

## Let's learn easy Japanese

### What to say in a ramen restaurant

After you're greeted at the door of the restaurant (*irasshai mase*, いらっしゃいませ), you'll be presented with a menu featuring several types of ramen. Take a seat, practice some Japanese (*Nihongo*, 日本語) and enjoy a delicious meal!



This one, please.

“これください。”

*Kore kudasai.*

\* While pointing at the item in the menu.

### Intermediate

Customize your ramen with all sorts of delicious additions: a boiled egg (*tamago*, 卵), bean sprouts (*moyashi*, もやし), corn (*kōn*, コーン) or fermented bamboo shoots (*menma*, メンマ), for a start.

With nori and BBQ pork, please.

“のりとチャーシューを追加してください。”

*Nori to chāshū wo tsuika shite kudasai.*

Prepare the thin noodles firm (*al dente*), please.

“細麺、バリカタでお願いします。”

*Hosomen, barikata de onegai shimasu.*

### Beginner

*Kudasai* (ください) means please. You may also point to a bowl of ramen that someone else is eating and say “*are kudasai*” (あれください, that one). Just make sure to point at the food and not at the person—that's considered rude!

### Advanced

There are numerous varieties of noodles used in ramen restaurants: soft (*yawarakame*, 柔らかめ), regular (*futsu*, 普通), thick (*futoi*, 太い), thin (*hosoi*, 細い).... Add extra noodles, too (*kaedama*, 替え玉).

Compiled by Nina Lee. Brought to you by the Toronto Japanese Language School | [www.tjls.ca](http://www.tjls.ca) | @tjlsca | [principal@tjls.ca](mailto:principal@tjls.ca)

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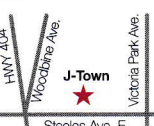


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# GO N I H O N G O

## Let's learn easy Japanese

Where did you go on vacation?

“休みはどこに行きましたか?”

Yasumi wa doko ni ikimashita ka?

### Beginner

Everyone enjoys talking about their holidays. These are useful words to describe your vacation: fun (楽しい, *tanoshii*), relaxing (くつろいだ, *kutsuroi-da*, *kutsurogu*), lively or exciting (刺激的な, *shigekiteki-na*, *wakuwaku-suru*).

### Intermediate

Playing sports is an integral part of the Japanese school experience. Many sports are written using katakana as the sport's name + wo suru (を する), such as to play tennis (テニスをする, *tenisu wo suru*). Exceptions include baseball (野球, *yakyu*) and gymnastics (体操, *taiso*).

What sports teams are you going to join this year?

“今年は何のスポーツチームに入りますか?”

Kotoshi ha nanno supo-tsu chi-mu ni hairimasu ka?

### Back to school!

In Japan, the school year is usually divided into three semesters. The second semester, beginning in September, features school events such as Sports Day (運動会, *undoukai*) and School Festivals (文化祭, *bunkasai*). Even adults anticipate the beginning of autumn as a time to talk about their summer and start new activities.



I'm looking for \_\_\_\_\_. Where are the best sales?

“\_\_\_\_\_を探しています。どこに行くと一番いいですか?”

\_\_\_\_\_wo sagashite imasu. Doko ni ikuto ichiban iidesu ka?

### Advanced

One enjoyable aspect of the back-to-school season is the discounts that many stores offer. You can buy school supplies like pens (ペン, *pen*), pencils (鉛筆, *enpitsu*), calculators (電卓, *dentaku*), erasers (けしゴム, *keshigomu*) and notebooks (ノート, *no-to*).

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Illustration by Reiko Ema

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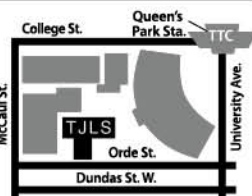
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### Being polite in Japanese!

Your company CEO is visiting from the headquarters in Japan and you want to make a good impression, but what do you say? Use honorifics, or *keigo* (敬語), to be courteous to your guest. Here are some polite Japanese phrases you can use to impress.



My name is \_\_\_\_.

“\_\_\_\_と申します。”

\_\_\_\_to mōshimasu.

### Beginner

Pair your sophisticated introduction with a bow for the best way to make a good first impression with someone you're meeting for the first time.

### Intermediate

Thank a professional acquaintance, or an associate of higher rank, for doing something specific for you by using "action verb te (て) form + くださってありがとうございます/ございました (*kudasatte arigatou gozaimasu/gozaimashita*).

Thank you for coming today.

“本日は、お越しくださって  
ありがとうございます。”

*Honjitsu wa okoshikudasatte  
arigatou gozaimasu.*

I appreciate your continued support and encouragement.

“ご指導ご鞭撻のほど、  
よろしくお願いいたします。”

*Goshido gobentatsu no hodo,  
yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.*

### Advanced

*Bentatsu* (鞭撻) means to whip someone in order to drive them, but the word is commonly used by subordinates in business conversations to refer to the act of encouraging someone.

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Illustration by Reiko Ema

# GO NIPPONGO

## Let's learn easy Japanese

### Celebrating birthdays!

Once upon a time in Japan, birthdays were all celebrated on New Year's Day. Today, friends or family normally arrange a party for the birthday girl or boy, and these are a chance to have lots of fun and celebrate!



### Happy birthday!

“お誕生日おめでとう  
ございます!”

*Otanjyōbi Omedetō  
gozaimasu!*

### Beginner

*Omedetō gozaimasu* (おめでとうございます) is a polite way to say congratulations, while *Otanjyōbi* (お誕生日) is birthday. You can use *Omedetō gozaimasu*, or *Omedetō*, at other celebrations like graduations and weddings, too!

### Intermediate

“Zehi” means definitely. Combined with -te form verb + “kudasai,” it becomes a strong recommendation. Use “zehi” to accept an invitation. E.g.: *Zehi ikimasu!* (ぜひ、行きます! I will definitely go!)

**I'm holding a birthday party on Saturday, so you should definitely come!**

“土曜日に誕生日会をするから、ぜひ来てください。”

*Doyōbini tanjyōbikaiwo surukara, zehi kitekudasai.*

**I hope the following year will be another wonderful one.**

“[Name]さんにとって  
素敵な一年になりますように。”

*[Name] sannitotte sutekina  
ichinenni narimasu yōni.*

### Advanced

This is a good phrase to write in a birthday card or post on social media. Usually this phrase comes after “*Otanjyōbi Omedetōgozaimasu*” or is used as a closing sentence.