

2 Romanization

2.1 Romanization of Japanese

2.1.1 *General Rules of Romanization*

Refer to the chart below for correct romanization.

a	(ア)	i	(イ)	u	(ウ)	e	(エ)	o	(オ)
ka	(カ)	ki	(キ)	ku	(ク)	ke	(ケ)	ko	(コ)
sa	(サ)	shi	(シ)	su	(ス)	se	(セ)	so	(ソ)
ta	(タ)	chi	(チ)	tsu	(ツ)	te	(テ)	to	(ト)
tso	(ツァ)	ti	(ティ)	tu	(トゥ)	tse	(ツエ)	tso	(ツォ)
na	(ナ)	ni	(ニ)	nu	(ヌ)	ne	(ネ)	no	(ノ)
ha	(ハ)	hi	(ヒ)	fu	(フ)	he	(ヘ)	ho	(ホ)
fa	(ファ)	fi	(フィ)			fe	(フェ)	fo	(フォ)
ma	(マ)	mi	(ミ)	mu	(ム)	me	(メ)	mo	(モ)
ya	(ヤ)			yu	(ユ)			yo	(ヨ)
ra	(ラ)	ri	(リ)	ru	(ル)	re	(レ)	ro	(ロ)
wa	(ワ)								

ga	(ガ)	gi	(ギ)	gu	(グ)	ge	(ゲ)	go	(ゴ)
za	(ザ)	ji	(ジ)	zu	(ズ)	ze	(ゼ)	zo	(ゾ)
da	(ダ)	ji di	(ヂ) (ディ)	du zu dyu	(ヅ) (ドゥ) (デュ)	de	(デ)	do	(ド)
ba	(バ)	bi	(ビ)	bu	(ブ)	be	(ベ)	bo	(ボ)
pa	(パ)	pi	(ピ)	pu	(プ)	pe	(ペ)	po	(ポ)
kya	(キヤ)			kyu	(キュ)			kyo	(キョ)
sha	(シャ)			shu	(シュ)	she	(シェ)	sho	(ショ)
cha	(チャ)			chu	(チュ)	che	(チェ)	cho	(チョ)
nya	(ニヤ)			nyu	(ニユ)			nyo	(ニョ)
hya	(ヒヤ)			hyu fyu	(ヒユ) (フユ)			hyo	(ヒョ)
mya	(ミヤ)			myu	(ミユ)			myo	(ミョ)
rya	(リヤ)			ryu	(リュ)			ryo	(リョ)
gya	(ギヤ)			gyu	(ギユ)			gyo	(ギョ)
ja	(ジャ)			ju	(ジュ)	je	(ジェ)	jo	(ジョ)
bya	(ビヤ)			byu	(ビユ)			byo	(ビョ)
pya	(ピヤ)			pyu	(ピユ)			pyo	(ピョ)

The chart is adapted from *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary* (5th ed.)

Use "n" not "m" before a "b," "m," or "p."

新聞	<i>shinbun</i>	<i>not</i>	<i>shimbun</i>
天平	Tenpyō	<i>not</i>	Tempyō
天武	Tenmu	<i>not</i>	Temmu

Use an apostrophe after an "n" when the following syllable starts with a "y" or a vowel.

万葉集	Man'yōshū	<i>not</i>	Manyōshū
純一郎	Jun'ichirō	<i>not</i>	Junichirō
善意	zen'i	<i>not</i>	zeni

To mark a geminate consonant, double the first character of the relevant consonant. For geminate “ch,” you can also use “tch.”

毬杖	<i>gicchō</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>gitchō</i>
木簡	<i>mokkan</i>		
骨董品	<i>kottōhin</i>		
漆器	<i>shikki</i>		
実測図	<i>jissokuzu</i>		

Use macrons to indicate adjacent vowels forming a long sound that do not extend beyond morpheme boundaries. As a rule of thumb, a new Chinese character usually overlaps with the start of a new morpheme.

新嘗祭	<i>Nīnamesai</i>
委員会	<i>iinkai</i>
鳳凰	<i>Hōō</i>
鳥居	<i>torii</i>
シーサー	<i>shīsā</i>
呉音	<i>goon</i>
灯籠	<i>tōrō</i>
ビール	<i>bīru</i>

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For geminate “ch,” always use “cch.”

2.1.2 *English Words of Japanese Origin*

Many Japanese words, such as “bonsai,” “rickshaw,” “origami,” or “Bunraku” have entered the English language. Treat these as English translations, not romanizations, of the relevant Japanese words. Follow the spelling and capitalization seen in the *MWD* and do *not* italicize. When multiple variants are listed in the *MWD*, follow the entry with the definition of the word. Consider whether the readership would be familiar with the anglicized term, if not, consider romanizing and explaining the Japanese term or using an alternative translation.

Frequently appearing English words of Japanese origin:

aikido, adzuki bean, anime, banzai, bento box, bonsai, Bunraku, Bushido, daikon, daimyo, dashi, dojo, enoki mushroom, emoji, fugu, fusuma, futon, geisha, geta, genro, ginkgo, Go, haiku, harakiri, hibachi, hiragana, ikebana, Imari, inro, judo, jujitsu, Kabuki,

KNM For the Historical Buddha and his family, do not use diacritics and convert “ś” and “ṣ” to “sh.”
Shakyamuni, Shakya clan

Kyuhaku Do not use diacritics and convert “ś” and “ṣ” to “sh.”
