

“ah”
like in “car”

“ee”
like in “key”

“oo”
like in “moo”

“eh”
like in “edge”

“oh”
like in “joe”

a
i
u
e
o

Pronunciation Guide:

Japanese consists of consonant + vowel. Use the sound of the consonant and add it to the pronunciation of the vowels listed below.

Examples:

sushi → sooshee
sashimi → sahsheemee
sake → sahkeh

About this Cheatsheet

This cheatsheet is designed for people who have never taken any Japanese before. It's perfect for someone traveling to Japan without any prior knowledge, because all you need to use it is a dictionary to look up vocab words to fill in the blanks!

Common Phrases / Words

すみません sumimasen
excuse me / I'm sorry

ごめんなさい gomen-nasai
I'm sorry

ありがとうございます arigatou gozaimasu
Thank you

おはようございます ohayou-gozaimasu
Good Morning

こんにちは kon-nichi-wa
Hello / Good afternoon

こんばんは kon-ban-wa
Good evening

さよなら sayonara
Good bye (jaa mata = 'see you later')

はらへった hara hetta
I'm hungry

Fill in the blank

Where is (the)...

_____はどこですか？
_____ wa doko desu ka?

any noun can go into the blank.

ex. toire (bathroom), tokyo, hoteru (hotel), chikatetsu (subway), densha (train), takushi (taxi), conbini (convenience store), [name]-san (someone's name, also used instead of "you")

Can you draw a map?

地図を書いてくれませんか？
chizu o kaite kuremasen ka?

Don't understand? follow up Q!

I want to go to...

_____に行きたい
_____ ni itai

any location can go into the blank.

ex. hoteru+name (hotel+name), tokyo, _____ eki (_____ station), narita kuukou (narita airport). "Can I draw a map" is above ↑

I am _____.

私は _____ です
watashi wa _____ desu

Add an adjective or name in this blank.

ex. Jon (or another name), samui (cold), atatakai (warm).

I can't eat _____

_____が食べられない
_____ ga taberarenai

any food you can't eat goes here.

ex. sushi, sakana (fish), niku (meat), piinatsu (peanuts), tako (octopus), yasai (vegetables)

Do you have _____?

_____がありますか？
_____ ga arimasuka?

Alternate food instead of the above food?

I can't drink _____.

_____が飲みません
_____ ga nomemasen

Put a drink in the blank for "I can't drink..."

ex. biiru (beer), sake (rice wine)



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