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INNOVATIVE, UNCONVENTIONAL, AND
ENTERTAINING—A NEW WAY TO SUCCESSFULLY LEARN JAPANESE

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese presents tested shortcuts for Japanese language acquisition. Identifying two groups of people who actively and effectively study Japanese to the point of fluency—successful non-native learners and Japanese children—Giles Murray has collected from both groups the most rewarding and universal techniques which can be put to immediate use by both beginner and advanced students of Japanese.

This book is designed for people who have tried orthodox textbooks and failed, people who know a little Japanese but don't have the necessary time or motivation to make the transition to more serious textbooks, and people seeking to increase fluency utilizing ability already acquired.

It introduces new strategies for thinking, speaking, and memorizing Japanese quickly, efficiently, and independently. Used in tandem with a mainstream textbook, such as *Japanese for Busy People* (also published by Kodansha International), these strategies will enable any student to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-life situations, and to speak without hesitation in natural and fluent Japanese.

With its lively and entertaining commentaries, striking illustrations, two Japanese manga—including a six-page extract from Osamu Tezuka's famous *Blackjack* series—brainteasing puzzles, and genuinely useful example sentences, **13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese** offers a unique and more exciting alternative to all students of Japanese.

Giles Murray lives in Tokyo where he works as a bilingual advertising copywriter, translator, editor, and publisher. He is the author of *Instant Business Japanese* (also published by Kodansha International) and appears as Jeremy Hilditch in the *Japanese for Busy People: The Video* series.

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13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent JAPANESE MURRAY



Effective and enjoyable new techniques
to speak, memorize and think in Japanese

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent JAPANESE



- An original manga by Tezuka Osamu
- All new custom-written 16-page manga
- 3 mini-graphic novels • Over 100 illustrations
- Dynamic quiz format • Full glossaries

GILES MURRAY

13
SECRETS
for
SPEAKING
FLUENT
JAPANESE

Giles Murray

KODANSHA INTERNATIONAL
Tokyo•New York•London

If you want to know more about
The 13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese
 Go and visit the 13 Secrets Website at
<http://www.speaking-japanese.com>
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INTRODUCTION

13 *Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese* has been especially designed for students who want a book with more variety and more character than bland orthodox textbooks can provide. It offers the opportunity to learn Japanese highly effectively, while also enjoying the learning process. With *13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese* you can have your cake and eat it! Since the book teaches fluency-maximizing techniques rather than specific grammar points, it can be read with advantage by both beginner and advanced students.

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese has been designed to help students make the transition from the tame world of the language textbook to the ruthless jungle of real-life Japanese. It teaches new strategies for thinking, speaking and memorizing Japanese quickly, efficiently and independently. Although many different areas of the language are covered, the strategies (or “secrets”) have all been selected for one and the same reason. They work. Every single secret guarantees a sudden and dramatic improvement in students’ powers of expression.

In *13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese* information that it would take several years’ residence in Japan to encounter at random has been selected and sorted to enable students to learn the maximum quantity with the minimum of effort. Quantity, however, is not everything. There is no merit in students knowing masses of vocabulary if they cannot use it. Ultimately the ability to manipulate knowledge is more important than the ability to accumulate it. This book therefore teaches students how to preset their “mind-filters” so they can remember more words and expressions, and then go on to combine them more freely to extract maximum mileage from whatever they know.

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese is a very diverse book with material ranging from manga and kids’ jokes, through readable telephone numbers and statistics, onto slang and the language of romance. Since it uses aspects of pop culture and everyday life to teach language points, students who use this book are alerted to the fact that very significant

language-learning opportunities can be found in everyday things and events. This book transforms the study paradigm from one of passive reliance on a teacher in the classroom, to a pro-active awareness of how to get out there and teach yourself.

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese is lavishly illustrated. The illustrations, however, are there for a reason. First they make the book attractive and fun to read. Second they work to stimulate the imagination and, through the imagination, the memory. They turn the book into a kind of virtual universe in which students do not perform exercises merely for exercises' sake, but use Japanese to describe or react to what they actually see—as they will have to in the real world.

Used correctly, *13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese* will give a dramatic boost to students' Japanese, turning them into perpetual motion machines of knowledge-acquisition and knowledge-processing. It will also provide them with the mental and verbal props they need for true self-expression in Japanese. It will teach students how to say what they want to say in the way they want to say it.

All the “secrets” follow the same basic format. An English introduction explains the thrust of the chapter. This is followed by the main lesson, then the quiz. Each “secret” concludes with the answers to the quiz, and a vocabulary list. All words and sentences are given in Japanese, in romanized Japanese and in English. There are comprehensive glossaries at the end of the book.

13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese is the result of a team effort. Naoko Ito helped with research and pre-checked the Japanese. Tadashi Nomura drew the hypothesis manga and Commodore Perry's time-travel pictures. Peter Prout drew all the other pictures. Gordon Cesareo designed the cover. Machiko Moriyasu edited the Japanese, and Paul Hulbert patiently and expertly nurtured the project from its origins as a mishmash of inchoate brain spurts to the publishable text you see today. Thank you all very much.

Finally I should like to thank Popurasha for permission to reprint the jokes on page 121 and Oizumi Shoten for the jokes on page 123. Very special thanks also to Tezuka Productions for allowing me to reprint *Blackjack* on pages 144–155. Without their kind cooperation *13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese* would not have been complete.

ABBREVIATIONS

How to Speak with Maximum Efficiency



To increase vocabulary by learning abbreviated spoken forms.

The Japanese are acknowledged to be the masters of miniaturization in manufacturing: Tape recorders are reduced to Walkmans, compact discs to MiniDiscs, and desktop computers to palmtop computers. This passion for the *petite* finds expression in the world of words too. Long and awkward kanji-compounds are made shorter and smoother with the omission of every second character. *Koku-sai-ren-gō*, the United Nations, is cut down to *Koku-ren* and *Ni-hon Kei-zai Shimbun*, the Japanese equivalent of the Wall Street Journal, is reduced to *Nik-kei*.

Foreign loanwords are among the most frequent victims of this miniaturization-through-amputation process. Already in the Taisho era (1912–1926) the young men and women who dressed in exotic Western fashions and frequented the cafés and dance halls of the Ginza were referring to themselves as *モボ* (*Mobo*, from *Modern Boy*) and *モガ* (*Moga*, from *Modern Girl*). And still today whatever's fashionable tends to be shrinkable. The Spice Girls, for example, are telescoped down to *スパガ* (*Supa-Ga*), Jimmy Hendrix to *ジミ・ヘン* (*Jimi-Hen*) and even Arnold

Schwarzenegger is reduced to the mini-moniker of シュワちゃん (Shuwa-chan).

Shuwa-chan is hardly a name fit for a muscle-bound killing machine, and in many cases English words lose much of their dignity in the shrinking process, suffering not just a reduction in size, but a *reductio ad absurdum*. The word *sexual harassment*, for example, sounds serious enough in English, but the chirpy and staccato *sekuhara* (セクハラ) sounds more like lighthearted fun! The English word *intellectual* conjures up images of earnest, consumptive Russians plotting the overthrow of the Tsar. As *interi* (インテリ), however, it takes on some of the pejorative and belittling nuances of *nerd* or *egghead*.

Some Japanese abbreviations are not so much inappropriate in tone as just downright misleading. The English word *brainstorming* transmogrifies into the misleadingly Partonesque *buresuto* (ブレスト), while a Japanese *sando* (サンド) sounds far less appetizing than an English *sandwich*.

The ultimate oddities of the abbreviation world are the bizarre hybrids of Japanese and foreign words. The chart on the facing page introduces and explains six of the more commonly used expressions of this type.

朝シャンする Asashan suru	To wash your hair with shampoo (シャンプー) in the morning (あさ).
脱サラする Datsusara suru	To escape (だつ) the salaryman life (サラリーマン・ライフ)
億ション Okushon	A mansion apartment (マンション) that costs more than 100 million (いちおおく) yen
スポ根 Spokon	A really gutsy sportsman's (スポーツ) fighting spirit (こんじょう)
カラオケ Karaoke	An empty (から) orchestra (オーケストラ)
外タレ Gaitare	A foreign (がいこくじん) show business personality (タレント)

The last and simplest group of abbreviation are acronyms. Many of these, such as OL (*Office Lady*) or OB (*Old Boy*) are from unchanged English words and are therefore very easy to understand.

QUIZ

Now you are familiar with the various patterns of abbreviation in Japanese, read the following story about a day in the life of Mr. Shigeo Tada, research scientist and part-time teacher. The story is written in English but contains thirty-three loanword abbreviations. Try and figure out what the various abbreviations mean, then check your answers with the key on the pages 8-9.

The Adventures of Shigeo Tada

Research scientist, Shigeo Tada woke up on Saturday morning feeling tired. All week he'd been working hard at the (1) **ラボ** (*rabo*). His company, a huge pharmaceutical firm, was going through a (2) **リストラ** (*risutora*), so he had to work double hard in order just to keep his job. He groaned, reached out of his futon and switched on his (3) **ラジカセ** (*rajikase*). The (4) **マスコミ** (*masukomi*) were getting excited about some politician taking bribes, but most of the juicy details were being kept (5) **オフレコ** (*ofureko*). Bored with the same old commonplaces, Tada turned on the TV and watched some (6) **アニメ** (*anime*) instead, but finally, he got sick of all the (7) **CM** (*shiiemu*) that kept breaking up the program and using the (8) **リモコン** (*rimokon*), switched off the whole (9) **AVコンボ** (*ēbui-konpo*).



Tada got dressed, selecting a (10) **Yシャツ** (*wai-shatsu*) and (11) **Gパン** (*jii-pan*). On Saturdays he worked at a (12) **ゼミ** (*zemi*), teaching science. As a sign of his independence he never took the train at weekends, preferring to make the

Chapter 1

journey by car. It was many (13) **キロ** (*kilo*) to the school, and his second-hand car jerked and bumped and made a lot of strange noises before it finally stopped.



Tada had had an (14) **エンスト** (*ensuto*)! Luckily, just at that very instant the police were going by in a (15) **パトカー** (*patokā*) and gave him a lift the rest of the way to work.

Before his lessons began Tada went to the canteen and bought a (16) **サンド** (*sando*) which he paid for at the (17) **レジ** (*reji*).

He taught his classes until 3 PM, then from 3 till 4:30 he wrote reports. Previously he had used a (18) **ワープロ** (*wāpuro*) but now he preferred his brand-new (19) **パソコン** (*pasakon*). One thing he liked about it was that he could pretend to work when in fact he was only playing video games, the very same ones he had at home on his (20) **ファミコン** (*famikon*).



After finishing his reports, Tada thought about going to the gym. He loved exercise. His hobbies were (21) **スノーボー** (*sunobō*) in winter, and (22) **スケボー** (*sukebō*) in summer. His other

The Adventures of Shigeo Tada

favorite sports were one-hundred-percent American—(23) アメフト (amefuto) and (24) バスケ (basuke). He dreamed of going to the West Coast, to (25) ロス (rosu), to see his heroes the Lakers play. Perhaps he would go there for his honeymoon *Ah, marriage ...*

Tada's former girlfriend had been an (26) OL (ōeru), but his present girlfriend was a (27) デパガ (depaga). She operated an elevator wearing a uniform something like a flight attendant.

She didn't like her job because of all the (28) セクハラ (sekuhara) she was subjected to at the hands of (29) エッチな (ecchina) old men. He looked at the photo they had taken at (30) プリクラ (purikura) and sighed. If his research went well, if he could discover some kind of miracle drug, then he could get a bonus, marry her and take her away from all that

But let his breakthrough wait till Monday morning! One disadvantage of his girlfriend's job—*she worked all the time*. Weekends,

*Chapter 1*

public holidays, you name it! He couldn't meet her tonight, so what should he do? He didn't feel up to exercise, and he couldn't bear to go back to the dreary (31) コーポ (kōpo) where he lived, so Tada decided to go for a drink. His friend—an (32) OB (ōbii) from his university—was a (33) バーテン (bāten) at a new place downtown. *Ah well*, he thought wryly, *another evening devoted to the destruction of the liver!*



THE END

ANSWERS

(1) ラボ	rabo	laboratory
(2) リストラ	risutora	restructuring
(3) ラジカセ	rajikase	radio cassette recorder
(4) マスコミ	masukomi	mass communications (mass media)
(5) オフレコ	ofureko	off [the] record
(6) アニメ	anime	animated features (car- toons)
(7) CM	shiiemu	commercials
(8) リモコン	rimokon	remote control
(9) AVコンポ	ēbui-konpo	audio-visual component system
(10) Yシャツ	wai-shatsu	white shirt
(11) Gパン	jii-pan	jean pants
(12) ゼミ	zemi	seminar (cram school)
(13) キロ	kiro	kilometer
(14) エンスト	ensuto	engine stoppage (stall)
(15) パトカー	patokā	patrol car (police car)
(16) サンド	sando	sandwich
(17) レジ	reji	cash register
(18) ワープロ	wāpuro	word processor
(19) パソコン	pasokon	personal computer (PC)

(20) ファミコン	famikon	family computer (Nin- tendo- or Play Station-type game machine)
(21) スノボー	sunobō	snowboard
(22) スケボー	sukebō	skateboard
(23) アメフト	amefuto	American Football
(24) バスケ	basuke	basketball
(25) ロス	rosu	Los Angeles
(26) OL	ōeru	office lady
(27) デパガ	depaga	department store girl*
(28) セクハラ	sekuhara	sexual harassment
(29) エッチな	ecchina	first letter of hentai (=per- vert in Japanese) means “lewd” and “dirty” and is pronounced ecchi.
(30) ブリクラ	purikura	print club (instant mini- photo booth)
(31) コーポ	kōpo	cooperative (squalid apart- ment)
(32) OB	ōbii	old boy (alumnus)
(33) バーテン	bāten	bartender

*A little old-fashioned, perhaps, but still used humorously.

SECRET #2

EXPLANATORY PHRASES

How to Communicate Despite Not Knowing the Right Word



To increase powers of expression by developing the habit of generating substitute phrases in place of words you have forgotten or never knew.

As a non-native learner of Japanese, it is only natural now and then to find yourself at a loss for words, or, to be more precise, at a loss for one specific word. Were you preparing an assignment at home or in the library free from the time pressures of an actual conversation, you would be able to solve the problem by reaching for your English-Japanese dictionary. In real life, however, this is impractical. Nothing stops a conversation so fast as a four-inch-thick lexicon. Nor is the preemptive memorization of the entire English-Japanese dictionary a very real possibility.

The best solution to overcome the sense of inadequacy you feel at your lack of Japanese vocabulary is to effect a radical shift in your consciousness. You must abandon your obsession with vocabulary-accumulation, and switch to an improvisational technique of speaking. You must change from a fearful linguistic hoarder into a fearless linguistic ad-libber.

To achieve this mental shift, you need first to realize how, even in your native language, you suffer from mental-blocks,

that—at least temporarily—prevent you coming up with the right word. You then need to be aware of how you react in such instances. Without hesitation and without self-consciousness, *you substitute an explanatory phrase for the word you have forgotten.*

If the word *osteopath* escaped you, you might well say something like “a kind of doctor who deals with bones.” *Unemployment* you might describe as “the state of not having a job.”

You may not have spoken with maximum elegance or economy, but the person you’re talking to understands your meaning. Communication has been achieved. Language has performed its function. To not know or to have forgotten a specific word is not a problem exclusive to foreign speakers. To feel ashamed and be hesitant about explaining a concept with other words, however, is.

To speak really natural and flowing Japanese, the secret is not to memorize the entire English-Japanese dictionary, but to learn to manipulate a minimum number of basic words with maximum flexibility. Think like a dictionary yourself. Define concepts using simple words [such as *mono* (thing), *koto* (action), *jōtai* (state), *tokoro* or *basho* (place), and *hito* (person)], and you can say almost anything!

Below I have listed a number of words in English that you probably don’t know in Japanese. In each case I provide an alternative way to express the same idea using simple words. Study the examples, then test your powers of flexible speaking by doing the quiz.

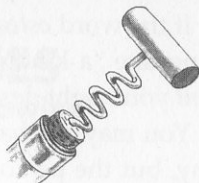
THINGS

Plain form + もの (mono)

Unknown Word CORKSCREW

Substitute Phrase *a thing for opening wine*

ワインをあけるためのもの
wain o akeru tame no mono



Unknown Word AQUALUNG

Substitute Phrase *a thing for breathing in the sea*

海のなかで息をするためのもの
umi no naka de iki o suru tame
no mono

Unknown Word TOOTHBRUSH

Substitute Phrase *a thing for cleaning teeth*

歯をみがくもの
ha o migaku mono



Unknown Word CALCULATOR

Substitute Phrase *a thing that is used to do sums*

計算をするときに使うもの
keisan o suru toki ni tsukau mono

ACTIONS

Plain form + こと (koto)

Unknown Word CALLIGRAPHY

Substitute Phrase *the act of writing neat letters*

きれいな字を書くこと
kireina ji o kaku koto



Unknown Word MURDER

Substitute Phrase *the act of killing someone*

人を殺すこと
hito o korosu koto

Unknown Word COOKERY

Substitute Phrase *the act of making dinner*

食事をつくること
shokuji o tsukuru koto



Unknown Word DREAMING

Substitute Phrase *the act of seeing things while you are asleep.*

寝ている間、
いろいろなものを見ること
netete iru aida
ironna mono o miru koto

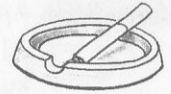
STATES

Plain form + じょうたい (jōtai)

Unknown Word FAMINE**Substitute Phrase** *the state of there being nothing to eat*食べ物がないじょうたい
tabemono ga nani mo nai jōtai**Unknown Word** LOST**Substitute Phrase** *the state of not knowing where you are*どこにいるかわからないじょうたい
doko ni iru ka wakaranai jōtai**Unknown Word** UNEMPLOYMENT**Substitute Phrase** *the state of not having a job*仕事がないじょうたい
shigoto ga nai jōtai**Unknown Word** BALD**Substitute Phrase** *the state of not having even a single hair*髪の毛が一本もないじょうたい
kami no ke ga ippon mo nai jōtai

PLACES

Plain form + ところ (tokoro/basho)

Unknown Word SMOKERS' CORNER**Substitute Phrase** *a place where it's OK to smoke*たばこを吸ってもいいところ
tabako o sutte mo ii tokoro**Unknown Word** PUB**Substitute Phrase** *a place where you drink alcohol*ビールや酒などを飲むところ
biiru ya sake nado o nomu tokoro**Unknown Word** LIBRARY**Substitute Phrase** *a place that lends out books*本を貸し出すところ
hon o kashidasu tokoro**Unknown Word** PARKING LOT**Substitute Phrase** *a place where you can park a car*車をとめる場所
kuruma o tomeru basho

PEOPLE

Plain form + 人 (hito)

Unknown Word SOLDIER**Substitute Phrase** *a person who defends his country*

国を守る人

kuni o mamoru hito

**Unknown Word** ASTRONOMER**Substitute Phrase** *a person who studies the stars*

天体のことを勉強する人

tentai no koto o benkyō suru hito

Unknown Word LANDLORD**Substitute Phrase** *a person who lends you a room*

部屋を貸してくれる人

heya o kashite kureru hito

**Unknown Word** LIAR**Substitute Phrase** *a person who says things that are not true*

本当ではないことを言う人

hontō de wa nai koto o iu hito



OTHER

Plain form + Specific Noun

Unknown Word AMBULANCE**Substitute Phrase** *a vehicle that transports sick people*

病気の人を運ぶ車

byōki no hito o hakobu kuruma

**Unknown Word** SHARK**Substitute Phrase** *an animal that lives in the sea, eats people, and appeared in the movie Jaws.*

海に住み、人を食べる、

「ジョーズ」という映画に出た動物

umi ni sumi, hito o taberu,

"Jōzu" to iu eiga ni deta dōbutsu

**Unknown Word** ATLAS**Substitute Phrase** *a book that contains only maps*

地図だけがのって

いる本

chizu dake ga notte iru hon



Now look up the "right words" in the English-Japanese glossary at the back.

VOCABULARY

THINGS (p.12)

ワイン	wain	wine
あける	akeru	to open
海	umi	sea, ocean
息をする	iki o suru	to breathe
歯	ha	tooth/teeth
みがく	migaku	to polish
計算	keisan	calculation
使う	tsukau	to use

ACTIONS (p.13)

きれいな	kireina	neat, tidy
字	ji	character, letter
殺す	korosu	to kill
食事	shokuji	meal
寝る	neru	to sleep
間	aida	while

STATES (p.14)

食べ物	tabemono	food
なにもない	nani mo nai	there is none
仕事	shigoto	work, job
髪の毛	kami no ke	hair
一本	ippon	one (strand)

PLACES (p.15)

吸う	suu	to smoke
…でもいい	… te mo ii	it is permissible to ...
貸し出す	kashidasu	to lend out
とめる	tomeru	to park

PEOPLE (p.16)

国	kuni	country
守る	mamoru	defend
天体	tentai	stars
勉強する	benkyō suru	study
貸す	kasu	to lend, rent out
本当	hontō	true

OTHER (p.17)

病気	byōki	sick
運ぶ	hakobu	carry
海	umi	sea, ocean
…という映画	… to iu eiga	a movie called ...
出る	deru	appear in
動物	dōbutsu	animal
地図	chizu	map
だけ	dake	only
のる	noru	be printed (in a book)

QUIZ

Can you survive in a dictionary-less environment?

Try and explain the following words in Japanese.

1. flying saucer (use mono)
2. diet (use plain form + koto)
3. paralyzed (use jōtai)
4. movie theater (use tokoro/basho)
5. fire fighter (use hito)
6. giraffe (use a specific word)

ANSWERS

- 1.
- a thing that looks like a plate and comes from space*

宇宙から来る皿みたいなもの
uchū kara kuru sara mitaina MONO



- 2.
- the act of not eating in order to lose weight*

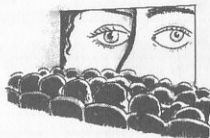
やせるためになにも食べないこと
yaseru tame ni nani mo tabenai KOTO

- 3.
- the state of not being able to move your body*

体を動かすことができないじょうたい
karada o ugokasu koto ga dekinai JŌTAI

- 4.
- a place where you watch movies*

映画を見るところ
eiga o miru TOKORO



- 5.
- a person who puts out fires*

火事を消す人
kaji o kesu HITO



- 6.
- an animal with a long neck*

首がとても長い動物
kubi ga totemo nagai DŌBUTSU

VOCABULARY

宇宙	uchū	space
皿	sara	plate
みたいな	mitaina	like
やせる	yaseru	to get thinner
動かす	ugokasu	to move
映画	eiga	movie
火事	kaji	a fire
消す	kesu	extinguish
首	kubi	neck
長い	nagai	long

SECRET #3

READABLE PHONE NUMBERS

How to Master Numbers from 1 to 10



To master all the different readings of numbers up to ten by studying the “readable” phone numbers of Japanese businesses.

Marathon runners hit a “wall” of fatigue halfway through the race. If, however, they can grit their teeth and smash through that wall, they can find resources of energy to carry them for the whole grueling twenty-six-mile distance.

Learning Japanese is like running a mental marathon and bumping up against not one wall, but an endless succession of walls! You get through hiragana, only to find that katakana is waiting for you. Once you’ve passed katakana, far from being safe, you’re confronted with kanji! The same is true of spoken Japanese. In your first textbook you learn standard, formal language. You then discover that most of the time Japanese people don’t speak in such a stiff and proper way. You devote yourself to mastering the informal style. That done, you find out that to function successfully in Japan occasional outbreaks of lavish politeness are indispensable. And so it goes, on and on, an unending series of humiliations ...

One of the first (and happily flimsier) walls to surmount is that of the Japanese counting system. The Japanese are often

accused of being conformist. Their numbers are anything but! The cardinal for one is *ichi* or *hitotsu*. The first of the month is *tsuitachi*, but one person is *hitori*. One bottle is *ippon*, but one animal is *ippiki* or *ittō*.

This chapter is designed to help you enjoy learning the many different ways in which to count from one to ten by reading Japanese phone numbers.

In the United States the letters of the alphabet have been assigned to the ten digits of the dial to allow for the easy memorization of business phone numbers. There is however no genuine phonetic link between the number one, and the letters A, B and C.

In Japan precisely because every number can be pronounced in various ways, business phone numbers are often created as a species of genuinely readable catchcopy that promotes the service or product and enhances number-recall at the same time.

Recently a business trip took me to Kyushu on Japan Air Systems, a major domestic air carrier. On board I noticed that the headrest covers displayed the manufacturer's phone number—0120-450714. The first four digits (0120) represent the standard toll-free code, but the last six read *yo-go-re-na-i-yo*, or *It won't get dirty!* Waiting for my baggage in the terminal after disembarking, a Japan Air Systems poster with another toll-free number caught my eye. The number—0120-5-11283—reads *i-i-tsu-ba-sa*, or *fine wings*. Despite collecting readable phone numbers for this book for over a year, once again I was amazed at how Japanese numbers can be made to say almost anything.

The at-a-glance chart below introduces the Chinese and Japanese readings of numbers from zero to ten, with the various possible abbreviated readings in the right-hand column.

Number	Chinese	Japanese	Phone-number Readings
0	rei		zero•o•maru•wa
1	ichi	hitotsu	i•hi•hito•
2	ni	futatsu	ni•fu•ji•tsu
3	san	mittsu	san•sa•mi
4	shi	yottsu	shi•yon•yo
5	go	itsutsu	go•i•itsu
6	roku	muttsu	roku•mu
7	shichi	nanatsu	na
8	hachi	yattsu	ha•pa•ya
9	kyū, kū	kokonotsu	kū•kyū•ko
10	jū	tō	tō

Referring to the above chart, try to read the messages concealed in the sixteen authentic phone numbers listed on the following three pages. Be aware that there is an element of copywriter's poetic license in these numbers. In some cases syllables are added to flesh out the message. Sometimes a number is actually read in English rather than in Japanese. Where the numbers and the readings deviate in this way, they are printed in boldtype.

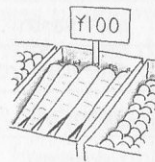
BASIC SHOPS AND SERVICES

LOCKSMITH

4 1 6 9
 ヨイロック
 yo-i rok-ku
 Good Locks!



GREENGROCER



0 1 4 - 0 8 3 1
 オイシーオヤサイ
 o-i-shii o-ya-sa-i
 Delicious Vegetables!

GOLF CLUB

5 6 2 0 4 1
 ゴルフはヨイ
 go-ru-fu wa yo-i
 Golf is good!



BUTCHER



2 9 4 1
 ニク・ヨイ
 ni-ku-yo-i
 Meat Good!

FAMOUS CORPORATIONS

COCA COLA JAPAN

3 0 8 5 0 9
 サワヤカコーク
 sa-wa-ya-ka ko-o-ku
 Refreshing Coke!



NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN



2 1-4946
 ニッケイヨクヨム
 ni-kke-i yo-ku yo-mu
 Read the Nikkei thoroughly!

PIDGIN ENGLISH

TEMPORARY STAFF SERVICE

1 4 0 2 3 9
 ヒシヨニサンキュー
 hi-sh-o ni san-kyū
 Thanks to my secretary



BERLITZ ENGLISH CONVERSATION SCHOOL



5 1 0 9 2 3
 ゴートクトゥーミー
 gō-tō-ku tū mi
 Go! Talk to me!

SERVICES

2 3 2 3

フサフサ

fu-sa-fu-sa

Bushy-wushy!**3 0 4 2 0 1**

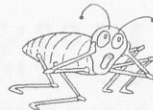
サレよニオイ!

sa-re yo ni-o-i

*Go away, smell!***3 8 8 9-6 3 2 6**

サーハヤクムシサンにドク!

sā ha-ya-ku mushi-san-ni-doku

Well, quickly to the honorable insects poison!**3 7 6-4 8 0**

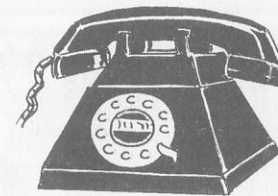
ミナムシバゼロ

mi-na mu-shi-ba zero

Everyone with zero cavities!

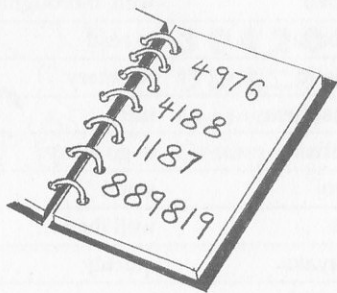
VOCABULARY

よい	yoi	good
おいしい	oishii	tasty
お～	o-	(honorific prefix)
野菜	yasai	vegetables
肉	niku	meat
さわやか	sawayaka	refreshing
日経	nikkei	Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper
よく	yoku	well, thoroughly
読む	yomu	to read
秘書	hisho	secretary
ふさふさ	fusafusa	tufty
去る	saru	to go away
におい	nioi	smell
さあ	sā	well then ...
はやく	hayaku	quickly
虫	mushi	insects
～さん	-san	(honorific suffix like Mr., Ms., etc.)
毒	doku	poison
虫歯	mushiba	rotten teeth



QUIZ

You are a private detective in Tokyo who has been hired to investigate the private life of a young man whom we shall call X-san. While X-san is at work you break into his apartment, but find no evidence except for a personal organizer. The personal organizer contains four phone numbers. From "reading" the numbers what can you *observe* and what can you *deduce* about X-san?



OBSERVATIONS

4976

1187

4188

889819

DEDUCTIONS



Observations

- (1) 4976 ヨクナロー yo-ku-na-rō
(*Let's get better*) is the number of a clinic or hospital.
- (2) 4188 ヨイハハ yo-i-ha-ha
(*Good Mother*) is the number of a private investigation service that checks up on a future wife's background.
- (3) 1187 イイハナ i-i-ha-na
(*Fine Flowers*) is the number of a flower shop.
- (4) 889819 ハヤクバイク ha-ya-ku-ba-i-ku
(*Quickly Motorbike*) is the number of a bike delivery service.

Deductions

(1) X-san, or someone close to X-san, is not in good health (2) X-san is thinking of getting married, but is having the future Mrs. X checked out (3) X-san likes to send flowers by (4) motorbike courier to his future wife.

X-san is slightly schizophrenic (hence the clinic). He suffers from mood-swings, plunging from impulsive, romantic highs (flowers by express delivery) to suspicion-filled depressive lows (hiring spouse investigators).

VOCABULARY

よくなる	yoku naru	to get better, recover
母	haha	mother
花	hana	flowers
はやく	hayaku	quickly
バイク	baiku	motorbike

SECRET #4

STATISTICS

How to Master Numbers over 10,000



To successfully express numbers from ten thousand to ten trillion by dividing them into ten bands and linking them to easy-to-relate-to data.

In the early stages, numbers present no particular problems for the student of Japanese. The counting system seems to be identical to English. There is none of that Germanic inversion whereby twenty-four is expressed as *four-and-twenty*; nor are numbers expressed as multiples—as in French—where eighty becomes *four-times-twenty*.

One must, however, resist the delusion that counting in Japanese is easy. Problems begin at ten thousand, and are only the more difficult because the numbers involved are bigger.

The root of the problem lies in the use of different units than those with which we are familiar. In Japanese ten thousand is expressed not as *10-units-of-1-thousand*, but as *1-unit-of-10-thousand*. Multiples of this ten thousand unit are then used up to a hundred million which in turn is expressed not as *100-units-of-1-million* but as *1-unit-of-100 million*. It is some consolation that Japanese numbers reconverge with English numbers at the trillion mark, but at that level the problem becomes one more of mathematics than of language!

The chart below shows Japanese and English number equivalents from ten thousand to ten trillion. Notice the difference in the multiplier figure (**bold**) between the Japanese name and the English name.

Mini-Converter Table

<i>Number</i>	<i>Jap. Name</i>	<i>Jap. Unit</i>	<i>English Name</i>
10000	ichi -man	1 x 10,000	ten thousand
100000	jū -man	10 x 10,000	hundred thousand
1000000	hyaku -man	100 x 10,000	one million
10000000	issen -man	1000 x 10,000	ten million
100000000	ichi -oku	1 x 100,000,000	hundred million
1000000000	jū -oku	10 x 100,000,000	one billion
10000000000	hyaku -oku	100 x 100,000,000	ten billion
100000000000	issen -oku	1000 x 100,000,000	hundred billion
1000000000000	ic -chō	1 x 1,000,000,000,000	one trillion
10000000000000	juc -chō	10 x 1,000,000,000,000	ten trillion

If you want to have serious conversations in Japanese, you must bite the bullet and learn how to say big numbers. Largely because the yen is a low-value currency unit everyday use of big numbers is not restricted to the rocket-science community. Salaries in Japan, for example, are always in the millions (*hyaku-man*). The population not only of Japan itself, but of its Asian neighbors like China, Indonesia or India is in the 100 million to 1 billion range (*ichi oku* to *jū oku*). And the revenues of Japan's numerous world-beating companies like Sony and Toshiba are all in the trillions (*chō*).

Don't wait until you're in the middle of an earnest discussion on the global food crisis or the relative size of IBM and Hitachi to discover that you are unable to deliver the killer statistic you need to finish off your opponent. Attack Japanese numbers systematically and cool-headedly and you can master them!

If you divide all the Japanese numbers from ten thousand up to ten trillion into groups (see the "Mini-Converter Table" above) you will see that there are in fact only ten "number-type bands." If you can memorize a single representative number from each of the number-type bands and keep it in your mind as a reference archetype, you will be able to say any number, no matter how big!

Study the chart on the next two pages overleaf. It provides you with a single representative number from each of the ten bands. Make sure you really understand why the numbers are read as they are. Don't be ashamed to move your lips as you read! Once you feel you understand how to count big, go on to check your numerical ability with the General Knowledge Numbers Quiz.

Sources

All the statistics quoted in the following chart are real. Check them for yourself in the following list of sources. Then learn other interesting statistics to make your Japanese conversations sound more intelligent and informed.

- A *Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (p. 75)
- B *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 224)
- C *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 158)
- D *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 67)
- E *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 337)
- F *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 136)
- G *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 96)
- H *Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (p. 197)
- I *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 99)
- J *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p. 100)

A 10000 ichi-man 1 x 10,000 ten-thousand band

About 70,000 people died in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

長崎では原爆で約ななまん人が亡くなりました。

Nagasaki de wa genbaku de yaku nana-man nin ga nakunarimashita.

B 100000 jū-man 10 x 10,000 hundred-thousand band

142,807 people died in the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923).

関東大震災でじゅうよんまんにせんはっぴゃくなな人が亡くなりました。

Kantō daishinsai de jū-yon-man-ni-sen-hap-pyaku-nana nin ga nakunarimashita.

C 1000000 hyaku-man 100 x 10,000 one-million band

In 1996 the Japanese auto industry produced 7,864,000 cars.

1996年1年間に日本が製作した自動車台数はななひゃくはちじゅうろくまんよんせんです。

1996-nen ichi nenkan ni Nihon ga seisaku shita jidōsha daisū wa nana-hyaku-hachi-jū-roku-man-yon-sen desu.

D 10000000 issen-man 1000 x 10,000 ten-million band

The yearly salary of the Japanese prime minister is ¥27,180,000.

日本の総理大臣の一年間の俸給はにせんななひゃくじゅうはちまん円です。

Nihon no sōridaijin no ichinenkan no hōkyū wa ni-sen-nana-hyaku-jū-hachi-man en desu.

E 100000000 ichi-oku 1 x 100,000,000 hundred-million band

The population of Japan is about 124,900,000.

日本の人口は約いちおくにせんよんひゃくきゅうじゅうまん人です。

Nihon no jinkō wa yaku ichi-oku-ni-sen-yon-hyaku-kyū-jū-man nin desu.

F 1000000000 jū-oku 10 x 100,000,000 one-billion band

The population of neighboring China is about 1,185,000,000.

隣国中国の人口は約じゅういちおくはっせんごひゃくまん人です。

Ringoku chūgoku no jinkō wa yaku jū-ichi-oku-has-sen-go-hyaku-man nin desu.

G 10000000000 hyaku-oku 100 x 100,000,000 ten-billion band

Toshiba's 1996 recurring profits were ¥96,800,000,000.

東芝の96年度の経常利益はきゅうひゃくろくじゅうはちおおく円です。

Tōshiba no kyū-jū-roku nendo no keijōrieki wa kyū-hyaku-roku-jū-hachi-oku en desu.

H 100000000000 isen-oku 1000 x 100,000,000 hundred-billion band

The yearly income of mahjong clubs is ¥149,000,000,000.

マージャンクラブの事業収入はいっせんよんひゃくきゅうじゅうおおく円です。

Mājan kurabu no jigyōshūnyū wa is-sen-yon-hyaku-kyū-jū-oku en desu.

I 1000000000000 ic-chō 1 x 1,000,000,000,000 one-trillion band

The sales of Sony are ¥2,169,900,000,000 million.

ソニーの売上高はにちょういっせんろっぴゃくきゅうじゅうきゅうおおく円です。

Sonii no uriagedaka wa ni-chō-is-sen-rop-pyaku-kyū-jū-kyū-oku en desu.

J 10000000000000 jūc-chō 10 x 1,000,000,000,000 ten-trillion band

The revenues of Itochu corporation are ¥ 14,176,400,000,000 million.

伊藤忠の売上高はじゅうよんちょういっせんななひゃくろくじゅうよんおおく円です。

Itōchū no uriagedaka wa jū-yon-chō-is-sen-nana-hyaku-roku-jū-yon-oku en desu.

VOCABULARY

原爆	genbaku	atomic bomb
約	yaku	about, approximately
亡くなる	nakunaru	to die
関東	kantō	the Kanto region
大震災	daishinsai	great earthquake
製作する	seisaku suru	to produce
自動車	jidōsha	passenger cars
台数	daisū	number of cars
総理大臣	sōridaijin	prime minister
一年間	ichinenkan	one year
俸給	hōkyū	pay, salary
人口	jinkō	population
隣国	ringoku	neighboring country
中国	chūgoku	China
96年度	kyūjūroku-nendo	1996 financial year
経常利益	keijōrieki	recurring profit
マージャン	mājan	mahjong
事業収入	jigyōshunyū	annual revenue
売上高	uriagedaka	revenue, turnover
伊藤忠	itōchū	Itochu (the biggest trading company in Japan)

QUIZ

This is a two-stage quiz.

First see if you can say the number in Japanese, then try and guess what each number represents. Answers are on the next page.

- A 40,070 kilometers
- B 238,855 miles
- C 2,800,000 people
- D 55,000,000 people
- E \$350,000,000
- F \$2,100,000,000
- G \$48,000,000,000
- H \$178,174,000,000
- I 9,460,000,000,000 kilometers
- J ¥12,710,700,000,000

Sources

- A *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 206)
- B *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 429)
- C *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 576)
- D *Random House Encyclopedia* (p. 686)
- E Fortune Website, July 1998
- F www.frontiernet.net
- G Fortune Website, July 1998
- H *Business Week*, July 13, 1998
- I *Newton Bessatu*, March 1997 (p. 196)
- J *Asahi Shimbun Japan Almanac 1998* (p.100)

ANSWERS

- A yon-man-nana-jū kiro
circumference of the earth
- B ni-jū-san-man-has-sen-hap-pyaku-go-jū-go mairu
average distance from the earth to the moon
- C ni-hyaku-hachi-jū-man nin
population of Singapore
- D go-sen-go-hyaku-man nin
number of people who gave their lives in World War Two
- E san-oku-go-sen-man doru
fortune of Queen Elizabeth II of Britain
- F ni-jū-ichi-oku doru
cost of a space shuttle
- G yon-hyaku-hachi-jū-oku doru
fortune of Bill Gates (CEO of Microsoft)
- H is-sen-nana-hyaku-hachi-jū-ichi-oku-nana-sen-yon-hyaku-man doru
revenues of General Motors
- I kyū-chō-yon-sen-rop-pyaku-oku kiro
one light-year
- J jū-ni-chō-nana-sen-hyaku-nana-oku en
sales of Sumitomo Trading company (No. 4 in Japan)



SECRET

#5

HYPOTHESIS

How to Go Beyond the Merely Factual

Objective

To develop a mastery of all hypothetical forms by intensive exposure to them in the form of a custom-written manga.

One of the most acute frustrations you will experience in the early stages of learning Japanese is to find that ignorance of the appropriate grammatical forms restricts you to talking exclusively about matters of fact. You are a master of the indicative. You can discuss what was, what is and what shall be, but you are unable to discuss what might be, what could be, or what should be.

In order to enjoy speaking Japanese you must acquire the ability to speculate, and break out of the limiting prison of the actual as fast as possible. You must not allow ignorance of a few apparently difficult sentence forms to prevent you exercising your imagination.

The language of hypothesis is a little more difficult than the language of fact. But hypothetical statements often just *seem* difficult because they come in the form of a lengthy two-part clause (*if x, then y*). Again, teachers often assume that they need not drill students who are advanced enough to tackle hypothesis quite as relentlessly as they drill beginners tackling the indica-



Kare ga mada watashi no soba ni ite kuretara, donna ni shiawase deshō
If he were still with me, how happy I'd be



Ano hi watashi ga osoku made zangyō o shinakattara, kare wa hitori de sanpo o shinakatta deshō

If I hadn't worked late at the office that day, then he wouldn't have gone out for a walk



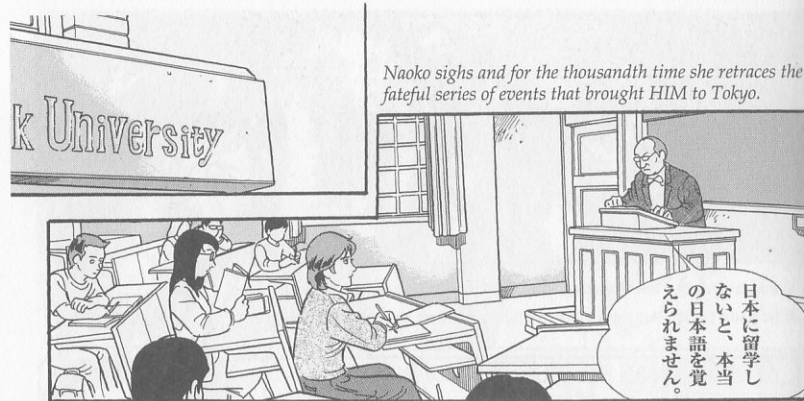
Kare ga sanpo o shinakattara, ano otoko ni deawanakatta deshō
If he hadn't gone out for a walk, then he wouldn't have met that man



Ano otoko ni deawanakereba, resutoran ni ikanakatta deshō
If he hadn't met that man, he wouldn't have gone to the restaurant



Kare ga resutoran ni ikanakattara ...
And if he hadn't gone to the restaurant, then ...

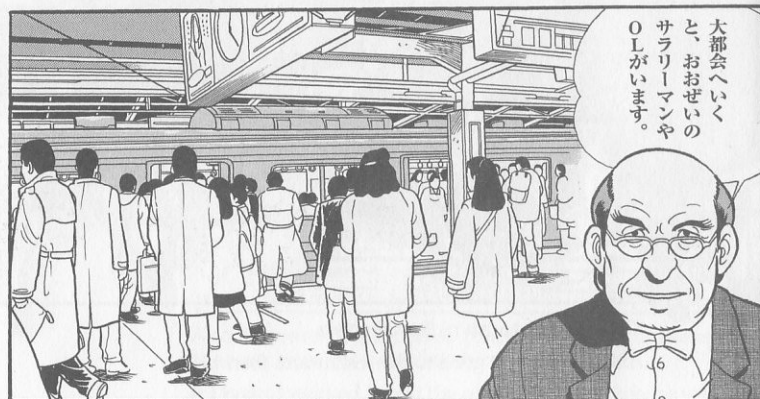


Naoko sighs and for the thousandth time she retraces the fateful series of events that brought HIM to Tokyo.

Nihon ni ryūgaku shinai to, hontō no nihongo o oboeraremasen.
If you don't study in Japan, you'll never learn real Japanese.



Nihon ni iku to suru to, doko ga omoshiroi desu ka?
If I do go to Japan, where's an interesting place to go?



Daitokai e iku to, ōzei no sarariiman ya ōeru ga imasu.
If you go to a big city, there are lots of salarymen and female office workers.



Kyōto ni ittara, takusan no otera o miru koto ga dekimasu.
If you go to Kyoto you'll see lots of temples.



Furukereba, omoshirokunai.
If it's old, it's boring.



Apāto ga semakunakereba ii no ni ...
If only the apartment wasn't quite so small ...



Gokiburi ga inakereba ii no ni ...
If only there weren't any cockroaches ...

Sometimes he found his apartment just too claustrophobic, and set off to experience the buzz of central Tokyo.



Konde inakereba tanoshii no ni ...
If only it wasn't so crowded, I might like it ...

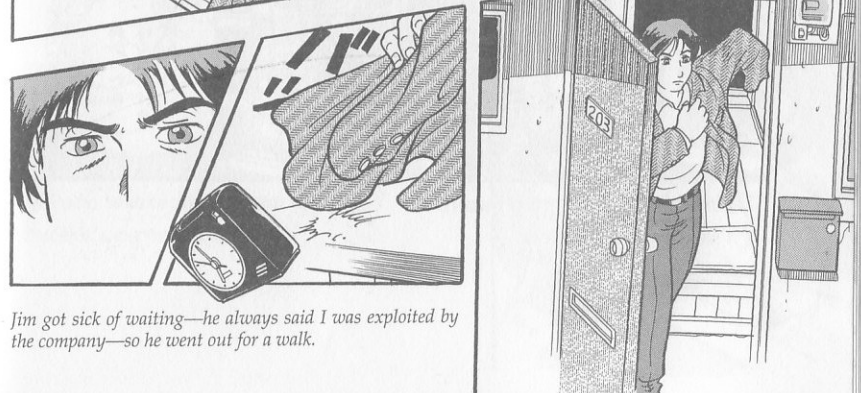
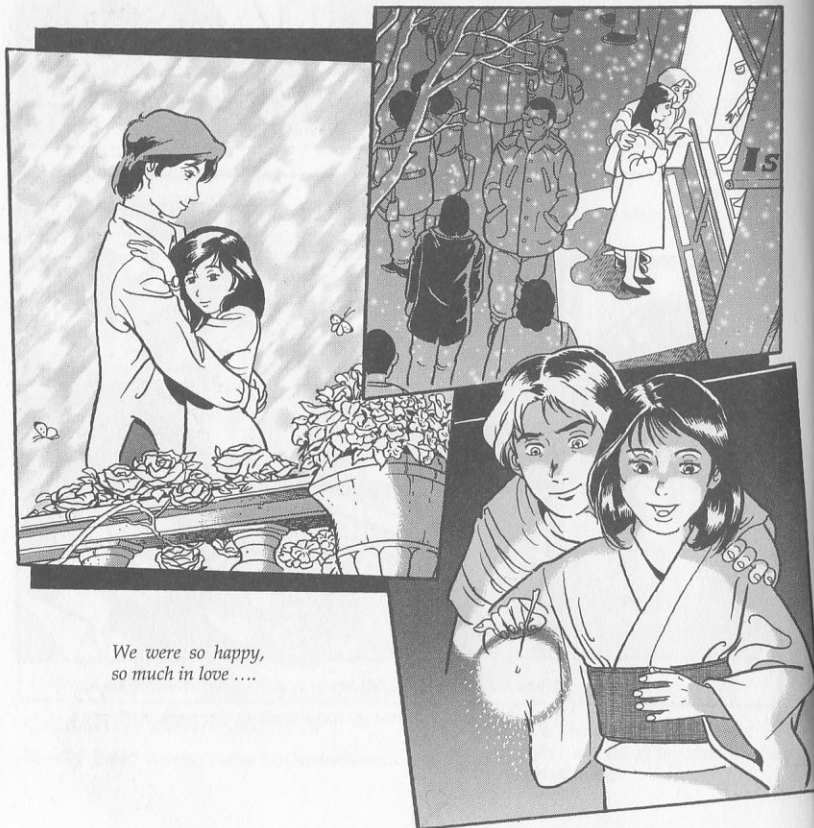
On just one such occasion, we met.

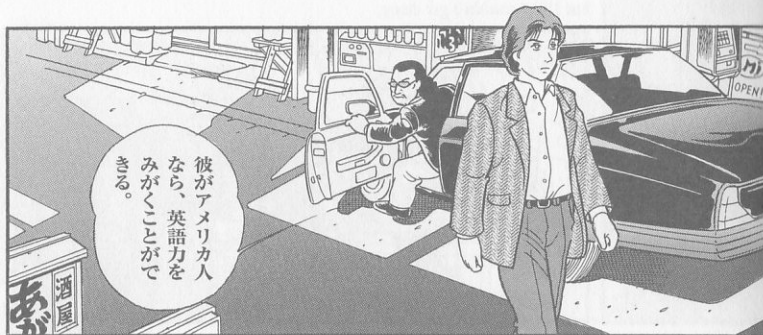


Hima dattara, issho ni kōen o sanpo shimasen ka.
If you're free, will you go for a walk in the park with me?



Moshi, kareshi ga inakereba, watashi no kanojo ni natte kudasai.
If you don't have a boyfriend, please be my girl!





Kare ga amerikajin nara, eigoryoku o migaku koto ga dekiru.
If he's American, I can brush up my English skills.



Jikan ga attara, issho ni shokuji demo shimasen ka?
If you've got time, why not have dinner with me?



Takakattara, boku wa ikemasen.
If it's expensive, I can't go.



Daijōbu. Watashi ga haraimasu kara.
Don't worry, I'll pay!



Yasukereba, fugu wa abunai desu.
If it's cheap, blowfish is dangerous.



Dakedo takakereba, anzen desu.
But if it's expensive it's safe.





Shokuji o nokosu to shitsurei desu yo.
If you don't finish everything up it's bad manners, you know.



Kare ga roku-ji han kara matte iru to shitara, iraira shite iru deshō.
If he's been waiting since 6:30, he'll be in a pretty foul mood I guess.



... famous for the fact that the cooks didn't know how to
remove the blowfish's poison ducts properly, famous for ...



Hyōban ga warui ano Shishi-ya ni itta nara, ABUNAI.
If he's gone to the notorious Shishi Restaurant, he's in danger!





Makudonarudo ni ikeba yokatta ...
I should have gone to McDonald's ...



Anata ga fugu o tabenakattara, watashi wa hitori bocchi ni naranakatta deshō.
If you hadn't eaten the blowfish, I wouldn't be so alone now!





Chinseizai o utanai kagiri, ochitsukimasen ne.

If you don't give her sedatives, she never calms down.



Moshimo ... moshimo ... moshimo ...
moshimo ... moshimo ...

If ... if ... if ... if ...

VOCABULARY (PP. 42-45)

まだ	mada	not yet
のそばにいる	no soba ni iru	be near, with someone
どんなに	donna ni	just how, how very
しあわせ	shiawase	happy
遅くまで	osoku made	till late
残業	zangyō	overtime
ひとりで	hitori de	alone
散歩をする	sanpo o suru	to take a walk
出会う	deau	to meet by chance
留学する	ryūgaku suru	to study abroad
本当の	hontō no	real
覚えられる	oboerareru	to remember
おもしろい	omoshiroi	fun, interesting
大都会	daitokai	big city
おおぜいの	ōzei no	many
サラリーマン	sarariiman	male office clerk
OL	ōeru	female office clerk
お寺	otera	temple
京都	Kyōto	Kyoto
たくさん	takusan	many
古い	furui	old
見ることができる	miru koto ga dekiru	to be able to see

VOCABULARY (PP.46-50)

アパート	apāto	old and small apartment
せまい	semai	cramped
いいのに	ii no ni	if only...
ゴキブリ	gokiburi	cockroach
込んでいる	konde iru	crowded
楽しい	tanoshii	enjoyable
ひま	hima	free, at leisure
いっしょに	issho ni	together
公園	koen	park
もし	moshi	if
彼氏	kareshi	boyfriend
彼女	kanojo	girlfriend
なる	naru	become
なら	nara	if
英語力	eigoryoku	English ability
みがく	migaku	polish, brush up
時間がある	jikan ga aru	to have time
食事をする	shokuji o suru	to have dinner
高い	takai	expensive
ぼく	boku	I (male)
行けません	ikemasen	cannot go

VOCABULARY (PP.51-56)

大丈夫	daijōbu	OK
払う	harau	pay
安い	yasui	cheap
ふぐ	fugu	blowfish
危ない	abunai	dangerous
だけど	dakedo	but
高い	takai	expensive
安全	anzen	safe
のこす	nokosu	to leave
失礼	shitsurei	rude
待つ	matsu	wait
イライラする	iraira suru	to be angry, annoyed
評判	hyōban	reputation
－えばよかった	-eba yokatta	if only ..., I should have ...
悪い	warui	bad
ひとりぼっち	hitori-bocchi	alone
会う	au	to meet
沈静剤	chinseizai	sedatives
うつ	utsu	to inject
かぎり	kagiri	unless, if ... not
落ち着く	ochitsuku	to calm down
もしも	moshimo	if

SECRET #6

SYNONYM GENERATOR

How to Be Five Times as Fluent



To increase powers of expression by memorizing vocabulary and conceiving ideas in clusters of five.

In 1997 the microchip manufacturer Intel achieved profits of nearly \$7 billion on revenues of \$25 billion and was the third most profitable of all American companies despite being only ranked thirty-eighth by revenues. Why was Intel so extraordinarily successful? Because while other chip manufacturers concentrated on the making of low-value-added memory chips, Intel focused exclusively on the manufacture of micro-processors, the thinking and sorting part of the computer's brain.

If you want to become a world-class Japanese speaker, you too must develop a microprocessor-like sorting-and-filtering system in your head. When you are trying to express an idea, and a first search fails to come up with the Japanese equivalent of the word you want, you must activate an automatic switching system that reroutes the thought-impulse until an alternative way to express the same idea has been found.

Let us start with an English example. Imagine you want to express the idea that something is *easy*. Due to a mental block you are unable to recall the word immediately, so your mind

automatically embarks on a search for substitute expressions.

After a couple of nanoseconds you are presented with five alternatives: (1) A synonym: *effortless*. (2) litotes (opposite + not): *not difficult*. (3) An overstatement or exaggeration: *a cinch*. (4) A comparison: *like falling off a log*. (5) A fantastic statement: *I could do it blindfolded standing on my head!*

There are five different ways to say anything and you already know what they are because you were born with a processor inside your head: A Quintium Processor that multiplies your powers of expression by five!

The next four pages are designed to help you develop a Japanese version of this expression-generating processor so you can enjoy the same fecundity and agility of thought and language that you take for granted in English, in Japanese. If you can get in the habit of preprocessing ideas through the five-channel Quintium Processor, you will experience a massive boost in fluency!

Look at the following printouts that show the Quintium Processor generating alternative expressions. As you go on you will come across blanks where because of a bug the Quintium Processor has failed to come up with a substitute. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word or expression, then check your ideas with the answers provided.

QUINTIUM PROCESSOR FIVE TIMES AS FLUENT	MENTAL BLOCK	SYNONYM	LITOTES	EXAGGERATION	COMPARISON	FANTASTIC STATEMENT
	rich 金持ち kanemochi	prosperous 裕福 yūfuku	not poor 貧乏ではない binbō de wa nai	a millionaire 億万長者 okumanchōja	the second Bill Gates 第2のビル・ゲイツ dai-ni no Biru Geitsu	he blows his nose on 10,000-yen notes 一万円札で鼻をかむ ichiman-en-satsu de hana o kamu
	strong 強い tsuyoi	mighty 力強い chikarazuyoi	not weak 弱くない yowakunai	ultra-macho マッチョを きわめる maccho o kiwameru	like Hercules ヘラクレスみたい Herakuresu mitai	he can lift up a car with one finger 指一本で車を持ち上げる ことができる yubi ippon de kuruma o mochiageru koto ga dekiru
	thin 細い hosoi	slim やせている yasete iru	not fat 太っていない futotte inai	just skin & bone 骨と皮ばかり hone to kawa bakari	like a skeleton がいこつみたい gaikotsu mitai	light enough to be blown away by the wind 風に飛ばされるほど軽い kaze ni tobasareru hodo karui
	tall 背が高い se ga takai	big 大きい ōkii	not short 背が低くない se ga hikukunai	a human version of Tokyo Tower 東京タワーの 人間版 Tōkyō Tawā no ningen-ban	like a basketball player バスケットボール の選手みたい basukettobōru no senshu mitai	it would be no surprise if he bumped his head on the moon 頭を月にぶつけても おかしくないほど atama o tsuki ni butsukete mo okashikunai hodo

QUINTIUM PROCESSOR FIVE TIMES AS FLUENT	MENTAL BLOCK	SYNONYM	LITOTES	EXAGGERATION	COMPARISON	FANTASTIC STATEMENT
	kind 優しい yasashii	FILL IN THE BLANK. ?	not ill-natured 悪意のない akui no nai	full of kindness 人情にあふれている ninjō ni afurete iru	like a saint 聖人みたい seijin mitai	you wouldn't be surprised if she popped up in a parable in the bible 聖書のたとえ話に出てもおどろかない seisho no tatoebanashi ni dete mo odorokanai <i>たどえは p. ex</i>
	ugly 醜い minikui	unpleasant to look at 見苦しい migurushii	FILL IN THE BLANK ?	a monster 怪人・怪物 kaijin/kaibutsu	got a face like Frankenstein フランケンシュタインのような顔をしています Furankenshutain no yōna kao o shite imasu	makes mirrors crack 鏡にひびがはいるほど kagami ni hibi ga hairu hodo
	stingy ケチ kechi	avaricious 欲の深い yoku no fukai	not generous 気前がよくない kimae ga yokunai	FILL IN THE BLANK ?	like Scrooge スクルージーのような Skurūjii no yōna	he gets physically sick when he spends money お金をつかうと具合が悪くなる okane o tsukau to guai ga waruku naru
	bad 悪い warui	wicked 邪悪な jaakuna	not morally good 道徳的によくない dōtokuteki ni yokunai	a villain 悪党 akutō	FILL IN THE BLANK ?	FILL IN THE BLANK ?

ANSWERS

(1) 親切な	shinsetsuna	generous
(2) 魅力のない	miryoku no nai	unattractive
(3) しまりや	shimariya	miser
(4) 悪魔のような	akuma no yōna	devil-like
(5) 家でペットを いじめるタイプだ	ie de petto o ijimeru taipu da	he's the kind of guy who tortures his pets at home

VOCABULARY

金持ち	kanemochi	rich
裕福	yūfuku	prosperous
貧乏	binbō	poor
億万長者	okumanchōja	millionaire
第2の	dai-ni no	another, a second
一万円札	ichimanensatsu	10,000-yen note
鼻をかむ	hana o kamu	blow your nose
強い	tsuyoi	strong
力強い	chikarazuyoi	mighty
弱い	yowai	weak
～をきわめる	... o kiwameru	to carry sthg. to an extreme
みたい	mitai	resembling, like
指	yubi	finger
一本	ippon	one (of a long, thin object)
持ち上げる	mochiageru	to lift up
細い	hosoi	thin
やせる	yaseru	to lose weight, be thin
太る	futoru	to put on weight, be fat
骨	hone	bone

皮	kawa	skin
ばかり	bakari	only
がいこつ	gaikotsu	skeleton
風	kaze	wind
飛ばされる	tobasareru	to be blown away
軽い	karui	light
背が高い	se ga takai	tall
背が低い	se ga hikui	short
東京タワー	Tōkyō Tawā	Tokyo Tower
人間	ningen	human being
～版	-ban	version, edition
バスケットボール	basukettobōru	basketball
選手	senshu	player (of a sport)
頭	atama	head
月	tsuki	moon
ぶつける	butsukeru	to knock (<i>tr.</i>)
～ても	-te mo	even if ...
おどろく	odoroku	to be surprised
優しい	yasashii	kind, good natured
悪意	akui	malice
人情	ninjō	kindness, sympathy
……にあふれる	... ni afureru	to overflow with ..., be full of ...
聖人	seijin	saint
聖書	seisho	bible
たとえ話し	tatoebanashi	parable
出る	deru	to appear in
醜い	minikui	ugly
見苦しい	migurushii	painfully ugly
怪人	kaijin	monster
怪物	kaibutsu	monster
のような	no yōna	like

顔	kao	face
鏡	kagami	mirror
ひびがはいる	hibi ga hairu	to crack
ケチ	kechi	stingey
欲	yoku	greed, desire
深い	fukai	deep
気前がいい	kimae ga ii	generous
お金をつかう	okane o tsukau	to spend money
具合が悪い	guai ga warui	to feel bad
悪い	warui	bad
邪悪な	jaakuna	wicked
道徳的	dōtokuteki	morally
悪党	akutō	villain, bad guy
親切な	shinsetsuna	generous
魅力	miriyoku	attraction, attractiveness
しまりや	shimariya	miser
悪魔	akuma	devil
家	ie	house, home
ペット	petto	pet
いじめる	ijimeru	to bully, torture

S E C R E T

#7

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

How to Make Romance Work for You



To increase knowledge of comparison forms.

In her pink-covered manual *How to Write Romances*, Phyllis Taylor Pianka provides some impressive statistics about her chosen genre. Harlequin Romances, she tells us, achieve “a sale of almost six books a second ... if all the Harlequin Romances sold in one year were placed end to end, they would run along both banks of the Amazon, and one bank of the Rio Grande.”

As a visit to any bookstore will confirm, the Japanese market is by no means immune to the plague of Western romantic fiction. More than that, the virus has mutated! In addition to translated imports, locally-hatched *ladies comics* also flourish. This chapter is designed to enable you to get all the linguistic benefits that romantic Japanese can provide, while avoiding the side-effects (politically correct rage, verbiage-fatigue, etc.) associated with overexposure.

I am sure that you are already squirming in your seats as you read this. Some of you, perhaps, are learning Japanese in order to prosper as hard-nosed brokers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Some of you aspire to a life of chastity in a chilly and remote zen monastery. Others of you intend to read stern “way-of-the-warrior”

classics such as *Hagakure*. No one wants to be a soppy and sentimental dreamer reading sexist, escapist trash ... in Japanese!

WAIT! The successful language-learner is an information omnivore who judges everything by one criterion. *Will this improve my Japanese or not?* And, regrettably, rather as a modest consumption of red wine actually improves the health, the overblown clichés of romantic fiction provide considerable linguistic benefits. Here is a list to overcome your scepticism.

(1) Abundant Adjectives

Romance writers just can't get enough adjectives. No character can ever just have eyes, nose, and a mouth. He has to have *dark, mysterious* eyes, a *proud, aquiline* nose, and *thin, yet somehow sensual* lips. This irritating adjectival glut provides a good chance for you to increase your Japanese vocabulary. Moreover, since the same adjectives will recur throughout the novel or comic, you are provided with built-in review opportunities!

(2) Multiple Metaphors

Romance writers just can't get enough similes and metaphors. The Marlboro-man-like male lead has a skin burned brown and hard *like leather*. The heroine, independent and active—yet nonetheless appealing to the protective instincts of the dominant male—is *like a young filly frisking in a meadow*. This metaphor-mania provides another good chance for you to increase your vocabulary, and to master the various forms used for comparisons.

(3) Real-life Romance ...

Out of the literary hothouse into the "real world." Seldom officially promoted in textbooks for reasons of taste, the best and cheapest way to learn a language is to have a relationship with a native speaker, to learn *sur l'oreiller* (on the pillow). Here are the weapons you need to smash open the citadel of any heart!

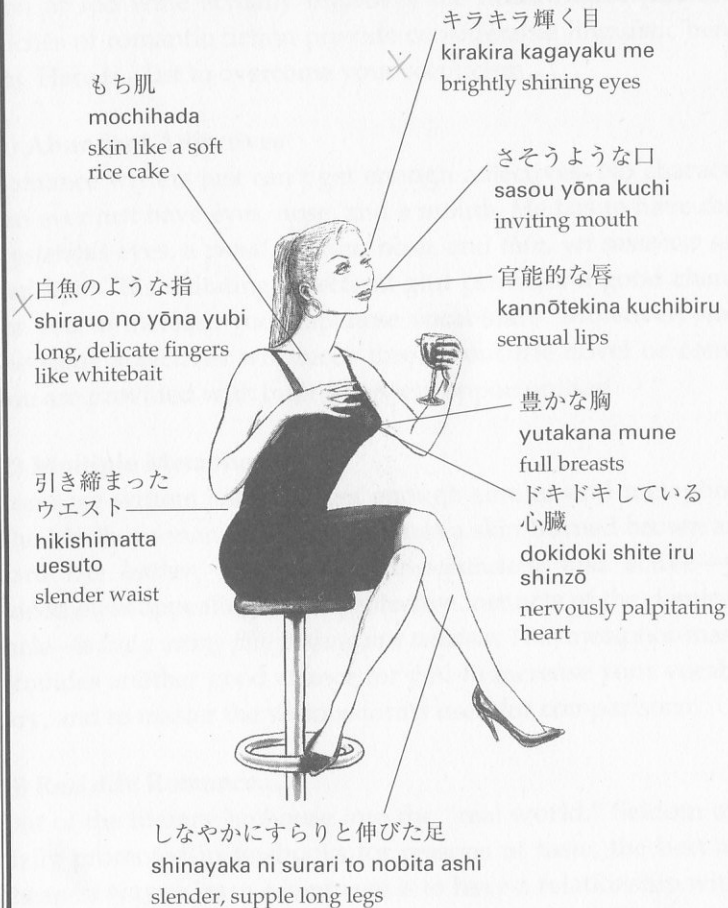
On the following two pages you will meet the hero and heroine of a romantic story, with their inimitably perfect body parts all labelled for you.

Note that as the abundance of kanji suggests, this style of Japanese is more suitable for scented love letters than pickups in the sweaty singles bar.

艶かしいお嬢様

namamekashii ojōsama

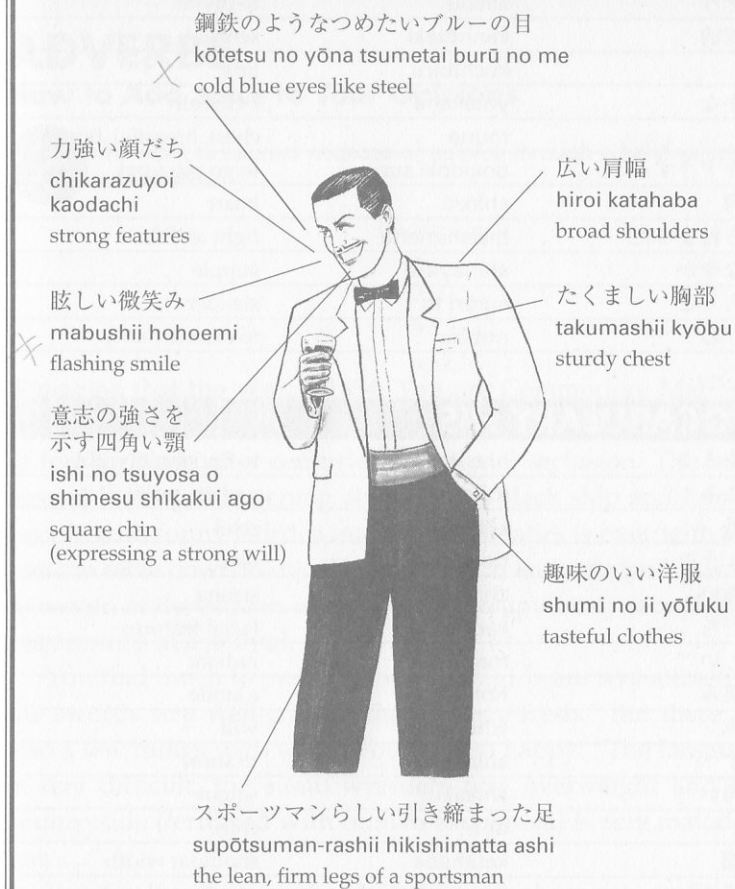
Captivating & Classy Young Lady



非のうちどころのないジェントルマン

hi no uchidokoro no nai jentoruman

The Perfect Gentleman



VOCABULARY HERS

キラキラ	kirakira	glitteringly
輝く	kagayaku	to shine
肌	hada	skin
さそう	sasou	to invite
官能的	kannōteki	sensual
唇	kuchibiru	lips
豊かな	yutakana	rich, full
胸	mune	chest, breast(s), bosom
ドキドキする	dokidoki suru	to go pit-a-pat
心臓	shinzō	heart
引き締まった	hikishimatta	tight and firm
しなやか	shinayaka	supple
すらりと	surari to	slender
伸びる	nobiru	to extend (<i>intr.</i>)

VOCABULARY HIS

非をうつ	hi o utsu	to find fault (with)
ところ	tokoro	a place, point
鋼鉄	kōtetsu	steel
のような	no yōna	like
力強い	chikarazuyoi	strong
顔だち	kaodachi	facial features
眩しい	mabushii	radiant
微笑み	hohoemi	a smile
意志	ishi	will
示す	shimesu	to show
四角い	shikakui	square
顎	ago	chin
肩幅	katahaba	shoulder width
たくましい	takumashii	sturdy
胸部	kyōbu	chest
趣味のいい	shumi no ii	in good taste
-らしい	-rashii	-like, worthy of ...

SECRET

8

ADVERBS

How to Add Spice to Your Opinions



To learn to express nuances of opinion through careful selection of adverbs.

Imagine that the year is 1854. You are Commodore Matthew Perry, the American sailor responsible for opening up Japan to foreign trade after centuries of national seclusion. The business of looking threatening aboard your black ship and forcing people with funny hairdos into signing treaties is over with and you can settle down to enjoying a holiday in an exotic land. Aware, however, of the burden of history you scrupulously record your impressions in a journal.

You find much to praise: "The geisha girls are *very* attractive, the swords *very* well-crafted, the fish *very* fresh." But there are also a few things with which you are less happy: "The language is *very* difficult, the sumo wrestlers *very* overweight and the countryside (fertilized with human excrement) is *very* malodorous"

You finally return to the United States where you are hailed as a hero. You retire from the navy determined to milk your fifteen minutes of fame. Hiring a PR consultant, you explain your plans to use your journal as the basis first for lectures on the college

circuit, then as the core of a best-selling autobiography, maybe even for a musical (based on a romance you had with a certain Madame Butterfly in Yokohama).

The PR consultant is enthusiastic, but has some reservations about your writing style. You inform him that you are just an old seadog more at home drawing blood with the cat o' nine tails than dipping a pen into the ink well. Let him do whatever he pleases to pretty the darn thing up.

The PR consultant, anxious not to upset so prestigious a client as you, points out that there is only one defect in the the manuscript—a recurring sameness in the adverbs used. He assures you that if a variety of more finely nuanced and expressive adverbs were substituted for all those bland “verys,” your memoirs would come alive on the page and fly off the shelves

Returning after a few days, the fawning landlubber of a PR consultant declares the edited manuscript to be “shipshape,” and proceeds to read it to you

“The geisha girls are *mysteriously* attractive and the swords *exquisitely* well-crafted, and the fish *amazingly* fresh. But the language is *monstrously* difficult, the sumo wrestlers *appallingly* overweight, and the countryside *unpleasantly* malodorous!”

You have to admit the fellow's done a good job of making clear how you really felt about things you saw. Your “one-adverb” prose had been stuck in the doldrums, but the puny pen pusher has put wind into its sails

All this is a very roundabout preface to saying: Diversify your adverbs. Do not allow yourself to be limited to *totemo*—the Japanese equivalent of the English adverb *very*—but make a conscious effort to branch out and use a variety of adverbs that communicate nuances of feeling with more power and more subtlety.

Increasing your stock of adverbs is the easiest way to give fla-

vor and bite to your spoken Japanese. If vocabulary and grammar are the meat and potatoes of language, then it is adverbs that are the spice. Below you are provided with a total of twelve zesty adverbs you can use to enliven your opinions. With the mustard powder of mockery, the salt of sarcasm, the paprika of praise, and the dill of delight in your spice cupboard, your Japanese need never be bland again!

COMMODORE PERRY AND THE TIME WARP





You are Commodore Matthew Perry, (the sailor from the introduction) but you are no longer in the nineteenth century. You have fallen through a time warp, and you wake up on a bench in the middle of the rush hour on a platform at Tokyo

station. The time is the present, or approximately one-hundred and forty years after your death!

You make your way to the American embassy where you recount your first impressions of modern Japan to an incredulous commercial attaché who is convinced that you are a raving lunatic. (Notice that since both you and the attaché are in a state of shock you are using only the most vivid and dramatic adverbs).



起きたとき私はかんぜんに困惑していた。

Okita toki watashi wa **kanzen ni** konwaku shite ita.
When I woke up I was **completely** bewildered.

駅はあまりにも込んでいた。

Eki wa **amari ni mo** konde ita.
The station was **excessively** crowded.

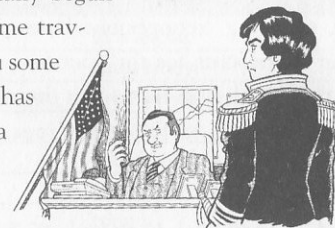
そして電車はみごとに速かった！

Soshite densha wa **migoto ni** hayakatta!
The trains were **astonishingly** fast!

スーツを着ている人はひじょうに多かった。

Sūtsu o kite iru hito wa **hijō ni** ōkatta.
Men in suits were **extraordinarily** numerous!

The commercial attaché has gradually begun to believe that you really are a time traveler. He therefore tries to explain to you some of the ways in which Japan has (and has not) changed since you were last there a century and a half ago.



日本人はやけに勤勉だから……。

Nihonjin wa **yake ni** kinben da kara ...
Because Japanese people are **horribly** industrious ...

日本はすごく豊かな国になった。

Nihon wa **sugoku** yutakana kuni ni natta.
Japan has become a **terribly** rich country.

物価がひどく高い。

Bukka ga **hidoku** takai.
Prices are **appallingly** expensive!

ひとつだけ変わっていないのは言葉がそうとうむずかしいということだ。

Hitotsu dake kawatte inai no wa kotoba ga sōtō muzukashii to iu koto da.

Only one thing that hasn't changed—the language is **pretty** hard!

日本はほんとうに不思議な国だ！

Nihon wa **hontō ni** fushigina kuni da!
Japan is a **really** weird country!

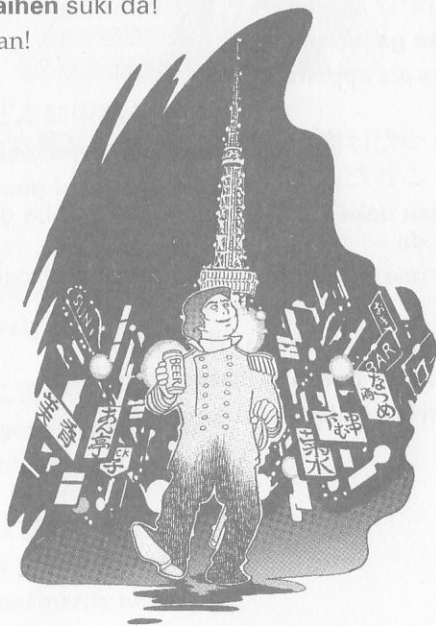
You are not the kind of man to let some pettifogging xenophobic bureaucrat dampen your enthusiasm for the country you opened up to the world. You try to pep the sorry fellow up before heading out for a tot of rum.



日本人は外国人にたいしてみょうに優しい！
Nihonjin wa gaikokujin ni taishite **myō ni yasashii!**
The Japanese are **bizarrely** kind to foreigners!

夜の江戸は最高に楽しい！
Yoru no Edo wa **saikō ni tanoshii!**
Nighttime in Edo (Tokyo) is **supremely** enjoyable!

私は日本がたいへん好きだ！
Watashi wa Nihon ga **taihen** suki da!
I am **awfully** fond of Japan!



VOCABULARY

起きる	okiru	to wake up
かんぜんに	kanzen ni	completely ●
困惑する	konwaku suru	to be bewildered
駅	eki	station
あまりにも	amari ni mo	excessively, intolerably ●
込んでいる	konde iru	to be crowded
電車	densha	train
みごとに	migoto ni	astonishingly, amazingly ●
速い	hayai	fast
着る	kiru	to wear
ひじょうに	hijō ni	extraordinarily ●
多い	ōi	many, numerous
やけに	yake ni	horribly ●
勤勉	kinben	industrious, hard-working
すごく	sugoku	terribly, wonderfully ●
豊かな	yutakana	rich, prosperous
国	kuni	country
物価	bukka	prices
ひどく	hidoku	appallingly ●
高い	takai	expensive
変わる	kawaru	to change
言葉	kotoba	language
そうとう	sōtō	pretty, rather ●
むずかしい	muzukashii	difficult
だけ	dake	only
ほんとうに	hontō ni	really, truly ●
不思議な	fushigina	weird, amazing
外国人	gaikokujin	foreigner
にたいして	ni taishite	towards
みょうに	myō ni	bizarrely, weirdly ●
優しい	yasashii	kind
夜	yoru	nighttime
江戸	Edo	old name for Tokyo
最高に	saikō ni	supremely ●
楽しい	tanoshii	fun
たいへん	taihen	awfully ●
好き	suki	to like

● expressive adverbs

QUIZ

JAPANESE
PSYCHO

You are driving through Texas late at night, and are feeling very, very tired. On the roadside a neon sign advertising a motel catches your eye so you pull in to the parking lot, looking forward to a good, long sleep. Below are your first impressions of the motel. Fill in the missing adverb in the Japanese sentence by referring back to the example sentences and vocabulary lists. Have a nice stay!

建物は _____ 古かった！

Tatemono wa _____ furukatta!

The building was **awfully** old!

駐車場に車が _____ 少なかった！

Chūshajō ni kuruma ga _____ sukunakatta!

There were **extraordinarily** few cars in the parking lot!

受付の人は _____ 変わった男だった！

Uketsuke no hito wa _____ kawatta otoko datta!

The receptionist was a **bizarrely** eccentric young man!



ホテルは _____ 変な雰囲気だった！

Hoteru wa _____ henna fun'iki datta!

The hotel had a **really** strange atmosphere!

部屋のかぎは _____ 貧弱そうにみえた！

Heya no kagi wa _____ hinjaku sō ni mieta!

The room lock looked **horribly** weak

けど私は _____ 疲れていた！

Kedo watashi wa _____ tsukarete ita!

But I was feeling **appallingly** tired!

シャワーは _____ 気持ちよかった！

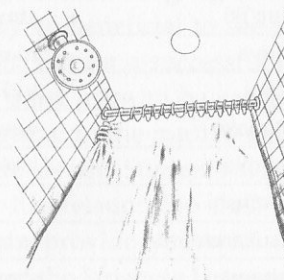
Shawā wa _____ kimochi yokatta!

The shower felt **wonderfully** good!

やっぱり旅行は _____ 楽しい！

Yappari ryokō wa _____ tanoshii!

Traveling is **supremely** good fun after all!



ANSWERS

たいへん	taihen	awfully
ひじうに	hijō ni	extraordinarily
みょうに	myō ni	bizarrely
ほんとうに	hontō ni	really
やけに	yake ni	horribly
ひどく	hidoku	appallingly
すごく	sugoku	wonderfully
最高に	saikō ni	supremely

VOCABULARY

建物	tatemono	building
古い	furui	old
駐車場	chūshajō	parking lot
車	kuruma	car
少ない	sukunai	few
受付	uketsuke	reception
変わった	kawatta	eccentric, odd
変な	henna	strange, weird
雰囲気	fun'iki	atmosphere
部屋	heya	room
かぎ	kagi	lock
貧弱	hinjaku	weak
にみえる	ni mieru	look, appear
私	watashi	I
疲れている	tsukarete iru	to be tired
シャワー	shawā	shower
気持ちいい	kimochi ii	feel good
やっぱり	yappari	after all
旅行	ryokō	journey, travel
楽しい	tanoshii	fun

SECRET #9

KIDS' STUFF

How to Benefit from Playing Children's Word Games



To develop a "natural" relationship to Japanese by mimicking a native speaker's playful relationship to the language. To increase speed of word-recall and word-association powers.

Self-consciously "hard" students who derive a masochistic thrill from toiling in the grim gulag of the grammar book and vocabulary list may regard the theme of this chapter as childish, effete and linguistically unprofitable. They could not be more wrong.

Ease, intimacy, and informality are essential to a successful human relationship. So with language. At the very beginning of your studies it may be beneficial to see Japanese as some evil, bullying taskmaster. But for a successful long-term liaison with the language you must learn to be casually intimate. Students who proceed according to the master-slave paradigm will only work themselves to death. Students who flirt and dally with Japanese in a lover-like relationship shall live happily ever after!

Word games can provide you with a deeper, more three-dimensional sense of the Japanese language. They can teach you to perceive a word in many ways at one time: As a shape, as a sound, or as an idea. The more ways in which you perceive a word, the keener—and the closer to a native speaker—is your sense of language.

LAST-SYLLABLE CATCHBALL しりとり

The first game we shall look at is shiritori. Literally translated this means "bottom-grabbing." Since this sounds misleadingly like a party-game from a Hollywood orgy, allow me to proffer the more considered translation of "last-syllable catchball."

The rules are as follows. Player 1 says a word. Player 2 then has to produce a word that begins with the last syllable of Player 1's word. Player 2 then responds with a word beginning with the last syllable of Player 1's word, and so on and so on.

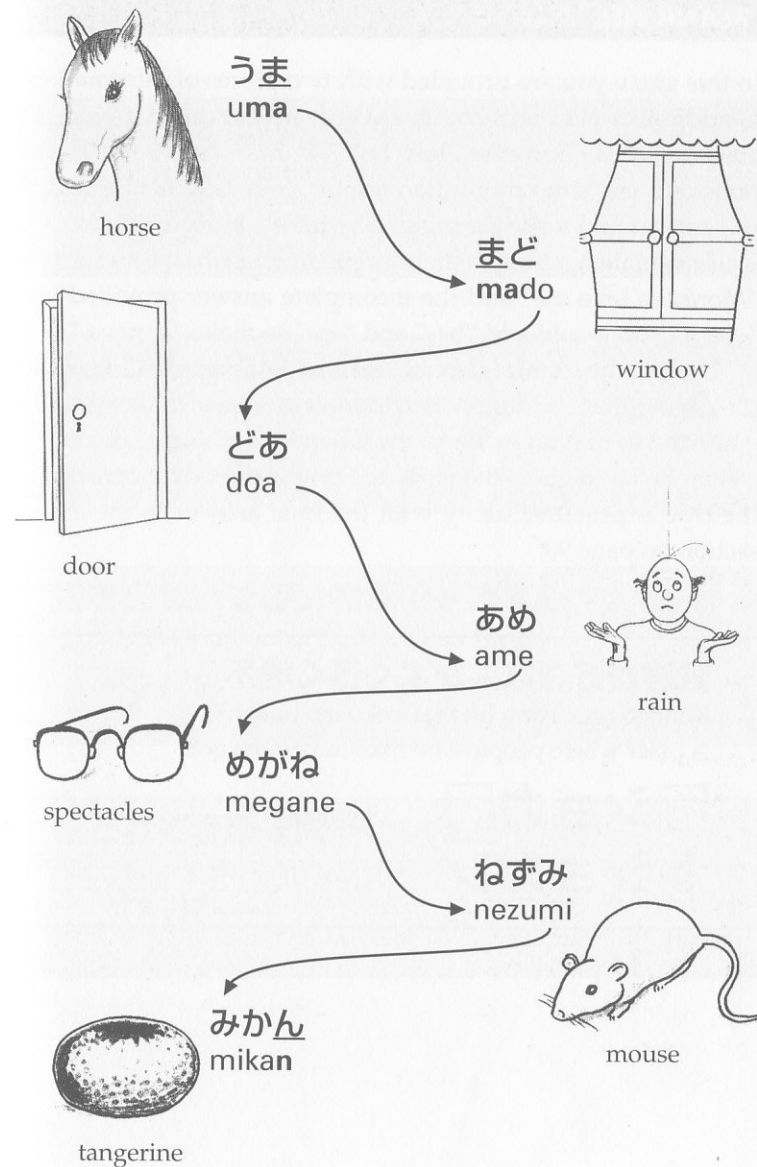
If the game were played in English it would run like this:

Player 1	Banana
Player 2	Nasty
Player 1	Stylish etc.

The game ends either when a player is unable to come up with a word beginning with the appropriate syllable, or when a player produces a word ending in -n (ん)—no Japanese word begins with this syllable.

Below is an example of a very short rally of "last-syllable catchball" with seven words, all of them simple nouns. Notice how the game ends when Player 1 introduces the word mikan (tangerine). Since it ends in -n (ん) Player 1 has lost.

Study the example and once you feel comfortable with the game, go out and find someone to play with. Any Japanese child over the age of five or six should be a more than worthy opponent!



BLANK FILL あなうめ

In this game you are provided with two pieces of information—a riddle-like clue and the one-word answer to that clue. The answer word, however, has had its first and last syllables removed and is no more than a hint. Your task is to guess the full answer and write the missing syllables into the blanks.

To explain again with an example in English. If the clue were “Monkeys love me” and the incomplete answer provided were “_na_,” you would add “ba-” and “-na” to make “banana.”

Look at the example below, then have a go at the four examples. Note that this game provides a two-stage challenge, since you have to first understand the Japanese of the clue before you can move on to guess the answer. For this reason a translation of the clue is provided along with the final answer in the answer section on page 90.

勉強が好きな人がよく行く場所？

Benkyō ga sukina hito ga yoku iku basho?

A place where people who like study often go?

ショカ _shoka_

トショカン toshokan library

Fill in the first & last syllables to answer the question

具合が悪くなったら？

Guai ga waruku nattara?

ヨウイ _yōi_

学生がみんな楽しみにしている？

Gakusei ga minna tanoshimi ni shite iru?

ツヤス _tsuyasu_

家を出ないで買い物ができますか？

Ie o denaide kaimono ga dekimasu ka?

タロ _taro_

ひとりで音楽を聞きたいなら？

Hitori de ongaku o kikitai nara?

ヤホー _yahō_

ANSWERS

If you're feeling bad?

ビョウイン byōin hospital

Students are all looking forward to it?

ナツヤスミ natsuyasumi summer vacation

Can you shop without leaving home?

カタログ katarogu catalogue

If you want to listen to music by yourself?

イヤホン iyahon earphones



VOCABULARY

勉強 benkyō study

場所 basho place

具合 guai (physical) condition

楽しみにする tanoshimi ni suru look forward to

買い物 kaimono shopping

家を出る ie o deru leave the house

ひとり hitori alone

聞きたい kikitai want to hear, listen

なら nara if

READING IN REVERSE ぎゃくよみ

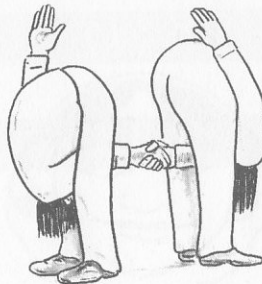
This next game is a simple test of how well you know your hiragana and katakana. You are confronted with a word printed backwards and have to figure out what it says. Ideally this game should be played as a competition with a number of people racing to decipher a word.

Since the most confusing hiragana letters to decipher are the mirror-image さ and ち they tend to recur in questions of this type.

Look at the example, then test your backward-reading skills on the words below!

いさな

いさな
Small



あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

あはれ

ANSWERS

わたし

watashi

I

あさって

asatte

day after tomorrow

だいどころ

daidokoro

kitchen

ちかてつ

chikatetsu

subway

テラス

terasu

terrace

ツール

tsūru

tool

ソニック

sonikku

Sonic (the Hedgehog)

チベット

chibetto

Tibet

TONGUE-TWISTERS はやくちことば

The benefits of learning Japanese tongue-twisters for you are exactly the same as for a native speaker. You can work on your pronunciation while having fun at the same time. Try these two.

Nama mugi • Nama gome • Nama tamago

なまむぎ・なまごめ・なまたまご

Fresh barley • Fresh rice • Raw Eggs



Aka Pajama • Ki Pajama • Cha Pajama

あかパジャマ・きパジャマ・ちゃパジャマ

Red pajamas • Yellow pajamas • Brown pajamas

VOCABULARY

なま

nama

fresh, raw

むぎ

mugi

barley

こめ

kome

rice

たまご

tamago

egg

パジャマ

pajama

pajamas

CROSSWORD クロスワード

Crossword puzzles provide you with threefold mental exercise. First you have to understand the clue, then you have to figure out (or possibly look up) the answer, and finally you have to write the answer in the grid.

Try your luck with the crossword below. One answer has been filled in for you as an example.

↑ たてのかぎ TATE NO KAGI KEY DOWN

- 1 フレンドの日本語
Furendo no nihongo
- 5 毎日の出来事の記録
Mainichi no dekgoto no kiroku
- 7 ヒットラーが党首
Hittorā ga tōshu
- 8 他の国から来た人
Hoka no kuni kara kita hito

→ よこのかぎ YOKO NO KAGI KEY ACROSS

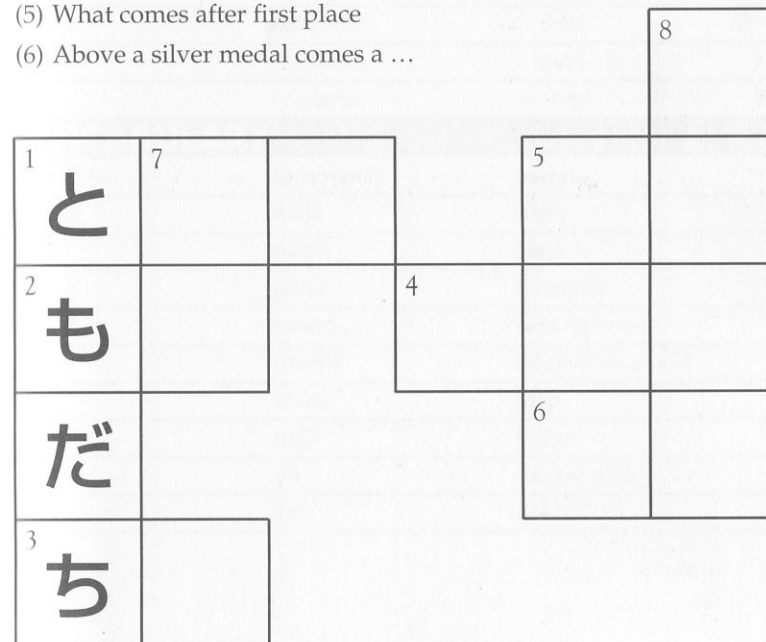
- 1 いちばん近い両横
Ichiban chikai ryōyoko
- 2 きれいな肌の例えに使われる日本の食べ物
Kireina hada no tatoes ni tsukawareru nihon no tabemono
- 3 地域を平面にしたもの (世界××、日本××など)
Chiiki o heimen ni shita mono (sekai XX, nihon XX nado)
- 4 洋服のえりにピンでとめるもの
Yōfuku no eri ni pin de tomeru mono
- 5 1位の次
Ichii no tsugi
- 6 銀メダルの上は××メダル
Ginmedaru no ue wa XX medaru

KEY DOWN

- (1) A friend in Japanese
- (5) A daily record of events
- (7) Hitler was head of this
- (8) Someone who comes from another country

KEY ACROSS

- (1) The place closest to you on each side
- (2) A Japanese food used in comparisons for beautiful skin
- (3) A thing that represents an area as a flat plane (A world XX, A XX of Japan)
- (4) Something you pin onto the collar of your clothes
- (5) What comes after first place
- (6) Above a silver medal comes a ...



SECRET #10

PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

How to Increase Your Vocabulary—Instantly

Objective

To conveniently increase and vary vocabulary of spoken Japanese by adding prefixes and suffixes to words that you already know.

Prefixes and suffixes are one of the most powerful linguistic tools available. Learn just a single Japanese prefix or suffix, and, since you can snap it onto many of the words you already know, you effectively double your vocabulary on the spot.

The blander prefixes and suffixes have already been well covered in other books. The Hokuseido Press, for example, publishes *A Handbook of Modern Grammar* that provides an extensive list. Most books, however, focus on prefixes and suffixes as a means to improve reading ability, and do not include any of the colloquial and humorous prefixes and suffixes introduced here.

The prefixes and suffixes in this chapter have been divided into five rather loosely defined groups. In the first section, you will find the Japanese equivalents to expressions describing people such as “master of ...,” “-maniac,” and “-phile” among others. Again, as with the English “super-,” “ultra-,” and “mega-,” many Japanese prefixes are used to express degree in an emphatic manner. These are covered in the second section. The third section introduces a range of expressive suffixes, while in the fourth

section you will meet the Japanese equivalents to cheesy tabloid favorites such as “world-beating,” “the one and only,” and “the ultimate.” Japanese is very rich in verb suffixes, and a selection of the most graphic can be found in the fifth and final section.

To sum up then: This chapter provides a **once-in-a-lifetime** opportunity for you to overcome your Japanese-**phobia** and become the Japanese-speaker-**from-hell**. Study the following lists and you will become an **ultra-fluent** word-**wizard**, a **master of hyper-expressive** Japanese!

Before you start, perhaps a health warning is in order. You are about to receive a very intensive introduction to prefixes and suffixes, but when it comes to speaking, you should aim to use them in moderation or—as we can see from the previous paragraph—you run the risk of sounding bizarre.

Here is a list of forty-one prefixes and suffixes, with one or two example words in each case. Look through them, try and memorize them, then do the quiz. Notice that any word that appears in the quiz is marked with the question number for easy reference.

(1) PEOPLE SUFFIXES

～マニア オペラマニア カーマニア	-MANIA ⁰⁶ opera-mania kā-mania	-maniac, -fanatic, someone who can't get enough of ... opera fanatic auto-maniac
～狂い ギャンブル狂い 女狂い	-GURUI ⁰⁵ gyanburu-gurui onna-gurui	-crazy, -mad gambling-crazy girl-crazy
～の塊 偏見の塊 脂肪の塊	... no KATAMARI ⁰⁹ henken no katamari shibō no katamari	A bundle of..., a lump of ... great bundle of prejudices lump of lard
～坊 けちん坊 食いしん坊	-BŌ ⁰⁴ kechin-bō kuishin-bō	person miser glutton, pig
～好き 車好き 女好き	-ZUKI ⁰³ kuruma-zuki onna-zuki	-lover, -enthusiast, -phile motor/auto enthusiast a Casanova, a Don Juan

～の達人 料理の達人 座談の達人	... no TATSUJIN ⁰⁷ ryōri no tatsujin zadan no tatsujin	-expert, -ologist master of cooking, super chef master of conversation, great talker
～名人 言い訳の名人 煙管の名人	-MEIJIN iiwake no meijin kiseru no meijin	-expert, -ologist (lit: person famous for ...) master excuse-monger master fare-dodger
～人 文化人 社会人	-JIN bunka-jin shakai-jin	person person of culture adult (as opposed to a student)
～の卵 医者の卵 女優の卵	...no TAMAGO isha no tamago joyū no tamago	apprentice, proto-, -embryonic student doctor aspiring actress
～屋 皮肉屋 気分屋	-YA ⁰² hiniku-ya kibun-ya	person, -monger sarcasm-monger moody person, mood-monger

～の鬼 勝負の鬼 仕事の鬼	...NO ONI ⁰⁵ shōbu no oni shigoto no oni	devil, (... from hell) demon-player, competitive person demon-worker
～族 暴走族 社用族	-ZOKU bōsō-zoku shayō-zoku	tribe wild speed tribe company-expenses tribe
～派 社会派 さっぱり派	-HA ^{02&7} shakai-ha sappari-ha	faction, type socially conscious crowd straight-talkers
～系 文系 理系	-KEI ⁰¹ bun-kei ri-kei	type of person, -ist arty type scientific or techno type
～党 コーヒー党 日本酒党	-TŌ ⁰⁸ kōhii-tō Nihonshu-tō	-ite, faction of the coffee- (not tea) drinking clan of the saké- (not beer or whiskey) drinking clan

(2) PREFIXES

度～ 度根性 度胆	DO- ⁰⁴ do-konjō do-gimo	very, totally true-grit shit-scared
極～ 極秘 極少ない	GOKU- goku-hi goku-sukunai	extremely, top top secret extremely few
くそ～ くそ真面目 くそ面白くない	KUSO- ⁰³ kuso-majime kuso-omoshirokunai	very (usu. in negative sense), darn really uptight, stiff and bor- ing incredibly boring
丸～ 丸裸 丸儲け	MARU- maru-hadaka maru-mōke	completely, giant, big totally / stark naked hit the jackpot, make a mil- lion
激～ 激安 激ます	GEKI- geki-yasu geki-mazu	ultra- unbelievably cheap incredibly disgusting (of food)

(3) SUFFIXES

～くさい うそくさい おやじくさい	-KUSAI uso-kusai oyaji-kusai	"smells like" smells fishy, implausible geezeresque
～っぽい 女っぽい 日本人っぽくない	-PPOI onna-ppoi Nihonjin-ppokunai	-ish, seeming feminine un-Japanese
～アップ 元気アップ パワーアップ	-APPU genki-appu pawa-appu	-charge, surge, -boost energy-boost increased power
～破り 記録破り 型破り	-YABURI kiroku-yaburi kata-yaburi	-defying, -busting record-breaking mould-busting (convention-defying)
～くそ 下手くそ やけくそ	-KUSO heta-kuso yake-kuso	-shit totally useless at ... totally cynical

～心 女心 日本の心	-KOKORO onna-gokoro Nihon no kokoro	the spirit and soul of ... soul of a woman spirit of Japan
～遊び 芸者遊び 言葉遊び	-ASOBI geisha-asobi kotoba-asobi	-play frolicking with geisha girls wordplay
～天国 歩行者天国 独身天国	-TENGOKU hokōsha-tengoku dokushin-tengoku	-heaven pedestrian paradise (no car zone) singles' heaven
～地獄 受験地獄 借金地獄	-JIGOKU juken-jigoku shakkin-jigoku	-hell exam-hell debt-hell
～恐怖症 高所恐怖症 カラオケ恐怖症	-KYŌFUSHŌ ^{Q6} kōsho-kyōfushō karaoke-kyōfushō	-phobia, -allergy fear of heights karaoke-phobia

(4) PHRASAL PREFIXES

うわさの～ うわさの人 うわさの本	UWASA no ... uwasa no hito uwasa no hon	the infamous/legendary ... the much-spoken-about person the infamous book
謎の～ 謎の人物 謎の日本人	NAZO no ... nazo no jinbutsu nazo no Nihonjin	the mysterious ... the mystery man/woman those unscrutable Japanese
日本一～ 日本一面白い男	NIPPON-ICHI ...⁰⁹ Nippon-ichi-omoshiroi otoko	Japan's finest ... funniest man in all Japan
第2の～ 第2のビートルズ 第2のケネディ	DAI NI no ... dai ni no Biitoruzu dai ni no Kenedi	second, another modern version of the Beatles (ie. Oasis) second President Kennedy (ie. Clinton)
究極の～ 究極のスリル 究極の快感	KYŪKYOKU no ... kyūkyoku no suriru kyūkyoku no kaikan	the ultimate ... ultimate thrill ultimate pleasure

(5) VERB SUFFIXES

～まくる しゃべりまくる 買いまくる	-MAKURU⁰¹⁰ shaberi-makuru kai-makuru	to do in excess jabber your head off shop till you drop
～回る かぎ回る 走り回る	-MAWARU kagi-mawaru hashiri-mawaru	to do all around (<i>intr.</i>) sniff all around (for clues, info.) run about like crazy
～回す 舐め回す	-MAWASU name-mawasu	to do all around (<i>tr.</i>) lick every square inch of
～狂う 遊び狂う 荒れ狂う	-KURUU asobi-kuruu are-kuruu	to do crazily really paint the town red run amok
～つぶれる 飲みつぶれる	-TSUBURERU⁰¹⁰ nomi-tsubureru	to do till you drop drink till you're in a state of collapse
～くさる 威張りくさる	-KUSARU ibari-kusaru	to do till you putrify to be arrogant to the point of putrefaction

QUIZ

You are woken up one morning by a group of sinister thugs pressing around your bedside. They inform you that your Japanese teacher, dissatisfied with your progress in the language, has taken the drastic step of giving your name to *Reluctomate* the notorious international dating agency. He has promised them vast sums embezzled from university funds if they can provide you with a mate to teach you Japanese in his exhausted stead ... fast!

In their hunger for commission the staff of *Reluctomate* are determined to marry you off to a Japanese spouse within twenty-four hours. They present you with the *SpouseSelector* questionnaire (see below). You cannot escape from the arranged marriage, but you can at least choose the type of person with whom you will have to spend the rest of your life!

Tick the box to indicate the type of spouse you want.

RELUCTOMATE

SpouseSelector Computerized Questionnaire

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 文系の人
bun-kei no hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B 理系の人
ri-kei no hito |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> A さっぱり派の人
sappari-ha no hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B 皮肉屋
hiniku-ya |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 遊び好きな人
asobi-zukina hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B くそ真面目な人
kuso-majimena hito |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 度根性の人
do-konjō no hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B あまえん坊
amaen-bō |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 仕事の鬼
shigoto no oni | <input type="checkbox"/> B ギャンブル狂い
gyanburu-gurui |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> A カラオケマニアの人
karaoke-mania no hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B カラオケ恐怖症の人
karaoke-kyōfushō no hito |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 料理の達人
ryōri no tatsujin | <input type="checkbox"/> B インスタント派の人
insutanto-ha no hito |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 和食党の人
washoku-tō no hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B 洋食党の人
yōshoku-tō no hito |
| 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 日本一すてきな
Nihon-ichi-sutekina hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B 脂肪の塊
shibō no katamari |
| 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> A 週末寝まくる人
shūmatsu ne-makuru hito | <input type="checkbox"/> B 週末飲みつぶれる人
shūmatsu nomi-tsubureru hito |

1 A The arty type
B The nerdy, science type

2 A A down-to-earth person
B A sarcastic person

3 A A fun-loving person
B A horribly serious person

4 A A gutsy person
B A feeble, dependent type of person

5 A A workhorse
B A gambling addict

6 A A karaoke-maniac
B A karaoke-phobe

7 A A brilliant cook
B An eater of microwave dinners

8 A A Japanese food person
B A Western food person

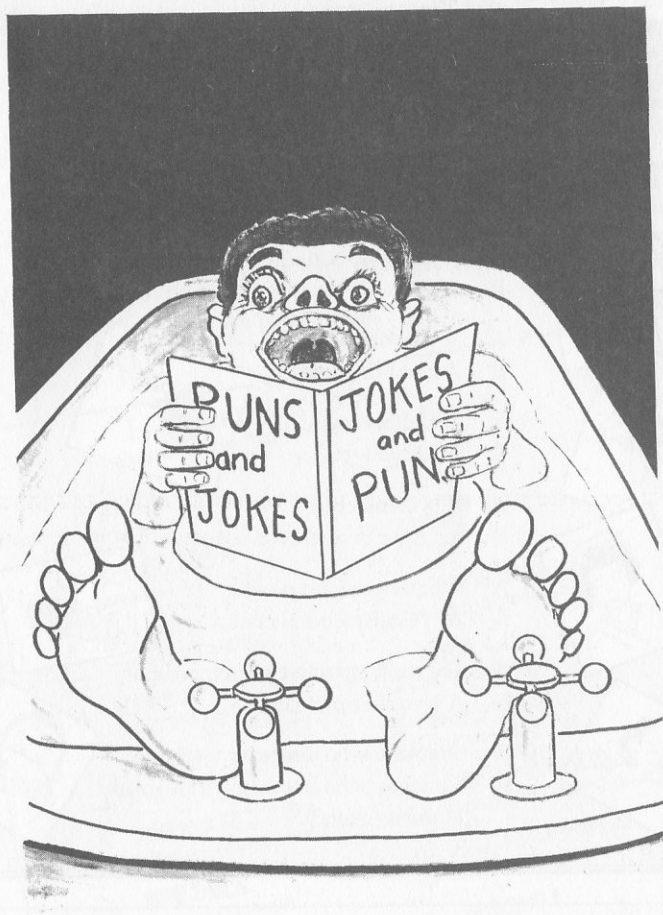
9 A The most attractive person in Japan
B A great lump of lard

10 A Someone who sleeps all weekend
B Someone who drinks till they drop at the weekend

Now count up the number of A and B responses.

If you have more A than B answers, you will have a long, happy, and prosperous life with your spouse.

If, however, you have more B than A answers, your life with your new mate will be characterized by violent arguments, extreme poverty and high cholesterol all culminating in an early death.



JOKES AND PUNS

How to See beneath the Surface of the Language



To develop speedy word-recall and word-association abilities while having fun.

Q. Why did the tomato blush?

A. Because it saw the salad dressing.

Is he seriously proposing that silly pun-based riddles and jokes are one of the secrets to mastering Japanese? To those of you wondering what on earth is going on here—Yes, that is precisely what I am proposing. Power through puns! I guarantee that your Japanese will make a great leap forward on condition that you are prepared to revert to a mental age of ten. In your own language you may have “put childish things behind you,” but to fully understand Japanese you must revisit a previous stage of your linguistic evolution.

In Japan puns and riddles are seen not just as a trivial amusement, but as a form of mental-training from which children can derive two significant educational benefits.

Firstly, Japanese puns frequently depend on kanji-character homophones. Wrestling with such puns increases a child’s awareness of how words which sound the same can nonetheless have a quite different meaning and be written with a quite different kanji character. Familiarity with such homophones improves a child’s kanji-literacy, and since literacy demands not the ability

to read and write only twenty-six letters, but the ability to read and write over two-thousand kanji characters, no useful means to this end, even the humble pun, is to be rejected.

Secondly, many Japanese puns depend on the interplay of native Japanese words and foreign katakana loanwords. For the Japanese child, katakana loanwords are an exotic and difficult alternative to homegrown Japanese. A child knows the word *gohan* for rice, but the katakana alternative of *raisu*—frequently used in restaurants—is still beyond its ken. A child knows the word *yasashii* (kind, gentle), but not the loanword *naisu*. Westerners automatically think loanwords are a banal and unfairly easy alternative to real, kanji-based Japanese, but for young native speakers loanwords are challengingly unfamiliar and sophisticated.

Japanese children then can improve their kanji-literacy and their loanword vocabulary through punning, but what about you? Firstly, a study of puns will provide you with greater mental agility. Pun study will alter the way in which you store Japanese vocabulary in your brain. Words will no longer be arranged in the simple form of a two-column English-Japanese vocabulary list, but in a sophisticated database with cross-reference hyperlinks between kanji homophones, between native Japanese words and foreign katakana loanwords, and between theme-based “meaning-clusters” of words.

Secondly, a study of puns will also help you acquire a basic, down-to-earth vocabulary. Most students of Japanese start to study the language in their teens, and are well past the “Mommy, what’s that?” stage. Inspired by an interest in Japanese culture or business they may have a very lop-sided vocabulary, knowing difficult abstract terms like capitalism (*shihonshugi*), or Stockholders’ Annual General Meeting Extortionist (*sōkaiya*) without knowing simple names for concrete things, people and

animals like *truck*, *engineer* or *carp*. Their Japanese is sophisticated but lacks essential vocabulary infrastructure. Jokes are a natural and enjoyable way to go back and acquire basic matter-of-fact vocabulary.

Finally, the most important benefit you can get from studying puns is to change the way you feel towards the Japanese language. Rather than the grim paradigm Japanese Study = (Opportunity to make mistakes + Opportunity to make a fool of myself) you can switch to the positive formula of Japanese Study = (Opportunity to have fun + Opportunity to learn).

The study of puns should mark a psychological turning point for you. Once you have read this chapter you will never be able to think that Japanese is boring again. The knowledge that you can have fun playing with Japanese will give you the will to stick with it in the future even when the grammar becomes cruelly and intolerably complex because in your heart you will know *Japanese is a good guy really!*

This first ten examples are a selection of relatively easy pun-based jokes. Study them slowly, and try and figure out the answers for yourself before looking across at the facing page for the explanation. When you feel you have got the hang of how the humor works, test your Japanese mental age with the intermediate challenge on page 121, then with the ultimate challenge on page 123.

1 WARM-UP JOKES

① いつも笑っている家族はだれ？

Itsumo waratte iru **kazoku** wa dare?
Which **member of your family** is always laughing?



② トラックがコーナーでなにか落としました。なにを落としたのでしょうか？

Torakku ga kōnā de nanika **otoshimashita**. Nani o otoshita no deshō?
The truck **dropped** something at the corner. What do you think it was?



③ カンはカンでも食べられるかんってなに？

Kan wa kan demo **taberareru kan** tte nani?
A can's a can, but what kind of can can you eat?



④ しゅみのなかでいちばん偉いしゅみはなに？

Shumi no naka de ichiban **erai shumi** wa nani?
Which **hobby** is the noblest of them all?

⑤ 木は木でもなると困るきはなに？

Ki wa ki demo **naru to komaru ki** wa nani?
A tree's a tree, but which kind of tree do you **not want to become**?



1 ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

① ハハ haha mother

Haha is the onomatopoeic word used to represent laughter in Japanese as in English, but haha written with the kanji 母 means mother.

② スピード supiido speed

In English we have the expression to drop speed, and the same expression exists (*supiido o otosu*) in Japanese. The truck slowed down at the corner, thus dropping speed, but no actual solid object.

③ みかん mikan tangerine

The question seems to be referring to a tin can which is *kan* in Japanese. This is a trick to mislead you. Think of *kan* just as a sound, in this case the final syllable of *mikan*, a tangerine.



④ ハイキング haikingu hiking

Haikingu includes the word *kingu* (a loanword version of *ōsama*), and a king is the most noble person there is!



⑤ びょうき byōki sick

The question seems to be referring to a tree (木). Again, this is a trick to mislead you. Think of *ki* just as a sound, in this case the *ki* (気) of *byōki*, sick. Nobody wants to become sick!



1 WARM-UP JOKES

6 パンはパンでもはけるパンはなに？

Pan wa pan demo **hakeru pan** wa nani?
Bread is bread, but what kind of **bread** can you wear?



7 さいはさいでもうちゅうで生きることのできるさいってなに？

Sai wa sai demo **uchū de ikiru koto no dekiru sai** tte nani?
A rhino's a rhino, but what kind of rhino can survive in space?

8 完全なのに悪いものってなに？

Kanzen na noni warui mono tte nani?
What is bad, even though it's perfect?

9 ぶたが行きたくないヨーロッパのまちはどこ？

Buta ga ikitakunai Yōroppa no **machi** wa doko?

Which **town** in Europe do **pigs** not want to go to?



10 のりはのりでもかっこいいのりは？

Nori wa nori demo **kakko ii** nori wa?
Which kind of **glue** is the coolest glue?



1 ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

6 パンツ pantsu underpants

The question seems to be referring to bread (pan). However, in this case pan is the first syllable of pantsu, the loanword for underpants.

7 サイボーグ Saibōgu cyborg

Sai means rhinoceros. What kind of rhinoceros (sai) could possibly survive in space? Only a super hi-tech cyborg (saibōgu).



8 完全犯罪 kanzen-hanzai the perfect crime

A flawlessly executed crime may be perfect (kanzen), but it is still morally bad (warui)!



9 ブタペスト Butapesuto Budapest

No pig would want to go to a town with a name made up of the words buta (pig) and pesuto (the loanword for plague or pestilence)!

10 ジェイムス・ボンド Jeimusu Bondo James Bond

Bondo exists in Japanese as a loanword, meaning strong glue as in English. James Bond 007, the invincible spy, is as famous in Japan as anywhere else.

VOCABULARY

いつも	itsumo	always
笑う	warau	to laugh
家族	kazoku	member of family
トラック	torakku	truck
コーナー	kōnā	corner, bend in road
なにか	nanika	something
落とす	otosu	drop
カン	kan	tin can
食べられる	taberareru	to be edible
みかん	mikan	tangerine
しゅみ	shumi	hobby
いちばん	ichiban	the most
偉い	erai	noble, important
なると...	naru to ...	if you become ...
困る	komaru	to be/have a problem
はける	hakeru	be able to wear
さい	sai	rhinoceros
宇宙	uchū	outer space
生きる	ikiru	live, survive
完全	kanzen	perfect
なのに	na noni	although, despite (being)
ぶた	buta	pig
行きたい	ikitai	to want to go
ヨーロッパ	Yōroppa	Europe
まち	machi	town, city
のり	norī	glue
かっこいい	kakko ii	cool, neat

2 INTERMEDIATE CHALLENGE

What is your mental age in Japanese?

These five jokes come from *Ichi-nensei Ijiwaru-NazoNazo* (Elementary School First-grade Teaser Riddles) published by Popura-sha and written by D. Hanamura and M. Yoshihara. This book, part of a series on sale in any bookstore in Japan, targets seven-year-olds.

Try and answer the riddles *without* looking at the answers, then, using the key below, work out your mental age based on the number of correct answers.

3 or more correct answers: You are equal to a smart seven-year-old.

1-2 correct answers: Mentally you are seven years old, but not too bright.

0 correct answers: You deserve to be expelled from elementary school.

① 月は月でもみんなにきらわれる月ってどんな?

Tsuki wa tsuki demo minna ni kirawareru tsuki tte donna?

The moon's the moon, but what kind of moon is hated by everybody?



② シミがついていてもたべられるものはなんだ?

Shimi ga tsuite ite mo taberareru mono wa nan da?

What can you eat even though it's got lots of stains on it?



③ イヌはいくつまで数をかぞえられる?

Inu wa ikutsu made kazu o kazoerareru?

Up to what number can a dog count?



④ びっくりしてみる本ってなんだ?

Bikkuri shite miru hon tte nan da?

What kind of book do you get a surprise when you read?



⑤ トイレにいるかみさまのなまえはなんだ?

Toire ni iru kami-sama no namae wa nan da?

What's the name of the god in the lavatory?



2 ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

① うそつき usotsuki a liar

The question makes you think it is referring to the moon (*tsuki*). This is a trick to mislead you. *Tsuki* is just as a sound-unit, in this case from *usotsuki*, “liar”—and no one likes a liar!

② さしみ sashimi sashimi

While *sashimi* means “raw fish” (eaten without rice unlike *sushi*), the word *shimi* by itself means “a stain.”

③ ワン wan one

Wan is the katakana version of the English word “one.” In baby language, however, dogs are called *wan-chan* (little Mr. Doggy-woggy).

④ えほん ehon a picture book

Ehon means a “picture book.” The joke is based on the Japanese exclamation of surprise “ehhh!” being a homophone of *e*, (絵) a picture.

⑤ トイレット・ペーパー toiretto-pēpā toilet paper

Kami-sama when written with the kanji 神 means “god.” *Kami* written with the kanji 紙, however, means “paper.” The *kami* found in the toilet is, of course, “toilet paper.”

3 ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

What is your mental age in Japanese?

The final group of five jokes come from *San/Yon-nensei NazoNazo* (Elementary School Third and Fourth Grade Riddles) published by Ōizumi Shoten and written by H. Shigekane. This book, also part of a series on sale in any bookstore in Japan, targets nine- and ten-year-olds.

Again, try and answer the riddles *without* looking at the answers, then, using the key below, work out your mental age based on the number of correct answers you got:

3 or more correct answers: You are equal to a smart ten-year-old

1-2 correct answers: Mentally you are nine years old, but not too bright

0 correct answers: Go back to first grade of elementary school

① 生まれつき、とても頭がいいサイは？

Umaretsuki, totemo atama ga ii sai wa?

What kind of **rhino** is born brainy?



② 池の中で、手まねきをしている魚はななに？

Ike no naka de, **temaneki o shite iru sakana wa nāni?**

Which fish in the pond is beckoning you?



③ いくらはれても、いたくないもの、ななに？

Ikura **harete** mo, itakunai mono, nāni?

What is that, however much it **swells**, never hurts?



④ 「お」の字をつけると、急にくさくなるところは、さて、どこ？

“O” no ji o tsukeru to, kyū ni kusaku naru tokoro wa, sate, doko?

Which place suddenly smells awful if you add the letter “o”?



⑤ いつもおしっこをしたそうな顔をしている人は？

Itsumo **oshikko o shita** sōna kao o shite iru hito wa?

What kind of person always looks as though they’ve peed their pants?



3 ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

① てんさい tensai genius rhino

Sai on its own means "rhinoceros." Tensai (天才 literally: heavenly talent) however means a "genius!"

② コイ koi carp

Koi as a noun means "a carp." As a verb, however, it is the imperative form of kuru, "to come."

③ てんき tenki good weather

Hareru, depending with which kanji it is written, can mean either to swell (腫れる) or to be clear and fresh (晴れる). The question leads us to imagine that "swell" is the meaning here, but in fact the answer is based on the other meaning of "to be clear and bright." Obviously good weather, however clear and cloudless it gets, is not painful!



④ おなら O-nara fartsville

Nara is a famous historic town near Kyoto. O-nara, on the other hand, means a "fart!"



⑤ モデル moderu a model

Moderu is the katakana version of the English word "model." Taken as the two words "mō deru!" it comes to mean "Oh No! I can't stop myself!" (literally: It comes out already.)

Vocabulary (p.121)

月	tsuki	moon
もの	mono	thing
きらわれる	kirawareru	to be hated
シミ	shimi	stain
ついている	tsuite iru	to be attached to
たべられる	taberareru	to be able to eat, edible
みんな	minna	everyone
イヌ	inu	dog
いくつ	ikutsu	how many
数	kazu	number
かぞえる	kazoeru	to count
びっくりする	bikkuri suru	to be surprised
トイレ	toire	toilet, lavatory
かみさま	kamisama	god

Vocabulary (p.123)

生まれつき	umaretsuki	by birth, naturally
とても	totemo	very
サイ	sai	rhinoceros
頭がいい	atama ga ii	clever
池	ike	pond
手まねき	temaneki	beckoning hand gesture
魚	sakana	fish
はれる	hareru	to swell
いたい	itai	to hurt, be painful
字	ji	character, letter
つける	tsukeru	to add
急に	kyū ni	suddenly
くさい	kusai	smelly
ところ	tokoro	place
おしっこ	oshikko	pee
そうな	sōna	as if ..., like
顔	kao	face

SECRET # 12

LOANWORDS AND JAPANESE ENGLISH

How to Activate the Japanese That You Already Know



To become aware of and then start to use the thousands of foreign words in the Japanese language that you already know.

Loanwords (*gairaigo*) and Japlish words (*waseieigo*) together represent one of the most underexploited resources available to the learner of Japanese. In a misguided display of samurai valor, the majority of students make a conscious decision to use difficult kanji-based terms in preference to English-based loanwords. This is equivalent to drilling for expensive offshore oil when you already have cheap and easy access to opencut coal mines inland.

Don't be heroic, be pragmatic! There are literally thousands of loanwords and expressions used in contemporary Japanese that you already know.

This chapter will activate your latent knowledge in three stages. Stage one will remove any qualms you may have about speaking "pidgin-Japanese" by showing you that loanwords both have a distinguished pedigree and are a supremely convenient form of communication.

The second stage will introduce you to some of the most bizarre, charming and inventive loanwords to convince you that

Japlish is not just the shadow of European languages, but has its own independent life.

The third and final stage of the chapter will challenge you to use what you have learned to maximize your use of Japlish, so you need never be at a loss for words again!

STAGE ONE

Let us first look at the most common reasons why students feel uneasy about loanwords.

- Many foreigners consciously avoid using loanwords, because they seem to be un-Japanese; another symptom of the standardization and *McDonaldification* of the planet.
- Some teachers feel that to make students aware of just how many Japanese words can be replaced by foreign loanwords is dangerous. Knowledge of such a shortcut, after all, might well sap at the moral fiber and quasi-lunatic sense of mission essential to master Japanese!
- Many postwar loanwords, far from being literary, intellectual or even respectable, are just so much froth floating atop Japan's wildly vigorous, but frequently shallow, popular culture. Many teachers and students feel an understandable reluctance to accept the ephemeral imports and creations of copywriters and journalists as being on a linguistic par with Mishima or Kawabata.
- With every new fad and fashion in business or entertainment, the stock of loanwords and Japlish words grows. It is almost impossible to stay in step with all the new additions to the language, even if you are Japanese. Taking the moral high ground and rejecting *gairaigo* and *wasei-eigo* as aberrations conveniently removes the pressure of having to keep up!

Positive things can be said in favor of loanwords.

- Loanwords and Japlish terms are very convenient. Just as in English we use the two-word French term *déjà vu* to describe a *vague sense of having seen or experienced something before* (ten words!), loanwords in Japanese frequently offer great economies of expression. The Japlish abbreviation *apo* (appointment) offers a fifty-percent syllable-saving over the pure Japanese *yakusoku*. Consider also the expression *imēji daun* (image down: to suffer damage to one's public image, to lose prestige). In pure Japanese this would have to be rendered *hyōban ga waruku naru*, a longer and less flexible expression. Japlish may seem inelegant to Westerners but it has an undeniable telegraphic efficiency.
- Asian students of Japanese, far from regarding Japanese loanwords as a grotesque and childish travesty of English, see them as sophisticated; verbal proof of Japan having achieved a higher level of economic development and integration with the West. Western students, faced with two thousand kanji to memorize, frequently express their envy of Chinese students' knowledge of kanji. Be aware, however, that Chinese students envy Westerners their stock of thousands of loanwords! Loanwords have value in other nationalities' eyes, if not yours!
- Loanwords and their Japanese equivalents are seldom total equivalents. *Kekkonshiki* means wedding ceremony. The loanword *Uedingu* (ウエディング wedding) however, conjures up images of a fancy and expensive wedding ceremony in a hotel. The nuances of a pure Japanese word and its English counterpart are usually different.
- Finally, the adoption of Western words into Japanese is an ancient, deep-rooted tradition dating back to 1543.

Loanwords were originally used out of necessity. They described things that the Japanese did not have—bread (*pan*, from Portuguese) or tin (*buriki*, from the Dutch)—and therefore had no

word for. In modern times, however, loanwords are increasingly used for convenience. The following exercise is designed to convince you that loanwords are much easier to use than their kanji-compound equivalents.

Below is a list of four old or formal Japanese words (all for things which are now commonly expressed with loanwords) with their kanji-components translated directly into English. See if you can guess (1) what the original word in English was, then see if you can go from that to guess (2) what the loanword currently used in Japanese is. The first question has been completed for you as an example.

OLD WORD	LITERAL TRANSLATION	NEW WORD & ENGLISH
(1) 山高帽子 <small>やまたかぼうし</small> yamatakabōshi	MOUNTAIN • HIGH • HAT 	トップ・ハット toppu-hatto Top Hat
(2) 自動式階段 <small>じどうしきかいだん</small> jidōshikikaidan	AUTOMATIC • FORM • STAIRCASE 	_____ _____ _____
(3) 手風琴 <small>てふうぎん</small> tefūkin	HAND • WIND • HARP 	_____ _____ _____
(4) 昇降機 <small>しょうこうき</small> shōkōki	UP • DOWN • MACHINE 	_____ _____ _____

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| (2) エスカレーター | esukarētā | escalator |
| (3) アコーディオン | akōdion | accordion |
| (4) エレベーター | erebētā | elevator |

STAGE TWO

The wild creativity of *Made-in-Japan* English

One of the major aims of this book is to encourage you to overcome your fear of making mistakes, and start to play with Japanese in a creative way.

In order to encourage you to be experimental with language, I have collected a number of examples of the most eccentric Japlish words to show you it is quite different to—and often much more fun than—*English* English!

The Japanese treat English as if they were dealing with kanji characters, components that can be joined together indiscriminately to create instant, legitimate compounds. In proper Japanese this practice is feasible. In Japanese English it produces weird—but very charming—coinages!

Have a look at the words listed below. Their meanings should surprise you!

SOME JAPLISH COINAGES

フェミニスト	feminisuto	A ladies' man (interested in females but not feminism)
サボる	saboru	Not go to school or work (from sabotage)
がんばりズム	ganbarizumu	A work-hard mentality (ganbaru , <i>toil</i> + -ism suffix)
マンネリ化する	mannerika suru	To become meaningless routine (from mannerism)
顔パス	kao-pasu	Able to enter clubs, etc. free because of being well-known (lit: Face pass)
バーコード頭	bākōdo-atama	To be almost bald, but comb one's few remaining hairs carefully to conceal one's scalp in a barcode-like pattern (lit: Barcode head)
人間ドック	ningen dokku	A total medical checkup (lit: Human dry dock)

Now that you are used to the idea of English words not meaning what they seem, I want you to have a go at the following quiz. In the left-hand column are Japlish words. In the right-hand column are the real English meanings of those words. The order of the right-hand column is mixed up. You have to match the Japlish word with its English meaning. The first one has been done for you. Notice that the key word in the English is printed in bold to give you a hint.

(1) タレント tarento	●	● (a) to cunningly cheat on a test
(2) リフォームする rifōmu suru	●	● (b) a wide-ranging TV chat show
(3) カンニングする kanningu suru	●	● (c) an elderly spinster
(4) ムーディー mūdii	●	● (d) to repair (clothes, shoes)
(5) スマート sumāto	●	● (e) to attempt something challenging
(6) ワイド waido	●	● (f) a talented showbiz personality
(7) チャレンジする charenji suru	●	● (g) with a romantic atmosphere or mood
(8) オールド・ミス ōrudo-misu	●	● (h) smart-looking & slim

ANSWERS

1 + f	5 + h
2 + d	6 + b
3 + a	7 + e
4 + g	8 + c

STAGE THREE

Stage one sought to convince you that loanwords were respectable while stage two made the case that Japlish was fun. You should now have lost any feelings of guilt connected with using borrowed or invented words in Japanese. This final stage is designed to test just how shameless you can be in your use of loanwords. Below are five sentences. Fill in the blanks to complete them **using only loanwords**. The use of any pure, non-imported Japanese words is strictly prohibited. If necessary refer to the words introduced in the course of this chapter or the vocabulary list on page 135. You can check your answers with the key on the facing page.

- (1) (a) **Mastering** Japanese is simple.

日本語を _____ するのは簡単です。

Nihongo o (a) _____ suru no wa kantan desu.

- (2) Tomoko (a) **got** a (b) **handsome** (c) **boyfriend**.

ともこは _____ を _____ しました。

Tomoko wa (b) _____ (c) _____ o (a) _____ shimashita.

- (3) I like to go to (a) **bars** (b) **with a romantic atmosphere** with my (c) **girlfriend**.

_____ といっしょに _____ へ行くのが好きです。

(c) _____ to issho ni (b) _____ (a) _____ e iku no ga suki desu.

- (4) (a) **A hero** (b) **attempts** difficult things. He never (c) **gives up**.

_____ はむずかしいことに _____ します。_____ は _____ しません。

(a) _____ wa muzukashii koto ni (b) _____ shimasu.

(c) _____ wa shimasen.

- (5) Looking at the mirror, the (a) **almost-bald** man got a (b) **shock**.

鏡を見て、_____ 頭のおやじが _____ をうけました。

Kagami o mite, (a) _____ atama no oyaji ga

(b) _____ o ukemashita.

VOCABULARY

to master	マスターする	masutā suru
simple	簡単	kantan
handsome	ハンサムな	hansamuna
boyfriend	ボーイフレンド	bōifurendo
to get, acquire	~をゲットする	-o getto suru
girlfriend	ガールフレンド	gārufurendo
with	といっしょに	to issho ni
having a romantic atmosphere	ムーディーな	mūdiina
bar	バー	bā
hero	ヒーロー	hiirō
difficult things	むずかしいこと	muzukashii koto
to attempt ...	~にチャレンジする	-ni charenji suru
give up	ギブアップ	gibu-appu
mirror	鏡	kagami
almost-bald	バーコード頭	bakōdo-atama
(lit: having a head like a barcode)		
(middle-aged) man	おやじ	oyaji
get a shock	ショックをうける	shokku o ukeru

ANSWERS

- (1) Nihongo o **masutā** suru no wa kantan desu.
- (2) Tomoko wa **hansamuna bōifurendo** o **getto** shimashita.
- (3) **Gārufurendo** to issho ni **mūdiina bā** e iku no ga suki desu.
- (4) **Hiirō** wa muzukashii koto ni **charenji** shimasu. **Gibu-appu** wa shimasen.
- (5) Kagami o mite, **bākōdo-atama** no oyaji ga **shokku** o ukemashita.

SECRET # 13

MANGA

How to Exploit Japanese Comics as a Learning Resource



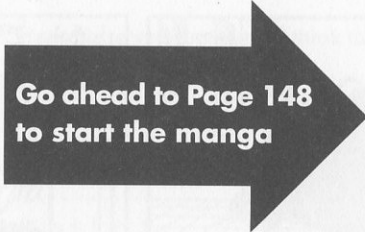
To become aware of the benefits of comicbooks as a study tool by reading an annotated extract from a comic by Japan's most famous manga artist.

The best way for you to recognize the merits of manga is to read one, and I have been very fortunate in being granted permission to use an extract from *Blackjack* by Tezuka Osamu (1928–1989). Tezuka, known as “The God of Comics” or “the Walt Disney of Japan,” revolutionized the world of manga. His epic works on serious themes such as Buddhism, Christianity, and World War Two lifted the genre far beyond the level of mere throwaway entertainment for kids.

The *Blackjack* series recounts the adventures of Blackjack, a mysterious, unlicensed surgeon who performs prodigiously difficult operations for enormous sums of money. The extract you are going to read comes from a story called *Emergency Shelter*. Blackjack has gone to collect a ¥50 million fee from a corporate boss whose life he recently saved in the operating theater. The boss, however, refuses to pay on the grounds that Blackjack has nothing in writing to prove that they agreed on such a huge sum. Instead he takes Blackjack on a bragging tour of his brand-new, luxurious and extremely expensive headquarters building.

The tour takes them to the emergency shelter. The boss, eager to show just how splendid a shelter it is, overrides the central computer and activates the emergency procedures with the result that he, his fawning subordinates and Blackjack all end up locked in the underground chamber, gradually running out of oxygen. Their only hope of escape is to find and cut the wires that control the steel shutters of the shelter: Their only tools are Blackjack's scalpels

Now go ahead to page 148 to start. Note that (1) this extract has not been refitted for export so you will have to read it back-to-front as in the original. (2) This extract includes colloquial language you are unlikely to meet in your textbooks. There is not enough space to explain each expression. Try, however, to enjoy the story without worrying too much about fussy grammatical points.



**Go ahead to Page 148
to start the manga**

If you enjoy reading the following extract, then a vast new area of Japanese study will open up itself to you. There are manga on every imaginable subject—both frivolous and serious—and you are bound to find something that appeals to you.



END

さ さ

Sa sa
Quick now!

なにとはともあれ 上でご休息を
Nani wa tomo are ue de gokyusoku o
Whatever else we do, let's go upstairs and rest a little!

わしゃ水をグーッとやりたいよ
Washa mizu o gūtto yaritai yo
I want to gulp down gallons of water!

さつき助かったら一千万円でも出すとおっしゃったね
Sakki tasukattara issenmanen demo dasu to osshatta ne
Just now you said that if you were saved, you'd pay me ten million yen.

あ あれはことばのはずみだ……へへ……
A ... are wa kotoba no hazumi da ... hehe
Th ... that was ... something I said in the heat of the moment ...ha, you know.

あんたにはお礼せにやならんがまずわれわれで相談したうえであらためて……な……
Anta ni wa orei sen'ya naran ga mazu wareware de sōdan shita ue de aratamete ... na ...

We have to show our gratitude to you somehow. I think that first of all we shall have a meeting and subsequent to that ... erm.

百万ぐらいがてごろかな…
Hyakuman gurai ga tegoro kana ...
Wouldn't a million be a convenient, round sum?

どうせそうだろうと思いましたよ
Dōse sō darō to omoimashita yo
Pff! I knew it would turn out like this!

こっちもあてにはしてない
Kocchi mo ate ni wa shite inai
I wasn't really expecting anything from you anyway.

自分の命より紙切れの証文のほうを大事にするおかたぞろいのようなだ
Jibun no inochi yori kamikire no shōmon no hō o daiji ni suru okata zoro no yō da
It looks like all of you gents attach more value to scraps of printed paper than to your own lives!



コードがあったぞーっ

Kōdo ga atta zō

The wires were here!

わー／はやくきれ／ばんざーい／ゲブ

Wā/Hayaku kire/Banzāi/Gepu

Waa/Cut it quick!/Hooray!/Burp!



ブツリ

Butsuri

Clip!

ガラガラガラ

Garagaragara

Rattle-rattle-rattle

おおっ!! あいた!!

Oo!! Aita!!

Ooh! It's open!

助かったぞ!!

Tasukatta zo!!

We're safe!



社長!! い…命びろいですなア!!

Shachō!! I ... inochibiroi desu nā!!

Boss!! Our lives are saved!



わしやおまえさんが命を救ってくれたら一千万円さしあげよう
 Washa chikau zo ... omae-san ga inochi o sukutte kuretara issenman-en sashiageyō

I swear if you save my life, I'll give you ten million yen!

わしは五千万円あげてもいい

Washi wa gosenman-en agete mo ii

Me, I'll give you fifty million yen!

命をなくすことから思えば安いもんだ!!

Inochi o nakusu koto kara omoeba yasui mon da!!

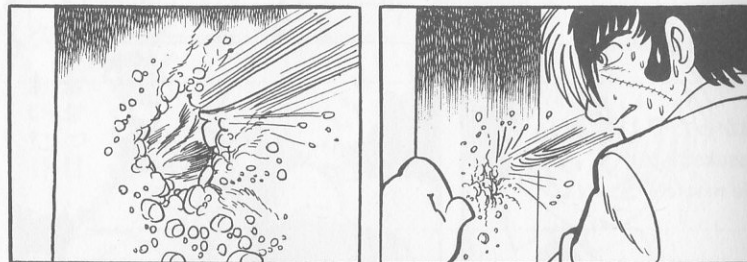
Cheap at the price, when you consider that death's the alternative!



たしかに……音が……ちがった……

Tashika ni ... oto ga ... chigatta

I'm sure ... the sound ... was different

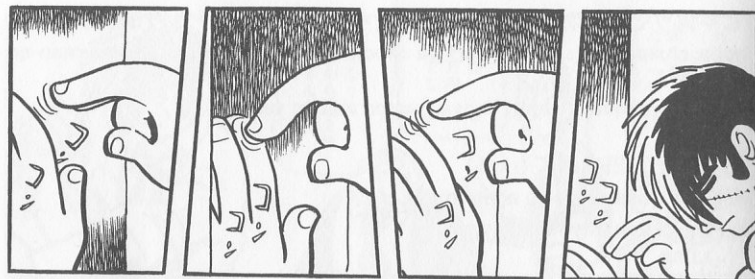


ワーッ!

Wā!

Waa ... hooray!





コンコン

Konkon

Knock-knock (hollow sound)

ハッハッハッ ハアッハアッ

Ha-ha-ha Haa-haa

Pant-pant-pant

タンタン

Tantan

Knock-knock (something there)



ム?

Mu?

Hmm?

タンタン

Tantan

Knock-knock (something there)

ここだ!!

Koko da!!

It's here!



この下に何かある

Kono shita ni nani ka aru

There's something under here.

音がちがうんだ ここをほってみよう

Oto ga chigaun da Koko o hotte miyō

It makes a different sound. Let's make a hole here!

あいつめ...な...なにいてやがるんだア.....

Aitsume ...na ... nani itte yagarun daa ...

That damn guy! Wha ...what the hell is he talking about?



ま...まで

Ma ... mate

Wa...wait!

もしまちがったら?

Moshi machigattara?

What if you're wrong?

もうメスは二度と使いものにならないだけさ

Mō mesu wa nido to tsukaimono ni naranai dake sa

Well, then we'll have wasted one scalpel.



ヘッ

He

Pshaw! (Derisive snort)

いいとも いいとも 死ぬまで気のすむまでキツツキのまねでもなんでもしろ!!

litomo iitomo shinu made ki no sumu made kitsutsuki no mane demo nan demo shiro!!

Who gives a damn? If you want to keep up your imitation of a woodpecker till you die, or till you've had enough, I won't stop you.

水…水…み…水…水 ひーッ!! 水をくれ!! (ガリガリ)

Mizu ... mizu ... mi ... mizu ... mizu Hii-!! Mizu o kure!! (Gari-gari)

Water ... water ... wa ... water ... water! Eee! Give me water! (Scratch-scratch)

うるさい!! 静かにしろっ

Urusai!! Shizuka ni shiro

Shut up! Just be quiet, will you!

おまえさんを見ていると気が遠くなりそうだし よせよせっバカなま…

Omae-san o mite iru to ki ga tōku narisō da Yoseyose bakana ma ...

Looking at you, it makes me feel faint. Come on, stop this idiotic behav ...

ドスッ

Dosu

Thwack!

騒ぎたいやつはみんなねむらせてやるぞ ヤジ馬め!!

Sawagitai yatsu wa minna nemurasete yaru zo Yajiumame

Anyone who doesn't shut up, I'll knock out! You useless bunch!



やめなさいっ

Yamenasai

Stop it!

むだなカンで大事なメスをつかいなさんな

Mudana kan de daijina mesu o tsukainasanna

Don't use my precious scalpel if you've no idea what you're doing!

私がさがす だが そばでよけいな口出しをしないと約束すればだ

Watashi ga sagasu daga soba de yokeina kuchidashi o shinai to yakusoku sureba da

I'll look but only on condition that you promise to keep quiet!

何か勝算があるのかね!

Nani ka shōsan ga aru no ka ne!

Is there any chance of success, I wonder?

部屋じゅうの壁をノックして調べるんだ

Heyajū no kabe o nokku shite shiraberun da

I'm going to check by tapping on all the walls of the room.

この指だけがたよりです

Kono yubi dake ga tayori desu

These fingers of mine are our only hope!

コンコン

Konkon

Knock-knock (hollow sound)

壁を打診してコードがわかるのか フツ 気の遠くなるような話さ

Kabe o dashin shite kōdo ga wakaru no ka fu ... ki no tōku naru yōna hanashi sa

Going to locate the wiring by tapping the walls eh? Hmmp! It's a mind-bogglingly impractical exercise!

ばかばかしい!!

Bakabakashiii!!

It's ridiculous!

Vocabulary (p.148)

やめる	yameru	to stop (doing)
むだな	mudana	futile
カン	kan	feeling, instinct
大事な	daijina	precious, important
メス	mesu	scalpel
つかいなさんな	tsukainasanna	do not use
さがす	sagasu	look for
そばで	soba de	nearby
よけいな	yokeina	unnecessary, fatuous
口出し	kuchidashi	interfering comments
約束する	yakusoku suru	to promise
何か	nanika	any
勝算	shōsan	chance of success
部屋じゅう	heyajū	the whole room
壁	kabe	wall
調べる	shiraberu	to check
指	yubi	finger
だけ	dake	only
たより	tayori	trust
コンコン	konkon	knock-knock (<i>hollow sound</i>)
打診	dashin	finger-tap examination
コード	kōdo	cord, wiring
フッ	fu	snort of disbelief
気の遠くなる	ki no tōku naru	lit: feel faint/mind-boggling, bewildering
はなし	hanashi	<i>here</i> : thing, undertaking
さ	sa	well, like
ばかばかしい	bakabakashii	it's ridiculous

Vocabulary (p.146)

ヘッ	he	pshaw! (<i>derisive snort</i>)
いいとも	iitomo	who cares/so what
死ぬ	shinu	to die
まで	made	until
気のすむ	ki no sumu	to feel satisfied, content
キツツキ	kitsutsuki	woodpecker
まね	mane	imitative behavior (<i>derog.</i>)
なんでも	nan demo	whatever
しろ	shiro	do (imperative of suru)
水	mizu	water
くれ	kure	give (from kureru)
ガリガリ	garigari	scratch-scratch
うるさい	urusai	(lit: noisy) shut up
静かにしろ	shizuka ni shiro	be quiet
おまえさん	omae-san	you (<i>sarcastic</i>)
よせ	yose	stop it, give it up
バカな	bakana	stupid
ドスッ	dosu	thwack (<i>onomatopoeic</i>)
騒ぐ	sawagu	to make a disturbance
やつ	yatsu	guy, fellow (<i>derog.</i>)
みんな	minna	everyone
ねむらせる	nemuraseru	to put to sleep, knock out
やる	yaru	to do (<i>emphatic</i>)
ぞ	zo	(<i>emphatic particle</i>)
ヤジ馬	yajiuma	busybody, rubberneck
め	me	(<i>insulting suffix</i>)

Vocabulary (p.144)

ここ	koko	here
下	shita	under
何か	nanika	something
音	oto	sound
ちがう	chigau	to be different
ほる	horu	to dig
～てみる	-te miru	let's try and ...
あいつ	aitsu	that guy (<i>derog.</i>)
いってやがる	itte yagaru	is saying (<i>rude</i>)
まつ	matsu	to wait
もし	moshi	if
まちがう	machigau	to be mistaken
二度と～しない	nido to -nai	never again
使いものになる	tsukaimono ni naru	to be usable

Vocabulary (pp.142-140)

わしゃ	washa	I (contraction of <i>washi + wa</i>)
わし	washi	I (<i>rough, male</i>)
誓う	chikau	to swear
命	inochi	life
救う	sukuu	to save, rescue
さしあげる	sashiageru	to give (<i>polite form</i>)
あげる	ageru	to give
命をなくす	inochi o nakusu	to die (lit: lose life)
から思えば	kara omoeba	consider from a certain angle
安い	yasui	cheap
もん	mon	thing (contracted form of <i>mono</i>)
たしかに	tashika ni	certainly
ワッ	wā	waa (<i>exclamation of joy</i>)
はやく	hayaku	quickly
きる	kiru	to cut
ばんざい	banzai	hooray (lit: 10,000 years)
ゲブ	gepu	belch
ブツリ	butsuri	snip (<i>cutting sound</i>)
ガラガラ	garagara	rattle-rattle
あく	aku	to open (<i>intr.</i>)
助かる	tasukaru	to be rescued/saved
社長	shachō	company boss
ひろう	hirou	to pick up, collect
命びろい	inochi-biroi	life-saving
なァ	nā	(spoken form of <i>ne</i>)

Vocabulary (p.138)

さ さ	sa sa	quick now
なにはともあれ	nani wa tomo are	whatever we do, anyway
上で	ue de	upstairs
休息	kyūsoku	a rest
グーっとやる	gūtto yaru	drink in great gulps
さっき	sakki	just before
出す	dasu	to pay out
おっしゃる	ossharu	to say (<i>polite</i>)
ことば	kotoba	word
はずみ	hazumi	bounce, verve
お礼	orei	thanks
せにゃならん	sen'ya naran	must do
まず	mazu	first of all
われわれ	wareware	we
相談	sōdan	discussion
～したうえで	...shita ue de	after doing ...
あらためて	aratamete	once again
ぐらい	gurai	about
てごろ	tegoro	handy & convenient
どうせ	dōse	anyway, in any case
そうだろう	sō darō	be (turn out) like that
こっち	kocchi	me/I (lit: this side)
あてにする	ate ni suru	rely on, count on
紙切れ	kamikire	scrap of paper
証文	shōmon	certificate, bond
大事にする	daiji ni suru	think important
おかた	okata	persons (<i>sarcastically polite</i>)
ぞろい	zoroi	group, collection

APPENDIX

MAD MNEMONICS AND LOONEY LINKS

How to Remember Vocabulary through Association



To develop a habit of creating associations between Japanese and English words to reinforce memorization.

In Japan corporate employers generally select graduate applicants not on the basis of the results they achieve while at university, but on the simpler basis of which university they attended. The life chances of the average Japanese are thus decided at the point of university entrance. Getting into a university well up in the hierarchy will guarantee lifetime employment in a prestigious firm. Failing to get into a prestigious university means a less secure life. As a result Japanese teenagers (and their parents) are deadly serious about university entrance examinations.

English, along with mathematics, is a compulsory subject, but the English tests set by the universities tend to emphasize quantity rather than quality of English. Whichever human sponge has soaked up the greatest volume of vocabulary is considered to be the brightest student. In these conditions, the snake-oil salesmen of the cram-school world are always devising new miracle memorization techniques that range from the genuinely useful to the entirely absurd.

One of the most charming—if academically least respectable—

of these techniques involves memorization by the engineering of very contrived links between English and Japanese words. This method is called *goroawase* (punning, sound-matching) or *kojitsu-suke* (strained interpretation, lame logic)!


Have a look at the examples below to get an idea of how this technique works.

ENGLISH TARGET WORD	JAP. SOUND HOOK	MEANING HOOK
lamentable	ラーメンを食べる Ramen taberu to eat noodles	None whatsoever!
chat	ちゃとケーキで談笑する Cha to kēki de danshō suru to chat over tea and cakes	Cha to means "with tea" People frequently CHAT (danshō suru) at <u>teatime!</u>
kennel	けん+ねる Ken + Neru Dog Sleeps	Ken is the On-reading of inu, a dog. A "dog sleeps" (neru) in a <u>KENNEL!</u>

Professor Noguchi, author of *Chōbenkyōhō* ("The Superstudy Method") quite rightly disparages this method, arguing that the number of words that lend themselves to this kind of memory-linkage is extremely limited. And the memory links themselves are so contrived that they might work in an examination room, but would probably choke you into silence in a conversation situation

I am perfectly happy to acknowledge their shortcomings. Yes, Mad Mnemonics and Looney Links may have only limited applications, BUT they are fun, they are effective, and everybody uses them!

Below I have listed sixteen Mad Mnemonics to help you learn Japanese vocabulary. Read through them, make sure you understand them, then try your hand at the quiz at the end.

WORD	MEANING	MEMORY-AID
らんぼう ranbō	rough, rude	Stallone's John RAMBO , Vietnam war- vet is not famous for refined table man- ners, but for being VIOLENT, ROUGH, RUDE etc.
ニクジャガ nikujaga	meat & potato stew 	MICK JAGGER , vocalist of the Rolling Stones is famous for his MEATY lips!
ぶし bushi	samurai, warrior	True SAMURAI were so virile that their battle-toned bodies were absolutely covered in a BUSHY mat of hair!
ごろつき gorotsuki	thug, hood	The Russian ultra-right-wing demagogue ZHIRINOVSKY is not so much a politi- cian as just a jumped-up STREET-PUNK!
うそつき usotsuki	liar	The Russian ultra-right-wing demagogue ZHIRINOVSKY (once again) is probably a LIAR among his other vices!
ひどい hidoi	terrible, awful	This word resembles the English word HIDEOUS , in both sound and meaning.
かのう kanō	possible	I'm sure you CAN figure out the memory hook for this word yourselves!
おはよう ohayō	good morning	Ronald Reagan's campaign slogan was "It's MORNING in America." As far as we're concerned morning in OHIO is fine.

WORD	MEANING	MEMORY-AID
れいきん reikin	obligatory "gift" money	A SUM equivalent to two-months' rent that you have to pay to your landlord before moving into an apartment. Your landlord's just RAKIN' in the cash!
びんぼう binbō	poor, penniless	BIMBOS have to hang out with lecherous old millionaires, because, poor girls, they haven't got any money, and they're POOR!
ひまん himan	obesity	A HE-MAN may be a muscled Greek god in his youth, but when he gets old he's just going to be an OBESE mass of blubber.
ギザギザ gizagiza	jagged	A ZIG-ZAG, whichever way you look at it, is JAGGED and irregular.
イライラ iraira	annoyed	I feel annoyed. I feel angry. In fact, I feel very <i>ira-ira-tated</i> (IRRITATED) indeed.
グルグル guruguru	round & round	The fat round GURU levitated and then span AROUND and AROUND.
ゆがんだ yuganda	deformed, distorted	Idi Amin, the megalomaniac syphilis-infected leader of UGANDA in the 1970s had a DEFORMED character.
シャム・ そうせいじ shiam sōseiji	Siamese twins	SAUSAGES are joined together in a string. SIAMESE TWINS are linked too.

Below is a list of five words with their meanings. Create your own Mad Mnemonics and Looney Links so you'll never ever forget them! See if your links were the same as mine by looking at the answers at the bottom of the page.

TEST YOURSELF

JAP. TARGET WORD	ENGLISH MEANING	LOONEY LINK
(1) ルンルン runrun	lively, peppy	
(2) たんご tango	word	
(3) キチンと kichin to	scrupulously, carefully	
(4) ペコペコ pekopeko	feel hungry, want a nibble	
(5) よだれ yodare	saliva, drool	

ANSWERS

- (1) When I feel LIVELY I have the energy to RUN-RUN around!
- (2) When I dance the TANGO with you, no WORDS can express the powerful emotions I feel!
- (3) Of all rooms in the house, the KITCHEN is the one that you have to keep the most SCRUPULOUSLY clean!
- (4) Feeling PECKISH? Want to PECK at some food?
- (5) When I saw the incredibly sexy girl I began to DROOL, and shouted out YO! WHO'S THAT? (DARE?)

Japanese-English Glossary

a
 abunai 危ない dangerous
 ageru あげる to give
 ago 顎 chin
 aida 間 while
 aitsu あいつ that guy (*derog.*)
 akeru あける to open (*tr.*)
 aku あく to open (*intr.*)
 akui 悪意 malice
 akuma 悪魔 devil
 akutō 悪党 villain, bad guy
 amari ni mo あまりにも excessively,
 intolerably
 amefuto アメフト American Football
 anime アニメ animations, cartoons
 anzen 安全 safe
 apāto アパート old and small apart-
 ment
 aratamete あらためて once again
 asatte あさって day after tomorrow
 atama 頭 head
 atama ga ii 頭がいい clever
 ate ni suru あてにする rely on, count on
 au 会う to meet

b
 bā バー bar
 baiku バイク motorbike
 bajji バッジ badge
 bakabakashii ばかばかしい it's ridicu-
 lous
 bakana バカな stupid
 bakari ばかり only
 bakōdo-atama バーコード頭 almost-
 bald
 -ban ~版 version, edition
 banzai ばんざい hooray
 basho 場所 place
 basuke バスケット basketball
 basukettobōru バスケットボール
 basketball
 bāten パーテン bartender
 benkyō 勉強 study
 bikkuri suru びっくりする to be sur-
 prised
 binbō 貧乏 poor

bōifurendo ボーイフレンド boyfriend
 boku ぼく I (male)
 bukka 物価 prices
 buta ぶた pig
 butsukeru ぶつける to knock (*tr.*)
 butsuri ブツリ snip (*cutting sound*)
 byōki 病気 sick

c
 chibetto チベット Tibet
 chigau ちがう to be different
 chiiki 地域 region, area
 chikarazuyoi 力強い mighty
 chikatetsu 地下鉄 subway
 chikau 誓う to swear
 chinseizai 沈静剤 sedatives
 chizu 地図 map
 chūgoku 中国 China
 chūshajō 駐車場 parking lot

d
 dai-ni no 第2の another, a second
 daidokoro 台所 kitchen
 daiji ni suru 大事にする think important
 daijina 大事な precious, important
 daijōbu 大丈夫 ok
 daishinsai 大震災 great earthquake
 daisū 台数 number of cars
 daitokai 大都会 big city
 dake だけ only
 dakedo だけど but
 dashin 打診 finger-tap examination
 dasu 出す to pay out
 deau 出会う to meet by chance
 dekakeru 出かける to go out
 dekgigoto 出来事 things you do, things
 that happen
 densha 電車 train
 depaga デパガ department store girl
 deru 出る to appear in
 dōbutsu 動物 animal
 dokidoki suru ドキドキする to go pit-
 a-pat, palpitate
 doku 毒 poison
 donna ni どんなに just how, how
 very

dōse どうせ anyway, in any case
 dosu ドスツ thwack
 dōtokuteki 道徳的 morally

e
 -eba yokatta -えばよかった if only ...,
 I should have ...
 ēbui-konpo AVコンポ audio-visual
 component system
 ecchina エッチな perverted
 Edo 江戸 old name for Tokyo
 eiga 映画 movie
 eigoryoku 英語力 English ability
 eki 駅 station
 ensuto エンスト stalling (of a car
 engine)
 erai 偉い noble, important
 eri えり collar

f
 famikon ファミコン Nintendo-or
 Play Station-type game machine
 fu フツ snort of disbelief
 fugu ふぐ blowfish
 fukai 深い deep
 fun'iki 雰囲気 atmosphere
 furui 古い old
 furufusa ふさふさ tufty
 fushigina 不思議な weird, amazing
 futoru 太る to put on weight, be fat

g
 gaijin 外人 foreigner
 gaikokujin 外国人 foreigner
 gaikotsu がいこつ skeleton
 garagara ガラガラ rattle-rattle
 garigari ガリガリ scratch-scratch
 gārfurendo ガールフレンド girlfriend
 genbaku 原爆 atomic bomb
 gepu ゲプ belch
 gibu-appu ギブアップ give up
 gin 銀 silver
 gokiburi ゴキブリ cockroach
 guai 具合 (physical) condition
 guai ga warui 具合が悪い to feel bad
 gurai ぐらい about
 gūtto yaru グーっとやる drink in
 great gulps

h
 ha 歯 teeth
 hada 肌 skin
 haha 母 mother
 hakeru はける be able to wear
 hakobu 運ぶ carry
 hana 花 flowers
 hana o kamu 鼻をかむ blow your nose
 hansamuna ハンサムな handsome
 harau 払う pay
 hareru はれる to swell
 hayai 速い fast
 hayaku はやく quickly
 hazu はず should, ought
 hazumi はずみ bounce, verve
 he ヘッ pshaw (*derisive snort*)
 heimen 平面 plane
 henna 変な strange, weird
 heyā 部屋 room
 heyajū 部屋じゅう the whole room
 hi o utsu 非をうつ to find fault (with)
 hibi ga hairu ひびがはいる to crack
 hidoku ひどく appallingly
 hiirō ヒーロー hero
 hijō ni ひじょうに extraordinarily
 hikishimatta 引き締まった tight and firm
 hima ひま free, at leisure
 hinjaku 貧弱 weak
 hirou ひろう to pick up, collect
 hisho 秘書 secretary
 hitori ひとり alone
 hitori-bocchi ひとりぼっち alone
 hohoemi 微笑み a smile
 hōkyū 俸給 pay, salary
 hone 骨 bone
 hontō 本当 true
 hontō ni ほんとうに really, truly
 hontō no 本当の real
 horu ほる to dig
 hosoi 細い thin
 hyōban 評判 reputation

i
 ichii 一位 first place
 ichiban いちばん (the) most
 ichiman-en-satsu 一万円札 10,000-
 yen note
 ichinenkan 一年間 one year
 ie 家 house, home

ie o deru 家を出る leave the house
 ii no ni いいのに if only...
 iitomo いいとも who cares/so what
 ijimeru いじめる to bully, torture
 ike 池 pond
 ikemasen 行けません cannot go
 iki o suru 息をする to breathe
 ikiru 生きる to live, survive
 ikutsu いくつ how many
 inochi 命 life
 inochi o nakusu 命をなくす to die
 inochi-biroi 命びろい life-saving
 inu イヌ dog
 ippon 一本 one (of a long, thin object)
 ippon 一本 one (strand)
 irairu suru イライラする to be angry,
 annoyed
 ishi 意志 will
 issho ni いっしょに together
 itsumo いつも always
 itte yagaru 行ってやがる is saying (*rude*)

j

jaakuna 邪悪な wicked
 ji 字 character, letter
 jidōsha 自動車 passenger cars
 jigyōshunyū 事業収入 annual revenue
 jii-pan Gパン jeans
 jikan ga aru 時間がある to have time
 jinkō 人口 population

k

kabe 壁 wall
 kaeru 帰る to return home
 kagami 鏡 mirror
 kagayaku 輝く to shine
 kagi かぎ lock
 kagiri かぎり unless, if ... not
 kaibutsu 怪物 monster
 kaijin 怪人 monster
 kaimono 買い物 shopping
 kaji 火事 a fire
 kakko ii かつこいい cool, neat
 kami no ke 髪の毛 hair
 kamikire 紙切れ scrap of paper
 kamisama かみさま god
 kan カン tin can
 kan 感 feeling, instinct

kanemochi 金持ち rich
 kannōteki 官能的 sensual
 kanojo 彼女 girlfriend
 kantan 簡単 simple
 kantō 関東 the Kanto region
 kanzen 完全 perfect
 kanzen ni かんぜんに completely
 kao 顔 face
 kaodachi 顔だち facial features
 kara omoeba から思えば consider
 from a certain angle
 kareshi 彼氏 boyfriend
 karui 軽い light
 kashidasu 貸し出す to lend out
 kasu 貸す to lend, rent out
 katahaha 肩幅 shoulder width
 kawa 皮 skin
 kawaru 変わる to change
 kawatta 変わった eccentric, odd
 kaze 風 wind
 kazoeru かぞえる to count
 kazoku 家族 member of family
 kazu 数 number
 kechi ケチ stingy
 keijōrieki 経常利益 recurring profit
 keisan 計算 calculation
 kesu 消す extinguish
 ki no sumu 気のすむ to feel satisfied,
 content
 ki no tōku naru 気の遠くなる lit: feel
 faint/mind-boggling, bewildering
 kikitai 聞きたい want to hear, listen
 kimae ga ii 気前がいい generous
 kimochi ii 気持ちいい feel good
 kin 金 gold
 kinben 勤勉 industrious, hard-working
 kirakira キラキラ glitteringly
 kirawareru きらわれる to be hated
 kireina きれいな neat
 kiro キロ kilometer
 kiroku 記録 a record
 kiru きる to cut
 kiru 着る to wear
 kitsutsuki キツツキ woodpecker
 kocchi こっち me/I (lit: this side)
 kōdo コード cord, wiring
 kōen 公園 park
 koko ここ here
 komaru 困る to be/have a problem

kome こめ rice
 kōnā コーナー corner, bend in road
 konde iru 込んでいる to be crowded
 konkon コンコン knock-knock (*hollow
 sound*)
 konwaku suru 困惑する to be bewildered
 kōpo コーポ cooperative apartment
 building
 korosu 殺す to kill
 kōtetsu 鋼鉄 steel
 kotoba 言葉 language, word
 kubi 首 neck
 kuchibiru 唇 lips
 kuchidashi 口出し interfering comments
 kuni 国 country
 kure くれ give
 kuruma 車 car
 kusai くさい smelly
 kyōbu 胸部 chest
 kyūsoku 休息 a rest
 kyū ni 急に suddenly

m

mabushii 眩しい radiant
 machigau まちがう to be mistaken
 mada まだ not yet
 made made until
 mainichi 毎日 everyday
 mājan マージャン mahjong
 mamoru 守る defend
 mane まね imitative behavior (*derog.*)
 masukomi マスゴミ mass media
 masutā suru マスターする to master
 matsu 待つ to wait
 mazu まず first of all
 me me (*insulting suffix*)
 medaru メダル medal
 mesu メス scalpel
 migaku みかく to polish, brush up
 migoto ni みごとに astonishingly,
 amazingly
 migurushii 見苦しい painfully ugly
 mikan みかん tangerine
 minikui 醜い ugly
 minna みんな everyone
 miryoku 魅力 attraction, attractiveness
 mitai みたい resembling, like
 mizu 水 water

mō もう already
 mochi もち steamed rice cake
 mochiageru 持ち上げる to lift up
 mon もん thing (contracted form of
 mono)
 moshi もし if
 moshimo もしも if
 mudana むだな futile
 mūdiina ムディーな having a
 romantic atmosphere
 mugu むぎ barley
 mune 胸 chest, breast(s), bosom
 mushi 虫 insect
 mushiba 虫歯 rotten teeth
 muzukashii むずかしい difficult
 myō ni みように bizarrely, weirdly

n

na な (spoken form of ne)
 na noni なのに although, despite (being)
 nachi ナチ Nazi
 nagai 長い long
 nakunaru 亡くなる to die
 nama なま fresh, raw
 nan demo なんでも whatever
 nani mo nai なんにもない there is none
 nani wa tomo are なんにはともあれ
 whatever we do, anyway
 nanika なにか something
 nanika 何か any
 nara なら if
 naru なる to become
 naru to ... なる と ... if you become ...
 nemuraseru ねむらせる to put to
 sleep, knock out
 neru 寝る to sleep
 ... ni afureru ... にあふれる to over-
 flow with ..., be full of ...
 -ni charenji suru ~にチャレンジする
 to attempt ...
 ni mieru にみえる look, appear
 ni taishite にたいして towards
 nii 二位 second place
 nikkei 日経 Nihon Keizai Shimbun
 Newspaper
 nikki につき diary
 niku 肉 meat
 ningen 人間 human being
 ninjō 人情 kindness, sympathy

nioi におい smell
 no soba ni iru のそばにいる be near,
 with someone
 no yōna のような like
 nobiru 伸びる to extend (*intr.*)
 nokosu のこす to leave
 nori のり glue
 noru のる to be printed (in a book)

o

o getto suru ~をゲットする to get,
 acquire
 ... o kiwameru ~をきわめる to carry
 sthg. to an extreme
 o- お~ (honorific prefix)
 ōbii O B alumnus
 oboerareru 覚えられる to be able to
 remember
 ochitsuku 落ち着く to calm down
 odoroku おどろく to be surprised
 ōeru O L female office clerk
 ofureko オフレコ off [the] record
 ōi 多い many, numerous
 oishii おいしい tasty
 okane o tsukau お金をつかう to spend
 money
 okata おかた persons (*sarcastically*
polite)
 okiru 起きる to wake up
 okumanchōja 億万長者 millionaire
 omae-san おまえさん you (*sarcastic*)
 omoshiroi おもしろい fun, interesting
 orei お礼 thanks
 oshikko おしっこ pee
 osoku made 遅くまで till late
 ossharu おっしゃる to say (*polite*)
 otera お寺 temple
 oto 音 sound
 otosu 落とす drop
 oyaji おやじ (middle-aged) man
 ōzei no おおぜいの many

p

pajama パジャマ pajamas
 pasokon パソコン personal computer
 (PC)
 patokā パトカー police car
 petto ベット pet
 purikura プリクラ print club, instant
 mini-photo booth

r

rabo ラボ laboratory
 rajikase ラジカセ radio cassette
 recorder
 -rashii -らしい -like, worthy of ...
 reji レジ cash register
 rimokon リモコン remote control
 ringoku 隣国 neighboring country
 risutora リストラ restructuring
 rosu ロス Los Angeles
 ryokō 旅行 journey, travel
 ryōyoko 両横 both sides
 ryūgaku suru 留学する to study abroad

s

sa さ well, like
 sa sa ささ quick now
 sā さあ well then ...
 sagasu さがす look for
 sai さい rhinoceros
 saikō ni 最高に supremely
 sakana 魚 fish
 sakki さっき just before
 -san ~さん (honorific suffix like Mr.,
 Ms., etc.)
 sando サンド sandwich
 sanpo o suru 散歩をする take a walk
 sara 皿 plate
 sarariiman サラリーマン male office clerk
 saru 去る to go away
 sashiageru さしあげる to give (*polite*)
 sasou さそう to invite
 sawagu 騒ぐ to make a disturbance
 sawayaka さわやか refreshing
 se ga hikui 背が低い short
 se ga takai 背が高い tall
 seijin 聖人 saint
 seisaku suru 製作する to produce
 seisho 聖書 bible
 sekuhara セクハラ sexual harassment
 semai せまい cramped
 senshu 選手 player (of a sport)
 sen'ya naran せにやならん must do
 shachō 社長 company boss
 shawā シャワー shower
 shiawase しあわせ happy
 shigoto 仕事 work, job
 shiitemu CM commercial
 shikaku 四角い square

shimariya しまりや miser
 shimesu 示す to show
 shimi シミ stain
 shinayaka しなやか supple
 shinsetsuna 親切な generous
 shinu 死ぬ to die
 shinzō 心臓 heart
 shiraberu 調べる to check
 shiro しろ do (imperative of suru)
 shita 下 under
 ...shita ue de ~したうえで after doing ...
 shitsurei 失礼 rude
 shizuka ni shiro 静かにしろ be quiet
 shokku o ukeru ショックをうける get
 a shock
 shokuji 食事 meal
 shokuji o suru 食事をする to have
 dinner
 shōmon 証文 certificate, bond
 shōsan 勝算 chance of success
 shumi しゅみ hobby
 shumi no ii 趣味のいい in good taste
 sō darō そうだろう be (turn out) like that
 soba de そばで nearby
 sōdan 相談 discussion
 sōna そうな as if ..., like
 sonikku ソニック Sonic (the Hedgehog)
 sōridaijin 総理大臣 prime minister
 sōtō そうとう pretty, rather
 sugoku すごく terribly, wonderfully
 sukebō スケボー skateboard
 suki 好き to like
 sukuu 救う to save, rescue
 sukunai 少ない few
 sunobō スノボー snowboard
 surari to すらりと slender
 suu 吸う to smoke

t

tabemono 食べ物 food
 taberareru 食べられる to be edible
 taihen たいへん awfully
 takai 高い expensive
 takumashii たくましい sturdy
 takusan たくさん many
 tamago たまご egg
 tanoshii 楽しい enjoyable, fun
 tanoshimi ni suru 楽しみにする look
 forward to

tashika ni たしかに certainly
 tasukaru 助かる to be rescued/saved
 tatemono 建物 building
 tateo たとえ comparison
 tatoebanashi たとえ話し parable
 tayori たより trust
 -te miru ~てみる let's try and ...
 -te mo ~ても even if ...
 ... te mo ii ...てもいい it is permissible
 to ...
 tegoro てごろ handy & convenient
 temaneki 手まねき beckoning hand
 gesture
 tentai 天体 stars
 terasu テラス terrace
 to issho ni といっしょに with
 tobasareru 飛ばされる to be blown away
 toire トイレ toilet, lavatory
 tokoro ところ a place, point
 Tōkyō Tawā 東京タワー Tokyo Tower
 tomeru とめる to attach to
 tomeru とめる to park
 tomodachi ともち friend
 tonari となり next to, beside
 torakku トラック truck
 tōshu 党首 head of political party
 totemo とても very
 tsugi 次 next
 tsuite iru ついている to be attached to
 tsukaimono ni naru 使いものになる
 to be usable
 tsukainasanna つかいなさんな do not
 use
 tsukarete iru 疲れている to be tired
 tsukau 使う to use
 tsukawareru 使われる to be used
 tsukeru つける to add
 tsuki 月 moon
 tsūru ツール tool
 tsuyoi 強い strong

u

uchū 宇宙 outer space
 ue de 上で upstairs
 ugokasu 動かす to move
 uketsuke 受付 reception
 umaretsuki 生まれつき by birth, nat-
 urally
 umi 海 sea

uriagedaka 売上高 revenue, turnover
 urusai うるさい (lit: noisy) shut up
 utsu うつ to inject

w

wā ワーッ waa (exclamation of joy)
 wai-shatsu Yシャツ shirt
 wain ワイン wine
 wāpuro ワープロ word processor
 warau 笑う to laugh
 wareware われわれ we
 warui 悪い bad
 washa わしゃ I (contraction of washi + wa)
 washi わし I (rough, male)
 watashi わたし I

y

yajiuma ヤジ馬 busybody, rubberneck
 yake ni やけに horribly
 yaku 約 about, approximately
 yakusoku suru 約束する to promise
 yameru やめる to stop (doing)
 yappari やっぱり after all
 yaru やる to do (emphatic)
 yasai 野菜 vegetables

yasashii 優しい kind
 yaseru やせる to lose weight, be thin
 yasui 安い cheap
 yatsu やつ guy, fellow (derog.)
 yōfuku 洋服 clothes
 yoi よい good
 yokeina よけいな unnecessary, fatuous
 yoku よく well, thoroughly
 yoku 欲 greed, desire
 yoku naru よくなる to get better, recover
 yomu 読む to read
 yoru 夜 nighttime
 yōroppa ヨーロッパ Europe
 yose よせ stop it, give it up
 yowai 弱い weak
 yubi 指 finger
 yūfuku 裕福 prosperous
 yutakana 豊かな rich, prosperous

z

zangyō 残業 overtime
 zemi ゼミ seminar, cram school
 zo ぞ (emphatic particle)
 zoroi ぞろい group, collection

English-Japanese Glossary

a

about gurai ぐらい
 add tsukeru つける
 after all yappari やっぱり
 after doingshita ue de ~したうえで
 almost-bald bākōdo-atama バーコード頭
 alone hitori ひとり
 alone hitori-bocchi ひとりぼっち
 already mō もう
 although na noni なのに
 alumnum ōbii OB
 always itsumo いつも
 amazing fushigina 不思議な
 amazingly migoto ni みごとに
 ambulance kyūkyūsha 救急車
 American Football amefuto アメフト
 animal dōbutsu 動物
 animation anime アニメ
 annual revenue jigyōshun'yū 事業収入
 another dai-ni no 第2の
 any nanika 何か
 anyway dōse どうせ
 appallingly hidoku ひどく
 appear in deru 出る
 approximately yaku 約
 aqualung bonbe ボンベ
 as if ... sōna そうな
 astonishingly migoto ni みごとに
 astronomer tenmongakusha 天文学者
 atlas chizuchō 地図帳
 atmosphere fun'iki 雰囲気
 atomic bomb genbaku 原爆
 attach to tomeru とめる
 attempt ... -ni charenji suru ~にチャレンジする
 attractiveness miryoku 魅力
 audio-visual component system ēbui-konpo AVコンポ
 awfully taihen たいへん

b

bad warui 悪い
 bad guy akutō 悪党
 badge bajji バッジ
 bald hage はげ
 bar bā バー

barley mug mug mug
 bartender bāten バーテン
 basketball basuke バスケ
 basketball basuketobōru バスケットボール
 be (turn out) like that sō darō そうだろう
 be able to wear hakeru はける
 be angry iraira suru イライラする
 be attached to tsuite iru ついている
 be bewildered konwaku suru 困惑する
 be blown away tobasareru 飛ばされる
 be crowded konde iru 込んでいる
 be different chigau ちがう
 be edible taberareru 食べられる
 be fat futuru 太る
 be full of ni afureru ……にあふれる
 be hated kirawareru きらわれる
 be mistaken machigau まちがう
 be near no soba ni iru のそばにいる
 be quiet shizuka ni shiro 静かにしろ
 be rescued tasukaru 助かる
 be surprised bikkuri suru びっくりする
 be surprised odoroku おどろく
 be thin yaseru やせる
 be tired tsukarete iru 疲れている
 be usable tsukaimono ni naru 使いものになる
 be used tsukawareru 使われる
 be with someone no soba ni iru のそばにいる
 be/have a problem komaru 困る
 beckoning hand gesture temaneki 手まねき
 become naru なる
 belch gepu ゲブ
 bible seisho 聖書
 big city daitokai 大都会
 bizarrely myō ni みょうに
 blow your nose hana o kamu 鼻をかむ
 blowfish fugu ふぐ
 bond shōmon 証文
 bone hone 骨
 both sides ryōyoko 両横
 bounce hazumi はずみ
 boyfriend bōifurendo ボーイフレンド
 boyfriend kareshi 彼氏

breathe iki o suru 息をする
brush up migaku みがかく
building tatemono 建物
bully ijimeru いじめる
busybody yajiuma ヤジ馬
but dakedo だけど

c

calculation keisan 計算
calculator keisanki 計算機
calligraphy shodō 書道
calm down ochitsuku 落ち着く
cannot go ikemasen 行けません
car kuruma 車
carry hakobu 運ぶ
carry sthg. to an extreme ... o
kiwameru ～をきわめる
cartoons anime アニメ
cash register reji レジ
certainly tashika ni たしかに
certificate shōmon 証文
chance of success shōsan 勝算
change kawaru 変わる
character ji 字
cheap yasui 安い
check shiraberu 調べる
chest mune 胸
chest kyōbu 胸部
chin ago 顎
China chūgoku 中国
clever atama ga ii 頭がいい
clothes yōfuku 洋服
cockroach gokiburi ゴキブリ
collar eri えり
collect hirou ひろう
collection zoroi ぞろい
commercial shiimu CM
company boss shachō 社長
comparison tatoe たとえ
completely kanzen ni かんぜんに
condition (physical) guai 具合
consider from a certain angle kara
omoeba から思えば
cool kakko ii カッコいい
cookery ryōri 料理
cooperative apartment building kōpo
コーポ
corkscrew wainōpunā ワインオープナー
corner kōnā コーナー

count kazoeru かぞえる
country kuni 国
crack hibi ga hairu ひびがはいる
cramped semai せまい
crowded konde iru 込んでいる
cut kiru きる

d

dangerous abunai 危ない
day after tomorrow asatte あさって
deep fukai 深い
defend mamoru 守る
department store girl depaga デパガ
desire yoku 欲
despite (being) na noni なのに
devil akuma 悪魔
diary nikki につき
die nakunaru 亡くなる
die shinu 死ぬ
die inochi o nakusu 命をなくす
diet daietto ダイエット
difficult muzukashii むずかしい
dig horu ほる
discussion sōdan 相談
do (emphatic) yaru やる
dog inu イヌ
dreaming yūme o miru koto 夢をみる
こと
drink in great gulps gūtto yaru グーッとやる
drop otosu 落とす

e

eccentric kawatta 変わった
edition -ban ～版
egg tamago たまご
enjoyable tanoshii 楽しい
Europe Yōroppa ヨーロッパ
even if ... -te mo -ても
everyday mainichi 毎日
everyone minna みんな
excessively amari ni mo あまりにも
expensive takai 高い
extend (intr.) nobiru 伸びる
extinguish kesu 消す
extraordinarily hijō ni ひじょうに

f

face kao 顔

facial features kaodachi 顔だち
famine kikin 飢饉
fast hayai 速い
fatuous yokeina よけいな
feel bad guai ga warui 具合が悪い
feel good kimochi ii 気持ちいい
feel satisfied ki no sumu 気のすむ
feeling kan 感
female office clerk ōeru OL
few sukunai 少ない
find fault (with) hi o utsu 非をうつ
finger yubi 指
finger-tap examination dashin 打診
fire kaji 火事
firefighter shōbōshi 消防士
first of all mazu まず
first place ichii 一位
fish sakana 魚
flowers hana 花
food tabemono 食べ物
foreigner gaijin 外人
foreigner gaikokujin 外国人
free (at leisure) hima ひま
fresh nama なま
friend tomodachi ともだち
fun tanoshii 楽しい
futile mudana むだな
flying saucer soratobuenban 空飛ぶ
円盤

g

generous kimae ga ii 気前がいい
get -o getto suru ～をゲットする
get a shock shokku o ukeru ショック
をうける
get thinner yaseru やせる
giraffe kirin キリン
girlfriend gārufurendo ガールフレンド
girlfriend kanojo 彼女
give ageru あげる
give (polite) sashiageru さしあげる
give up gibu-appu ギブアップ
glitteringly kirakira キラキラ
glue nori のり
go away saru 去る
go out dekakeru 出かける
god kamisama かみさま
gold kin 金
good yoi よい

great earthquake daishinsai 大震災
greed yoku 欲
group zoroi ぞろい

h

hair kami no ke 髪の毛
handsome hansamuna ハンサムな
handy & convenient tegoro てごろ
happy shiawase しあわせ
hard-working kinben 勤勉
have dinner shokuji o suru 食事をする
having a romantic atmosphere
mūdiina ムーディーな
head atama 頭
head of political party tōshu 党首
heart shinzō 心臓
here koko ここ
hero hiirō ヒーロー
hobby shumi しゅみ
home ie 家
hooray banzai ばんざい
horribly yake ni やけに
how very donna ni どんなに
human being ningen 人間
hurt itai いたい

i

I watashi わたし
I (male) boku ぼく
I (rough, male) washi わし
if moshi もし
if moshimo もしも
if nara なら
if only ... -eba yokatta -えればよかった
if only ... ii no ni いいのに
if you become ... naru to ... なるると...
if ... not kagiri かぎり
imitative behavior mane まね
important daijina 大事な
important erai 偉い
in any case dōse どうせ
in good taste shumi no ii 趣味のいい
industrious kinben 勤勉
inject utsu うつ
insect mushi 虫
instinct kan 感
interesting omoshiroi おもしろい
interfering comments kuchidashi 口
出し

intolerably amari ni mo あまりにも
invite sasou さそう

j

jeans jii-pan Gパン
job shigoto 仕事
journey ryokō 旅行
just before sakki さっき
just how donna ni どんなに

k

kill korosu 殺す
kilometer kiro キロ
kind yasashii 優しい
kindness ninjō 人情
kitchen daidokoro 台所
knock butsukeru ぶつける

l

laboratory rabo ラボ
landlord ōya 大家
language kotoba 言葉
laugh warau 笑う
lavatory toire トイレ
leave nokosu のこす
leave the house ie o deru 家を出る
lend kasu 貸す
lend out kashidasu 貸し出す
letter ji 字
liar usotsukii うそつき
library toshokan 図書館
life inochi 命
life-saving inochi-biroi 命びろい
lift up mochiageru 持ち上げる
light karui 軽い
like mitaina みたいな
like no yōna のような
like suki 好き
-like -rashii -らしい
lips kuchibiru 唇
live ikiru 生きる
lock kagi かぎ
long nagai 長い
look for sagasu さがす
look forward to tanoshimi ni suru
楽しみにする
Los Angeles rosu ロス
lose weight yaseru やせる
lost maigo ni naru 迷子になる

m

mahjong mājan マージャン
make a disturbance sawagu 騒ぐ
male office clerk sarariiman サラリー
マン
malice akui 悪意
many ōzei no おおぜいの
many takusan さくさん
map chizu 地図
mass media masukomi マスコミ
master masutā suru マスターする
meal shokuji 食事
mean fushinsetsu na 不親切な
meat niku 肉
medal medaru メダル
meet au 会う
meet by chance deau 出会う
mighty chikarazuyoi 力強い
millionaire okumanchōja 億万長者
mirror kagami 鏡
miser shimariya しまりや
monster kaibutsu 怪物
monster kaijin 怪人
moon tsuki 月
morally dōtoku-teki 道徳的
(the) most ichiban いちばん
mother haha 母
motorbike baiku バイク
move ugokasu 動かす
movie eiga 映画
movie theater eigakan 映画館
murder hitogoroshi 人殺し
must do sen'ya naran せにやならん

n

naturally umaretsuki 生まれつき
Nazi nachi ナチ
nearby soba de そばで
neat kireina きれいな
neck kubi 首
neighboring country ringoku 隣国
next tsugi 次
next to tonari となり
nighttime yoru 夜
noble erai 偉い
not yet mada まだ
number kazu 数
numerous ōi 多い

o

odd kawatta 変わった
off [the] record ofureko オフレコ
OK daijōbu 大丈夫
old furui 古い
once again aratamete あらためて
one year ichinenkan 一年間
only bakari ばかり
only dake だけ
open (tr.) akeru あける
open (intr.) aku あく
outer space uchū 宇宙
overflow with ... ni afureru ……
にあふれる
overtime zangyō 残業

p

pajamas pajama パジャマ
parable tatoebanashi たとえ話し
paralyzed mahi suru 麻痺する
park kōen 公園
park tomeru とめる
parking lot chūshajō 駐車場
passenger cars jidōsha 自動車
pay harau 払う
pay out dasu 出す
pee oshikko おしっこ
perfect kanzen 完全
personal computer (PC) pasokon
パソコン
perverted ecchina エッチな
pet petto ペット
pick up hirou ひろう
pig buta ぶた
place basho 場所
place tokoro ところ
plane heimen 平面
plate sara 皿
player (of a sport) senshu 選手
poison doku 毒
police car patokā バトカー
polish migaku みかく
pond ike 池
poor binbō 貧乏
population jinkō 人口
prices bukka 物価
prime minister sōridaijin 総理大臣
produce seisaku suru 製作する
promise yakusoku suru 約束する

prosperous yūfuku 裕福
pub izakaya 居酒屋
put on weight futuru 太る
put to sleep nemuraseru ねむらせる

q

quickly hayaku はやく

r

radiant mabushii 眩しい
radio cassette recorder rajikase ラジカセ
rather sōtō そうとう
raw nama なま
read yomu 読む
real hontō no 本当の
reception uketsuke 受付
record kiroku 記録
recover yoku naru よくなる
recurring profit keijōrieki 経常利益
refreshing sawayaka さわやか
region chiiki 地域
rely on ate ni suru あてにする
remember oboerareru 覚えられる
remote control rimokon リモコン
rent out kasu 貸す
reputation hyōban 評判
resembling mitai みたい
rest kyūsoku 休息
restructuring risutora リストラ
return home kaeru 帰る
revenue uriagedaka 売上高
rhinoceros sai さい
rice kome こめ
rich kanemochi 金持ち
rich yutakana 豊かな
room heya 部屋
rotten teeth mushiba 虫歯
rude shitsurei 失礼

s

safe anzen 安全
saint seijin 聖人
salary hōkyū 俸給
sandwich sando サンド
save sukuu 救う
say (polite) ossharu おっしゃる
scalpel mesu メス
scrap of paper kamikire 紙切れ
sea umi 海

secretary hisho 秘書
 sedatives chinseizai 沈静剂
 sensual kannōteki 官能的
 sexual harassment sekuhara セクハラ
 shark same SAME
 shine kagayaku 輝く
 shirt wai-shatsu Yシャツ
 shopping kaimono 買い物
 short se ga hikui 背が低い
 shoulder width katahaba 肩幅
 show shimesu 示す
 shower shawā シャワー
 shut up urusai うるさい
 sick byōki 病気
 silver gin 銀
 simple kantan 簡単
 skateboard sukebō スケボー
 skeleton gaikotsu がいこつ
 skin hada 肌
 skin kawa 皮
 sleep neru 寝る
 slender surari to すらりと
 smell nioi におい
 smelly kusai くさい
 smile hohoemi 微笑み
 smoke suu 吸う
 smokers' corner kitsuenjo 喫煙所
 snowboard sunobō スノボー
 soldier heishi 兵士
 something nanika なにか
 sound oto 音
 space uchū 宇宙
 spend money okane o tsukau お金を
 つかう
 square shikakui 四角い
 stain shimi シミ
 stalling (of a car engine) ensuto エンスト
 stars tentai 天体
 station eki 駅
 steel kōtetsu 鋼鉄
 stingey kechi ケチ
 stop (doing) yameru やめる
 strange henna 変な
 strong tsuyoi 強い
 study benkyō 勉強
 study abroad ryūgaku suru 留学する
 stupid bakana バカな
 sturdy takumashii たくましい
 subway chikatetsu 地下鉄

suddenly kyū ni 急に
 supple shinayaka しなやか
 supremely saikō ni 最高に
 swear chikau 誓う
 swell hareru はれる
 sympathy ninjō 人情

t

take a walk sanpo o suru 散歩をする
 tall se ga takai 背が高い
 tangerine mikan みかん
 tasty oishii おいしい
 temple otera お寺
 terrace terasu テラス
 terribly sugoku すごく
 thanks orei お礼
 thin hosoi 細い
 things that happen dekgoto 出来事
 think important daiji ni suru 大事にする
 thoroughly yoku よく
 Tibet chibetto チベット
 tight and firm hikishimatta 引き締まった
 till late osoku made 遅くまで
 tin can kan カン
 together issho ni いっしょに
 toilet toire トイレ
 Tokyo Tower Tōkyō Tawā 東京タワー
 tool tsūru ツール
 tooth ha 歯
 toothbrush haburashi 歯ブラシ
 towards ni taishite にたいして
 town machi まち
 train densha 電車
 travel ryokō 旅行
 truck torakku トラック
 true hontō 本当
 trust tayori たより
 tufty fusafusa ふさふさ
 turnover uriagedaka 売上高

u

ugly migurushii 見苦しい
 ugly minikui 醜い
 under shita 下
 unemployment shitsugyō 失業
 unkind fushinsetsuna 不親切な
 unless kagiri かぎり
 unnecessary yokeina よけいな
 until made まで

upstairs ue de 上で
 use tsukau 使う

v

vegetables yasai 野菜
 version -ban ~版
 very totemo とても
 villain akutō 悪党

w

wait matsu 待つ
 wake up okiru 起きる
 wall kabe 壁
 want to listen kikitai 聞きたい
 water mizu 水
 we wareware われわれ
 weak hinjaku 貧弱
 weak yowai 弱い

wear kiru 着る
 weirdly myō ni みょうに
 well yoku よく
 well then ... sā さあ
 whatever nan demo なんでも
 whatever we do nani wa tomo are
 なにはともあれ
 while aida 間
 wicked jaakuna 邪悪な
 will ishi 意志
 wine wain ワイン
 wiring kōdo コード
 with to issho ni といっしょに
 woodpecker kitsutsuki キツツキ
 word kotoba 言葉
 word processor wāpuro ワープロ
 work shigoto 仕事

にほんご はな ひけつ
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13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese

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