

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), *The Sounds of Japanese*) are available on Sakai, in *Resources > Sound files*.

(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]	[kamuu]	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’
	[ɕ]	[ɕin]	芯	しん	‘core’
	[ɸ]	[ɸi]	火	ひ	‘fire’
	[h]	[ha]	歯	は	‘tooth’
	[ts]	[tsu:ka]	通貨	つうか	‘currency’
	[tɕ]	[tɕizɯ]	地図	ちず	‘map’
	[dz]	[kidzi]	記事	きじ	‘(newspaper) article’
	[z]	[ku:zu]	葛	くず	‘kudzu’
	[dz]	[dzɯ]	図	ず	‘diagram’
	[m]	[ma]	間	ま	‘interval’
	[n]	[na]	名	な	‘name’
	[ŋ]	(many examples in word-final position; see above)			
	[r]	[ri]	利	り	‘advantage’
	[w]	[wa]	輪	わ	‘ring’
	[j]	[ja]	矢	や	‘arrow’