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**NCEA Level 2 Japanese Revised Vocabulary List 2025**

**Editable Word doc**

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Asian and European languages were published on the NCEA Education website in December 2024.

Below is the revised Level 2 Japanese Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List supports teaching and learning and helps teachers understand the language appropriate at Curriculum Level 7. Language drawn from this Vocabulary List is used to create external assessments and may be used to support teachers when preparing students for internal assessments.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged **alphabetically (Japanese to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Japanese; by category) can be found online [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/japanese?view=teaching).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:   
ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Japanese > Teaching

Teachers are advised to read the Introduction to the vocabulary lists (online, as above), as these contain useful context for teaching and learning, and for internal and external assessments (including the notes below).

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| **Notes to teachers** |
| In addition to the listed vocabulary, students are also expected to be able to recognise: |
| ● items from relevant L1 Japanese Vocabulary List |
| ● where a noun can easily be constructed from the verb or vice versa |
| ● obvious loan words. |

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|  | **Japanese** | **Kanji** | **English** |
| **あ** | あいさつ |  | greeting |
| あかるい |  | bright (space), cheerful (person) |
| あきらめる・あきらめます |  | give up (verb) |
| あの |  | that over there (followed by a noun) |
| あぶない |  | dangerous |
| あんぜん（な） |  | safety (safe) |
| **い** | いう・いいます | 言う・言います | say (verb) |
| (と) いう・いいます |  | called (be) (verb) |
| いっしょうけんめい(な) |  | as hard as one can |
| いる・いります |  | need (verb) |
| いれる・いれます |  | put in (verb) |
| **う** | うんてん |  | driving |
| うんてん する・うんてん します |  | drive (verb) |
| **え** | えらぶ・えらびます |  | choose (verb) |
| **お** | おうえん する・おうえん します |  | support, cheer (verb) |
| おおい |  | a lot |
| おしえる・おしえます |  | teach (verb) |
| おとな | 大人 | adult |
| おもいだす・おもいだします |  | recall (verb) |
| おもいで |  | memories |
| おもう・おもいます | 思う | think (verb) |
| おりる・おります |  | get off (transport) (verb) |
| **か** | がいこく | 外国 | foreign country |
| がいこくご | 外国語 | foreign language |
| かたづける・かたづけます |  | tidy up (verb) |
| がっかりする・がっかりします |  | disappointed (be) (verb) |
| がっき |  | school term |
| かならず |  | certainly, without fail |
| かみ |  | paper |
| かわる・かわります |  | change (someone/something changes) (verb) |
| かんけい |  | connection |
| かんどうする・かんどうします |  | moved (be), touched (be) (verb) |
| カンニングする・カンニングします |  | cheat in a test (verb) |
| **き** | きそく |  | rule, regulation |
| きもち　いい |  | feel good, refreshing |
| きゅうしょく |  | meal provided by an organisation (eg, lunch provided by school) |
| きょういく |  | education |
| きょうかしょ |  | textbook |
| きょうみ |  | interest |
| きょうみが ある・きょうみが あります |  | interested in (be) (phrase) |
| きんじょ |  | neighbourhood |
| **く** | くうき |  | air |
| くらい |  | dark (space), gloomy (person) |
| くらべる・くらべます |  | compare (verb) |
| グループ |  | group |
| **け** | けいざい |  | economy, Economics (school subject) |
| けす・けします |  | turn off (verb) |
| けっか |  | result, outcome |
| **こ** | こうりゅうする・こうりゅうします |  | interact (verb) |
| こたえ |  | answer |
| こたえる・こたえます |  | answer (verb) |
| ことば |  | language, word |
| ことわる・ことわります |  | reject, turn down (verb) |
| この |  | this (followed by a noun) |
| コミュニティ |  | community |
| これから |  | from now on |
| **さ** | さいきん |  | recently |
| さいご |  | last |
| さいしょ |  | first |
| さくぶん |  | essay |
| さそう・さそいます |  | invite (verb) |
| さびしい |  | lonely, miss someone |
| **し** | しけんに おちる・しけんに おちます |  | fail an exam (phrase) |
| しけんに とおる・しけんに とおります |  | pass an exam (phrase) |
| しけんを うける・しけんを うけます |  | sit an exam (phrase) |
| しつもん |  | question |
| しつもん する・しつもん します |  | ask a question (verb) |
| じどうはんばいき |  | vending machine |
| しゅうがくりょこう |  | school trip |
| しゅうかん |  | custom (social), habit |
| しふく |  | mufti |
| じゆうじかん | じゆう時間 | leisure time, free time |
| しゅっしん |  | place of origin |
| しゅわ | 手話 | sign language |
| じゅんび |  | preparation |
| じゅんび する・じゅんび します |  | prepare (verb) |
| しんじる・しんじます |  | believe, trust (verb) |
| しんぱい する・しんぱい します |  | worry (verb) |
| **す** | すぐ |  | immediately, soon |
| すくない | 少ない | few, not many |
| すごす・すごします |  | spend time (verb) |
| ずっと |  | much more, all the time |
| すてる・すてます |  | throw away (verb) |
| ストレス |  | stress |
| **せ** | せいかつ |  | way of life |
| せいせき |  | results (academic), marks |
| せつめい |  | explanation |
| せつめい する・せつめい します |  | explain (verb) |
| せんしゅ |  | athlete |
| **そ** | そつぎょうしき |  | graduation ceremony |
| そつぎょう する・そつぎょう します |  | graduate (verb) |
| その |  | that (followed by a noun) |
| そら |  | sky |
| **た** | たいいくさい |  | sports festival |
| たすける・たすけます |  | help, rescue (verb) |
| ただしい |  | correct |
| たとえば |  | for instance, for example |
| たのしみに する・たのしみに します |  | look forward to (phrase) |
| たのしむ・たのしみます |  | enjoy (verb) |
| たのむ・たのみます |  | request (verb) |
| **ち** | チーム |  | team |
| **つ** | つき | 月 | moon |
| つぎ |  | next |
| つける・つけます |  | turn on, switch on (verb) |
| つつむ・つつみます |  | wrap (verb) |
| **て** | テーマパーク |  | theme park |
| てつだう・てつだいます |  | give a hand (verb) |
| でる・でます |  | attend (verb) |
| でんき |  | electricity, (electric) light |
| **と** | どうやって |  | in what manner? |
| どきどき する・どきどき します |  | nervous (be) (verb) |
| とくべつ（な） |  | special |
| どの |  | which? (followed by a noun) |
| ともだちが できる・ともだちが できます | 友だちが できる・友だちが できます | make a friend (phrase) |
| **な** | なくなる・なくなります |  | pass away, vanish (verb) |
| なつかしい |  | fondly remember (someone/something) |
| なやむ・なやみます |  | troubled (be) (someone is troubled) (verb) |
| ならぶ・ならびます |  | line up (verb) |
| なれる・なれます |  | become used to (verb) |
| **に** | にている・にています |  | look alike, resemble (verb) |
| にゅうがく する・にゅうがく します |  | start school (verb) |
| にゅうがくしき |  | welcoming ceremony at school |
| にゅうがくしけん |  | entrance examination |
| にんきが ある・にんきが あります |  | popular (be) (phrase) |
| にんきが でる・にんきが でます |  | become popular (phrase) |
| **ね** | ねだん |  | price |
| **は** | はじめ |  | beginning |
| はじめる・はじめます |  | start (someone starts something) (verb) |
| ばしょ |  | place |
| はしる・はしります |  | run (verb) |
| はずかしい |  | embarrassed |
| はなしあう・はなしあいます |  | discuss (verb) |
| はらう・はらいます |  | pay (verb) |
| **ひ** | ひきわけ |  | draw |
| びっくり する・びっくり します |  | surprised (be) (verb) |
| ひつよう（な） |  | necessary |
| **ふ** | ふえる・ふえます |  | increase (something/people increase) (verb) |
| ふくろ |  | sack, bag |
| プラスチック |  | plastic |
| ふるさと |  | place you belong |
| **へ** | へらす・へらします |  | decrease (someone decreases something) (verb) |
| へんじ |  | response |
| へんじする・へんじします |  | respond (verb) |
| **ほ** | ほか（の） |  | other, another |
| ほし |  | star |
| ほとんど |  | almost all |
| ボランティア |  | volunteer |
| ほんとう |  | true, real |
| まいつき |  | every month |
| まいねん・まいとし |  | every year |
| **ま** | まもる・まもります |  | obey, protect (verb) |
| **む** | むり（な） |  | impossible, unreasonable |
| **め** | めずらしい |  | rare |
| メンバー |  | member |
| **も** | もちろん |  | of course |
| もったいない |  | wasteful |
| もんだい |  | problem, issue, question (in test/exam) |
| **や** | やめる・やめます |  | quit (verb) |
| **ゆ** | ゆっくり する・ゆっくり します |  | relax, take your time (verb) |
| **り** | リサイクル する・リサイクル します |  | recycle (verb) |
| **わ** | わかい |  | young |
| わくわく する・わくわく します |  | excited (be) (verb) |
| わらう・わらいます |  | laugh (verb) |

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| **Classifier** | **Functions** |
| Number+かい | number of times (frequency) |
| Number+ ページ | page |