

“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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