

Japanese Words Defined, January 1, 1943

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
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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 check 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 Japans
Sumo----- Japanese wrestling
Tabi ----- short socks with separated toes; worn with zori
Udon----- noodles
Zori----- a type of dress-sandal, usually cloth or fibre covered.

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