

Food & Restaurant Japanese		
General Terms		
English	Japanese	Notes
Food	tabemono (lit: eat things)	食 shoku is another word for food/meal
Meal / rice	gohan / meshi	飯
Breakfast	asa-gohan (lit: morning rice)	朝ご飯
Lunch	hiru-gohan (noon rice)	
Dinner	ban-gohan (evening rice)	yushoku (yu- = evening) 晩飯
Cuisine/cooking	ryouri	chuuka ryouri (chinese
Set or fixed meal	teishoku	定食
Tonight's meal		
English	Japanese	Notes
Kaiseki - lit "meeting seat"		
Pine / Bamboo / Plum	Sho Chiku Bai // Matsu Take Ume	松 竹 梅
Thing(s)	Mono	物
Vegetable	Yasai	野菜
Mountain	Yama / zen / san	山
Vinegar	Su	酢
Broil	Yaku (verb), yaki-xxx prefix	焼
Boil, simmer in broth	Niru (verb), ni-xxx prefix	煮
Zensai - 3 small appetizers, often		山菜
Sunomono		酢の物
Nimono		煮物
Yakimono		焼き物
Tempura		天ぷら
Sushi - various things served with lightly vinegared rice, several different styles, might be raw or cooked		寿司 すし
Sashimi - sliced raw fish		刺身 さしみ
matsu = pine ya = store/shop; shita = below; matsushita = matsuya's owner = Panasonic-san		
Restaurant Japanese		
English	Japanese	Notes
How many are you (lit: how many	Nan me sama desu ka?	Answer: XX nin desu (XX of us)
Warm towel (mmm....feels good)	o-shibori	
Excuse me (getting server's	sumimasen	
Please give/bring me xxx	xxx o kudasai	ex: o-cha o kudasai
Chopsticks	o-hashii, waribashi	
Tea	o-cha	茶
Sushi-master	itamae-san (lit: before the board)	
This is / was delicious	Oishii / oishikatta desu	
The bill, please	O-kanjo kudasai	
It was great (lit: a feast)	go-chisosama deshita	

Dishes You'll Encounter		
English	Japanese	Notes
Chinese style noodles	ramen (from Chinese: lo mein)	ラーメン
Buckwheat noodles	soba	そば
Thick noodles	udon (in Nagoya, kishimen)	
Noodular variations:	tsukimi udon/soba/etc (with an egg in the	月 tsuki = moon,
	zensai udon/soba = with mountain	山菜そば
	yakisoba (fried soba with ginger/sauce)	焼きそば
	go-moku soba/udon/etc ("five-eye" soba;	五目そば
Fried rice	yakimeshi	焼き飯
Broiled chicken	yakitori	焼き鳥
Curry rice	kare raisu	
Potstickers / wonton	gyoza	
Pickles (WIDE variety)	o-shinko	
Pickled ginger (served w/ sushi)	gari (ginger is shoga)	
Japanese horseradish	wasabi	わさび
Soybean paste	miso	味噌
Soup made from soybean paste	miso shiru (shiru = soup)	味噌汁
"Japanese pizza"	okonomiyaki (fried whatever-you-like)	お好み焼き
Rice-bowl dishes	donburi	丼 various things over rice
Varieties of donburi	tamago donburi	卵丼 egg
	tekka-don	てっか丼 slices of raw tuna
	una-don	unagi = eel
	oyako-don (parent-child donburi)	親子丼 chicken and egg
	chuka-don	chinese donburi;meat/veggies/sauce
	ten-don	天丼 tempura over rice
Guess!	makku / makkudo / makkudonarudo	
Guess again!	misutaa dounatsu	
And once again!	kentakki furai	
Hotpot	nabe	
Lightly battered shrimp/veg/etc	tempura	天ぷら
Prepared box lunch	o-bentou (NOT o-benjou)	お弁当
Ingredients		
English	Japanese	Notes
Meat	niku	肉 also means "muscle"
Chicken	tori, tori-niku	鳥
Beef	gyu-niku	牛肉
Fish	sakana	魚
		上野
Seafood		
English	Japanese	Notes
Tuna	maguro, o-toro, chu-toro, tekka-xx	まぐろ
Yellowtail	hamachi	はまち
Octopus	tako (it's COOKED)	たこ
Eel	unagi, anago (COOKED)	うなぎ
Squid	ika	いか
Salmon roe	ikura	いくら
Flying fish roe	tobiko	とびこ
Shrimp	ebi	えび
Mackerel	saba	さば
Red clam	akagai	赤貝
Oyster	kaki	かき

Fruits & Veggies		
English	Japanese	Notes
Vegetable	yasai	野菜
Fruit	kudamono	果物
Onion (more like our leek)	negi, aonegi (green onion)	ねぎ
Onion (more like ours)	tama-negi (tama/dama = sphere)	玉ねぎ
Bamboo shoot	take no ko (lit: child of bamboo)	竹の子
Carrot	ninjin	not sweet as ours; only eaten cooked
Large radish	daikon	大根 cooked in nimono, nabe; ground or shredded raw as garnish
Potato	imo, yama imo, sato imo	芋
Mushroom	shiitake, matsutake, others	
Apple	ringo	りんご
Pear	nashi	なし these are what we call asian
Persimmon	kaki	almost crisp, not mushy like ours
Strawberry	ichigo	いちご
Watermelon	suika	
Grapes	budo	thicker skins than ours; people usually peel skins to eat them
Mandarin orange	mikan	みかん
Vegetarian Foods		
English	Japanese	Notes
Tofu	tofu	豆腐 served in soups, hotpot dishes or cubed cold as hiyayakko
Egg	tamago	卵
Rice	gohan	ご飯
Miso soup	miso shiru	味噌汁
Fermented soybeans	natto	納豆 an ACQUIRED taste, but very nutritious
Meatless sushi	tamago, gobomaki, kappamaki,	
Vegetarian (adj)	saishokushugi no	菜食主義の
Vegetarian (noun/person)	saishoku shugi	菜食主義
I'm a vegetarian	watashi wa saishokushugi desu	
I don't (can't) eat meat	o-niku o taberaremasen	お肉を食べられません
Drinks		
English	Japanese	Notes
Drinks	nomimono	飲み物 のみもの
Tea	o-cha (green tea)	お茶 茶
	ko-cha (black tea)	紅茶
	mugi-cha (barley tea, no caffeine)	麦茶
	uron-cha (oolong tea)	ウロン茶
Coffee	kou-hii, hotto ("hot")	Hint: MickeyD's, Wendy's or the like for cheap, good coffee
	aisu kou-hii (iced coffee)	
Beer, sake, wine, whiskey	Proof of age required before we'll teach	
Juice	orenji jyuusu, ringo jyuusu	
Milk	gyu-nyu, miruku	ミルク
Water, cold/ice, hot	mizu / omizu, ohiya, oyu	水 おひや おゆ