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JAPANESE WORDS DEFINED --

The definition of certain Japanese words in current use at relocation centers and frequently found in center newspapers, is given below.

In the Japanese language there are no inflexions to indicate plurals, such as "s" or "es" endings (book--books) as in English. Instead, nouns in Japanese take the form of words like "sheep" in English--the context of the sentence indicating number. Therefore, "s" endings should be avoided when using Japanese words; to say "niseis" and "isseis" is neither good Japanese nor English.

Vowels in Japanese are pronounced as follows:

a	as in father	o	as in bone
e	as <u>a</u> in say	u	as double <u>oo</u> in moon
i	as <u>e</u> in see	ai	as <u>ie</u> in pie
		ei	as <u>ay</u> in say

In pronunciation, equal stress is generally placed on each syllable.
Definitions:

- Bon odori--a folk dance performed in celebrating the Bon season or the time when the spirits of the dead are believed to return to earth for a brief visit. In Japan, Bon is from July 13 to 15th, but in this country it may be celebrated at any time during the summer.
- Bussei-----a Buddhist society, usually of young people.
- daikon-----a large Japanese radish, usually eaten pickled.
- geta-----wooden clog shoes.
- goh or go--a complicated checker game for two.
- issei-----first generation Japanese; those born in Japan.
- Judo-----jiu jitsu, a specialized form of wrestling.
- kibei-----Japanese born in this country but educated in Japan.
- lei-----Hawaiian word for a necklace of flowers.
- miso-----bean paste used to make bean soup (miso-shiru).
- mochi-----a rice dumpling popular at New Year's.
- moyashi----bean sprouts.
- nappa-----a vegetable green of which the leaves are eaten.
- nisei-----second generation Japanese; those born in this country.
- sansei-----third generation Japanese; those born in U.S. of nisei parents.
- shibai-----a theatrical performance.
- shogi-----an indoor game played with wooden tablets.
- shoyu-----soy bean sauce.
- soroban----an abacus--popular counting device used in China and Japan.
- sumo-----Japanese wrestling.
- tabi-----short socks with separated toes; worn with zori.
- tofu-----a bean-curd cake.
- udon-----noodles.
- zori-----a type of dress-sandal, usually cloth or fibre covered.

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