

## **Pronunciation**

The vowels in Japanese are pronounced as follows:

A as in 'father'

E as in 'get'

I as in 'macaroni'

O as in 'bone'

U as in 'flu'

Some vowel combinations:

Ai – Pronounced like the I in 'Wine'

Ei – Pronounced like the Ay in 'Play'

## **Useful Daily Words and Phrases**

The phonetic pronunciation of the Japanese words can be found in parentheses listed after the Japanese word or phrase.

### Basics

*Hai (High)* – Yes

*lie (Ee-ay)* – No

*Nani? (Na-nee)* – What?

*Itsu? (Eet-soo)* – When?

*Doko? (Do-ko)* – Where?

*Dare? (Dah-ray)* – Who?

### Greetings and Civilities

*Ohayo gozaimasu (O-ha-yo goz-eye-mass)* – Good morning! (Used until about 10 AM)

*Konnichiwa (Kon-nee-chee-wa)* – Hello. An informal greeting used from about 10AM until sundown.

*Kombanwa (Kom-ban-wa)* – Good Evening, used after sundown.

*Sayonara (Sa-yo-na-ra)* – Goodbye.

*Kudasai (Koo-da-sigh)* – Please (When asking for something - informal)  
*Onegai shimasu (O-ne-gi shee-mass)* – Please (When asking for something – formal) (The informal word in all cases is perfectly acceptable.)  
*Domo (Do-mo)* – Thanks (Informal)  
*Arigato (A-ree-ga-to)* – Thanks (Informal)  
*Domo arigato (Do-mo a-ree-ga-to)* – Thank you (More Formal)  
*Domo arigato gozaimasu (Do-mo a-ri-ga-to go-zeye-mass)* – Thank you very much (Formal)  
*Dozo (Do-zo)* – Please (When offering something.)  
*Sumimasen (Soo-mee-ma-sen)* – Excuse me!, or I'm sorry. (Said to get someone's attention or before asking a question.)  
*Gomen nasai (Go-men na-sigh)* – I'm Sorry. (Apologetic.)  
*lie, kekko desu (Ee-ay, kek-ko dess)* – No, thank you.

### Requests

*Kore/Sore o kudasai (Ko-ray/So-ray o koo-da-sigh)* – Please give me this/that.  
\_\_\_\_\_ *o kudasai (O koo-da-sigh)* – Please give me \_\_\_\_\_.

### Language Difficulties

*Wakarimasen (Wa-ka-ree-mass-en)* – I don't understand  
*Eigo ga hanasemasu ka (Ay-go ga hanass-emass ka)* – Do you speak English?  
*Nihongo wa dekimasen (Nee-hon-go wa deck-ee-mass-en)* – I can't speak Japanese.  
*Nihongo de (Nee-hon-go day)* \_\_\_\_\_ *wa nan to iimasu ka (wa nan to ee-mass ka)* – How do you say \_\_\_\_\_ in Japanese?

### Getting Around

Boat – *boto (Bo-to)*

Bus – *basu* (*Ba-soo*)  
Intercity Bus – *Chokyoribusu* (*Cho-kyo-ree-ba-soo*)  
Bus Stop – *basutei* (*Ba-soo-tay*)  
Train – *densha* (*Den-sha*)  
Subway – *chikatetsu* (*Chee-ka-tayt-soo*)  
Station – *eki* (*E-kee*)  
Ticket – *kippu* (*Keep-poo*)  
Taxi – *takushi* (*Ta-koo-shee*)  
*Kore wa* (*Ko-ray wa*) \_\_\_\_\_ *e ikimasu ka* (*e ee-kee-mass ka*) – Does this (train, bus, etc.) go to \_\_\_\_\_?

### Around town

Bank – *ginko* (*Gin-ko*)  
Post office – *yubin kyoku* (*Yoo-been kyo-koo*)  
Toilet - *Otearai* (*O-toy-ray*)

### Shopping

*Ikura desu ka* (*Ee-koo-ra dess ka*) – How much is it?