Please tell me
12. Please change

* * * * *

denwa no kake-kata how to telephone
denwa-bangō telephone number

tegami letter
jūsho address



Byōki

1. Dō shimashita ka.
2. Atama
Onaka
Ha } ga itai desu.
3. Netsu ga arimasu.
4. Kaze o hikimashita.
5. Tabetakunai desu.
6. Kusuri o kudasai.
7. Byōin e ikitai desu.



Illness

1. What's the matter (with you)?
2. I have a { headache.
stomachache.
toothache.
3. I have a fever.
4. I've caught a cold.
5. I have no appetite.
6. Can I have some medicine?
7. I'd like to go to a hospital.



Sayōnara

1. Kuni e kaerimasu.
2. Iroiro arigatō gozaimashita.
3. Nihon wa yokatta desu.
4. Kaette kara, tegami o kakimasu.
5. Itsu made mo o-genki de.
6. Sayōnara.

Good-bye

1. I am going back to my country.
2. Thank you for everything.
3. I had a good time in Japan.
4. I'll write a letter after returning home.
5. Please keep well.
6. Good-bye.



chart 1



- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. tabemasu | eat | 6. kikimasu | listen |
| 2. kaimasu | buy | 7. yomimasu | read |
| 3. tabako o suimasu | smoke | 8. kakimasu | write |
| 4. nomimasu | drink | 9. mimasu | see, watch |
| 5. torimasu | take | 10. benkyō-shimasu | study |

chart 2

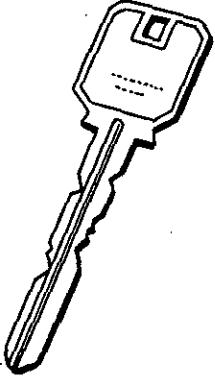
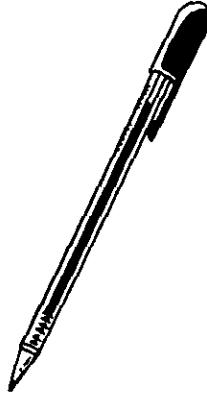
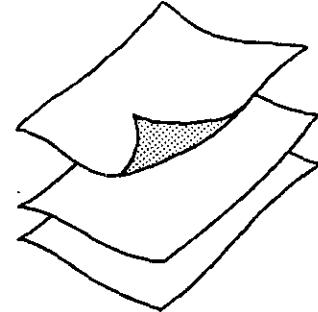
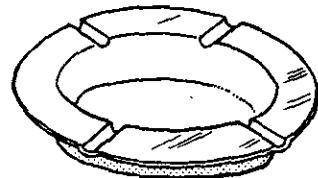
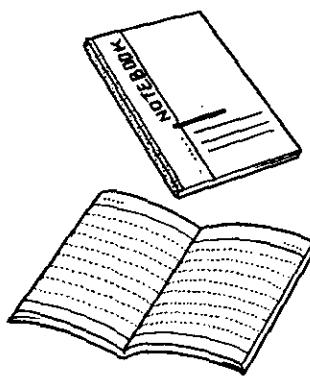
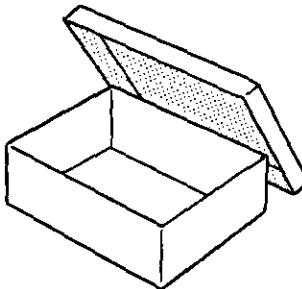
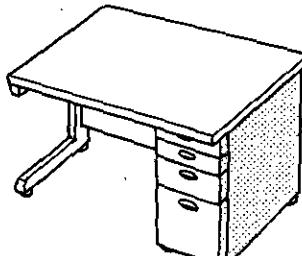
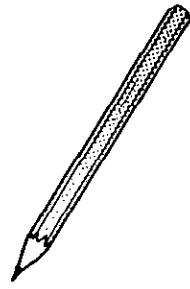
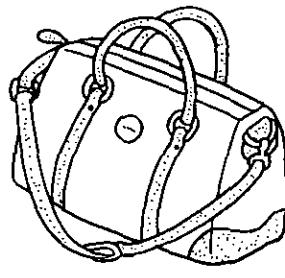
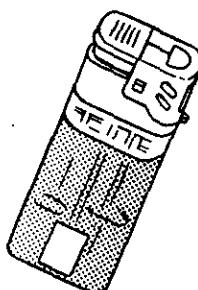
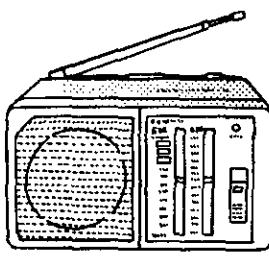
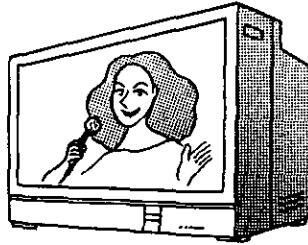
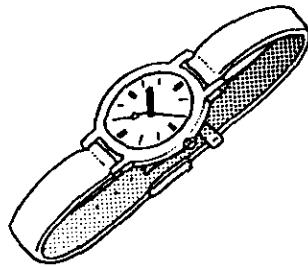
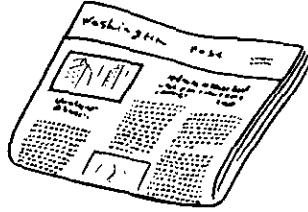
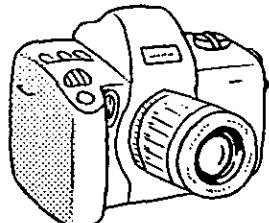
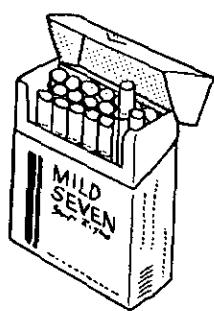
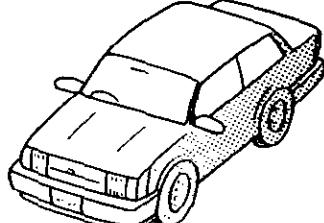
<p>1 kagi key</p> 	<p>2 bōrufen ball-point pen</p> 	<p>3 kami paper</p> 
<p>4 haizara ashtray</p> 	<p>5 nōto notebook</p> 	<p>6 hako box</p> 
<p>7 jisho dictionary</p> 	<p>8 isu chair</p> 	<p>9 tsukue desk</p> 

chart 3

1 hon book	2 enpitsu pencil	3 kaban bag
		
¥ 1,200	¥ 20	¥ 18,000
4 raitā lighter	5 rajio radio	6 terebi television
		
¥ 90	¥ 9,300	¥ 105,000
7 zasshi magazine	8 tokei watch, clock	9 shinbun newspaper
		
¥ 540	¥ 23,600	¥ 110
10 kamera camera	11 tabako tobacco	12 jidōsha automobile
		
¥ 37,800	¥ 260	¥ 2,460,000