

Family members

(Note: these can be used with a variety of post-fixes)

(O)tousan=father (the "O" is an honorific used for politeness)

(O)kaasan=mother

(O)jisan=uncle (not to be confused with **(O)jiisan**, "old man" or "granfather", or **Ouji**, "prince")

(O)basan--aunt as opposed to **(O)baasan**, "old woman" or "grandmother")

(O)niichan=elder brother

(O)neechan=elder sister

(O)totochan=younger brother

Imoutochan=younger sister

Levels of Politeness

The Japanese are extremely polite--even when cursing people out. There are different verb forms for "polite" talk and "plain" talk. There are even different verb forms for men and women, children and adults. Unfortunately, the dictionary usually only lists the "plain" form of a verb. Since I don't really speak Japanese, I'm using the verb forms that I've seen in other people's fan fics or the "polite" form of a verb. It makes my life a lot easier.

Numbers

ichi=one

ni=two

san=three

shi/yon=numbers four (**yon** is used more often because **shi** also means "death")

go=five

roku=six

shichi/nana=seven (see **shi/yon**)

hachi=eight

kyuu=nine

juu=ten

Note: The Cyborgs (or **Jinzouningen**- "man made men") have the character °Å (pronounced **gou**) after their numbers signifying "number" whatever.

The Five W's

Dare=who

Doko=where

Dooshite=why

Itsu=when
Nani=what
Naze=how

The Kana "tsu"

The annoying little kana that you see in the middle of some words but seems to be silent...I asked Katchan what it was for and she said this:

Well, that all depends. 'Tsu' is a wonderfully difficult character. Sometimes it's pronounced and sometimes *not*. If it's written at about half the size of the other kana, then it's not pronounced -- it's done this way in two different situations:

1) *At the end of a sentence.* In this case it acts literally as an exclamation mark. The series 'Aa! Megami-sama!' is written in kana (roughly) : aa (small tsu) megamisama (small tsu). Thus in translation or transliteration it comes out Aa! Megami-sama! or Oh! My Goddess!

2) *In the middle of a word, preceding a syllable.* In this case it doubles the consonant at the beginning of the syllable *following* it. For example -- the word for marriage is 'kekkon'. It is written in kana ke-(small tsu)-ko-n. The small 'tsu' makes the k in 'ko' a double consonant, and thus 'kekkon'. This is the same with any syllable except 'chi', in which case there is no second 'c' added, but a 't' instead, as in 'Katchan' ::grin:: which is written 'ka-(small tsu)-chan.'

The Magic Words

Arigatou=thank you (**Domo**+ and/or +**Gozaimasu**=very much)

Gomen=sorry (+**nasai**=very)

Dou Itashimashite=you're welcome (probably translates more like "think nothing of it")

Doozo=please

Onegaishimas=**Kudasai**=please (polite request)

Shitsure=Implies some breach of politeness. For example, you say **shitsure shimashita** ("sorry for the disturbance") when leaving someone else's house. The present tense, **shitsure shimasu** ("excuse me, but..."), is used to interrupt a conversation or bring up up a request.

Sumimasen=excuse me, pardon me; guys tend to contract this to **suman** or **sumanee**

Third Person Pronouns

aitsu--a rather rude way of referring to someone, loosely "that fellow over there".

kare or **kareshi**--he/his, although lately it's also used to mean "boyfriend".
kanojou--she/hers, also "girlfriend".

Generally speaking, these pronouns are not used in polite conversation. Instead, the person is referred to by name; barring that, **ano hito** ("that person"), **ano onna no hito** ("that female person"), or **ano ko** ("that child") is used.

To Be or Not To Be

There are three verbs that mean "to be" in Japanese:

desu is used to mean "A equals B" or "A has the property of B"

arimasu is used with non-living objects to mean "exists", "there is", or "has"

imasu is used with living objects to mean "exists"

I really don't feel like putting all the verb forms of "be" here, so I'll only put the ones I might use:

deshou="presumptive" (assumed to be true) form of be

deshita=was

da=plain present form of **desu**
