

Central Kyokushin Karate | Essential Japanese Vocabulary

Here are common Japanese greetings and phrases and some vocabulary.

Hiragana Alphabet

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-		
ん	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ	-a
N	WA	RA	YA	MA	HA	NA	TA	SA	KA	A	
	り		み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い		-i
	RI		MI	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	KI	I		
	る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う		-u
	RU	YU	MU	FU	NU	TSU	SU	KU	U		
	れ		め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え		-e
	RE		ME	HE	NE	TE	SE	KE	E		
	を	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お	-o
	WO	RO	YO	MO	HO	NO	TO	SO	KO	O	

The Japanese language is much different from English. The pronunciation of their vowels are as follows (American English pronunciation is in quotation marks):

- A – “ah”
- I – “ee”
- U – “oo”
- E – “eh”
- O – “oh”

The rest of the Japanese characters have these vowel sounds with their respective consonant sound. i.e.: Ka = “cah”

For pronunciation, duration and double consonants are important as well. Each singular Japanese character is short and concise, while double vowels/consonants are longer/more emphasized:

- Arigatou – slightly longer “oh” sound
- Kissaten – slightly longer “s” sound
- Otto – short pause before “t” sound

Central Kyokushin Karate | Essential Japanese Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Greetings

Japanese - Romaji	Meaning
Ohayou	Good morning
Ohayou gozaimasu	Good morning (polite)
Konnichiwa	Good afternoon
Konbanwa	Good evening
Sayoonara	Good-bye
Oyasumi nasai	Good night (polite)
Arigatou	Thank you
Hajimemashite	How do you do?
... desu	I am ...
Yoroshiku onegai shimasu	Nice to meet you
Sumimasen	Excuse me; sorry to bother you
Iie	No
Hai	Yes
Itte kimasu	I'll go and come back (home)
Itterasshai	Please go and come back (home)
Tadaima	I'm home
Okaeri nasai	Welcome home
Itadakimasu	(before) thank you for the meal
Gochisousama deshita	(after) thank you for the meal

Numbers

Japanese - Romaji	Meaning
Zero	0
Ichi	1
Ni	2
San	3
Yon	4
Go	5
Roku	6
Shichi/Nana	7
Hachi	8
Kyuu/Ku	9
Ju	10

Numbers in Japanese have a simpler pronunciation than English. Numbers past ten are said as “ten-one” – “juu-ichi.” Twenties: “nijuu + #.” This cadence is repeated through all numbers.

Central Kyokushin Karate | Essential Japanese Vocabulary

Bigger Numbers

Japanese - Romaji	Meaning
Hyaku	100
Nihyaku	200
Sanbyaku	300
Yonhyaku	400
Gohyaku	500
Roppyaku	600
Nanahyaku	700
Happhyaku	800
Kyuuhyaku	900
Sen	1,000
Nisen	2,000
Sanzen	3,000
Yonsen	4,000
Gosen	5,000
Rokusen	6,000
Nanasen	7,000
Hassen	8,000
Kyuusen	9,000
Ichiman	10,000
Niman	20,000
Sanman	30,000
Yonman	40,000
Goman	50,000
Rokuman	60,000
Nanaman	70,000
Hachiman	80,000
Kyuuman	90,000

Here's an example of how to say a specific number:

- 12,447
 - Ichiman nisen yonhyaku yonjuu nana – 10,000 / 2,000 / 400 / 40 / 7

Central Kyokushin Karate | Essential Japanese Vocabulary

More Vocabulary

Person	Meaning
Watashi	I (self)
Tomodachi	Friend
...san	Mr./Ms....
...jin	People
Nihonjin	Japanese people
Amerikajin	American people
Gakusee	Student
Namae	Name
Expressions	Meaning
Anoo	Um...
Sou desu	That's right.
Sou desu ka	I see; is that so?
Family	Meaning
Otousan	Father
Okaasan	Mother
Oneesan	Sister
Oniisan	Brother
Obaasan	Grandma
Ojiisan	Grandpa
Musume	Daughter
Musuko	Son
Imouto	Younger sister
Otouto	Younger brother

Sentences

Here are some common phrases that can be used wherever appropriate:

Hajimemashite, watashi no namae wa (your name) desu. Douzo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

- This means – How do you do? My name is (your name), It's nice to meet you.

Sumimasen, Toire e itemo idesuka?

- Excuse me, where is the bathroom?

Kore wa nandesuka?

- What is this?

Kore wa Nihongo de nandesuka?

- What is this in Japanese?

Kore wa ikura desuka?

Central Kyokushin Karate | Essential Japanese Vocabulary

- How much is this?

Jaa kore wo kudasai

- Well then, please give me this

Sore wa nandesuka?

- What is that next to you?

Are wa nandesuka?

- What is that over there?

Ima nanji desuka?

- What time is it now?

Osu.

- Osu.