



Introduction

Where Did You Learn to Speak Japanese Like That!

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Kanji

乾杯！
頂きます！
美味しい
まあまあ
御馳走様。

Kana

かんぱい！
いただきます！
おいしい
まあまあ
ごちそうさま。

Romanization

Kanpai!
Itadakimasu!
oishii
m m
Gochis sama.

English

Cheers! (exp.)
Let's eat! (exp.)
delicious
so-so
Thank you for the fine meal. (exp.)

Vocabulary

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
乾杯	かんぱい	Kanpai	Cheers! (exp.)
頂く	いただく	itadaku	to receive, to take food and drink
美味しい	おいしい	oishii	delicious
まあまあ	まあまあ	m m	so-so
御馳走様。	ごちそうさま。	Gochis sama.	Thank you for the fine meal. (exp.)
乾杯	かんぱい	kanpai	toast
納豆	なっとう	natt	natto (fermented soy beans)

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

かんぱーい！

Kanp i!

Cheers!

ここのすしは、まあまあです。

Koko no sushi wa m m desu.

The sushi here is so-so.

Grammar Points

The Japanese expression “Kanpai!” is said at the time of a toast by all members of the party. This expression is commonly used, but not limited to, occasions involving consumption of alcohol. In English, this word is often interpreted as “Cheers!” The ~~tw~~kanji, Chinese characters, that make up this word reveal much about what is expected to happen after this expression is said. The first character means dry, and the second one means glass. Dry glass - you now know what is expected of you after you hear this.

The expression “itadakimasu!” is the polite form of the verb itadaku - the humble form of the Japanese verb morau (to receive). “itadakimasu!” is said before eating or drinking something received and before meals by all members participating in the meal. As this expression is used before every meal, one should do their best to remember to use it before eating or drinking, especially when dining with others.

The expression “Gochis sama.”, or its more polite version “Gochis sama deshita.” can be

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interpreted as “ Thank you for the fine meal. ” These are said at the conclusion of a meal to anyone that was involved in “ feeding ” the speaking party. For example, it can be said to the preparer of the food, the paying party, the shop or restaurant staff, and using either of these phrases is considered extremely good manners.

Natt , fermented soybeans, is a traditional Japanese food, and is widely known for its rich protein, pugniant smell, and sticky, cob-web like consistency. Once a main staple of the Japanese diet, natt is currently garnering attention for it ’ s health benefits and rich nutritional value. The city of Mito, Ibaraki is renowned for its natt .

Desu is the most well known of the Japanese copula - roughly equivalent to the English verb to be. It may be used after nouns, adjectives and verbs in their plain negative form. In many cases, desu serves no grammatical purpose, but is used only to make the statement more polite.