

Japanese Words Found in English Dictionaries

Oxford Dictionary

Cambridge Dictionary



In Japanese, E sounds like "eh."

Say: sake = "sa-keh," edamame = "e-da-ma-meh," karaoke = "ka-ra-oh-keh."

Not: "sa-kee," "e-da-ma-mee," "ka-ra-oh-kee."

↑ Pronounced "eh-moh-jee." in Japanese

In Japanese, some English sounds change. For example, the "ay" sound becomes a long "eh," so baseball becomes bēsubōru and cake becomes kēki.

Because Japanese syllables are built as "consonant + vowel," bag turns into baggu and box into bokusu.

Japanese terms not found in English dictionaries



You might think it's Japanese, but it's actually English.



Okra

Extra (not listed in dictionaries)



Pokémon is loved worldwide.

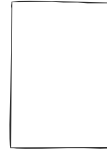
"Pikachu" stays the same, but Ash's name in Japanese is "Satoshi."

Japanese Words Used in English

Let's guess the Japanese words that appear in English.

I designed activities to get students interested in Japanese culture.

Dobon Game



Place the cards on the board. You can reduce the number depending on time. You could show just one card that isn't used in English, or try a playful version with only the English loanword "okura (okra)."

● Star-Game Style

Students raise their hands, and the chosen student answers. If correct, remove a card from the board. Not everyone will present, but classmates can still think along "I'm not sure I agree with that." The teacher can also end the round when time is up.

● Team Battle

Choose one card in order. Get it right to score a point. The team with the most cards at the end wins.

Variation: Add fun twists, for example "Choose okra and your cards are taken." Team play might run longer, but it sparks discussion.

● Advanced Activities

Choose Japanese words you think should be in English dictionaries. You Students work as a team or individually, then present it.

It's challenging, but students can also check if it's already listed in an English dictionary.

They could also ask the ALT if they know that word.