

Gendered Language in Japanese {Cheat Sheet}

Referring to oneself

- **Ore:** Informal (and sometimes vulgar) used primarily by younger men w/ friends or girlfriends
- **Jibun:** “myself” - has a militaristic feel to it
- **Boku:** Boyish sounding word - only recently have some women started using it (sounds tomboyish)
- **Watashi:** In formal speech used by both men and women, informal only used by women
- **Atashi:** Cuter version of “watashi.” Informal, childish, innocent sound - only used by girls.
- **Watakushi:** Used by both men and women for polite / formal speech

Referring to Others

- **Teme:** Old fashioned (though still used) - very direct, can definitely be pretty rude.
- **Koitsu:** “this person.” Talks down on the person, only used by men.
- **Omae:** Direct and informal. Can definitely be rude in the wrong situation. Used with close friends or girlfriends (kind of like calling a girl “baby”)
- **Kimi:** Primarily used by men with close women friends (or empowered women talking down to men)
- **Anta:** informal - mostly used by women to talk down to men
- **Anata:** Polite form for men, normal form for women

Sentence Enders

| For Boys | For Girls |
|----------|-------------|
| 日本人だ | 日本人 |
| 日本人だ | 日本人だわ |
| 日本人だよ | 日本人よ・日本人だわよ |
| 高い | 高いわ |
| 高いよ | 高いわよ |
| 高いね | 高いわね |
| 高いんだ | 高いの |
| 行く | 行くわ |
| 行くよ | 行くわよ |
| 行くね | 行くわね |
| 行くんだ | 行くの |

Asking Questions

| For Boys | For Girls |
|-----------|-----------|
| 日本人？ | 日本人？ |
| 日本人かい？ | 日本人？ |
| 日本人なのかい？ | 日本人なの？ |
| 高い？ | 高い？ |
| 高いかい？ | 高い？ |
| 高いなのかい？ | 高いの？ |
| 行く？ | 行く？ |
| 行くかい？ | 行くの？ |
| 行かないか？ | 行かない？ |
| 何？ | 何？ |
| 何だい？ | なに？ |
| どんな人なんだい？ | どんな人なの？ |
| いつ行くんだい？ | いつ行くの？ |