Japanese

Romanization System

The modified Hepburn system of romanization as employed in *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary* (3rd and later editions) is used. For the syllabic nasal, *n* is always used preceding *b*, *m*, and *p*. Romanization for words of foreign (i.e., non-Japanese) origin follows the American National Standard system for the romanization of Japanese; e.g., ベトナム(Betonamu); ヴェトナム(Vetonamu).

Word Reading

The reading of Japanese words follows standard Japanese language usage, insofar as this can be determined from standard Japanese dictionaries. A current modern reading is preferred to an obsolete one, except where the usage of standard authorities has established a particular reading for a particular name or book title. The characters 日本 are romanized as *Nihon* unless the usage of standard authorities has established a particular reading; e.g., Dai *Nippon* Teikoku, *Nippon*'ichi, *Nippon* eitaigura, etc. If there are various readings, the reading that appears most frequently in dictionaries is used.

Capitalization

1. *Personal Names:*

   (a) Capitalize each word of a personal name, except the particle *no*.

Sugawara no Takasue no Musume	菅原孝標女

   (b) Capitalize title and terms of address, except when consisting of a single character or kana for *san*, *sama*, *chan*, *kun*, etc., that is hyphenated following a personal name.

	Kōbō Daishi	弘法大師
but	Okiku-san	お菊さん

2. *Place Names:* Capitalize each separately written word of a geographic name.

Yokohama	横浜
Nihon Rettō	日本列島
Yūraku-chō	有楽町
Taiheiyō	太平洋
Bōsō Hantō	房総半島
Tōyō	東洋

3. *Corporate Names:* Capitalize each separately written word of a corporate name, except particles and conjunctions.

Sensō o Kirokusuru Kai	戦争を記録する会
Nihon Rikugun	日本陸軍

4. *Documents and Publications:*

(a) Capitalize the first word of the title of a publication (book, periodical, series, etc.)

Tsurezuregusa	徒然草
Chūō kōron	中央公論

(b) Capitalize the first word of the name of a document (law, regulation, etc.).

Rōdō kumiaihō	労働組合法
Rōdō iinkai kisoku	労働委員会規則

5. *Historical Events and Periods:*

(a) Capitalize each word of the name of a historical event.

Dainiji Sekai Taisen	第二次世界大戦
Niniroku Jiken	二・二六事件
Meiji Ishin shi	明治維新史

(b) Capitalize the first word of the name of a historical period.

Jōmon jidai	縄文時代
Rikuchō jidai	六朝時代
Heianchō	平安朝
Shōwaki	昭和期

6. *Peoples and Languages:* Capitalize names of peoples and languages.

Nihonjin	日本人
Amerikajin	アメリカ人
Nihongo	日本語
Eigo	英語

7. *Religions and Sects:* Capitalize names of religions and sects.

Bukkyō	佛教
Kirisutokyō	キリスト教
Shintō	神道
Zenshū	禅宗

8. *Derivatives of Proper Names:* Lowercase words derived from names of places or religions, when the derived words are no longer considered to be proper names. When the derivative is formed by the suffix of a single character following a proper name, the proper name is capitalized and the suffix is lowercased and follows a hyphen. (See **Word Division**, 4. *Proper Names, Exceptions*)

	nihontō	日本刀
	nihonshu	日本酒
	nihonga	日本画
	butsuga	佛画
	washitsu	和室
	wafuku	和服
	yōshu	洋酒
	kutaniyaki	九谷焼
	kokutani	古九谷
	kanji	漢字
	kanpō	漢方
	kan'yaku	漢薬
	zendera	禅寺
	zensō	禅僧
	kirisutosha	キリスト者
	rōmaji	ローマ字
but	Taiwan-sei	台湾製

Punctuation

1. Transcribe a centered point (・) used for dividing words as a comma if it makes the meaning of romanized words clear.

Chūgoku Shikoku no mingei	中国・四国の民芸
Pōru Kurōderu	ポール・クローデル
Matsumoto Seichō, Yamamoto Shūgorō shū	松本清長・山本周五郎集

For such a center point appearing between numbers, see **Word Division**, 5. *Numerals*.

2. Transcribe brackets (「 ... 」) used in the manner of quotation marks (“ ... ”) as quotation marks.

Diacritic marks

1. Transcribe the macron (¯) over the letters *a, i, u, e*, and *o* to indicate a long vowel pronunciation.

rōdō	労働
kenkyū	研究
Tōkyō	東京
sābisu	サービス
chīzu	チーズ
sētā	セーター

2. Transcribe the apostrophe (') between syllables when the first syllable ends with the letter *n* and the following syllable begins with the letter *a, i, u, e, o*, and *y* and when it is necessary to separate romanization.

toshokan'in	図書館員
Nagai Ken'ichi	長井憲一
Shin'etsu	信越
hon'yaku	翻訳
Man'yō	万葉
shin'ainaru	親愛なる
san'okuen	三億円
shin'uchi	真打

Word Division

1. *Sino-Japanese (on) Compounds:* A compound means a word consisting of two or more Chinese characters (kanji), or of Chinese characters and kana, or of kana alone, whether established by dictionary usage or not.

   (a) Write binary compounds as single words.

ichigen ikkō	一言一行
Rikuchō jidai	六朝時代
Nihon kokusei jiten	日本国政事典
kokumin shugi	国民主義
Indo tetsugaku shiyō	印度哲学史要
Tōyō Gakkai	東洋学会
Keiō Gijuku Daigaku Keizai Gakubu	慶応義塾大学経済学部
Tōkyō Daigaku Kyōyō Gakubu	東京大学教養学部

(b) Trinary, derived, and other compounds.

(1) Write trinary and derived compounds as single words as long as they contain no more than one binary or trinary compound.

keizaiteki	経済的
seibutsugaku	生物学
jinseikan	人生観
yuibutsuron	唯物論
kenkōhō	健康法
daijinbutsu	大人物
daiōjō	大往生
jibika	耳鼻科
koseibutsugaku	古生物学
hōshakaigaku	法社会学

For a word beginning with such characters as 新, 旧, etc., consult any current dictionary to determine whether it is part of a word or is a prefix to the following word or words (see **Word Division**, 3. *Prefixes, Suffixes, etc.* (a)). If it is appropriate, apply the provisions of (2) below.

shinkansen	新幹線
kyūtaisei	旧体制

(2) Write trinary pseudo-compounds formed by the addition of a single character as single words.

gōshisō	業思想
kakusensō	核戦争
kakukazoku	核家族
ryōseikatsu	寮生活
shinkenchiku	新建築
daijiten	大辞典
daihatsumei	大発明
chōtaikoku	超大国

If, however, a single character is enclosed within brackets used as quotation marks, transcribe the brackets as quotation marks.

“jin” shisō	「仁」思想
“kaku” ronsō	「核」論争

(c) Write single characters in succession constituting a pseudo-compound as one word.

todōfuken	都道府県
shikuchōson	市区町村
shichōson	市町村
shinōkōshō	士農工商
ishokujū	衣食住

(d) Hyphenate grouped compounds involving phonetic changes.

jochū-bōkō	女中奉公
bungei-dokuhon	文芸読本
gōshi-gaisha	合資会社
kabushiki-gaisha	株式会社

but In proper names, romanize as *Kabushiki Kaisha* (e.g., Nissan Jidōsha Kabushiki Kaisha).

(e) Hyphenate one or more single-character modifiers having a common substantive.

shō-chūgakkō	小・中学校
shō-chū-kōtō gakkō	小・中・高等学校
shō-chūkibo kigyō	小・中規模企業
jō-gesuidō	上・下水道
nō-san-gyoson	農山漁村
chū-kinsei	中・近世
nō-kō-kōgyō	農・工・鉱業
bun-shi-tetsugaku	文・史・哲学
Meiji sanjūshichi-hachinen	明治三十七・八年

When single character modifiers form a binary or trinary compound, however, follow 1(a) or 1(b) above.

chūshō kigyō	中小企業
Bunri Gakubu	文理学部
rikagaku jiten	理化学辞典
dōshokubutsu jikken	動植物実験

2. *Native Japanese (kun and jūbakoyomi or yutōyomi) compounds*

(a) *Nouns*

(1) Write compound nouns as single words.

wareware	我々
wagahai	我輩
kirisame	霧雨
teashi	手足
yamatodamashii	大和魂
mizusakazuki	水盃
ukiyoe	浮世絵
chanoma	茶の間
chanoyu	茶の湯
yononaka	世の中
kokoroarigao	心有顔
iyagarase	嫌がらせ
kogirei	小綺麗
rikutsudōri	理屈通り

Write separately modifiers which are not part of compounds.

waga hokori	我が誇り
waga musuko	わが息子
waga machi	我が町
waga kyōdo	我が郷土

In case of doubt, prefer the separate form.

waga kuni	我国 (わが国)
waga ko	我が子
waga tomo	我友 (わが友)
chichi haha	父母
ani imōto	兄妹
are kore	あれこれ

(2) Write separately a *kun* single character word modifying a compound.

onna ekaki	女絵かき
aji jiman	味自慢
koto gassō	琴合奏
mizu shigen	水資源
kome sōdō	米騒動
otoko aite	男相手

(b) *Verbs*

(1) Write simple and compound inflected verbs, with their auxiliaries, as single words.

shihaisuru	支配する
doraibusuru	ドライブする
yomiuru	読み得る
nashienai	なし得ない
kansuru	関する
omoidasu	思い出す

(2) Write verbs separately from adverbs or inflected adjectives and verbs.

dō kangaeru	どう考える
aa shitai	ああしたい
sō suru	そうする
kō naru	こうなる
tsuyoku naru	強くなる
utsukushiku naritai	美しくなりたい
ikite ita	生きていた
kaette kuru	帰って来る
yatte miyō	やって見よう
itadaite ikimasu	戴いていきます

(3) Write honorific auxiliaries or potential auxiliaries, *dekiru* and *dekinai*, separately from other parts of the verb.

ookuru itashimashō	お送り致しましょう
odekake asobashimasu ka	お出掛け遊ばしますか
gaman dekiru ka	我慢出来るか
gaman dekimasen	我慢出来ません

(c) *Adjectives*. Write compound inflected adjectives as single words.

bimyōnaru	微妙なる
ikanaru	如何なる
miryokuaru	魅力ある
teikōnaki	抵抗なき
dōdōtaru	堂々たる
osorubeki	恐るべき
ayamatta sahō, ayamariyasui sahō	誤った作法・誤りやすい作法

(d) *Adverbs and conjunctions*. Write compound adverbs and conjunctions as single words.

tokuni	特に
narabini	並に
tomoni	共に
tsuini	遂に
ikani	如何に
suguni	直ぐに
matawa	又は
aruiwa	或いは

(e) *Particles*. Write particles separately from other words and from each other.

kōfuku *e no* michi	幸福への道
E *wa* dare *ni de mo* kakeru	絵は誰にでも描ける
Sō iu hon *o* yomu *no ga* tanoshii	そういう本を読むのが楽しい
anata *to* watashi *to*	あなたとわたしと
kumo *no* ue *ni*	雲の上に
anata *no* tame *ni*	あなたの為に
nonki *na* ojisan nonki *ni* kamaeru	呑気な小父さん呑気に構える
yunīku *na* sonzai	ユニークな存在
arata na	新たな

3. *Prefixes, Suffixes, etc.*

(a) Write separately a single-character prefix modifying *on* or *kun* compounds following it.

zen shushō enzetsushū	前首相演説集
ko shachō kaikoroku	故社長懐古録
shin okurigana	新送りがな
shin shokuminchi shugi	新植民地主義
kyū dōtokuritsu	旧道徳律
kyū dojin shakai	旧土人社会
Dai jinmei jiten	大人名事典
shō bungaku jiten	小文学辞典
chō senshinkoku	超先進国
chō genjitsu shugi	超現実主義
han sensō undō	反戦争運動
han sensōron	反戦争論

kaku jidai	各時代
kaku todōfuken	各都道府県
kaku musan seitō	各無産政党
hi bunkateki	非文化的
hi sabetsu shakai	非差別社会
ichi toshokan'in	一図書館員
ichi kinen shashin	一記念写真

(b) Hyphenate a single character modifying, or modified by, foreign words generally written in katakana.

shō-enerugī	省エネルギー
kaku-enerugī	核エネルギー
datsu-enerugī	脱エネルギー
shō-ene	省エネ
enerugī-gen	エネルギー源
karorī-hyō	カロリー表
irasutorēshon-teki	イラストレーション的

If the foreign word in katakana together with a single character is a long-established word or a corporate name, however, romanize it as one word.

Amerikajin	アメリカ人
kirisutosha	キリスト者
Saiensusha	サイエンス社
sābisugyō	サービス業

(c) Write the suffix *tō* or *nado* (等, など) *hen* (編, 篇) used for sections of books, and *shō* (抄, 鈔) for excerpts or commentaries, *kō* (考, 稿) for treaties or drafts, and *ten* (展) for exhibitions, separately from the word preceding them unless they form Sino-Japanese compounds, e.g., 前編, 私考, 草稿, 特別展, 企画展.

kyōdō kiken kōi *tō* no kinshi ihan	共同危険行為等の禁止違反
kyō konogoro omoidasu koto *nado*	今日この頃思い出すことなど
senzen sengo *hen*	戦前戦後編
Nihon shokunikushi *shō*	日本食肉史抄
Nihon insho *kō*	日本印書考
Shina shoshigaku *kō*	支那書誌学稿
Tōzai bijutsu kōryū 300-nen *ten*	東西美術交流３００年展
bijinga *ten*	美人画展

(d) Write single-character substantives modified by *on* or *kun* compounds as part of the word preceding it.

Ochiboshū	落穂集
Kokinshū	古今集
Kokin wakashū	古今和歌集
Bunka jinmeiroku	文化人名録
Nihon seifu gyōsei kikōzu	日本政府行政機構図
Nichi-Ro gaikō jūnenshi	日露外交十年史
Gakkō toshokanhō	学校図書館法
Kokubunji shiryō chōsa hōkokusho	国分寺資料調査報告書
Meiji Taishō bungakushi	明治大正文学史
Kagoshima-ken fūbutsushi	鹿児島県風物誌
shizen kagakusha	自然科学者
jibi inkōka	耳鼻咽喉科
kyōdai shimaitachi	兄弟姉妹達
Rōdō Kijunkyoku	労働基準局
Asahi Shinbunsha	朝日新聞社
Nihon Bungaku Kenkyūkai	日本文学研究会

4. *Proper Names*

(a) Write proper names and titles of books separately from modifiers or words modified by them.

Rinkān den	リンカーン伝
Niwa Fumio shū	丹羽文雄集
Genji monogatari shō	源氏物語抄
Shin jidai	清時代
Min Shin jidai	明清時代
To shi shō	杜詩抄
Nihon shi	日本史
Beikoku shi	米国史
Tōyō shiron	東洋史論

Exceptions:

(1) For proper names, including corporate names, that contain other proper names, follow 1(a)-1(b), 2(a), and 3(d) above.

Edojō	江戸城
Ōedo	大江戸
Yōmeigaku	陽明学
Shijōgawara	四條河原
Sohōkai	蘇峰会
Onogumi	小野組
Gendai Nihonshi Kenkyūkai	現代日本史研究会

(2) Write names of historical periods with single-character generic terms as single words.

Shinchō	清朝
Meijiki	明治期

(3) For names of ships, write such prefixes as *maru* or *gō* separately from the preceding word.

Asama Maru	浅間丸
Hayabusa Gō	はやぶさ(隼)号
Purejidento Wiruson Gō	プレジデント・ウィルソン号

(4) Hyphenate single characters which can be suffixed to any proper names: e.g., 的, 型, 式, 流, 産, 製, 派, 系, 本, 版, 戦.

Nihon-teki	日本的
Honkon-gata	香港型
Tanaka Chiyo-shiki	田中千代式
Hōshō-ryū	宝生流
Hokkaidō-san	北海道産
Taiwan-sei	台湾製
Tanaka-ha	田中派
Nakasone-kei	中曽根系
Kanda-bon	神田本
Kanazawa Bunko-ban	金沢文庫版
Okinawa-sen	沖縄戦

(5) Hyphenate an auxiliary to a proper name which results in a double consonant.

Kyashī-tte yonde	キャシーってよんで

(b) Write titles and terms of address separately from personal names.

(1) Write separately a title that precedes a personal name.

Sei Sabieru	聖サビエル

(2) If a title or a term of address following a personal name consists of a binary or trinary compound, write it separately from the personal name.

Meiji Tennō	明治天皇
Taiken Mon'in	待賢門院
Kitashirakawa no Miyasama	北白川の宮様
Echizen no Kami	越前守
Nichiren Shōninsama	日蓮上人様
Takezawa Sensei	竹沢先生

(3) Hyphenate a title or a term of address when it consists of a single character or kana for *san*, *sama*, *chan*, *kun*, etc., and follows a personal name.

Bashō-ō	芭蕉翁
Kakushin-ni	覚信尼
Gotoba-in	後鳥羽院
Okiku-san	お菊さん
Nakamura-kun	中村君
Tarō-chan	太郎ちゃん
Non-chan kumo ni noru	ノンちゃん雲に乗る
Sa-shi	左氏

(c) Geographic names

(1) Hyphenate generic terms used as part of the name of jurisdictions or streets.

Tōkyō-to	東京都
Chiyoda-ku	千代田区
Yūraku-chō	有楽町
Yamaguchi-ken	山口県
Yokohama-shi	横浜市
Ogawa-machi	小川町
Ogasawara-mura	小笠原村
Nijō-dōri	二条通り
Hōjō-gō	北条郷

Exceptions:

(1) Write generic terms separately if they form Sino-Japanese compounds.

Ogasawara sonchō	小笠原村長
Ogawa chōshi	小川町史
Chiyoda Kuritsu	千代田区立
Yokohama shisei	横浜市政
Tōkyō tomin	東京都民
Yamaguchi kenpō	山口県報

(2) Write *koku* as part of the name of a country.

Nihonkoku	日本国
Manshūkoku	満洲国
Kankoku	韓国

(3) Write *Kuni* separately if preceded by *no* in the name of a province.

Musashi no Kuni	武蔵国 (武蔵の国)
Nitta no Shō	新田荘

(2) Write modifiers differentiating places of the same name as part of the name if they are part of the name of a jurisdiction.

Higashiizu-chō	東伊豆町
Kamikitayama-mura	上北山村

If the modifiers are not part of the name of a jurisdiction, write them separately.

Minami Yamashiro	南山城
Tōnan Ajia	東南アジア

(3) Write compound names designating merged places or containing a larger place name as single words.

Ujiyamada-shi	宇治山田市
Aizuwakamatsu-shi	会津若松市

(4) Hyphenate generic terms for stations and harbors following place names.

Tōkyō-eki	東京駅
Yokohama-kō	横浜港
Shinagawa-juku	品川宿

If the generic terms form Sino-Japanese compounds, write them separately.

Tōkyō ekichō	東京駅長
Yokohama kōwan	横浜港湾

(5) Write generic terms for geographic features as part of the name.

Sumidagawa	隅田川
Asamayama	浅間山
Biwako	琵琶湖
Shinanoji	信濃路
Saipantō	サイパン島

If the generic terms form Sino-Japanese compounds, write them separately.

Biwa kohan	琵琶湖畔
Asama sanroku	浅間山麓

(d) Abbreviated forms

(1) Write words consisting of or containing abbreviated proper names as single words.

Nōbi Heiya	濃尾平野
Kaetsunō	加越能
Keihin kōgyō chitai	京浜工業地帯
Meishin kōsoku dōro	名神高速道路
Shin'etsusen	信越線
Ōbeijin	欧米人
ryūō gakusei	留欧学生
Eishibun	英詩文
tainichi bōeki	対日貿易
Kiki kayō	記紀歌謡

Hyphenate, however, a compound consisting of abbreviated names of countries or languages, except when the compound is normally elided.

Nichi-Ro gaikō jūnenshi	日露外交十年史
Nichi-Ei-Doku igo shōjiten	日英独医語小辞典
Sen-Man sōsho	鮮満叢書
Wa-Kansho	和漢書

Nikka daijiten	日華大辞典
Nitchū kankei	日中関係

(2) Write contracted compound proper names as single words.

Chūkyō jūyō bunkenshū	中共重要文献集
Mantetsu chihō gyōseishi	満鉄地方行政史
Soren no Nihon kenkyū	ソ連の日本研究
Hokushi Jiken no keika	北支事件の経過
Saō monogatari	沙翁物語
Fukuō hyakuwa	福翁百話

5. *Numerals.*

(a) Write cardinal numbers under 100, and the numbers 100, 1,000, 10,000, and 100,000, etc., as single words, if spelled out. Separate by hyphens the hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, etc., in numbers over 100.

sen-kyūhyaku-hachijūsannen	千九百八十三年

(b) Write the ordinal prefix *dai*, numerators, and other suffixes as part of the numbers they precede or follow, if spelled out. Write them separate from the words they modify.

daisan seiryoku	第三勢力
Dainiji Sekai Taisen kaikoroku	第二次世界大戦回顧録

(c) Transcribe a center point between numbers as a period, with no space following it. If, however, the number is spelled out in romanization as a word, then the center point is not represented by a Roman value (cf. *Library of Congress Rule Interpretations, Appendix C.4C*).

	8.15 zengo : sensō to watakushitachi	８・１５前後 : 戦争と私たち
	3.14 futō hanketsu	三・一四不当判決
	20.5-seiki no ongaku	２０・５世紀の音楽
but	Niniroku Jiken	二・二六事件

(d) Hyphenate numbers joined to modify a common substantive.

3-4-jigen	３・４次元
Shōwa 58-59-nendo	昭和五八・五九年度
1989-nen	一九八九年