JAPANESE LANGUAGE
日本語
にほんご
Choose the products of Japan from the following options.

1. Pocket monster (Pokemon)
2. Wii
3. Nintendo DS
4. Apple Mac
5. Karaoke
6. Xbox
7. Playstation
8. Doraemon
9. Doctor Who
10. Shinkansen (Bullet Train)

Click here for the correct answers.
1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10
Choose the Japanese car manufacturers from the following options.

1. Matsuda
2. Citroen
3. Toyota
4. Mercedes
5. Audi
6. Honda
7. Seat
8. Ford
9. Nissan
10. Suzuki

Click here for the correct answers.
1, 3, 6, 9, 10
The following sites will give you thorough information on Japan.

So, check it out!

2. [http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp)
The closest language to Japanese is Korean. There are definite commonalities in the syntax. However, there is no evidence that they belong to the same linguistic family.

There are many theories about the origins of the Japanese language: one of the Ural-Atlantic languages; one of the southern, Malayo-Polynesian languages; a relative to the Indo-Tibetan languages; or one of the Tamil languages.

While its origins remain uncertain, the Japanese language has incorporated many Chinese words and its characters as the Japanese did not have their own writing system. The hiragana and katakana syllabaries were created based on the Chinese readings for the characters, resulting in a language that incorporated both Chinese characters and kana syllabaries.

わたしはケーシー久美です。

1) Hiragana --- Phonetic Syllables
2) Katakana --- Phonetic Syllables for foreign origin words
3) Kanji (Chinese Character) --- Ideographs, each character conveys an idea and most have more than two readings.

Extra.

Romaji (Roman letters) --- Japanese is sometimes written in romaji (Roman letters), particularly for the convenience of foreigners. And also used for typing on keyboard and mobile phone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C\V</th>
<th>a あ</th>
<th>i い</th>
<th>u う</th>
<th>e え</th>
<th>o お</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>Ka か</td>
<td>Ki き</td>
<td>Ku く</td>
<td>Ke け</td>
<td>Ko こ</td>
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<td>Sa さ</td>
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<td>Su す</td>
<td>Se せ</td>
<td>So そ</td>
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<td>Tsu つ</td>
<td>Te て</td>
<td>To と</td>
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<td>Ni に</td>
<td>Nu ぬ</td>
<td>Ne ね</td>
<td>No の</td>
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<td>h</td>
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<td>Hi ひ</td>
<td>Fu ふ</td>
<td>He へ</td>
<td>Ho ほ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Ma ま</td>
<td>Mi み</td>
<td>Mu む</td>
<td>Me め</td>
<td>Mo も</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>Ya や</td>
<td>yi ゆ</td>
<td>Yu ゆ</td>
<td>ye や</td>
<td>Yo よ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r*</td>
<td>Ra ら</td>
<td>Ri り</td>
<td>Ru る</td>
<td>Re れ</td>
<td>Ro ろ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>Wa わ</td>
<td>yi ゆ</td>
<td>wu ウ</td>
<td>we わ</td>
<td>o を</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ra, Ri, Ru, Re, Ro should be pronounced with “L”, La, Li, Lu, Le, Lo, but place your tongue slightly backwards from your front teeth.
### Romaji and Hiragana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C\V</th>
<th>a あ</th>
<th>i い</th>
<th>u う</th>
<th>e え</th>
<th>o お</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>g</td>
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<td>Gi ぎ</td>
<td>Gu ぐ</td>
<td>Ge げ</td>
<td>Go ご</td>
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<td>z</td>
<td>Za ざ</td>
<td>Ji じ</td>
<td>Zu ず</td>
<td>Ze ぜ</td>
<td>Zo ぞ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Da だ</td>
<td>Ji ぢ</td>
<td>Zu づ</td>
<td>De で</td>
<td>Do ど</td>
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<td>Ba ば</td>
<td>Bi び</td>
<td>Bu ぶ</td>
<td>Be べ</td>
<td>Bo ぼ</td>
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<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>Pa ぱ</td>
<td>Pi ぴ</td>
<td>Pu ぷ</td>
<td>Pe ぺ</td>
<td>Po ぽ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N. B.**

The pronunciations of the following syllables are the same, but not interchangeable in writing.

じ&ぢ → Ji
ず&づ → Zu
### Writing & Pronunciation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C\V</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>あ</th>
<th>u</th>
<th>う</th>
<th>o</th>
<th>お</th>
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<td>きゃ</td>
<td>Kyu</td>
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<td>しゃ</td>
<td>Shu</td>
<td>しゅ</td>
<td>Sho</td>
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<td>Chu</td>
<td>ちゅ</td>
<td>Cho</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hya</td>
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<td>ひゅ</td>
<td>Hyo</td>
<td>ひょ</td>
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<tr>
<td>my</td>
<td>Mya</td>
<td>みゃ</td>
<td>My</td>
<td>みゅ</td>
<td>Myo</td>
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<td>Ryu</td>
<td>りゅ</td>
<td>Ryo</td>
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<tr>
<td>gy</td>
<td>Gya</td>
<td>ぎゃ</td>
<td>Gyu</td>
<td>ぎゅ</td>
<td>Gyo</td>
<td>ぎょ</td>
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<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>Ja</td>
<td>じゃ</td>
<td>Ju</td>
<td>じゅ</td>
<td>Jo</td>
<td>じょ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by</td>
<td>Bya</td>
<td>びゃ</td>
<td>Byu</td>
<td>びゅ</td>
<td>Byo</td>
<td>びょ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>py</td>
<td>Pya</td>
<td>ぴゃ</td>
<td>Pyu</td>
<td>ぴゅ</td>
<td>Pyo</td>
<td>ぴょ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vowels --- a i u e o

Important!
The sound of each vowel does not change regardless of consonants or spelling except long vowels.

For example,
“shark” in Japanese is さめ

“that” in Japanese is あれ
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romaji</th>
<th>Hiragana</th>
<th>Katakana</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a, aa</td>
<td>ああ</td>
<td>アー</td>
<td>ハート (heart) hato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii, i</td>
<td>いい</td>
<td>イー</td>
<td>いいてんき (fine weather) iitenki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u, uu</td>
<td>うう</td>
<td>ウー</td>
<td>じゅうしょ (address) jusho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e, ee, ei</td>
<td>ええ、えい</td>
<td>エー</td>
<td>えいが (film) eiga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o, oo, ou</td>
<td>おう、おお</td>
<td>オー</td>
<td>コート (coat) koto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small つ
is written in double consonants in romaji and not pronounced as “tsu”. There should be a pause for the length of one syllable after the syllable before っ.

Example)
きっぷ (ticket) ちょっと (a little bit)
Greetings （あいさつ）

- おはよう (O ha yo) --- Good Morning

-oはようございます(O ha yo go za i ma su)

- こんにちは (Kon ni chi wa) --- Good Afternoon

- こんばんは (Kon ban wa) --- Good Evening
Useful Expressions

- ありがとう (Ariga to) --- Thank you
  ありがとうございます (Ariga to go za i ma su)

- どういたしまして (Doi ta shi ma shi te) --- Your welcome

- じゃあ、また (Ja ma ta) --- See you later
  では、また (De wa ma ta)

- さようなら (Sa yo na ra) --- Good bye
はじめまして Hajimemashite.
How do you do?

わたしは(surname) (first name)です。Watashi wa (surname) (first name) desu. I am

どうぞよろしく。Dozo yoroshiku.
Nice to meet you.

* A particle (joshi) is a word that shows the relationship of a word, a phrase, or a clause to the rest of the sentence. は、が、を、に、で、へ, etc.
Numbers (かず)

• 1 ichi
• 2 ni
• 3 san
• 4 shi/yon
• 5 go
• 6 roku* (loku)
• 7 shichi/nana
• 8 hachi
• 9 kyū/ku
• 10 ju
• 11 ju ichi
• 12 jū ni
• 13 jū san
• 14 jū shi/yon
• 15 jū go
• 16 jū roku* (loku)
• 17 jū shichi/nana
• 18 jū hachi
• 19 jū kyū/ku
• 20 ni jū
さん is a title of respect added to a name, equivalent to Mr, Mrs, Ms and Miss. It can be added to a surname or first name regardless of the gender. However, Japanese people tend to call someone with his/her surname in formal situations. For example,

たなかさん (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Tanaka)
スミスさん (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Smith)
マイクさん (Mike)
~ちゃん

is a term most commonly added to a first name of small child. However it can be added to a first name or even surname of adult regardless of his/her gender in informal situations depending on the relationship between speakers. For example,

ゆみちゃん (girl’s name, Yumi)
たろうちゃん (boy’s name, Taro)
おがわちゃん (surname, Ogawa)
~くん

is a term most commonly added to a first name of a boy. However it can be added to a first name or surname of adult in informal situations depending on the relationship between speakers. For example,

たろうくん (boy’s name, Taro)
おがわくん (surname, Ogawa)
せんせい

is a term of respect for those who are in a certain professions such as teachers, doctors and lawyers regardless of their gender. Normally used with surnames, but occasionally with first names.

For example,

ケーシーせんせい
すずきせんせい
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Nihon jin</td>
<td>Nihon go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Furansu jin</td>
<td>Furansu go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Doitsu jin</td>
<td>Doitsu go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Igirisu jin</td>
<td>Eigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Chugoku jin</td>
<td>Chugoku go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Kankoku jin</td>
<td>Kankoku go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A *particle* (joshi) is a word that shows the relationship of a word, a phrase, or a clause to the rest of the sentence. は、が、を、に、で、へ, etc.
X は Y じゃありません。

マイクさん は にほんじん じゃ ありません。
Mike (particle) Japanese isn’t

わたし は イギリスじん じゃ ありません。
Watashi wa igirisu jin ja arimasen.

では ありません。
dewa arimasen.
X は Y ですか。
X wa Y desuka.

Q. マイクさん は イギリスじん ですか。
Maiku san wa igirisu jin desuka.
(Are you British?)

A. はい、イギリスじんです。
Hai, igirisu jin desu.
Yes

いいえ、イギリスじんじゃありません。
Iie, igirisu jin ja arimasen.
No (ではありません。)

か turns the sentence into a question! How easy, is that?
How much do you know about Japanese language now?

Choose the correct answers.

Q1. How do you say “Hello”?

Q2. Count one to ten.

Q3. What is your nationality?

Q4. Introduce yourself.

Click here for the correct answers.

Q1.

Q2.

Q3. Nationality & Language こくせき と げんご

If you cannot find one from the list, please contact Kumi Casey on kumi.casey@ncl.ac.uk.

Q4. Introduce yourself (じこしょうかい)
I hope you enjoyed this short introduction of Japanese language. As you have found, learning Japanese language is not as difficult as you may have thought. It always gives me a great pleasure to know that there are young people who are interested in our unique language and culture and I would like to share my knowledge and experience as much as I can to help you gain language skills as well as insights into Japanese culture.

This is the link to our school and you are always welcome to ask any questions.

http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/

I hope to see you all soon.

Kumi Casey