

# Japanese

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The style of speech illustrated is that of many educated Japanese brought up in Tokyo or other areas with similar pitch accent systems. The transcription is based on a recording of a 25-year-old student whose speech is typical of speakers of his age group with this background.

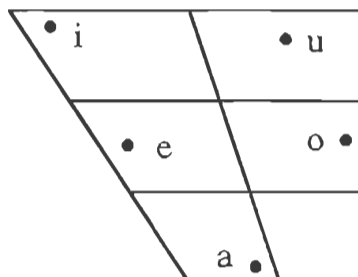
## Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d				k g		
Affricate				t <sup>s</sup>					
Nasal	m		n					Ń	
Flap					ɾ				
Fricative				s z					h
Approximant						j	w		

p	pán	'bread'	t	táijo:	'the sun'	k	kaze	'wind'
b	bán	'(one's) turn'	d	dandan	'gradually'	g	gaito:	'cloak, overcoat'
			t <sup>s</sup>	t <sup>s</sup> u:t <sup>s</sup> i	'notice'		ígaku	'medicine'
m	mázu	'first'	n	náni	'what'	Ń	zéni	'goodwill'
			ɾ	ɾán	'orchid'		(See also /b, p, d, ɾ/.)	
			s	su:si	'numeral'	h	hana	'nose'
			z	zát <sup>s</sup> uzi	'chores'	w	wa	(particle)
			j	jamá	'mountain'			
				mjakú	'pulse'			

## Vowels

i	ími	'meaning'
e	éme	'smile!' (archaic imperative)
a	áma	'woman diver (for abalone)'
o	ómo	'(sur)face' (archaic)
u	úmu	'suppurate'



**Vowel length**

ozisántat <sup>s</sup> i	'uncles'	ozisántat <sup>s</sup> i	'grandfathers'
hodo	'degree, extent'	hodo:	'sidewalk'

**Pitch accent**

hási	'chopsticks'	hási o nuɾu	'paint chopsticks'
hasí	'bridge'	hasí o nuɾu	'paint a bridge'
hasi	'end'	hasi o nuɾu	'paint the end'

**Conventions**

/p, t, t<sup>s</sup>, k/ are only moderately aspirated. Syllable-final (moraic) forms of these and other voiceless obstruents occur as the first part of geminates, e.g. /happo:/ 'firing', /jatto/ 'at last', /gakko:/ 'school', /hossa/ 'attack (of disease)'. The geminate form of /t<sup>s</sup>/ is /tt<sup>s</sup>/, as in /kutt<sup>s</sup>ukemásita/ 'pressed, attached'. /b/ is normally [b], but in rapid speech it may become [ɣ] or [β]. /g/ tends to become [ɣ] between vowels. Older and otherwise conservative speakers use [ŋ] in all medial positions, except mainly for the element /gó/ 'five' in number designations, as e.g. /nízju:-gó/ [ɲízu:gó] 'twenty-five'. /ɾ/, which corresponds to 'r' in Romanization, is postalveolar in place rather than retroflex and mainly occurs medially. Initially and after /N/, it is typically an affricate with short friction, [d̪ʃ]. A postalveolar [ɻ] is not unusual in all positions. Approximant [ɹ] may occasionally occur in some environments. /t<sup>s</sup>/ is normally [ts] but becomes [tʃ] before /i/. /n/ before /i/ is prepalatal [ɲ]. Before /u/, it may be alveolar with some speakers. Consonants generally are strongly palatalized before /i/, as /mi/ [m<sup>i</sup>i] 'body'. /N/ represents a moraic nasal with very variable pronunciation. Word-finally before a pause, it is typically a uvular nasal with a loose tongue contact or a close to close-mid nasalized vowel. Such a nasalized vowel is also the normal realization before a vowel or approximant, or before /h/ or /s/, as e.g. /zéní/ [d̪zéĩ] 'goodwill', /honjaku/ [hoĩjaku] 'translation', /zenhan/ [d̪zeĩhan] 'first half'. Before other consonants, it is homorganic with that following consonant, as e.g. /sínpó/ [símpo] 'progress', /sínni/ [síɲɲi] 'truly', /sínni/ [síɲɲi] 'truth'. /s/ and /z/ are [ç] and [z] before /i/. /z/ tends to be [d̪z] initially ([d̪z] before /i/) and after /N/. /h/ tends towards [ç] and [ɸ] before /i/ and /u/ respectively. /hh/ is realized as [çç], [xx] or [ɸɸ] depending on the (normally identical) surrounding vowels. /j/ affects the preceding consonant as /i/ does, and is itself absorbed, thus: /mjakú/ [m<sup>i</sup>akú] 'pulse', /t<sup>s</sup>ja/ [t̪ca] 'tea', /sjó:/ [çó:] 'prize', /kanju:/ [kaɲu:] 'joining'. /t, d/ before /i, j/, normally limited to borrowings, remain essentially unpalatalized, thus /ti:pá:ti:/ [ti:pá:ti:] 'tea party', /diɾékuta:/ [diɾékuta:] 'director', /djúaru/ [d̪júaru] 'dual'. /w/ has very slight or no rounding (except after /o/), but involves no spreading either.

/u/, resembling [w] auditorily, has compressed lips, so that it is unrounded but without spreading; it could be transcribed narrowly as [ü] or [u̟]. The slit between the lips may be very narrow vertically and is generally much shorter in the horizontal plane than for [i]. A very advanced variety in the [i] area may occur among the younger age groups. Except in accented or lengthened syllables, /i, u/ tend to be devoiced [i̥, u̥] between voiceless consonants. As often as not, preceding fricatives replace them altogether. Final unaccented /su/ is very often reduced to [s].

There are two lexically relevant pitch levels: high and low. Within a word, if the first mora is high-pitched, the second is inevitably low-pitched, and vice versa. A mora transcribed with an acute accent, *á*, is said to be accented and is high. If more than one mora precedes it, the high pitch extends towards the beginning of the word up to the second mora. A word with no accent mark begins low and continues high from the second mora onwards. All moras following the accent are low until another accented or polysyllabic word is reached, when these accentuation rules reapply. Note that word pairs such as /hasí/ ‘bridge’ and /hasi/ ‘end’ are both low-high when spoken in isolation, but will be distinguished when something else follows. What follows will be low after the accent, but otherwise high. When a long (two-mora) vowel is transcribed with an accent, only the first mora is high, and a pitch drop occurs between the two moras.

### Transcription of recorded passage

áɾutoki kitakaze to táijo: ga tʰikaɾakúɾabe o simásita. tabibito no gaito: o nugáseta hó: ga katʰí to ju: kotó ni kimete, mázu, kitakaze kaɾa hazimemásita. kitakaze wa, náni, hitomákuɾi ni site misejó:, to, hagésiku hukitatemásita. suɾuto tabibito wa, kitakaze ga hukéba hukúhodo gaito: o sikkáɾito kaɾada ni kuttʰukemásita. kóndo wa táijo: no bÁN ni naɾimásita. táijo: wa kúmo no aida kaɾa jasasii kao o dásite, atatákana hikaɾí o okuɾimásita. tabibito wa dandan jói kokoromotʰi ni nátte, simai ní wa gaito: o nugimásita. sokode kitakaze no make ni naɾimásita.

### Romanization (Hepburn system)

Arutoki Kitakaze to Taiyō ga chikara-kurabe o shimashita. Tabibito no gaitō o nugasetā hō ga kachi to yū koto ni kimete, mazu Kitakaze kara hajimemashita. Kitakaze wa, ‘Nani, hitomakuri ni shite miseyō’, to, hageshiku fukitatemashita. Suruto tabibito wa, Kitakaze ga fukeba fukuhodo gaitō o shikkarito karada ni kutsukemashita. Kondo wa Taiyō no ban ni narimashita. Taiyō wa kumo no aida kara yasashii kao o dashite, atatakana hikari o okurimashita. Tabibito wa dandan yoi kokoromochi ni natte, shimai ni wa gaitō o nugimashita. Sokode Kitakaze no make ni narimashita.

### Orthographic version

ある時、北風と太陽が力くらべをしました。旅人の外套を脱がせた方が勝ちということに決めて、まず北風から始めました。北風は、『なに、一まくりにして見せよう』と、激しく吹き立てました。すると旅人は、北風が吹けば吹くほど外套をしっかりと体にくっつけました。今度は太陽の番になりました。太陽は雲のあいだから優しい顔を出して暖かな光を送りました。旅人は段々よい心もちになって、しまいには外套を脱ぎました。そこで北風の負けになりました。