

“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 _____.
_____ が飲めません
_____ ga nomemasen

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

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



This cheatsheet was made by Tofugu.com - if you want to learn Japanese for realies, check out TextFugu, the only Japanese Textbook for self-teachers of Japanese (and made by Koichi!)