Japanese

Romanization System

The modified Hepburn system of romanization as employed in *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary* (3rd and later editions) is used. For the syllabic nasal, n is always used preceding b, m, and p. Romanization for words of foreign (i.e., non-Japanese) origin follows the American National Standard system for the romanization of Japanese; e.g., ベトナム (Betonamu); タイナム (Vetonamu).

Word Reading

The reading of Japanese words follows standard Japanese language usage, insofar as this can be determined from standard Japanese dictionaries. A current modern reading is preferred to an obsolete one, except where the usage of standard authorities has established a particular reading for a particular name or book title. The characters 日本 are romanized as Nihon unless the usage of standard authorities has established a particular reading; e.g., Dai Nippon Teikoku, Nippon‘ichi, Nippon eitaigura, etc. If there are various readings, the reading that appears most frequently in dictionaries is used.

Capitalization

1. *Personal Names*: Capitalize each word of a personal name, except the particle no.

   Sugawara no Takasue no Musume

   菅原孝世女

   (b) Capitalize title and terms of address, except when consisting of a single character or kana for san, sama, chan, kun, etc., that is hyphenated following a personal name.

   Kōbō Daishi

   仏大師

   but Okiku-san

   お菊さん

2. *Place Names*: Capitalize each separately written word of a geographic name.

   Yokohama

   横浜

   Nihon Rettō

   日本列島

   Yūraku-chō

   有楽町

   Taiheiyō

   太平洋

   Bōsō Hantō

   女満半岛

   Tōyō

   東洋

*ALA-LC Romanization Tables*
3. **Corporate Names:** Capitalize each separately written word of a corporate name, except particles and conjunctions.
   - Sensō o Kirokusuru Kai
   - Nihon Rikugun

4. **Documents and Publications:**
   (a) Capitalize the first word of the title of a publication (book, periodical, series, etc.).
   - Tsurezuregusa
   - Chūō kōron

   (b) Capitalize the first word of the name of a document (law, regulation, etc.).
   - Rōdō kumiaihō
   - Rōdō iinkai kisoku

5. **Historical Events and Periods:**
   (a) Capitalize each word of the name of a historical event.
   - Dainijii Sekai Taisen
   - Niniroku Jiken
   - Meiji Ishin shi

   (b) Capitalize the first word of the name of a historical period.
   - Jōmon jidai
   - Rikuchō jidai
   - Heianchō
   - Shōwakō

6. **Peoples and Languages:** Capitalize names of peoples and languages.
   - Nihonjin
   - Amerikajin
   - Nihongo
   - Eigo

7. **Religions and Sects:** Capitalize names of religions and sects.
   - Bukkyō
   - Kirisutokyo
   - Shintō
   - Zenshū

8. **Derivatives of Proper Names:** Lowercase words derived from names of places or religions, when the derived words are no longer considered to be proper names. When the derivative is formed by the suffix of a single character following a proper name, the proper name is capitalized and the suffix is lowercased and follows a hyphen. (See Word Division, 4. Proper Names, Exceptions)
   - nihontō
nihonshu         日本酒
nihonga         日本画
butsuga         佛画
washitsu        和室
wafuku          和服
yōshu           洋酒
kutaniyaki      九谷焼
kokutani        古九谷
kanji           漢字
kanpō           漢方
kan'yaku        漢庫
zendera         禅寺
zensō           禅僧
kirisutosha     キリスト者
but             台湾製
Taiwan-sei

Punctuation

1. Transcribe a centered point (・) used for dividing words as a comma if it makes the meaning of romanized words clear.

   Chūgoku Shikoku no mingei 中国・四国の民芸
   Pōru Kurōderu ポール・クローデル
   Matsumoto Seichō, Yamamoto Shūgorō shū 松本満張・山本周二郎集

   For such a center point appearing between numbers, see Word Division, 5. Numerals.

2. Transcribe brackets (「...」) used in the manner of quotation marks ("...") as quotation marks.

Word Division

1. Sino-Japanese (on) Compounds: A compound means a word consisting of two or more Chinese characters (kanji), or of Chinese characters and kana, or of kana alone, whether established by dictionary usage or not.

   (a) Write binary compounds as single words.
   ichigen ikkō 一言一行
   Rikuchō jidai 六朝時代
   Nihon kokusei jiten 日本国政事典
   kokuimin shugi 国民主義
   Indo tetsugaku shiyō 印度哲學史要
   Tōyō Gakkai 東洋学会
   Keiō Gijuku Daigaku Keizai Gakubu 慶應義塾大学経済学部
   Tōkyō Daigaku Kyōyō Gakubu 東京大学教養学部
(b) Trinary, derived, and other compounds.

(1) Write trinary and derived compounds as single words as long as they contain no more than one binary or trinary compound.

- keizaiteki (経済的)
- seibutsugaku (生物学)
- jinseikan (人生観)
- yuibutsuron (唯物論)
- kenkōhō (健康法)
- daijinbutsu (大人物)
- daiōjō (大往生)
- jibika (耳鼻科)
- koseibutsugaku (古生物学)
- hōshakaigaku (注社会学)

For a word beginning with such characters as 新,旧, etc., consult any current dictionary to determine whether it is part of a word or is a prefix to the following word or words (see Word Division, 3. Prefixes, Suffixes, etc. (a)). If it is appropriate, apply the provisions of (2) below.

- shinkansen (新幹線)
- kyūaisei (旧体制)

(2) Write trinary pseudo-compounds formed by the addition of a single character as single words.

- gōshisō (業思想)
- kakusensō (核戦争)
- kakukazoku (核家族)
- ryōseikatsu (畳生活)
- shinkenchiku (新建築)
- daijiten (大辞典)
- daihatsumeii (大発明)

If, however, a single character is enclosed within brackets used as a quotation marks, transcribe the brackets as quotation marks.

- "jin" shisō (「仁」思想)
- "kaku" ronsō (「核」論争)

(c) Write single characters in succession constituting a pseudo-compound as one word.

- todōfuken (都道府県)
- shikuchōson (市区町村)
- shichōson (市町村)
- shinōkōshō (士農工商)
- ishokujū (衣食住)
(d) Hyphenate grouped compounds involving phonetic changes.

jochū-bōkö
bungei-dokuohon
gōshi-gaisha
kabushiki-gaisha

but In proper names, romanize as Kabushiki Kaisha (e.g., Nissan Jidōsha Kabushiki Kaisha).

(e) Hyphenate one or more single-character modifiers having a common substantive.

shō-chūgakkō
shō-chū-kōtō gakkō
shō-chūkibō kigyō
jō-gesuidō
nō-san-gyoson
nō-kō-kōgyō
bun-shi-tetsugaku
Meiji sanjū-shichi-hachinin

When single character modifiers form a binary or trinary compound, however, follow 1(a) or 1(b) above.

chūshō kigyō
Bunri Gakubu
rikagaku jiten
dōshokubutsu jikken

2. Native Japanese (kun and jūbakoyomi or yutōyomi) compounds.

(a) Nouns.

(1) Write compound nouns as single words.

wareware
wagahai
kirisame
teashi
yamatodamashii
mizusakazuki
ukiyo
chanoma
chanoyu
kokoroarigao
iyagarase
kogirei
rikutsudōri
Write separately modifiers which are not part of compounds.

waga hokori
waga musuko
waga machi
waga kyōdo

In case of doubt, prefer the separate form.

waga kuni
waga ko
waga tomo
chichi haha
ani imōto
are kore

(2) Write separately a kun single character word modifying a compound.

onna ekaki
aji jiman
koto gassō
mizu shigen
kome sōdō
otoko aite

(b) Verbs.

(1) Write simple and compound inflected verbs, with their auxiliaries, as single words.

shihaisuru
doraibusuru
yomiuru
nashi nenai
kansuru
omoidasu

(2) Write verbs separately from adverbs or inflected adjectives and verbs.

dō kangaeru
aa shitai
sō suru
kō naru
tsuyoku naru
utsukushiku naritai
ikite ita
kaette kuru
yatte miyō
itadaite ikimasu
(3) Write honorific auxiliaries or potential auxiliaries, *dekiru* and *dekinai*, separately from other parts of the verb.

- ookuri itashimashō
- odekake asobashimasu ka
- gaman dekiru ka
- gaman dekimassen

(c) **Adjectives.** Write compound inflected adjectives as single words.

- bimyōnaru 微妙なる
-ikanaru 如何なる
-miryokuuaru 魅力ある
-teikōnaki 抵抗なき
-dōdōtaru 堂々たる
-osorubeki 恐るべき
-ayamatta sahō, ayamariyasui sahō 誤った作法 誤り易い作法

(d) **Adverbs and conjunctions.** Write compound adverbs and conjunctions as single words.

- tokuni 持に
-narabini 並に
-tomoni 共に
-tsuini 逐に
-ikani 如何に
-suguni 直ぐに
-matawa すは
-aruiwa 或いは

(e) **Particles.** Write particles separately from other words and from each other.

- kōfuku *e* no michi 幸福への道
-E wa dare *ni de mo* kakeru 何は誰にでも描ける
-Sō *i* hon *o yomu* no *ga* tanoshii そういう本を読むのが楽しい
-anata *to* watashi *to* あなたとわたしと
-kumo *no* ue *ni* 雲の上に
-anata *no* tame *ni* あなたの為に
-nonki *na* ojisan *nonki* *ni* kamaeru 香気小父さん香気に導える
-yunik *na* sonzai ゆニクな存在

3. **Prefixes, Suffixes, etc.**

(a) Write separately a single-character prefix modifying *on* or *kun* compounds following it.

- zen shushō enzetsushū
- ko shachō kaikoroku
- shin okurigana
- shin shokuminchi shugi
- kyū dōtokuritsu
- kyū dojin shakai

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*ALA-LC Romanization Tables*
Dai jinmei jiten
shō bungaku jiten
chō senshinkoku
chō genjitsu shugi
han sensō undō
han sensōron
kaku jidai
kaku todōfukken
kaku musan seitō
hi bunkateki
hi sabetsu shakai
ichi toshokan'in
ichi kinen shashin

(b) Hyphenate a single character modifying, or modified by, foreign words generally written in katakana.

shō-enerugī
kaku-enerugī
datsu-enerugī
shō-ene
enerugī-gen
karori-hyō
irasutorēshon-teki

If the foreign word in katakana together with a single character is a long-established word or a corporate name, however, romanize it as one word.

Amerikajin
kirisutōsha
Saiensusha
sābisugyō

(c) Write the suffix to or nado (等, など), hen (編, 編) used for sections of books, and shō (抄, 書抄) for excepts or commentaries, kō (考, 考) for treaties or drafts, and ten (展) for exhibitions, separately from the word preceding them unless they form Sino-Japanese compounds, e.g., 前編, 私考, 草稿, 特別展

kyōdō kiken kōi to no kinshi ihan
kyō konogoro omoidasu koto nado
senzen sengo hen
Nihon shokunikushi shō
Nihon insho kō
Shina shoshigaku kō
Tōzai bijutsu kōryū 300-nen ten

共同危険行為等の禁止違反
今日この頃思い出すことなど
戦前戦後編
日本食肉史抄
日本印書考
支那書籍学稿
東西美術交流300年展
(d) Write single-character substantives modified by on or kun compounds as part of the word preceding it.

Ochiboshū
Kokinshū
Kokin wakashū
Bunka jinmeiroku
Nihon seifu gyōsei kikōzu
Nihon-Ro gaikō jūnenshī
Gakkō toshokanhō
Kokubunji shōryō chōsa hōkokusho
Meiji Taishō bungakushi
Kagoshima-ken fūbutsushi
Shizen kagakusha
Jibi inkōka
Kyōdai shimaitsuchi
Rōdō Kijunyoku
Asahi Shinbunsha
Nihon Bungaku Kenkyūkai

If the word romanized together with a single-character substantive becomes meaningless, hyphenate it with the word preceding it.

Nihon gunkokushū-shugika
hatten-tojōkoku

4. Proper Names.
(a) Write proper names and titles of books separately from modifiers or words modified by them.

Rinkān den
Niwa Fumio shū
Genji monogatari shō
Shin jidai
Min Shin jidai
To shō
Nihon shi
Beikoku shi
Tōyō shiron

Exceptions:
(1) For proper names, including corporate names, that contain other proper names, follow 1(a)-1(b), 2(a), and 3(d) above.

Edojō
Shijōgawara
Sohōkai
(2) Write names of historical periods with single-character generic terms as single words.

Shinchō
Meiji
gū
(3) For names of ships, write such prefixes as maru or go separately from the preceding word.

Asama Maru
Hayabusa Gō
Purejidento Wiruson Gō
(4) Hyphenate single characters which can be suffixed to any proper names; e.g., 的, 型, 式, 流, 番, 製, 派, 準, 本, 版

Nihon-tekki
Honkon-gata
Tanaka Chiyō-shiki
Hōshō-ryū
Hokkaidō-san
Taiwan-sei
Tanaka-ha
Nakasone-kei
Kanda-bon
Kanazawa Bunko-ban
(5) Hyphenate an auxiliary to a proper name, which results in a double consonant.
Kanashī-tte yonde

(b) Write titles and terms of address separately from personal names.
(1) Write separately a title that precedes a personal name.
Sei Sabieru
(2) If a title or a term of address following a personal name consists of a binary or trinary compound, write it separately from the personal name.
Meiji Tennō
Taiken Mon’in
Kitashirakawa no Miyasama
Nichiren Shōninsama
Takezawa Sensei
(3) Hyphenate a title or a term of address when it consists of a single character or kana for san, sama, chan, kun, etc., and follows a personal name.
Bashō-ō
Kakushin-ni
Gotoba-in
(c) Geographic names

(1) Hyphenate generic terms used as part of the name of jurisdictions or streets.
   Tōkyō-to
   Chiyoda-ku
   Yūraku-chō
   Yamaguchi-ken
   Yokohama-shi
   Ogawa-machi
   Ogasawara-mura

   Exceptions:
   (1) Write generic terms separately if they form Sino-Japanese compounds.
      Ogasawara sonchō
      Ogawa chōshi
      Chiyoda Kuritsu
      Yokohama shisei
      Tōkyō tomin
      Yamaguchi kenpō
   (2) Write *koku* as part of the name of a country.
      Nihonkoku
      Manshūkoku
      Kankoku
   (3) Write *Kuni* separately if preceded by *no* in the name of a province.
      Musashi no Kuni

(2) Write modifiers differentiating places of the same name as part of the name, if they are part of the name of a jurisdiction.
   Higashiizu-chō
   Kamikitayama-mura

   If the modifiers are not part of the name of a jurisdiction, write them separately.
   Minami Yamashiro
   Tōnan Ajia
(3) Write compound names designating merged places or containing a larger place name as single words.

Ujiyamada-shi
Aizuwakamatsu-shi

(4) Hyphenate generic terms for stations and harbors following place names.

Tōkyō-eki
Yokohama-kō

If the generic terms form Sino-Japanese compounds, write them separately.

Tōkyō ekichō
Yokohama kōwan

(5) Write generic terms for geographic features as part of the name.

Sumidagawa
Asamayama
Biwako
Shinanooji
Saipantō

If the generic terms for Sino-Japanese compounds, write them separately.

Biwa kohan
Asama sanroku

(d) Abbreviated Forms

(1) Write words consisting of or containing abbreviated proper names as single words.

Nōbi Heiya
Keihin kōgyō chitai
Meishin kōsoku dōro
Shin'etsusen
Ōbeijin
ryūō gakusei
Eishibun
tainichi bōeki
Kiki kayō

Hyphenate, however, a compound consisting of abbreviated names of countries or languages, except when the compound is normally elided.

Nichi-Ro gaikō jūnenshi
Nichi-Ei-Doku igo shōjiten
Sen-Man sōsho
Nikka daijiten
Nitchū kankei

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ALA-LC Romanization Tables
(2) Write contracted compound proper names as single words.

Chūkyō jūyō bunkenshū
Mantetsu chihō gyōseishi
Soren no Nihon kenkyū
Hokushi Jiken no keika
Saō monogatari
Fukuō hyakuwa

5. Numerals

(a) Write cardinal numbers under 100, and the numbers 100, 1,000, 10,000, and 100,000, etc., as single words, if spelled out. Separate by hyphens the hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, etc., in numbers over 100.

sen-kyūhyaku-hachijūsannen 千九百八十三年

(b) Write the ordinal prefix dai, numerators, and other suffixes as part of the numbers they precede or follow, if spelled out. Write them separate from the words they modify.

daisan seisanyoku 第三勢力
Dainichi Sekai Taisen kaikoroku 第二次世界大戦回顧録

(c) Transcribe a center point between numbers as a period, with no space following it. If, however, the number is spelled out in romanization as a word, then the center point is not represented by a Roman value (cf. Library of Congress Rule Interpretations, Appendix C.4C).

8.15 zengo: sensō to watakushitachi 8.15前後：戦争と私たち
3.14 futō hanketsu 三・十四不当判決
20.5-seiki no ongaku 二・五世紀の音楽
but Niniroku Jiken

(d) Hyphenate numbers joined to modify a common substantive.

3-4-jigen 三・四次元
Shōwa 58-59-nendo 昭和五十八・五十九年度

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

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