

Japanese consonants and vowels: Example words

Here is a list of words illustrating the (short) vowels and consonants that occur in Japanese. Sound files (from Vance 2008) are available on Canvas; follow link from “Daily syllabus” web page.

(1)	Vowel examples		(hiragana)	
	[i]	[kami]	神	かみ ‘deity’
	[e]	[kame]	亀	かめ ‘turtle’
	[a]	[kama]	鎌	かま ‘sickle’
	[o]	[kamo]	鴨	かも ‘duck’
	[u]	[kamu]	噛む	かむ ‘bite (v.)’
(2)	Consonant examples			
	[p]	[pan]	パン	ぱん ‘bread’
	[t]	[tan]	短	たん ‘defect’
	[k]	[kan]	缶	かん ‘can’
	[b]	[ban]	番	ばん ‘turn (n.)’
	[d]	[dan]	段	だん ‘level’
	[g]	[gan]	癌	がん ‘cancer’
	[φ]	[φu]	負	ふ ‘minus’
	[s]	[su]	酢	す ‘vinegar’
	[ʧ]	[ʧin]	芯	しん ‘core’
	[ʧ]	[ʧi]	火	ひ ‘fire’
	[h]	[ha]	歯	は ‘tooth’
	[ts]	[tsu:ka]	通貨	つうか ‘currency’
	[tɕ]	[tɕizu]	地図	ちず ‘map’
	[dz]	[kidzi]	記事	きじ ‘(newspaper) article’
	[z]	[kuuzu]	葛	くず ‘kudzu’
	[dz]	[dzu]	図	ず ‘diagram’
	[m]	[ma]	間	ま ‘interval’
	[n]	[na]	名	な ‘name’
	[N]	<i>(many examples in word-final position; see above)</i>		
	[r]	[ri]	利	り ‘advantage’
	[w]	[wa]	輪	わ ‘ring’
	[j]	[ja]	矢	や ‘arrow’