



Japanese greetings

28 everyday greetings and set phrases: reading · romaji, and when to say them.

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■ Every day

おはようございます

ohayō gozaimasu
Good morning (polite; also used at work)

こんにちは

konnichiwa
Hello; good afternoon

こんばんは

konbanwa
Good evening

おやすみなさい

oyasuminasai
Good night (before bed)

さようなら

sayōnara
Goodbye (when you won't meet again soon)

じゃあ、また

jā, mata
See you (casual)

はじめまして

hajimemashite
Nice to meet you (first meeting only)

よろしくお願いします

よろしくおねがいします · yoroshiku onegai shimasu
I look forward to working with you; please treat me well

■ At home and meals

いただきます

itadakimasu
Said just before eating

ごちそうさまでした

gochisōsama deshita
Said after eating: thank you for the meal

いってきます

ittekimasu
I'm off (leaving home, coming back later)

いってらっしゃい

itterasshai
See you later (to someone leaving)

ただいま

tadaima
I'm home

おかえりなさい

okaerinasai
Welcome home

おじゃまします

ojama shimasu
Excuse me for coming in (entering someone's home)

■ Thanks and apologies

ありがとうございます

arigatō gozaimasu
Thank you (polite)

どういたしまして

dō itashimashite
You're welcome

すみません

sumimasen
Excuse me; sorry; thanks for your trouble

ごめんなさい

gomennasai
I'm sorry (to friends and family)

大丈夫です

だいじょうぶです · daijōbu desu
It's OK; I'm fine

お大事に

おだいじに · odaiji ni
Get well soon (to someone who is ill)

■ At work and in shops

お疲れさまです

おつかれさまです · otsukaresama desu
Thanks for your work (to coworkers, all day)

お先に失礼します

おさきに失礼します · osaki ni shitsurei shimasu
Excuse me for leaving before you

失礼します

しつれいします · shitsurei shimasu
Excuse me (entering or leaving an office or room)

お願いします

おねがいします · onegai shimasu
Please (when asking for something)

いらっしゃいませ

irasshaimase
Welcome (shop staff to customers)

少々お待ちください

しょうしょうおまちください · shōshō omachi kudasai
Please wait a moment (staff to customers)

もしもし

moshi moshi
Hello (on the phone)

■ Tips

- At work, お疲れさまです is said all day: as hello, thank you and goodbye.
- Use はじめまして only the first time you meet someone.
- すみません is the safest word in Japan: it gets attention, apologises and thanks.