

Food & Restaurant Japanese		
General Terms		
English	Japanese	Notes
Food or meal	食物 tabemono (lit: eat things)	shoku is another reading of the same kanji
Meal / rice	飯 gohan / meshi	
Breakfast	朝ご飯 asa-gohan (lit: morning rice)	
Lunch	hiru-gohan (noon rice)	
Dinner	ban-gohan (evening rice)	yushoku (yu- = evening) 晩飯
Type of cuisine/cooking	料理 ryouri	chuuka ryouri (chinese food) 中華料理
Set or fixed meal - today's special	定食 teishoku	Many Japanese-style restaurants will have lunch or dinner teishoku at reasonable prices
Thing(s)	物 mono	
Mountain	山 Yama / zen / san	
Vinegar	酢 Su	
Broil	焼 Yaku (verb), yaki-xxx prefix	
Boil, simmer in broth	煮 Niru (verb), ni-xxx prefix	
Braised, seared	たたき tataki	You might find beef or tuna prepared this way; bonito (fish) is delicious!
Alcohol	酒 shuu	nihonshu (sake)
Tonight's meal		
English	Japanese	Notes
Kaiseki - lit "meeting seat"		
Pine / Bamboo / Plum	Sho Chiku Bai // Matsu Take Ume	松竹梅
Zensai - 3 small appetizers	前菜 zensai	lit: veggies before (the meal)
Sunomono	酢の物 sunomono	lit: vinegar things; things in a light vinegar sauce
Nimono	煮物 nimono	simmered things; meat, potatoes, veggies in hot broth
Yakimono	焼き物 yakimono	broiled/grilled things
Tempura	天ぷら tempura	lightly battered and deep-fried shrimp, mushrooms and
Sushi	寿司 すし sushi	various things served with lightly vinegared rice, several different styles, might be raw or cooked
Sashimi - sliced raw fish	刺身 さしみ sashimi	
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	茶 o-cha	
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	ラーメン ramen (from Chinese: lo mein)	
Buckwheat noodles	そば soba	
Thick noodles	udon (in Nagoya, kishimen)	
Noodular variations:	月見 tsukimi udon/soba/etc (with an egg in the broth)	月 tsuki = moon, 見 mi=miru=see/view, so 月見そば moon-viewing soba
	山菜 sansai udon/soba = with mountain veggies	
	焼きそば yakisoba (fried soba with ginger/sauce)	VERY popular festival food
	五目 go-moku soba/udon/etc	"five-eye" soba; mixture of veggies, mushrooms, other
Fried rice	焼き飯 yakimeshi	
Charcoal broiled chicken bits	焼き鳥 yakitori	Some of the bits can be startling!
Curry rice	kare raisu	Even the spicy (辛い karai) type is very mild by Indian standards. Not really a lot spicier than Skyline chili.
Potstickers / wonton	きょうざ gyoza	Several different types
Pickles	おしんこ o-shinko	HUGE variety; pickled daikon (giant) radish is most common; not all sour or sweet pickles like ours.
Pickled ginger (served w/ sushi)	gari (ginger is shoga)	
Japanese horseradish	わさび wasabi	
Soybean paste	味噌 miso	
Soup made from soybean paste	味噌汁 miso shiru (shiru = soup)	Served with most meals; red and quite salty in the Kansai (Nagoya) region; milder and beige colored in the Kanto (Tokyo) area.
"Japanese pizza"	お好み焼き okonomiyaki	lit: grilled whatever-you-like - pancake-like dough mixed with cabbage and pork, squid, octopus or some other meat then cooked on a grill; you add your choice of condiments and sauces to it.
Rice-bowl dishes	donburi	丼 various things over rice
Varieties of donburi	卵丼 tamago donburi	卵丼 egg
	てっか丼 tekka-don	slices of raw tuna (tuna is usually まぐろ maguro but in some dishes it becomes tekka. Tuna roll = tekka maki)
	うな丼 una-don	unagi = eel
	親子丼 oyako-don	chicken and egg (lit: parent and child)
	chuka-don	chinese donburi;meat/veggies/sauce
	天丼 ten-don	tempura over rice; usually includes a nice big tempura shrimp.
Guess!	makku / makkudo / makkudonarudo	
Guess again!	misutaa dounatsu	
And once again!	kentakki furai	
Hotpot	なべ nabe	
Prepared box lunch	お弁当 o-bentou	NOT o-benjou (a rude word for toilet)

Ingredients		
English	Japanese	Notes
Meat	肉 niku	also means "muscle"
Chicken	鳥 tori, 鳥肉 tori-niku	
Beef	牛肉 gyu-niku	
Fish	魚 sakana	
Seafood		
English	Japanese	Notes
Tuna	まぐろ maguro, o-toro, chu-toro, tekka-	Different grades of tuna
Yellowtail	はまち hamachi	
Octopus	たこ tako	COOKED
Eel	うなぎ unagi, あなご anago	COOKED
Squid	いか ika	
Salmon roe	いくら ikura	
Flying fish roe	とびこ tobiko	
Shrimp	えび ebi	
Mackerel (pickled usually)	さば saba	
Red clam	赤貝 akagai	
Oyster	かき kaki	
Fruits & Veggies		
English	Japanese	Notes
Vegetable	野菜 yasai	lit: field veggies, as opposed to sansai, mountain veggies
Onion (more like our leek)	ねぎ negi, 青ねぎ aonegi (green onion)	
Onion (more like ours)	玉ねぎ tama-negi	tama/dama = sphere, ball
Bamboo shoot	竹の子 take no ko	lit: child of bamboo
Carrot	ninjin	not sweet as ours; only eaten cooked
Large radish	大根 daikon	pickled, cooked in nimono or oden, nabe; ground or shredded raw as garnish
Potato	芋 imo, yama imo, sato imo	various kinds of potatoes
Mushroom	shiitake, matsutake, others	
Fruit	果物 kudamono	
Apple	りんご ringo	
Pear	なし nashi	these are what we call asian pears
Persimmon	かき kaki	almost crisp, not mushy like ours
Strawberry	いちご ichigo	
Watermelon	すいか suika	
Grapes	budo	thicker skins than ours; people usually peel skins to eat them
Mandarin orange	みかん mikan	
Vegetarian Foods		
English	Japanese	Notes
Tofu	豆腐 tofu	served in soups, hotpot dishes or cubed cold with sauce as hiyayakko (might be topped with katsuobushi, dried and flaked bonito fish)
Egg	卵 tamago	
Rice	ご飯 gohan	
Miso soup	味噌汁 miso shiru	May have small clams in it occasionally
Fermented soybeans	納豆 natto	an ACQUIRED taste, but very nutritious

Meatless sushi	tamago, gobomaki, kappamaki, shinkomaki, kamyomaki, others	egg, burdock root, cucumber, pickle, gourd strips
Vegetarian (adj)	菜食主義の saishokushugi no	
Vegetarian (noun/person)	菜食主義 saishoku shugi	
I'm a vegetarian	watashi wa sai-shoku-shugi 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	飲み物 のみもの nomimono	
Tea	お茶 茶 o-cha	Japanese green tea
	紅茶 ko-cha	black tea, the kind we usually drink
	麦茶 mugi-cha	barley tea, no caffeine
	ウロン茶 uron-cha (oolong tea)	popular canned in vending machines
Coffee	コーヒー kou-hii, ホット hotto ("hot")	Hint: MickeyD's, Wendy's etc. for cheap, good coffee
Ice coffee	aisu kou-hii	
Beer, sake, wine, whiskey	Proof of age required before we'll teach you how to order these!	
Juice	オレンジジュース orenji jyuusu, ringo jyuusu	
Milk	gyu-nyu, ミルク miruku	
Cold water	水 おひや mizu / omizu, ohiya	mizu is water; ohiya is cold water
Hot water	おゆ oyu	おゆ