

# List of High-Frequency Baseword Vocabulary for Japanese EFL Students #2

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A rigorous examination has revealed that 45.5 percent of the 3000, most-frequent word families in English have correspondences to common Japanese loanwords. This article presents a nearly exhaustive list of high-frequency English words that correspond to commonly-known Japanese loanwords. (2390 words)

## Introduction

Daulton's (1999) Internet TESL Journal article "English Loanwords in Japanese -- The Built-In Lexicon" reported that 38 percent of the 2000, most-common word families in English corresponded to Japanese loanwords. The resulting "List of High-Frequency Baseword Vocabulary for Japanese EFL Students" (Daulton, 1999) also appeared in the Internet TESL Journal. Yet the reliability of the list was compromised somewhat by relying on a single loanword dictionary as the universe of common loanwords and West's aging A General Service List's (1953) to describe the high-frequency words of English.

A more rigorous examination has revealed even more striking results. About 45.5 percent of the 3000, most-frequent word families in English have correspondences to common Japanese loanwords. The universe of high-frequency, English words was set as the BNC 3000, a frequency list derived by Paul Nation (Victoria University of Wellington) from the British National Corpus. Loanword correspondences were sought in: Motwani's A Dictionary of Loanwords Usage (1991); Kamiya's Tuttle New Dictionary of Loanwords in Japanese (1994); a frequency list generated from the 2001 Mainichi newspapers; as well as with a native informant. Self-assessment by Japanese university students established which words are widely known by Japanese. What results is a nearly exhaustive list of high-frequency English words that correspond to commonly-known Japanese loanwords.

All English-based loanwords in Japanese have been transformed to some degree. Nevertheless, the author feels that if correspondences are recognized by learners, their effect impels learners along the acquisition path. However, regardless of ones position, the list presented below has obvious importance for English teaching in Japan.

## List Format Explanation

The list contains 1,777 types, found within 1,360 BNC 3000 word families. Each letter of the alphabet is divided into three parts. "A-1" includes the first 1000 words in the BNC 3000 that corresponded to loanwords, "A-2" the next 1000, "A-3" the third. Some words will appear out of alphabetical order because they have been extracted from a BNC word family (a head word, its inflected forms, and closely related, derived forms).

## The List

A-1  
ability  
about  
access  
act  
action  
active  
activity  
advantage

advice  
advisor  
after  
afternoon  
again  
against  
agent  
age  
AIDS  
America  
American  
Americanize  
and  
animal  
announce  
announcement  
announcer  
answer  
anything  
application  
approach  
April  
area  
arm  
around  
arrange  
arrangement  
art  
artist  
attack  
attention

A-2  
academy  
academic  
accident  
actress  
adapt  
adapter  
address  
adopt  
adult  
advance  
Africa  
African  
alcohol  
airport  
alive  
alone  
alternative  
angle  
apart  
apple  
appoint  
appointment

appointments  
assessment  
assist  
assistance  
assistant  
assistant  
attraction  
attractions  
automatic  
automation  
average

A-3  
accent  
adventure  
aggressive  
airline  
alarm  
alright (all right)  
aluminum  
amateur  
ambitious  
angel  
anniversary  
apartment  
arch  
auction  
Australia

B-1  
baby  
back  
background  
ball  
bank  
banker  
banking  
bar  
base  
basic  
bear  
bed  
bedroom  
beginner  
beginning  
behind  
believe  
benefit  
best  
big  
bird  
black  
body  
book  
books

bookstore  
box  
boy  
boyish  
boys  
break  
broken  
bring  
brother  
brothers  
builder  
building  
business  
businessman  
businesswoman  
buy

B-2  
bag  
balance  
unbalance  
band  
barrier  
bath  
battle  
bay  
beach  
beat  
beauty  
beer  
bell  
belt  
binder  
birthday  
block  
boat  
bond  
boot  
border  
borderline  
boss  
bottle  
bottom  
bowl  
brain  
branch  
bread  
breakfast  
bridge  
brief  
briefing  
bright  
brown  
brush  
burner

bus  
microbus  
busy

B-3

balloon  
bargain  
basket  
bat  
batting  
batter  
bathroom  
batter  
beam  
bean  
bee  
bench  
bible  
bike  
motorbike  
bitter  
blank  
blanket  
blind  
boil  
boiler  
bolt  
bonus  
boom  
bound  
rebound  
brand  
bucket  
butter  
butterfly  
button

C-1

call  
campaign  
captain  
car  
card  
care  
career  
case  
showcase  
catch  
catcher  
catching  
cent  
center  
center  
central  
century

chair  
chance  
chapter  
character  
check  
checklist  
checkpoint  
child  
children  
choice  
church  
city  
claim  
class  
clear  
client  
close  
club  
cold  
collect  
collector  
collection  
college  
colour; color  
colourful; colorful  
communicate  
communication  
community  
company  
computer  
concept  
condition  
conditioning  
container  
control  
corner  
cost  
country  
couple  
course  
court  
cover  
crawl  
create  
creative  
creator  
culture  
cup  
cut  
cutter  
cutting  
  
C-2  
cake  
camera

cameraman  
camp  
capacity  
carpet  
cash  
cashing  
cast  
casting  
miscast  
cat  
cats  
catalogue  
catalog  
category  
catholic  
celebrating  
challenge  
challenging  
champion  
champions  
channel  
charity  
cheese  
chemical  
cheque; check  
chief  
Chinese  
Christian  
Christmas  
cigarette  
circle  
circuit  
classic  
classical  
classics  
clean  
cleaner  
cleaning  
climbing  
climber  
coast  
coat  
clock  
cloth  
cloudy  
coach  
coast  
coating  
overcoat  
code  
coffee  
column  
combine  
combination  
comment

commentator  
commercial  
complex  
conductor  
connect  
connection  
consent  
constant  
consultant  
contact  
cook  
cooking  
cool  
cooler  
copy  
cottage  
count  
counter  
cream  
credit  
crew  
critical  
cross  
crown  
cry  
curtain  
curve  
cycle  
cycling  
recycle

C-3  
cable  
calendar  
Canada  
Canadian  
cancel  
candle  
canvas  
cap  
carbon  
cassette  
casual  
ceremony  
champagne  
chapel  
charming  
chart  
chase  
chicken  
chip  
chocolate  
chorus  
cinema  
clinic



coin  
colony  
comedy  
comedian  
compact  
companion  
concert  
concerto  
concrete  
convenience  
conveyor  
cooperation  
corn  
cotton  
counter  
cousin  
crash  
crazy  
crystal  
curriculum

D-1  
damage  
dark  
data  
database  
date  
day  
days  
dead  
defence  
defense  
defender  
design  
designer  
designers  
designing  
development  
direct  
director  
discussion  
Dr.  
document  
documentary  
dog  
dogs  
dollar  
door  
outdoor  
down  
drive  
driver  
drivers  
driveway  
driving

drop  
drug

D-2  
dance  
dancer  
dancing  
debate  
delivery  
democracy  
demonstrate  
demo  
demonstration  
desk  
diet  
dinner  
dining  
dish  
display  
domestic  
double  
doubles  
dozen  
draft  
drama  
dramatic  
dress  
dressing  
drink  
dry  
dryer

D-3  
dairy  
deadline  
deck  
decoration  
delicate  
delicacy  
devil  
devils  
diamond  
diary  
dictation  
dictionary  
dilemma  
disc  
discount  
dive  
diving  
diver  
dock  
docking  
drill  
drum

duck  
dump

E-1

earth  
easy  
economy  
economist  
eight  
element  
end  
ending  
energy  
English  
enjoy  
enough  
entry  
Europe  
European  
evening  
event  
everyday  
exchange  
experience  
explain  
express  
extension  
extra

E-2

edition  
editor  
egg  
electronics  
emotion  
engine  
engineer  
engineering  
equal  
error  
escape  
excellent  
excite  
exciting  
exercise  
exhibition  
experiment  
expert

E-3

elbow  
elephant  
entertainer  
entertainment  
episode

essay  
essayist  
essence  
ethnic  
excuse  
exotic

F-1  
face  
fact  
factor  
father  
daddy  
feeling  
field  
fight  
fighter  
fighting  
figure  
film  
final  
finalist  
finance  
finder  
fine  
finish  
fire  
first  
fish  
fishing  
fit  
fitness  
fitting  
firing  
five  
fifty  
floor  
flooring  
fly  
flying  
flight  
follow  
food  
football  
foreign  
forest  
forget  
form  
formation  
four  
French  
fresh  
refresh  
friend  
friendly

friends  
friendship  
full

F-2  
fabric  
factory  
fair  
fan  
fashion  
fashionable  
fast  
festival  
file  
flat  
flower  
focus  
foundation  
frame  
front  
fruit

F-3  
faint  
fantastic  
fantasy  
fence  
fencing  
fever  
fibre; fiber  
fiction  
nonfiction  
flag  
flame  
flash  
flashback  
folk  
folks  
forever  
fork  
freezer  
frontier  
frustration  
fur

G-1  
game  
garden  
gardening  
general  
get  
girl  
girls  
gal  
glass

go  
goal  
good  
good-bye  
bye  
bye-bye  
government  
great  
green  
ground  
group

G-2  
gap  
gas  
gate  
generation  
gift  
god  
gods  
gold  
golden  
golf  
golfer  
grade  
high-grade  
grant  
grey; gray  
guard  
guest  
guide  
guidebook  
guidance  
gun

G-3  
gallery  
gang  
garage  
gear  
gesture  
ghost  
giant  
giants  
glove  
grammar  
grip

H-1  
hair  
hairstyle  
half  
hall  
hand  
handling

hands  
handy  
hanger  
happening  
happy  
happiness  
hard  
head  
heading  
health  
healthy  
hearing  
heart  
heavy  
help  
high  
highway  
highways  
history  
historical  
hit  
hitting  
hits  
holiday  
home  
homeless  
homemade  
hope  
hospital  
hot  
hotel  
house  
hello  
hey  
hallo; hello  
human  
humanism  
husband

H-2  
handle  
hat  
heater  
heaven  
hell  
hero  
heroine  
host  
hostess

H-3  
hammer  
hardware  
harmony  
high-heels

helicopter  
highlight  
hint  
hire  
hook  
humour; humor  
humorous; humorous  
humor  
hunt  
hunting  
hunter

I-1  
my (I)  
idea  
identity  
in  
independent  
industry  
independence  
industrial  
info  
image  
information  
international  
introduction  
island  
item

I-2  
ice  
deal  
illustration  
illustrator  
imagine  
imagination  
impact  
impressions  
India  
Indian  
initial  
inside  
instruction  
instructor  
intelligence  
intelligent  
interval  
interview  
iron  
Italy  
Italian

I-3  
illusion  
inflation



inn  
innocent  
inspiration  
instant  
interior

J-1  
job  
jobs  
just

J-2  
jacket  
Japan  
Jap  
joint  
joke  
journalism  
journalist  
judge  
jump  
jumping  
jumper  
junior  
justice

J-3  
jam  
jet  
joy  
joyful  
jungle

K-1  
keeper  
killer  
kind  
king  
kings

K-2  
key  
kick  
kickoff  
kid  
kids  
kitchen  
knife  
knock  
knockdown  
knockout

K-3  
kilometer  
kilo

kilos  
kilogram  
kilograms

L-1  
lady  
ladies  
land  
last  
lead  
leader  
leadership  
sub-leader

learning  
left  
lets  
lettering  
level  
library  
life  
light  
lighter  
spotlight  
line  
list  
listener  
listening  
little  
live  
lives  
living  
local  
long  
looks  
lost  
loss  
lot  
love  
low

L-2  
label  
league  
lecture  
leisure  
lesson  
licence; license  
lift  
lifting  
limit  
limited  
link  
lip  
loan  
locate

location  
lock  
locker  
lucky  
lunch

L-3  
lamp  
lap  
Latin  
layout  
leather  
liberty  
lifestyle  
lion  
lions  
liver  
lobby  
log  
logic  
loop  
loose

M-1  
machine  
main  
maintenance  
major  
made  
maker  
making  
remake  
man  
men  
men's  
manage  
manager  
management  
march  
marching  
market  
marketing  
match  
materials  
measure  
medical  
medium  
meeting  
member  
memory  
memorial  
memories  
mile  
miles  
million

mind  
minute  
miss  
missing  
mister  
model  
modern  
money  
morning  
mother  
move  
movement  
Mrs.  
music  
musical  
musician

M-2

magazine  
mail  
manner  
map  
mark  
marker  
marriage  
master  
maximum  
meat  
mechanism  
mental  
message  
metal  
metallic  
metre; meter  
middle  
midnight  
milk  
milkshake  
milky  
minimum  
minor  
minority  
mirror  
mission  
mistake  
mix  
mixer  
mode  
monitor  
monitoring  
mood  
moon  
moral  
motion  
motor

mountain  
mouse  
muscle  
museum  
mystery  
mysterious

M-3  
magic  
manual  
mask  
mate  
classmate  
mechanic  
mechanics  
menu  
merit  
demerit  
mild  
mineral  
mini  
miracle  
monster  
monument  
motivation

N- 1  
name  
naming  
nation  
national  
nationalism  
native  
natural  
naturalist  
naturalism  
needs  
network  
never  
new  
renewal  
next  
news  
nice  
night  
nighter  
nine  
no  
normal  
abnormal  
north  
note  
notebook  
now  
number

numbers

N-2

neck

bottleneck

high-necked

negative

nervous

net

noise

noisy

noises

nose

nurse

N-3

nail

neutral

nonsense

nuts

O-1

off

office

oil

okay

ok

on

one

only

open

opening

operation

operator

opinion

option

option

options

order

organizer

origin

original

originality

out

outside

over

owner

O-2

observer

offence

official

outline

overall

O-3  
opera  
orange  
organ  
orthodox  
output

P-1  
page  
paper  
paperless  
park  
parking  
part  
parts  
party  
pass  
pay  
prepaid  
performer  
performance  
period  
person  
physical  
pick  
pickup  
plan  
planning  
planting  
play  
playboy  
player  
playing  
replay  
please  
point  
police  
policy  
political  
poor  
popular  
pops  
position  
positioning  
impossible  
post  
poster  
pound  
power  
powerful  
present  
presence  
press  
price  
private

process  
processing  
produce  
producer  
product  
production  
productions  
professional  
nonprofessional  
pro  
professionals  
profit  
programme ; program  
project  
projector  
propose  
public  
push

P-2  
pace  
pack  
package  
pain  
paint  
painting  
pair  
panel  
partner  
partnership  
pause  
peace  
peak  
penalty  
percent  
percentage  
perfect  
perm  
personality  
photography  
photographer  
phrase  
pilot  
pink  
pitcher  
pitching  
plastic  
platform  
plus  
pocket  
poem  
poll  
pool  
pose  
positive



pot  
practical  
pretty  
prince  
princess  
print  
misprint  
printer  
reprint  
professor  
profile  
promise  
promotion  
proportion  
protect  
protest  
psychology  
pure

P-3  
panic  
parade  
parallel  
part-time  
part-timer  
passion  
passport  
patch  
pen  
pencil  
pet  
petition  
photo  
piano  
pianist  
pin  
pint  
pipe  
planet  
plot  
pole  
pops  
potato  
powder  
precious  
president  
pride  
privacy  
pump  
punch

Q-1  
quality  
quarter  
quarterly

question  
quick

Q-2  
queen

Q-3

R-1  
race  
radio  
rail  
range  
rank  
ranking  
rate  
reader  
reading  
real  
reality  
reasonable  
receive  
receiver  
record  
recording  
recorder  
red  
report  
reporter  
research  
response  
rest  
right  
river  
road  
rock  
room  
risk  
rise  
rising  
rock  
room  
showroom  
round  
royalty  
rule  
runner  
running

R-2  
rain  
raincoat  
rainwear  
rare  
reaction

regular  
relax  
relaxing  
release  
relief  
rent  
rental  
repeat  
request  
respect  
restaurant  
retire  
rich  
ride  
ring  
roll  
roller  
Rome  
Roman  
root  
roots  
rough  
route  
rush  
Russia

R-3  
rabbit  
random  
rear  
receipt  
recipe  
recruit  
resort  
resume  
revenge  
reversible  
revival  
rhythm  
rhythmical  
ribbon  
rice  
rival  
romance  
romantic  
romanticist  
rope  
rubber

S-1  
sale  
sales  
Saturday  
save  
scale

scene  
school  
science  
scientific  
scientist  
seaside  
season  
seat  
second  
secretary  
section  
security  
sell  
sense  
sensational  
sensor  
series  
serious  
serve  
service  
set  
reset  
setting  
seven  
seventeen  
sex  
sexuality  
sexy  
shake  
shaker  
share  
sharing  
shop  
shopping  
window-shopping  
sort  
shortcut  
show  
side  
sign  
simple  
single  
sister  
sisters  
site  
situation  
six  
size  
king-size  
skill  
something  
sorry  
sound  
sounds  
source

space  
speak  
speaker  
speaking  
special  
specialist  
specialty  
staff  
stage  
stand  
standing  
standard  
star  
start  
station  
stay  
step  
still  
stock  
stone  
stop  
nonstop  
story  
stories  
stranger  
street  
restructuring  
student  
study  
style  
stylebook  
styling  
stylish  
stylist  
success  
summer  
summertime  
sun  
sunshine  
supply  
support  
supporter  
sure  
system  
systems

S-2  
safe  
salary  
sample  
sand  
schedule  
score  
screen  
search

secret  
select  
selection  
senior  
sensitive  
sentence  
session  
severe  
shadow  
shape  
sharp  
sheet  
sheets  
shift  
ship  
shirt  
shirts  
shock  
shocking  
shoes  
shoot  
shot  
shoulder  
shut  
shutter  
sick  
signal  
silencer  
silent  
silver  
singer  
sink  
skin  
sky  
slide  
sliding  
slip  
slow  
smile  
smooth  
snap  
snow  
soft  
song  
songwriter  
soul  
Spain  
speech  
speed  
speedup  
speedy  
spirit  
spirits  
spirituality  
split

sport  
sports  
spot  
spring  
stake  
status  
steam  
stick  
sticker  
store  
straight  
stress  
stretch  
stretching  
strike  
stuff  
sugar  
suit  
summary  
surprise  
survival  
sweet  
swing  
switch  
switching  
symbol

S-3  
sailor  
salmon  
sandwich  
satellite  
scan  
scandal  
scandalous  
scrap  
scratch  
seal  
sentimental  
shining  
shower  
shy  
silk  
sketch  
sketchbook  
sleeve  
slice  
slim  
slope  
smart  
smash  
soap  
soup  
soviet  
spare

spectacle  
spell  
spin  
sponsor  
stamp  
stewardess  
straw  
strip  
strips  
suite  
supermarket  
supplement  
suspenders  
suspense  
swimming  
Swiss

T-1  
table  
takeout  
talk  
target  
team  
technique  
technology  
biotechnology  
television  
televisions  
ten  
test  
text  
textbook  
thanks  
time  
timer  
times  
timely  
title  
subtitle  
today  
tomorrow  
top  
topping  
total  
town  
downtown  
trade  
trademark  
traditional  
train  
trainer  
training  
treatment  
tree  
trouble



try  
turn  
two  
type  
typing  
typist  
typewriter

T-2  
tackle  
talent  
tall  
tape  
taste  
tea  
tearing  
technical  
technician  
telephone  
phone  
tennis  
tension  
territory  
theater  
theme  
ticket  
ticketless  
tie  
necktie  
tight  
tip  
tire  
tissue  
tone  
tonight  
tool  
topic  
topics  
touch  
touching  
tough  
tour  
touring  
tourist  
tower  
towers  
trace  
track  
traffic  
travel  
traveler  
traveling  
trip  
trust  
tube

tunnel

T-3

tap

taxi

teenager

tent

terrace

terror

terrorism

terrorist

tiger

timetable

timing

toe

toilet

ton

toy

trap

treasure

trend

triangle

truck

trunk

tuning

twin

twins

twist

tyre; tire

U-1

union

unit

university

up

useful

user

U-2

unite

unique

U-3

underline

uniform

universe

universal

V-1

variety

version

village

voice

V-2

variation  
vegetable  
victory  
video  
violent  
violence  
vision  
vitality  
volume  
volunteer

V-3  
visual  
wiper  
wise  
wrap  
wrapping

W-1  
wait  
waiter  
waitress  
walk  
walking  
watch  
watching  
water  
way  
wear  
knitwear  
weekend  
weekly  
weight  
west  
white  
white-collar  
wide  
wife  
will  
win  
winner  
wins  
window  
windows  
wish  
woman  
women  
women's  
wonderful  
word  
world  
work  
worker  
working  
writer

writing

W-2

wash

washable

wasting

wave

weapon

wedding

welcome

wet

wild

wind

wine

wineglass

wing

wings

winter

wire

wireless

wood

workshop

W-3

X-1

X-2

X-3

Y-1

year

yes

yesterday

you

young

Y-2

yard

yellow

youth

Y-3

Z-1

Z-2

zone

Z-3

zero

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