

Japanese Phrases

Here are some Japanese phrases that you may find useful for the welcome ceremony and your self-introduction. (If you get stage fright and forget how to say them in Japanese, then saying them in English is better than saying nothing.) You will practice these during orientation.

**Your name: Watashi no namae wa _____ desu. (My name is ____)
OR Watashi wa _____ desu. (I am ____) Example: Watashi no namae wa Matthew desu. Watashi wa Sarah desu.

**Name of your host family: Example: Watashi no hosuto famiri wa Kawasaki-san desu. (My host family is Kawasaki-san.) OR Hosuto Famiri wa Ito-san desu. Use the word "san" after their name (whether you are using the first or last name) when talking to someone else or talking about someone else: Miko-san, Hiro-san, Tanaka-san, etc. Do not use "san" when using your own name, such as introducing yourself.

**Your age: (the number in Japanese) sai desu. For example: juugo sai desu (15 years old)

**Your interests and likes: (what you like to do or eat) suki desu. For example: Soccer suki desu. Chocolate suki desu. Baseball suki desu. Or more formally: Watashi wa _____ ga suki desu OR _____ ga suki desu Example: Watashi wa Sushi ga suki desu. Pizza ga suki desu.

**It's nice to meet you: Dozo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Use your phrase book to help you communicate what you need or how you feel. Also see your delegate handbook.

Other handy phrases.....

This is delicious: Oishii desu

I am full: onaka ippai desu (my tummy is full)

Where: doko

Where are we going? doko e ikimasu ka

Here are a few words and phrases you might hear in Japan:

Itadakimasu: Something you say before you eat.

Gochisosama deshita: Something you say after you eat.

Irrashimase: A greeting you hear when entering a store or restaurant.

Sumimasen: Excuse me.

Gomen nasai: I'm very sorry.

Ohayo gozaimasu: Good Morning

Konnichiwa: Good day, hello

Douzo (also spelled Dozo): Please go ahead, please take some, you go first.

Arigato gozaimasu, Domo Arigato gozaimasu: Thank you.

Wakarimasu ka: Do you understand?

Wakarimasu: I understand.

Wakarimasen: I don't understand.

Chotto matte: Please wait a little bit.

Hayaku: Hurry.

Hai: Yes, I'm here (when calling roll), and also said when someone is listening on the phone to indicate they are still listening. Sometimes you will also hear someone make a sound something like the “N” sound to show they are paying attention.

Moshi moshi: Hello, when answering the phone.

Tadaima: I'm Home!

Honto: Really? Wow.

Sugoi: Amazing Wow.

Here are some English phrases you might hear in Japan:

Nice to meet you.

It's a bit difficult. (This means that something probably isn't possible)

It can't be helped. (This means that there is no alternative and we will make the best of the situation.)