

Helpful Japanese Phrases

Pair Practice Script

Partner A: Blue rows **Partner B:** Orange rows Use the Notes column to write pronunciation tips!

Section 1: Introductions & Greetings

 In Japan, a small bow accompanies most greetings. The deeper the bow, the more respectful the gesture.

Scenario: Meeting someone for the first time

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Hajimemashite!	Nice to meet you!	
B	Hajimemashite!	Nice to meet you!	
A	[Your name] desu.	I am [your name]. (fill in your own name!)	
B	[Your name] desu.	I am [your name]. (fill in your own name!)	
A	Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.	I look forward to knowing you / Please be kind to me.	
B	Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.	I look forward to knowing you / Please be kind to me.	

Scenario: Using polite phrases throughout the day

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Gomenasai.	I'm sorry.	
B	Daijobu desu.	That's okay / No problem.	
A	Sumimasen!	Excuse me / Sorry to bother you!	
B	Hai?	Yes? / How can I help?	

Section 2: Morning, Afternoon & Evening Greetings

 Japanese has specific greetings for different times of day. Using the right one shows cultural awareness and is always appreciated!

Scenario: Morning greeting

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Ohayou gozaimasu!	Good morning! (polite)	

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
B	Ohayou gozaimasu!	Good morning!	

 Scenario: Afternoon greeting

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Konnichiwa!	Good afternoon / Hello!	
B	Konnichiwa!	Good afternoon / Hello!	

 Scenario: Evening greeting

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Konbanwa!	Good evening!	
B	Konbanwa!	Good evening!	

 Ohayou (without gozaimasu) is the casual version used among friends. Gozaimasu makes it polite — always use the polite form with strangers!

Section 3: Getting Around

 When asking for directions, be patient — many locals will try their best to help even with limited English!

 Scenario: Finding a location

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Sumimasen...	Excuse me...	
B	Hai?	Yes?	
A	Toire wa doko desu ka?	Where is the bathroom?	
B	Chotto matte kudasai.	Please wait a moment.	

 Scenario: You don't understand the response

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Wakarimasen.	I don't understand.	
B	Moichido onegaishimasu.	Could you repeat that please?	
A	Chotto / Sukoshi...	A little... (e.g., 'I understand a little')	
B	Dozo.	Go ahead / Please.	

💡 *Chotto matte (wait) and Dozo (go ahead) are incredibly useful on trains, elevators, and escalators when navigating crowds.*

 **Scenario: At a shop — asking about something**

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Sumimasen, _____ wa arimasu ka?	Excuse me, do you have _____?	
B	Hai, arimasu!	Yes, we have it!	
A	Kore wa nan desu ka?	What is this?	
B	Chotto matte kudasai.	Please wait a moment.	

Section 4: Restaurant Situations

💡 *Before eating, always say Itadakimasu — it expresses gratitude for the meal. When leaving, say Gochisosama deshita to thank the restaurant.*

 **Scenario: Arriving and ordering**

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Omizu kudasai.	May I have water please?	
B	Hai, dozo!	Yes, here you go!	
A	Gohan mo kudasai.	May I also have rice please?	
B	Hai, dozo!	Yes, of course!	
A	Kore kudasai.	I'll have this please. (point to menu picture)	
B	Kashikomarimashita.	Understood / Right away.	

 **Scenario: Reacting to the food**

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Oishii!	Delicious!	
B	Yokatta!	I'm glad you like it!	
A	Amai!	It's sweet!	
B	So desu ne!	Isn't it!	

 **Scenario: Paying the bill**

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Okaikei onegaishimasu.	Can I have the bill please?	
B	Hai!	Yes! / Of course!	
A	Kado tsukaemasu ka?	Do you take card?	
B	Hai!	Yes!	
A	Gochisosama deshita.	Thank you for the wonderful meal.	
B	Arigatou gozaimashita!	Thank you very much!	

Section 5: General Polite Phrases

💡 *These phrases will serve you in many situations — from shops to museums to just walking around.*

📷 Scenario: At a museum or shrine

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
A	Shashin iidesu ka?	Is it okay to take pictures?	
B	Hai, dozo!	Yes, go ahead!	
A	Arigatou gozaimasu!	Thank you very much!	
B	Doitashimashite.	You're welcome.	

🛍️ Scenario: Declining at a shop (e.g., being offered a bag)

Role	Japanese (Romaji)	English Meaning	My Practice Notes
B	Fukuro wa irimasuka?	Would you like a bag?	
A	Daijobu desu. Arigatou gozaimasu.	That's okay, thank you!	
B	Moichido onegaishimasu.	Could you say that again?	
A	Wakarimasen. Gomenasai.	I don't understand. I'm sorry!	

💡 *Daijobu desu + Arigatou gozaimasu is one of the most versatile combinations — it politely declines offers while showing gratitude.*

Practice Tips for Partners

1. Take turns reading aloud — even if pronunciation feels uncertain, just try!
2. Use the Notes column to write down how a phrase sounds to you (e.g., 'eye-tah-DAH-ki-mas').
3. Run through each scenario twice — then switch roles (Partner A becomes B and vice versa).
4. Try to make eye contact and add a small bow when greeting — get the full experience!
5. Highlight the phrases YOU most want to remember before the trip.