

ELA Word List

English–Japanese Vocabulary for New York Grades K–2

Purpose. This list supports Japanese-speaking students and families learning early elementary English language arts vocabulary in Grades K–2. It covers foundational reading, story language, informational text, beginning writing, and discussion routines.

How to use it. Begin with the **Core** terms students hear every day in reading and writing lessons, then add the Useful terms as they talk about books, explain ideas, and build early literacy routines.

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Term count by area

Area	Terms
Foundational Reading	27
Reading Literature	21
Reading Informational Text	16
Language and Vocabulary	18
Writing	22
Speaking and Listening	24
Total	128

Foundational Reading

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
letter	文字	もじ	K-2	Core	small mark used in writing
word	言葉	ことば	K-2	Core	group of letters with meaning
sentence	文	ぶん	K-2	Core	group of words making a complete thought
space	空白	くうはく	K-2	Core	blank area between words
title	題名	だいめい	K-2	Core	name of a book or story
cover	表紙	ひょうし	K-2	Core	front outside part of a book
author	作者	さくしゃ	K-2	Core	person who wrote the book
illustrator	絵をかく人	えをかくひと	K-2	Useful	person who made the pictures
page	ページ	ページ	K-2	Core	one side of paper in a book
read from left to right	左から右へ読む	ひだりからみぎへよむ	K-2	Core	direction English print moves
read from top to bottom	上から下へ読む	うえからしたへよむ	K-2	Useful	direction lines of print move
sound	音	おと	K-2	Core	part you hear in a word
beginning sound	はじめの音	はじめのおと	K-2	Core	first sound in a word
ending sound	おわりの音	おわりのおと	K-2	Core	last sound in a word
rhyme	韻	いん	K-2	Useful	words with the same ending sound
syllable	音節	おんせつ	K-2	Useful	word part with one beat
blend	音をつなげる	おとをつなげる	K-2	Core	put sounds together to read a word
segment	音を分ける	おとをわける	K-2	Useful	break a word into sounds
vowel	母音	ぼいん	K-2	Useful	a e i o u letters
consonant	子音	しいん	K-2	Useful	letter that is not a vowel
sight word	サイトワード	さいとわーど	K-2	Core	word readers learn to know quickly
front cover	表表紙	おもてびょうし	K-2	Core	front of a book
back cover	裏表紙	うらびょうし	K-2	Useful	back of a book
book title	本の題名	ほんのだいめい	K-2	Core	name of the book
uppercase letter	大文字	おおもじ	K-2	Core	big form of a letter
lowercase letter	小文字	こもじ	K-2	Core	small form of a letter
word family	ことばのなかま	ことばのなかま	K-2	Useful	group of words with the same ending pattern

Reading Literature

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
story	物語	ものがたり	K-2	Core	text that tells what happens
character	登場人物	とうじょうじんぶつ	K-2	Core	person or animal in a story
setting	場面	ばめん	K-2	Core	where and when the story happens
event	出来事	できごと	K-2	Core	something that happens in the story
beginning	はじめ	はじめ	K-2	Core	start of a story

middle	まんなか	まんなか	K-2	Core	part after the beginning and before the end
end	おわり	おわり	K-2	Core	last part of a story
problem	問題	もんだい	K-2	Core	challenge in the story
solution	解決	かいけつ	K-2	Core	how the problem is fixed
retell	言い直す	いいなおす	K-2	Core	tell the story again in order
lesson	教訓	きょうくん	K-2	Useful	important idea learned from a story
feelings	気持ち	きもち	K-2	Core	emotion a character has
compare	比べる	くらべる	K-2	Core	tell how two things are alike
contrast	ちがいをを見つける	ちがいをみつける	K-2	Useful	tell how two things are different
predict	予想する	よそうする	K-2	Core	guess what may happen next
question	質問	しつもん	K-2	Core	something asked about the text
answer	答え	こたえ	K-2	Core	response to a question
favorite part	好きなところ	すきなところ	K-2	Useful	part a student likes best
main character	主人公	しゅじんこう	K-2	Core	most important character in the story
lesson of the story	お話の教え	おはなしのおしえ	K-2	Useful	what a reader can learn from a story
retell the story	お話を話し直す	おはなしをはなしなおす	K-2	Core	tell the story again in order

Reading Informational Text

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
information	情報	じょうほう	K-2	Core	facts a text gives
fact	事実	じじつ	K-2	Core	something true in a text
photograph	写真	しゃしん	K-2	Core	real picture in a book
label	ラベル	らべる	K-2	Core	word naming a picture part
caption	説明文	せつめいぶん	K-2	Useful	words under a picture
heading	見出し	みだし	K-2	Useful	title for one part of a text
diagram	図	ず	K-2	Useful	picture that explains something
table of contents	目次	もくじ	K-2	Useful	list of book parts and pages
main topic	中心の話題	ちゅうしんのわだい	K-2	Core	what the text is mostly about
detail	詳しいこと	くわしいこと	K-2	Core	small piece of information about the topic
ask and answer questions	質問して答える	しつもんしてこたえる	K-2	Core	reading routine for understanding
connect	つなげる	つなげる	K-2	Useful	link ideas from text and life
explain	説明する	せつめいする	K-2	Core	tell clearly about something learned
label	ラベル	らべる	K-2	Core	word that names a picture or part
photo	写真	しゃしん	K-2	Core	picture taken with a camera
fact	ほんとうのこと	ほんとうのこと	K-2	Core	something that is true

Language and Vocabulary

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
noun	名詞	めいし	K-2	Core	name word
verb	動詞	どうし	K-2	Core	action word
adjective	形容詞	けいようし	K-2	Useful	word that describes
punctuation	句読点	くとうてん	K-2	Core	marks used in writing
period	ピリオド	ぴりおど	K-2	Core	mark at the end of a sentence
question mark	疑問符	ぎもんぷ	K-2	Core	mark at the end of a question
capital letter	大文字	おおもじ	K-2	Core	big letter at the start of a sentence or name
lowercase letter	小文字	こもじ	K-2	Useful	small form of a letter
complete sentence	文の形がそろった文	ぶんのかたがそろったぶん	K-2	Useful	sentence with all needed parts
vocabulary	言葉	ことば	K-2	Core	words we know and use
meaning	意味	いみ	K-2	Core	what a word or sentence says
definition	意味の説明	いみのせつめい	K-2	Useful	explanation of a word
synonym	似た意味の言葉	にたいみのことば	K-2	Useful	word with a similar meaning
antonym	反対の意味の言葉	はんたいのいみのことば	K-2	Useful	word with the opposite meaning
context clue	前後の言葉の手がかり	ぜんごのことばのてがかり	K-2	Useful	other words that help with meaning
question word	しつものことば	しつものことば	K-2	Useful	word like who what where when why or how
opposite	反対のことば	はんたいのことば	K-2	Core	word with a different meaning
same meaning	にた意味	にたいみ	K-2	Useful	word with a similar meaning

Writing

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
drawing	絵	え	K-2	Core	picture used to share an idea
plan	考える	かんがえる	K-2	Useful	think about what to write
draft	下書き	したがき	K-2	Core	first version of writing
revise	書き直す	かきなおす	K-2	Useful	make writing better
edit	直す	なおす	K-2	Useful	fix mistakes in writing
publish	清書する	せいしょする	K-2	Useful	make final writing ready to share
label a picture	絵に言葉をつける	えにことばをつける	K-2	Core	add words to show what is in a picture
topic	話題	わだい	K-2	Core	what writing is about
opinion	意見	いけん	K-2	Core	what someone thinks
reason	理由	りゆう	K-2	Core	why someone thinks that
information writing	せつめいの文	せつめいのぶん	K-2	Useful	writing that teaches facts
narrative	お話の文	おはなしのぶん	K-2	Useful	writing that tells what happened
opinion writing	意見の文	いけんのぶん	K-2	Core	writing that tells what the writer thinks

sequence	順番	じゅんばん	K-2	Core	order that things happen
first	はじめに	はじめに	K-2	Core	word showing the starting order
next	つぎに	つぎに	K-2	Core	word showing what comes after
last	さいごに	さいごに	K-2	Core	word showing the ending order
detail sentence	くわしい文	くわしいぶん	K-2	Useful	sentence that gives more information
draw and write	絵をかいて文を書く	えをかいてぶんをかく	K-2	Core	use a picture and words together to share an idea
writing folder	作文フォルダー	さくぶんふおるだー	K-2	Useful	place to keep writing work
true story	ほんとうのお話	ほんとうのおはなし	K-2	Useful	story about something that really happened
make a book	本を作る	ほんをつくる	K-2	Useful	put pages together to share writing

Speaking and Listening

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
listen	聞く	きく	K-2	Core	pay attention to a speaker
speak	話す	はなす	K-2	Core	say an idea aloud
turn and talk	ペアで話す	ペアではなす	K-2	Core	brief talk with a partner
partner	ペア	ペア	K-2	Core	classmate you work or talk with
share	分かち合う	わかちあう	K-2	Core	tell your idea to others
voice	声	こえ	K-2	Core	sound used when speaking
loud voice	大きな声	おおきなこえ	K-2	Useful	voice others can hear clearly
quiet voice	小さな声	ちいさなこえ	K-2	Useful	soft voice for partner work
follow directions	指示にしたがう	しじにしたがう	K-2	Core	do what the teacher says to do
presentation	発表	はっぴょう	K-2	Core	talking to the class about work
audience	聞く人	きくひと	K-2	Core	people listening to the speaker
complete thought	まとまった考え	まとまったかんがえ	K-2	Useful	idea that makes sense by itself
describe	説明する	せつめいする	K-2	Core	tell what something is like
ask a question	質問する	しつもんする	K-2	Core	say something to learn more
answer a question	質問に答える	しつもんこたえる	K-2	Core	respond when someone asks
repeat	くり返す	くりかえす	K-2	Useful	say something again
clear voice	はっきりした声	はっきりしたこえ	K-2	Useful	voice that is easy to understand
complete sentence	文の形がそろった文	ぶんのかたちそろったぶん	K-2	Core	sentence said fully when speaking
idea	考え	かんがえ	K-2	Core	thought someone wants to share
detail	詳しいこと	くわしいこと	K-2	Core	extra information that tells more
conversation	会話	かいわ	K-2	Core	talking with another person

raise your hand	手をあげる	てをあげる	K-2	Core	show you want to speak
look at the speaker	話し手を見る	はなしてをみる	K-2	Core	use your eyes to pay attention to who is talking
tell more	もっと話す	もっとはなす	K-2	Useful	add another detail or idea when speaking

Foundational Reading (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
beginning sound	はじめの音	はじめのおと	K-2	Core	first sound in a word
blend	音をつなげる	おとをつなげる	K-2	Core	put sounds together to read a word
consonant	子音	しいん	K-2	Useful	letter that is not a vowel
ending sound	おわりの音	おわりのおと	K-2	Core	last sound in a word
lowercase letter	小文字	こもじ	K-2	Core	small form of a letter
rhyme	韻	いん	K-2	Useful	words with the same ending sound
segment	音を分ける	おとをわける	K-2	Useful	break a word into sounds
sight word	サイトワード	さいとわーど	K-2	Core	word readers learn to know quickly
sound	音	おと	K-2	Core	part you hear in a word
syllable	音節	おんせつ	K-2	Useful	word part with one beat
uppercase letter	大文字	おおもじ	K-2	Core	big form of a letter
vowel	母音	ぼいん	K-2	Useful	a e i o u letters
word family	ことばのなかま	ことばのなかま	K-2	Useful	group of words with the same ending pattern
author	作者	さくしゃ	K-2	Core	person who wrote the book
back cover	裏表紙	うらびょうし	K-2	Useful	back of a book
book title	本の題名	ほんのだいめい	K-2	Core	name of the book
cover	表紙	ひょうし	K-2	Core	front outside part of a book
front cover	表表紙	おもてびょうし	K-2	Core	front of a book
illustrator	絵をかく人	えをかくひと	K-2	Useful	person who made the pictures
letter	文字	もじ	K-2	Core	small mark used in writing
page	ページ	ページ	K-2	Core	one side of paper in a book
read from left to right	左から右へ読む	ひだりからみぎへよむ	K-2	Core	direction English print moves
read from top to bottom	上から下へ読む	うえからしたへよむ	K-2	Useful	direction lines of print move
sentence	文	ぶん	K-2	Core	group of words making a complete thought
space	空白	くうはく	K-2	Core	blank area between words
title	題名	だいめい	K-2	Core	name of a book or story
word	言葉	ことば	K-2	Core	group of letters with meaning

Language and Vocabulary (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
adjective	形容詞	けいようし	K-2	Useful	word that describes
capital letter	大文字	おおもじ	K-2	Core	big letter at the start of a sentence or name
complete sentence	文の形がそろった文	ぶんのかたちがそろったぶん	K-2	Useful	sentence with all needed parts
lowercase letter	小文字	こもじ	K-2	Useful	small form of a letter
noun	名詞	めいし	K-2	Core	name word
period	ピリオド	ぴりおど	K-2	Core	mark at the end of a sentence

punctuation	句読点	くとうてん	K-2	Core	marks used in writing
question mark	疑問符	ぎもんふ	K-2	Core	mark at the end of a question
verb	動詞	どうし	K-2	Core	action word
antonym	反対の意味の言葉	はんたいのいみのことば	K-2	Useful	word with the opposite meaning
context clue	前後の言葉の手がかり	ぜんごのことばのてがかり	K-2	Useful	other words that help with meaning
definition	意味の説明	いみのせつめい	K-2	Useful	explanation of a word
meaning	意味	いみ	K-2	Core	what a word or sentence says
opposite	反対のことば	はんたいのことば	K-2	Core	word with a different meaning
question word	しつものことば	しつものことば	K-2	Useful	word like who what where when why or how
same meaning	似た意味	にたいみ	K-2	Useful	word with a similar meaning
synonym	似た意味の言葉	にたいみのことば	K-2	Useful	word with a similar meaning
vocabulary	言葉	ことば	K-2	Core	words we know and use

Reading Informational Text (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
fact	ほんとうのこと	ほんとうのこと	K-2	Core	something that is true
label	ラベル	らべる	K-2	Core	word that names a picture or part
photo	写真	しゃしん	K-2	Core	picture taken with a camera
ask and answer questions	質問して答える	しつもんしてこたえる	K-2	Core	reading routine for understanding
connect	つなげる	つなげる	K-2	Useful	link ideas from text and life
detail	詳しいこと	くわしいこと	K-2	Core	small piece of information about the topic
explain	説明する	せつめいする	K-2	Core	tell clearly about something learned
main topic	中心の話題	ちゅうしんのわだい	K-2	Core	what the text is mostly about
caption	説明文	せつめいぶん	K-2	Useful	words under a picture
diagram	図	ず	K-2	Useful	picture that explains something
fact	事実	じじつ	K-2	Core	something true in a text
heading	見出し	みだし	K-2	Useful	title for one part of a text
information	情報	じょうほう	K-2	Core	facts a text gives
label	ラベル	らべる	K-2	Core	word naming a picture part
photograph	写真	しゃしん	K-2	Core	real picture in a book
table of contents	目次	もくじ	K-2	Useful	list of book parts and pages

Reading Literature (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
answer	答え	こたえ	K-2	Core	response to a question
compare	比べる	くらべる	K-2	Core	tell how two things are alike
contrast	ちがいをを見つける	ちがいをみつける	K-2	Useful	tell how two things are different
favorite part	好きなところ	すきなところ	K-2	Useful	part a student likes best
feelings	気持ち	きもち	K-2	Core	emotion a character has
lesson	教訓	きょうくん	K-2	Useful	important idea learned from a story
predict	予想する	よそうする	K-2	Core	guess what may happen next
question	質問	しつもん	K-2	Core	something asked about the text
beginning	はじめ	はじめ	K-2	Core	start of a story
character	登場人物	とうじょうじんぶつ	K-2	Core	person or animal in a story
end	おわり	おわり	K-2	Core	last part of a story
event	出来事	できごと	K-2	Core	something that happens in the story
lesson of the story	お話の教え	おはなしのおしえ	K-2	Useful	what a reader can learn from a story
main character	主人公	しゅじんこう	K-2	Core	most important character in the story
middle	まんなか	まんなか	K-2	Core	part after the beginning and before the end
problem	問題	もんだい	K-2	Core	challenge in the story
retell	言い直す	いいなおす	K-2	Core	tell the story again in order
retell the story	お話を話し直す	おはなしをはなしなおす	K-2	Core	tell the story again in order
setting	場面	ばめん	K-2	Core	where and when the story happens
solution	解決	かいけつ	K-2	Core	how the problem is fixed
story	物語	ものがたり	K-2	Core	text that tells what happens

Speaking and Listening (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
follow directions	指示にしたがう	しじにしたがう	K-2	Core	do what the teacher says to do
listen	聞く	きく	K-2	Core	pay attention to a speaker
look at the speaker	話し手を見る	はなしてをみる	K-2	Core	use your eyes to pay attention to who is talking
loud voice	大きな声	おおきなこえ	K-2	Useful	voice others can hear clearly
partner	ペア	ぺあ	K-2	Core	classmate you work or talk with
quiet voice	小さな声	ちいさなこえ	K-2	Useful	soft voice for partner work
raise your hand	手をあげる	てをあげる	K-2	Core	show you want to speak
share	分かち合う	わかちあう	K-2	Core	tell your idea to others
speak	話す	はなす	K-2	Core	say an idea aloud
turn and talk	ペアで話す	ぺあではなす	K-2	Core	brief talk with a partner
voice	声	こえ	K-2	Core	sound used when speaking

answer a question	質問に答える	しつもんにかたえる	K-2	Core	respond when someone asks
ask a question	質問する	しつもんする	K-2	Core	say something to learn more
audience	聞く人	きくひと	K-2	Core	people listening to the speaker
clear voice	はっきりした声	はっきりしたこえ	K-2	Useful	voice that is easy to understand
complete sentence	文の形がそろった文	ぶんのかたがちがそろったぶん	K-2	Core	sentence said fully when speaking
complete thought	まとまった考え	まとまったかんがえ	K-2	Useful	idea that makes sense by itself
conversation	会話	かいわ	K-2	Core	talking with another person
describe	説明する	せつめいする	K-2	Core	tell what something is like
detail	詳しいこと	くわしいこと	K-2	Core	extra information that tells more
idea	考え	かんがえ	K-2	Core	thought someone wants to share
presentation	発表	はっぴょう	K-2	Core	talking to the class about work
repeat	くり返す	くりかえす	K-2	Useful	say something again
tell more	もっと話す	もっとはなす	K-2	Useful	add another detail or idea when speaking

Writing (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
detail sentence	くわしい文	くわしいぶん	K-2	Useful	sentence that gives more information
first	はじめに	はじめに	K-2	Core	word showing the starting order
information writing	せつめいの文	せつめいのぶん	K-2	Useful	writing that teaches facts
last	さいごに	さいごに	K-2	Core	word showing the ending order
make a book	本を作る	ほんをつくる	K-2	Useful	put pages together to share writing
narrative	お話の文	おはなしのぶん	K-2	Useful	writing that tells what happened
next	つぎに	つぎに	K-2	Core	word showing what comes after
opinion	意見	いけん	K-2	Core	what someone thinks
opinion writing	意見の文	いけんのぶん	K-2	Core	writing that tells what the writer thinks
reason	理由	りゆう	K-2	Core	why someone thinks that
sequence	順番	じゅんばん	K-2	Core	order that things happen
true story	ほんとうのお話	ほんとうのおはなし	K-2	Useful	story about something that really happened
draft	下書き	したがり	K-2	Core	first version of writing
draw and write	絵をかいて文を書く	えをかいてぶんをかく	K-2	Core	use a picture and words together to share an idea
drawing	絵	え	K-2	Core	picture used to share an idea
edit	直す	なおす	K-2	Useful	fix mistakes in writing
label a picture	絵に言葉をつける	えにことばをつける	K-2	Core	add words to show what is in a picture

plan	考える	かんがえる	K-2	Useful	think about what to write
publish	清書する	せいしょする	K-2	Useful	make final writing ready to share
revise	書き直す	かきなおす	K-2	Useful	make writing better
topic	話題	わだい	K-2	Core	what writing is about
writing folder	作文フォルダー	さくぶんふおるだー	K-2	Useful	place to keep writing work