

Yabuki's Easy-to-Pronounce  
**Romanized  
Japanese  
Wordbook**

日本語会話辞典

Published by

*Japan Travel Bureau*

# Yabuki's Easy-to-Pronounce Romanized Japanese Wordbook

## 日本語会話辞典

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〈検印省略〉

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初版印刷 1980年6月15日  
初版発行 1980年7月1日  
(July 1, 1980 1st edition)

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発行人 宮越 茂夫  
発行所 日本交通公社出版事業局  
〒101 東京都千代田区神田鍛冶町3-3  
大木ビル8階(Tel. 03-257-8369)

写真植字 オープン インターユーロップ株式会社  
印刷所 凸版印刷株式会社

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交通公社発行図書のご注文は  
日本交通公社出版販売センター  
〒101 東京都千代田区神田須田町1-12  
山萬ビル8階(Tel. 03-258-0998)  
振替 東京7-99201 送料実費共145円

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定価1,200円

禁無断転載・複製 ©矢吹勝二 1980  
Printed in Japan  
(55-035)

〒2582-762020-5847

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First edition 1980

Computer-composed by Obun Intereurope Ltd.  
Published by Japan Travel Bureau, Inc.  
Printed in Japan

## Preface

This book has about 2,700 English main entry words. The Japanese definitions and related phrases for them total nearly 4,500. All the English and Japanese words are easy, common ones chosen on the basis of researches made in Japan and abroad.

The reason why Japanese words remarkably outnumber English ones is because it often happens that one English word has to be expressed in several Japanese words. For example, "light" is hiKARI (the "light" of the sun), aKARI (turn on the "light") and kaRUI ("light" in weight).

Among the major features of this book are:

1. All Japanese words are written in Roman letters for the majority of Japanese learners who have no or little knowledge of nearly 2,000 commonly used Chinese kanji characters and two kinds of Japanese alphabetical kana letters, 136 in all.

2. The so-called musical pitch or high pitch of Japanese words and phrases is made to stand out conspicuously through the use of capital letters, which show where to put the stress on each word. This is of primary importance, because a long series of Japanese syllables is often pronounced at high pitch. As regards the details of Japanese accent, refer to the Seven Basic Rules of Japanese Accent given later, and also to *English-Romanized Japanese Dictionary for Practical Conversation*, compiled by me in cooperation with Mr. Shozo Kurokawa of University of Hawaii.

3. The ROMANIZED JAPANESE WORDBOOK section contains a number of Japanese synonyms, which are given in parentheses. Such synonyms are especially true of loan words, mostly from English, because most Japanese English words are commonly used in parallel with the traditional Japanese words. These synonyms are separately arranged in INDEX in alphabetical order.

4. INDEX is something more than a mere conventional index. Nearly 4,500 Japanese words that have appeared in the ROMANIZED JAPANESE WORDBOOK section have been rearranged in alphabetical order and each of them has a reference to the main English entry word in the ROMANIZED JAPANESE WORDBOOK section.

5. All Japanese verbs in the INDEX are followed by numbers in

parentheses and have a hyphen between the unchangeable stems and the changeable endings so that easy reference may be made to the JAPANESE VERB INFLECTION TABLE. The numbers and the hyphen serve to identify which group each of the verbs belongs to and how its ending changes. As regards the use of Japanese verbs, see *How to Use Japanese Verbs*.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Akito Hiroki for his editorial advice and Miss Tokiko Yamamoto for her excellent typewriting.

1980

Katsuji Yabuki

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## List of Japanese Syllables

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a	i	u	e	o			
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	kya	kyu	kyo
sa	shi (si)	su	se	so	sha (sya)	shu (syu)	sho (syo)
ta	chi (ti) ti*	tsu (tu)	te	to	cha (tya)	chu (tyu)	cho (tyo)
na	ni	nu	ne	no	nya	nyu	nyo
ha	hi	fu	he	ho	hya	hyu	hyo
fa*	fi*	(hu)	fe*	fo*			
ma	mi	mu	me	mo	mya	myu	myo
ya	(i)	yu	(e)	yo			
ra	ri	ru	re	ro	rya	ryu	ryo
wa	(i)	(u)	(e)	(o)			
n							

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ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya	gyu	gyo
za	ji (zi)	zu	ze	zo	ja (zya)	ju (zyu)	jo (zyo)
da	(ji) di*	(zu)	de	do			
ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bya	byu	byo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pya	pyu	pyo

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NOTES: The above spelling is in accordance with the Hepburn system, with the Japanese system in parentheses. Italic syllables in parentheses evolved from earlier forms in the history of the language. In olden times they were pronounced differently than they are today. Syllables marked with \* are used for loan words.

## How to Read Romanized Japanese

### Two basic rules:

1. Read all Japanese syllables almost in the same length of time. They are of four kinds, as shown in the List of Japanese Syllables given elsewhere: (1) a vowel (a, i, u, e, o), (2) a consonant or two plus a vowel (ka, sa, ta, chi, tsu, sha, cha, etc.), (3) a consonant plus a semi-vowel (y) plus a vowel (kya, nya, mya, etc.), and (4) n, which can exceptionally form a syllable without being followed by any vowel.

2. Read the capitalized syllables at high pitch. In this book, instead of using various symbols to mark an accent, all the syllables to be read at high pitch are capitalized, because this way of indicating the accented syllables are more convenient for writing by hand or typewriter and easier to know which syllables are expected to be stressed in pronunciation.

### Short vowels:

**a** like **a** in **America**. aNAta (a-NA-ta), *you*. haTA (ha-TA), *a flag*.

**i** like **i** in **ink**. waTASHI (wa-TA-SHI), *I*. HAsHI (HA-shi), *chopsticks*.

**u** like **u** in **put** (with the lips left slack). miZU (mi-ZU), *water*. YU, *hot water*.

**e** like **e** in **jet**. KAMera (KA-me-ra), *a camera*. naMAE (na-MA-E), *a name*.

**o** like **o** in **oil** (with the lips a little more rounded). RAjio (RA-ji-o), *radio*. toMODACHI (to-MO-DA-CHI), *a friend*.

### Long vowels:

Long vowel letters are repeated to show if one of them is pronounced high or low, or if both are pronounced at the same level. KAado (KA-a-do), *a card*. KAdo (KA-do), *a corner*. Bliru (BI-i-ru), *beer*. Blru (BI-ru), *a building*. iIE (i-I-E), *no*. iE (i-E), *a house*. YUuki (YU-u-ki), *courage*. yuKI (yu-KI), *snow*. kuTSUu (ku-TSU-u), *agony*. kuTSU (ku-TSU), *shoes*. Ee (E-e), *yes; well*. E, *a picture*. BEeru (BE-e-ru), *a veil*. BEru (BE-ru), *a bell*. oODOori (o-O-DO-o-ri), *the main street*. oDORI (o-DO-RI), *dance*. oOOToko (o-O-O-to-ko), *a big man*. oTOKO (o-TO-KO), *a man*.

### Consonants:

**f** (1) like **f** in **feet** (with the lower lip slack). FAn (FA-n), *a fan*. FAiru (FA-i-ru), *a file*. (2) like **h** in **hall**. HOOku (HO-o-ku), *a fork*. huRUutsu (hu-RU-u-tsu), *fruit*.

**g** like **g** in **get**. daIGAKU (da-I-GA-KU), a *college, university*. gaKUSEI (ga-KU-SE-I), a *student*.

**n** (1) like **n** in **invention** when it comes at the end of a word or before a consonant. SHUjin (SHU-ji-n), a *husband*. shuUJIN (shu-U-JI-N), a *prisoner*. seNSEi (se-N-SE-i), a *teacher*. kaNGAe (ka-N-GA-e), an *idea, opinion*. toNNERU (to-N-NE-RU), a *tunnel*. NANNin (NA-n-ni-n), *how many people?* (2) like **n** in **now** when it comes before a vowel. But when it should be pronounced separately from the following vowel or y, the symbol ( ' ) is placed after the n. aNAta (a-NA-ta), *you*. DOnata (DO-na-ta), *who?* kiNEN (ki-NE-N), *commemoration*. kiN'EN (ki-N-E-N), *no smoking*. seN'YAKU (se-N-YA-KU), a *previous appointment*.

**r** like **r** in **round**, but the tongue is not rolled as in English. REesu (RE-e-su), a *race*, reSHIto (re-SHI-i-to), a *receipt*.

**w** like **w** in **way** (with the lips left slack). waTASHI (wa-TA-SHI), *I*. waKAi (wa-KA-i), *young*.

**y**, a semi-vowel, can form a syllable in English (read-y) but not in romanized Japanese, as shown in the List of Japanese Syllables. byoOIN (byo-O-I-N), a *hospital*. biYOoin (bi-YO-o-i-n), a *beauty salon*. toOKYOO (to-O-KYO-O), *Tokyo* (not to-O-KI-O).

### Double consonants:

Unlike in English, a double consonant in romanized Japanese requires the same time as two syllables are pronounced, though the first of the two consonants and **t** preceding **ch** are silent.

**kk** fukKOO (fu-k-KO-O), *revival*. fuKOo (fu-KO-o), *misfortune*. gaKKA (ga-k-KA), a *subject of study*. gaKA (ga-KA), a *painter*.

**ss** kasSAI (ka-s-SA-I), *cheers*. kaSAI (ka-SA-I), a *fire*. nisSHI (ni-s-SHI), a *diary*. niSHI (ni-SHI), *west*.

**tt** BATtaa (BA-T-ta-a), a *batter*. BAtaa (BA-ta-a), *butter*. MOTtoo (MO-T-to-o), a *motto*. moTO (mo-TO), *an origin*.

**tch** MATchi (MA-T-chi), a *match*. maCHI (ma-CHI), a *town*. itCHI (i-t-CHI), *agreement*. iCHI (i-CHI), *one*.

## Seven Basic Rules of Japanese Accent

1. Some one-syllable words have an accent. Examples: E, *a picture*. e, *a handle*. HI, *fire*. hi, *the sun*.

2. A string of syllables is often pronounced at high pitch. Ex.: taBEMONO, *food*. juUICHI-GATSU, *November*.

3. If the first syllable is pronounced low, the second syllable is always high, as seen in the above examples.

4. If the first syllable is high, the second syllable is always low. Ex.: Asahi, *the morning sun*. Klreina, *beautiful*.

5. Compound words have their own accent which is different from the accents of the members. Ex.: koOKUU, *aviation*. yuUBIN, *mail*. koOKUU-YUubin, *air mail*. RAjio, *radio*. hoOSOO, *broadcasting*. raJIO-HOosoo, *radio broadcasting*. The only exception to this rule is the case of compound words consisting of these two members: a word having a low pitch in the first syllable and another word having a high pitch in the first syllable. Ex.: uNDOO, *athletic sports*. SEEnshu, *a player*. uNDOO-SEEnshu, *an athletic player*. koTEN, *classics*. Ongaku, *music*. koTEN-Ongaku, *classical music*.

6. Unlike such an English word as *Jàpanése*, which has an accent on two separated syllables, Japanese high-pitched syllables are never separated from each other as seen in the above examples in 5.

7. When we Japanese speak at a normal speed, we stress only the high-pitched syllables of important words in a sentence that can be spoken at each breath. This is to achieve the musical effect of the whole statement. In other words, we try to keep a series of high or low pitched syllables as long as possible not only in such words as those given in 5 but also in sentences exemplified below. Ex.: koOHli o nomimashoo (not noMIMASHOo), *let's have coffee*. DOozo oHAIRI KUDASAI (not kuDASAI), *please come in*.



**ROMANIZED  
JAPANESE WORDBOOK**

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**English — Japanese**

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## A

- ability** NOoryoku. *ability to speak Japanese.* niHONGO O HANAsu nooryoku.
- able** 1. yuUNOONA. *an able woman.* yuUNOONA FUJIN.  
2. deKlru. *be able to write.* Kaku koto ga dekiru.
- about** 1. oYOSO (Yaku). *about five miles.* oYOSO go-MAiru.  
2. ni tsuite. *tell about Japan.* niHOn ni tsuite hanasu. 3. *How about this one?* koRE WA iKaga desu ka.
- above** 1. uE. *the rooms above.* uE NO HEYA. 2. *above all.* Tokuni.
- abroad** gaIKOKU E. *go abroad.* gaIKOKU E IKU. / *travel abroad.* gaIKOKU O RYOKOO SURU.
- absence** 1. RUsu. *in my absence.* waTASHI NO RUsu ni.  
2. kesSEKI. *my absence from school.* waTASHI NO KESSEKI.
- absent** kesSEKI NO. *an absent student.* kesSEKI NO GAKUSEI.
- accent** Akusento. *Japanese accent.* niHONGO NO Akusento.
- accept** uKERu. *accept a gift.* oKURIMONO O UKERu.
- accessory** aKUSEsarii.
- accident** JIko. *an air accident.* koOKUU-JIko.
- accommodation** SETsubi. *hotel accommodations.* HOteru no setsubi.
- according to** ni yoreba. *according to today's newspaper.* KYOO no shinbun ni yoreba.
- account** 1. kaNJOo. *settle accounts.* kaNJOo o sumasu.  
2. haNASHI. *an interesting account of my trip.* waTASHI NO RYOKOO NO oMOSHIROi hanashi. 3. riYUU. *on account of illness.* byoOKI NO RIYUU DE.
- accuse** 1. seMERu. *accuse one of telling a lie.* Uso o semeru.  
2. koKUHATSU SURU. *accuse one of theft.* nuSUMI de koKUHATSU SURU.
- accustomed** NArete iru. *be accustomed to it.* soRE NI NArete iru.
- ache** 1. iTAmu. *My right leg aches.* waTASHI NO MIGI-ASHI GA iTAmu. 2. iTAMI. *have an ache in one's ear.* miMI ga itai.
- acquaintance** shiRIAI (chiJIN).
- across** 1. o yoKOGITte. *go across the main street.* oODOori o yokogiru. 2. o waTATTE. *swim across a river.* kaWA o oYOide wataru. 3. *come across a friend.* toMODACHI NI DEAU.
- act** 1. oKONAI (KOoi). *a kind act.* SHInsetsuna okonai.  
2. oKONAU. *act carefully.* CHUui shite okonau. 3. kiKU. *This medicine acts well.* koNO KUSURI WA Yoku kiku.

**action** koODOO. *take free action.* jiYUU-KOodoo o toru.

**active** 1. kapPATSUNA. *an active man.* kapPATSUNA HITO. 2. *an active volcano.* kakKazan.

**actor** haYUU.

**actress** joYUU.

**actual** jisSAI NO. *an actual condition.* jisSAI NO JOOTAI.

**add** 1. kuWAERu. *add 1,300 to 2,500.* NIsen-goHYAKu ni SEN-SANbyaku o kuwaeru. 2. tsuKEKUWAERU. *"Be careful," he added.* ki O TSUkete NE to KARE wa tsuKEKUWAETA.

**address** 1. aTENA. *my address.* waTASHI NO ATENA. 2. Aisatsu. *make a farewell address.* waKARE NO Aisatsu o suru. 3. eNZETSU. *a commencement address.* soTSUGYOo-shiki no enzetsu.

**adjective** keIYOoshi.

**administration** 1. KANri. *the administration of a library.* toSHOKan no kanri. 2. SEifu. *the new Administration.* aTARASHIi seifu.

**admire** hoMERu. *We admired him.* waTASHItachi wa KARE o hometa.

**admission** nyuUJOO. *Admission free.* nyuUJOO MURyoo.

**admit** miTOMERU. *admit one's mistake.* maCHIGAI o mitomeru.

**adopt** saiYOO SURU. *adopt his plan.* KARE no an o saiYOO SURU.

**advance** 1. SHInpo (hatTATSU). *make a rapid advance.* haYAI shinpo o suru. 2. suSUMU. *advance slowly.* yukKURi susumu. 3. *in advance.* maEMOTte.

**advanced** suSUNDA (SHInposhita). *an advanced country.* suSUNDA KUNI (seNSHInkoku).

**advantage** 1. Rleki. *for mutual advantage.* oTAGAI NO Rleki no tame. 2. *take advantage of this opportunity.* koNO KIKAI o riyoo suru.

**adventure** boOKEN.

**adverb** fuKUSHI.

**advertise** koOKOKU SURU. *advertise a new camera.* aTARASHIi kamera o koOKOKU SURU.

**advertisement** koOKOKU.

**advice** chuUKOKU. *helpful advice.* yaKUnitatsu chuukoku.

**advise** chuUKOKU SURU. *I advised him to study harder.* waTASHI WA KARE ni MOTto beNKYOO SURU YOoni chuUKOKU SHITA.

**affair** 1. koTO. *private affairs.* koJINTEKINA KOTO. / *public affairs.* oOYAKE NO KOTO.

**afford** yoYUU GA Aru. *He can afford to buy it.* KARE wa soRE O KAU YOYUU GA Aru. / *I can't afford a car.* waTASHI WA kuRUMA O MOTsu yoyuu ga nai.

- afraid** 1. oSOrete. *be afraid of death.* SHI o oSOrete iru. 2. kamoshirenai. *I'm afraid he won't come.* KARE wa KONai kamoshirenai.
- Africa** aFURIKA.
- after** 1. Ato de. *after dinner.* yuUSHOKU NO Ato de. 2. *after all.* yaHARI (yapPARI). / *after a while.* shiBARaku shite.
- afternoon** 1. GOGO. *this afternoon.* KYOO no gogo. / *tomorrow afternoon.* aSHITA NO GOGO. 2. *Good afternoon.* koNNICHI WA.
- again** 1. maTA. *Come again.* maTA KIte kudasai. 2. moO-ICHIDO. *Read it again.* soRE O moO-ICHIDO YONde kudasai.
- against** 1. ni muKATTE. *fly against the wind.* kaZE NI MUKATTE TOBU. 2. ni haNTAI SHITE. *cry against the war.* seNSOO NI HANTAI SHITE SAKEbu. 3. ni yoRIkakatte. *lean against the wall.* kaBE NI yoRIKAKARu.
- age** 1. toSHI (neNREI). *He looks young for his age.* KARE wa toSHI NO WARI NI Wakaku mieru. 2. jiDAI. *a space age.* uCHUU-JIdai.
- agency** daLRITEN.
- agent** daLRININ.
- ago** MAe ni. *two weeks ago.* ni-SHUukan mae ni. / *a long time ago.* zutTO MAe ni.
- agree** 1. Iken ga itCHI SURU. *He agreed with me.* KARE wa waTASHI TO Iken ga itCHI SHITA. 2. doOI (saNSEI) SURU. *He agreed to my plan.* KARE wa waTASHI NO KEIKAKU NI doOI SHITA.
- agreement** kyoOTEI. *an international agreement.* koKUSAI-KYOotei.
- agriculture** NOogyoo.
- ah** Aa.
- ahead** saKI ni. *Please go ahead.* DOozo oSAKI NI.
- aid** 1. taSUKU. *ask the aid of one's friends.* toMODACHI NO TASUKU o motomeru. 2. taSUKERu. *aid him with advice.* chuUKOKU SHITE TASUKERu.
- aim** 1. moKUTEKI. *have a high aim in life.* JInsei ni taKAI mokuteki o motsu. 2. neRAU. *aim at a mark.* maTO O NERAU.
- air** 1. KUuki. *breathe the fresh air.* shiNSENNA KUuki o suu. 2. SOra. *fly in the air.* SOra o tobu. 3. *an air line.* koOKUuro. / *air mail.* koOKUU-YUubin. / *an air raid.* kuUSHUU.
- airplane** hiKOoki.
- airport** kuUKOO (hiKOOJOO).