

Proxima's Gift Lexicon

Print out double-sided, fold into quarters—first vertically then horizontally—slip inside book.

How To Pronounce Japanese Words

There are only 5 vowel sounds in Japanese, written with the letters a, i, e, o, u.

- “a” is pronounced “ah” as in ‘Kahn’
- “i” is pronounced “ee” as in ‘seek’
- “e” is pronounced “eh” as in ‘bed’
- “o” is pronounced “oh” as in ‘open’
- “u” is pronounced “oo” as in ‘boot’

Each consonant and the vowel that follows it are pronounced as a single syllable or what is called a mora with regard to Japanese. So, the word Yamawarau has five mora: ya • ma • wa • ra • u, and the name Kaede has three mora: ka • e • de.

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amanokawa • The Milky Way
amasakè • sweet drink made from fermented rice
amazura • wild vine used to make sugar.
ayu • sweetfish
bonjū • Good morning; from French, bon jour
byanshu • Of course; from French, bien sûr
dahc • Okay; from French, d'accord
daidoko • kitchen
doburoku • unrefined sake
dokudami • dokudami
doma • earth-floored room
fukinotō • butterbur flower bud
fundoshi • traditional loincloth
furoshiki • wrapping cloth
hachimaki • headband
hagi • bushclover
hahanokuni • Motherland; the mythological land that was the origin of the Japanese gods
hamaguri • common orient clam
hatomugi • adlay millet
hiyodori • brown-eared bulbul
Hobaraè • The Fire Cleansing. The season in the hottest time of summer when the fire purification ceremony is held.
hoshigaki • dried persimmons
ika • squid

inoshishi • Japanese boar
isana • whale (archaic)
itachi • ferret
iwana • bull trout
Jakujō • The Quiescence; The season in the deepest part of winter when all is still.
jii • old man
kakishibu • astringent persimmon juice
kami • God Spirits; believed to inhabit all aspects of the natural world: a large tree, boulder, waterfall, ocean or mountains.
Kamigō • Upper Village
kamishibai • picture story show
kannagi • oracle
katakuri • katakuri
keyaki • zelkova
kindomo • bacteria, viruses
kiri • paulownia
kitsune • Japanese red fox
kobushi • kobushi magnolia
kogomi • sprout of mountain palm fern
konara • konara oak
konbini • convenience store
konbu • kelp
kopulè • copulate; from French, copuler
kōrogi • cricket
kujira • whale
kurattsu • crap; from French crotte
kurogome • black rice
kurozu • black vinegar
kusu • camphor
kuzu • kudzu
kwa • what; from French, quoi
madai • red sea bream
mamushi • pit viper
masu • trout
matsuri • festival
Mebuki • The Sprouting; The season when the year begins. Winter ends as new shoots are seen coming through the snow.
mejiro • Japanese white-eye
mèru • Mother; from French, mère
mèrumei • maternal names; i.e. Azami born of Kaede

mirin • sweet rice wine for cooking
momijigasa • momijigasa
mugicha • barley tea
mumèru • motherless; a glowie who doesn't know
who their mèru is.
murahachibu • ostracism; exile from a village
nagaimo • Chinese yam
Nakanogō • Middle Village
Namu Proxima • Hail Proxima
nattō • fermented soybeans
nori • edible seaweed
Nowaki • The Meadow Cleaving; The season
when the powerful winds of autumn come.
nuè • chimera
nukagara • husk, empty shell; the body after a
glowie dies
omusubi • rice ball
Ōtakigō • Great Waterfall Village
pèru • father; from French, père
piero • a clown; from French, pierrot
pura • plastic
putee • a little bit; from French, petit
ritān • toilet; from a broken sign put on an
outhouse that read, Return Box
sanma • mackerel pike
sasa • bamboo grass
sasacha • tea made from bamboo grass
satoyama • tended mountain area
seh'brè • Is that right?; from French, ç'est vrai?
shaku • Japanese "foot"; 30.3 cm.
shigure • food preserved with shōyu, mirin, and
sake
shiitake • shiitake mushrooms
Shimofuri • The Frostfall; The season when the
first frost of the year begins to fall.
Shimonogō • Lower Village
shīn • the time of one heartbeat; used as a
measure of brief time
Shinpaku-sama • Honorable Forest Spirit;
honorific name for the yamanba
shinzan • deep mountains; wild areas beyond the
satoyama.
shinzan • wild mountains
shiso • beefsteak plant

shizumare • Be still!
shōyu • soy sauce
soba • buckwheat
su • vinegar
sugi • Japanese cryptomeria
Suhmagō • Seashore Village
suku • sugar; from French, sucre
sukusai • sugar-making festival
sumi • charcoal
surume • dried squid
susuki • Japanese silver grass
taifū • typhoon
tamisu • large communal nest in each village
tanuki • raccoon dog
tensai • sugar beet
tobiuo • Japanese flying fish
toranki • sure, no problem; from French,
tranquille
tsukemono • salt pickles
tu'shè • You touched me; from French, touché
uba • elderly woman
uguisu • Japanese bush warbler
umeboshi • pickled plum
umimori • sea ranger
uwè • Yes; from French ouais, Parisian
pronunciation of oui
wakame • wakame seaweed
warabi • bracken
woodskin • book or magazine made from paper
yaga • moonmoth
yamabōshi • Japanese dogwood
yamafuji • wild wisteria
yamainu • Japanese wolf; lit. mountain dog
yamame • landlocked masu salmon
yamamori • mountain ranger
yamanba • mountain witch
yamatsutsuji • wild azalea
Yamawarau • The Laughing Mountains; The
season when the new leaves and early flower
burst open on the mountains.
yamori • gecko
yomogi • mugwort
yomotsukuni • Land of the Dead
yuzu • yuzu citrus
zarigani • crawfish
zenmai • fiddlehead fern