

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary - Words of Japanese Origin

word	Definition
aikido	a Japanese system of fighting in which you hold and throw your opponent
anime	Japanese film/movie and television animation, often with a science fiction subject
bonsai	a small tree that is grown in a pot and prevented from reaching its normal size the Japanese art of growing bonsai
bullet train	a Japanese train that carries passengers at high speeds
bushido	the system of honour and morals of the Japanese samurai
butoh	a style of Japanese modern dance featuring dancers covered in white body paint
dojo	a hall or school where judo or other similar martial arts (= fighting sports) are practised
futon	a Japanese mattress, often on a wooden frame, that can be used for sitting on or rolled out to make a bed
geisha	a Japanese woman who is trained to entertain men with conversation, dancing and singing
haiku	a poem with three lines and usually 17 syllables, written in a style that is traditional in Japan
hara-kiri	an act of killing yourself by cutting open your stomach with a sword, performed especially by the samurai in Japan in the past, to avoid losing honour
hiragana	a set of symbols used in Japanese writing
ikebana	Japanese flower arranging, that has strict formal rules
japonica	a Japanese bush that is often grown in gardens/yards, and that has red flowers and pale yellow fruit
judo	a sport in which two people fight and try to throw each other to the ground
ju-jitsu	a Japanese system of fighting from which the sport of judo was developed
kabuki	traditional Japanese theatre, in which songs, dance and mime are performed by men
kaizen	the practice of continuously improving the way in which a company operates
kakuro	a number puzzle in which you have to put numbers into white spaces in a diagram so that their total is the number given in a black space
kanji	a Japanese system of writing based on Chinese symbols, called characters; a symbol in this system
karaoke	a type of entertainment in which a machine plays only the music of popular songs so that people can sing the words themselves
karate	a Japanese system of fighting in which you use your hands and feet as weapons
katakana	a set of symbols used in Japanese writing, used especially to write foreign words or to represent noises
kawaii	the quality of being pretty and attractive
kendo	a Japanese form of the sport of fencing, using light wooden weapons
kimono	a traditional Japanese piece of clothing like a long loose dress with wide sleeves, worn on formal occasions; a dressing gown or robe in this style
koi	a large fish originally from Japan, often kept in fish ponds
manga	a Japanese form of comic strip, often one with violent or sexual contents
mikado	a title given in the past to the emperor of Japan
miso	a substance made from beans, used in Japanese cooking
ninja	a person trained in traditional Japanese skills of fighting and moving quietly
noh	traditional Japanese theatre in which songs, dance, and mime are performed by people wearing masks
obi	a wide piece of cloth worn around the waist of a Japanese kimono
origami	the Japanese art of folding paper into attractive shapes
pachinko	a Japanese form of pinball, in which you can win prizes
romaji	a system of writing Japanese that uses the Roman alphabet
salaryman	(especially in Japan) a white-collar worker (= one who works in an office)
samurai	(in the past) a member of a powerful military class in Japan
sashimi	a Japanese dish consisting of slices of raw fish, served with sauce
shiitake	a type of Japanese or Chinese mushroom
shinto	a Japanese religion whose practices include the worship of ancestors and a belief in nature spirits
shogun	(in the past) a Japanese military leader
shojo	a Japanese form of comic strip for girls that is usually about personal and romantic relationships
shonen	a Japanese form of comic strip for boys that usually has a lot of exciting action and adventure
shotokan	a popular form of karate
sumo	a Japanese style of wrestling, in which the people taking part are extremely large
sushi	a Japanese dish of small cakes of cold cooked rice, flavoured with vinegar and served with raw fish, etc. on top
tatami	a traditional Japanese floor covering made from dried rushes
tempura	a Japanese dish consisting of pieces of vegetables or fish that have been fried in batter (= a mixture of flour, egg
teriyaki	a Japanese dish consisting of meat or fish that has been left in a sweet sauce and then cooked
wasabi	a root vegetable with a strong taste like horseradish, used in Japanese cooking, especially with raw fish
yen	the unit of money in Japan
yukata	a kimono (= traditional Japanese piece of clothing) made of light cotton
zen	a Japanese form of Buddhism