

JAPANESE 悟 THE GAME

Thank you for purchasing the Counting Expansion!

Welcome to the Counting Expansion for Japanese: The Game! This expansion is an intermediate-level addition to your game that will allow you to learn the intricacies of counting in Japanese. To use this deck, please set all Number cards off to the side and shuffle the rest into your play deck. You may grab one number during any of your turns to use with the cards from this expansion.

Overview

Counting in Japanese comes off as odd to English speakers because they use something called “counters” when they count objects. The interesting thing about this, though, is that we use counters in English as well without even realizing it! To prove it, we’ll look at an example — when you ask someone for paper (such as printing paper), which of the following do you say?

- Can I have 5 papers?
- Can I have 5 sheets of paper?

I’m willing to bet it’s the second one. I’ve underlined the counter in the sentence: sheets. That’s right, that’s a counter! This same counter exists in Japanese, too, and looks like this: 枚 (*mai*: sheets/layers).

How to Count

This deck contains one of each number from 1-10, as well as the powers of 10 up to 10,000. When you want to build a number larger than 10 (such as 42), you simply put the 四 (*yon*: 4) card before the 十 (*juu*: 10) card and follow that with the 二 (*ni*: 2) card. So, what you end up with is: 四十二 (*yon-juu-ni*: 42). Pretty simple, right? Let’s try a bigger number such as 31,462! We’ll build this number from left to right to make things easier on ourselves.

1. So, first we have to build the 30,000 part. To do this we’ll use the cards 三 (*san*: 3) and 万 (*man*: 10,000), becoming 三万 (*san-man*: 30,000).
2. Next we need to build the 1,000 part. To do this, we simply just need to use the 千 (*sen*: 1,000) card. We now have 三万千 (*san-man-sen*: 31,000).
3. Now we’ll build 400 by using the card 四 (*yon*: 4) and 百 (*hyaku*: 100), which is 四百 (*yon-byaku*: 400). Our full number is now 三万千四百 (*san-man-sen-yon-byaku*: 31,400).
4. And now we’ll build the last part, which is 62. For this, we’ll need 3 cards: 六 (*roku*: 6), 十 (*juu*: 10), and 二 (*ni*: 2). Putting them together we get 六十二 (*roku-juu-ni*: 62).
5. We are now complete! The end result is: 三万千四百六十二 (*san-man-sen-yon-byaku-roku-juu-ni*: 31,462). Did you get that? If not, try doing it with the cards in your hands.

Yon and *shi* both mean four. *Nana* and *shichi* both mean seven. *Ku* and *kyuu* both mean nine. Different counters have their own set pronunciations for each, which you’ll see on the card. We polled Japanese speakers, teachers, editors, native speakers, and those who speak it as a second language and found individuals have their own favored methods of pronouncing four, seven, and nine when they count, so go ahead and pick your favorites.

How to Use Counters

There are a couple of ways to use counters in Japanese. Each of the counter cards in Japanese: The Game (teal-colored with COUNTER at the top) shows how its pronunciation changes with every number in this deck as well as the interrogative counter. To use a counter, you simply place the counter card after the number card. It is important to note that any number + counter combination becomes a noun and can be used in any place that a noun can be used. For example:

Number: 五 (*go*) – 5

Number + Counter: 五枚 (*go mai*) – 5 sheets (of paper)

To use this in a sentence, you place the Number + Counter combo right before the verb of the sentence. As an example, let’s look at how to say “I bought 3 cars.”

Without Counters: 車を買った (*kuruma o katta*) – (I) bought a car.

With Counters: 車を三台買った (*kuruma o san dai katta*) – (I) bought 3 cars.

This also works with sentences that do not have a direct object, such as when you say things like, “There are 5 people.”

Without Counters: 人がいる (*hito ga iru*) – There is (a) person.

With Counters: 人が五人いる (*hito ga go nin iru*) – There are 5 people.

The cards have example sentences so that you get a lot of exposure to how to use the counters; and the particles in the deck contain detailed explanations to make sure you are using counters properly.

People learn different ways, so please go ahead and break out the cards and build these examples (and more from your own imagination) with your hands. The physical performance will teach you through all senses and help solidify these concepts in your mind so they become as native to you as chopping carrots or playing a video game.

Questions, comments, concerns? Since this is an intermediate deck, it can be a bit tricky to fully understand. Please do not hesitate to ask for help on our social media or through email!

Email: help@japanesethegame.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/JapaneseTheGame](https://www.facebook.com/JapaneseTheGame)

Twitter: @JapaneseTheGame

Google+: [google.com/+JapaneseTheGame](https://plus.google.com/+JapaneseTheGame)

NUMBER 1

Z E R O

ZE · RO

ゼロ

zero

The pronunciation "zero" is not native to Japanese. To count with it, just follow it with the possession particle の instead of using a counter, or use ゼロ right before the counter. You may also see the Japanese word 零 (rei), which means zero as well.

Zero doru? Shinjirarenai.
ゼロドル?信じられない。
Zero dollars? I don't believe it.

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NUMBER 1

I C H I

I · CHI
いち

一

one

One is the loneliest number, which is why people buy headsets for their game consoles. It's also a very significant number in Japan, where it's great to be first.

Tanjoubi wa ichigatsu da.
誕生日は一月だ。
My birthday is in January.

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NUMBER 1

N I

NI
に

二

two

Two things are better than one, and the kanji for two is especially easy to memorize since it looks just like the katakana for its pronunciation, "ni" (ニ)!

Nikai ni sunde iru.
二階に住んでいる。
I live on the second floor.

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NUMBER 1

S A N

SA · N
さん

三

three

Third time's the charm! A lot of things happen in threes. In some games you have to fight a boss three times before you beat it. Also, notice that the kanji is 一 and 二 together. Neat, right?

Sanjikan inai ni tsukimasu.
三時間以内に着きます。
I'll arrive within three hours.

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NUMBER 1

Y O N / S H I

YO · N / SHI
よん / し

四

four

Stay away from four. Four is unlucky in Japan because it shares a reading ("shi") with the kanji for death: 死. Don't be surprised if it's absent from room and elevator numbers.

Yonpun dake aru!
四分だけいる!
I only have four minutes!

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NUMBER 1

G O

GO
ご

五

five

A good number for counting. Almost anything with fingers and toes has five on each extremity.

Hon o gosatsu yonda.
本を五冊読んだ。
I read five books.

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NUMBER 1

R
O
K
U

RO-KU
ろく
六
six

Guitars have six strings and most woodwind instruments have at least six primary holes that can be closed to produce music.

Mou roku byou desu ka?
もう六秒ですか?
It's already been six seconds?

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NUMBER 1

N
A
N
A
/
S
H
I
C
H
I

NA-NA / SHI-CHI
なな / しち
七
seven

A very common seasoning in Japan is 七味 (shichi mi), which literally means "seven flavors." If you can find some, try using it — it's a great mixture!

Nana kara kazoete kudasai.
七から数えてください。
Please count from seven.

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NUMBER 1

H
A
C
H
I

HA-CHI
はち
八
eight

Eight is a very important number for life to exist. Why is that? It's the atomic number of oxygen and the number of allotropes of carbon! Both of which are pretty important for life.

Hachi nin ga ita yo!
八人がいたよ!
There were eight people!

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NUMBER 1

K
Y
U
U
/
K
U

KYU-U / KU
きゅう / く
九
nine

Nine is bundled with four as a number that nobody likes. This is because it shares a reading ("ku") with the kanji for pain and suffering: 苦.

Hoteru de kyuu haku tomatta.
ホテルで九泊泊まった。
I stayed nine nights at the hotel.

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NUMBER 1

J
U
U

JU-U
じゅう
十
ten

Ten is a staple of number systems. It's an easy number to multiply by because we use a base-ten system.

Tooka wa kyuu jitsu desu.
十日は休日です。
The 10th is a holiday.

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NUMBER 1

H
Y
A
K
U

HYA-KU
ひゃく
百
one hundred

It's not uncommon for Japanese people to reach the age of 100. It's also a great number for shopping, with all the Hyaku-en Shoppu (100-yen stores) in Japan.

Hyakuen shoppu wa benri da.
百円ショップは便利だ。
100 Yen stores are convenient.

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NUMBER 1

SE-N
せん
千
one thousand

You've probably heard that a picture is worth a thousand words, but did you know that if you folded a thousand origami cranes you can get a wish granted for longevity or recovery from an illness?

Sen mai no kami wo oru? Maji?
千枚の紙を折る？マジ？
Fold 1,000 sheets of paper? Really?

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NUMBER 1

MA-N
まん
万
ten thousand

This kanji is pronounced both Man (まん) and Ban (ばん as in Banzai!). 10,000 is such a big number that it is often used to refer to all or everything, as in Banbutsu (万物, all things). Note that ten thousand is virtually always 一万 (ichi man), not just 万 (man).

Banza!
万歳！
Hurrah!

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COUNTER 1

DA-I
だい
台
machines

This counts machines such as cars, washing machines, and ornithopters. To count with 台 just say the number before 台: ichidai, nidai, sandai, yondai, godai, rokudai, nanadai, hachidai, kyuidai, juudai, hyakudai, sendai, mandai, nandai

Nidai no kuruma o utta.
二台の車を売った。
I sold the two cars.

ANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

NI-N
にん
人
people

This counts personages such as humans, angels, and devils. To count with 人 the first two are irregular, but the rest are normal: hitori, futari, sannin, yonin, gonin, rokunin, nananin, hachinin, kyuinin, juunin, hyakunin, sennin, mannin, nannin

Koko ni wa hyakunin imasu.
ここには百人います。
There are 100 people here.

ANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

HO-N
ほん
本
cylindrical things

This counts long, cylindrical objects such as arms, asparagus, and scrolls. To count with 本: ippon, nihon, sanbon, yonhon, gohon, roppon, nanahon, happon, kyuuhon, jippon, hyappon, senbon, manbon, nanbon

Hashi o happon otta.
箸を八本折った。
I broke eight chopsticks.

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

MA-I
まい
枚
flat objects

This counts flat things such as pizzas, plates, and photographs. To count with 枚: ichimai, nimai, sanmai, yonmai, gomai, rukumai, nanamai, hachimai, kyuumai, juumai, hyakumai, senmai, manmai, nanmai

Kanojo wa sara o gomai nageta.
彼女は皿を五枚投げた。
She threw five plates.

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

K O

KO
こ

個

pieces

This counts small things such as fruit, eggs, and sometimes things with no specific counter. To count with 個: ikko, niko, sanko, yonko, goko, rokko, nanako, hachiko, kyuuko, jukko, hyakko, senko, ichimanko, nanko

Bentou bako o niko kau.
弁当箱を二個買う。
I'll buy two bento boxes.

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

K A I

KA-I
かい

回

occurrences

This counts occurrences such as rotations, times, and chances. To count with 回: ikkai, nikai, sankai, yonkai, gokai, rokkai, nanakai, hachikai, kyuukai, jukkai, hyakkai, senkai, mankai, nankai

Mou ikkai kiite kudasai.
もう一回聞いてください。
Please listen one more time.

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

H I K I

HI-KI
ひき

匹

small animals

This counts animals that are smaller than horses, such as cats, dogs, and even tuna. To count with 匹: ippiki, nihiki, sanbiki, yonhiki, gohiki, roppiki, nanahiki, happiki, kyuuhiki, juppiki, hyappiki, senhiki, manhiki, nanbiki

Koinu o nihiki daite iru.
子犬を二匹抱いている。
I'm holding two puppies.

ANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

K U M I

KU-MI
くみ

組

sets of items

This counts sets of items such as earrings, dish sets, and couples. To count with 組: hitokumi, futagumi, mitsugumi, shikumi, itsukumi, rokukumi, nanakumi, hachikumi, kyuukumi, juukumi, hyakukumi, sengumi, mankumi, nangumi

Toranpu o futakumi youi shite kudasai.
トランプを二組用意してください。
Please prepare two sets of playing cards.

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

S A T S U

SA-TSU
さつ

冊

volumes

This counts volumes such as dictionaries and notebooks. To count with 冊: issatsu, hisatsu, sansatsu, yonsatsu, gosatsu, rokusatsu, nanasatsu, hachisatsu, kyuusatsu, jussatsu, hyakusatsu, sensatsu, mansatsu, nansatsu

Kore ga jissatsu me dayo.
これが十冊目だよ。
This is the tenth (book).

INANIMATE

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COUNTER 1

T S U

TSU

つ

generic things

This is the native counting method of Japan. It counts anything that doesn't have a counter (or that you don't know the counter for). To count with つ: hitotsu, futatsu, mitsu, yottsu, itsutsu, muttsu, nanatsu, yattsu, kokonotsu, too, momo, chi, yorozu

Ringo o muttsu kudasai.
りんごを六つください。
Six apples, please.

INANIMATE

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GODAN VERB 1

T A S U


TA · SU
た
足す
add

This verb is used when adding two things together. Either place it between the two numbers such as "1 足す 2" or use it together with the particle に (ni) and を (o) such as "1 に 2 を足す" to mean "add 2 to 1."

Ni-juu tasu ni-juu-ni wa yon-juu-ni
二十足す二十二は四十二

20 + 22 = 42

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

H I K U


HI · KU
ひ
引く
subtract

This verb is used when subtracting one thing from another. Either place it between the two numbers such as "2 引く 1" or use it together with the particle から (kara) and を (o) such as "2 から 1 を引く" to mean "subtract 1 from 2."

Hachi kara san o hiku to kotae wa nani?
八から三を引くと答えは何?

What is the answer if you subtract three from eight?

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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ICHIDAN VERB 1

K A K E R U

KA · KE · RU
け
掛る
multiple

This verb is used when multiplying two things together. Either place it between the two numbers such as "1 掛ける 2" or use it together with the particle に (ni) and を (o) such as "1 に 2 を掛ける" to mean "multiply 1 by 2."

Go kakeru san wa juu-go
五掛ける三は十五

5 × 3 = 15

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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GODAN VERB 1

W A R U


WA · RU
わ
割る
divide

This verb is used when dividing one thing by another. Either place it between the two numbers such as "1 割る 2" or use it together with the particle を (o) and で (de) such as "1 を 2 で割る" to mean "divide 1 by 2."

Hachi waru ni wa nan desu ka?
八割る二は何ですか?

What is eight divided by two?

を TRANSITIVE PREDICATE 述

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SPECIAL VERB 2


W A

WA
は
equals

This is used in math to represent equals such as "one plus two EQUALS three." This word is placed after the subject of the sentence just like the Topic Marker は, but it makes a predicate at the end of the sentence unnecessary. This は can also be used to say things like 長所は短所 (chousho wa tansho: strong points are weak points), a usage popular in maxims.

Juu kakeru sen wa ichi-man
十掛ける千は一萬
10 × 1,000 = 10,000

PREDICATE 述

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PARTICLE 1


N I

NI
に
application marker

This particle marks the number before it as the number to which a mathematical operation applies.

Yon ni hachi o kakete kudasai.
四に八を掛けてください
Please multiply four by eight.

NOUN (add to/multiply with)

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NO PARTICLE 1

NO
の
possessive marker

NOUN (owner) or COUNTER
NOUN (possession, attribute or object being counted)

This is just a normal possessive marker, but in this deck you learn that one of the attributes it can assign is quantity. Placing it between a counter and an object being counted carries a specific nuance: 二台の車 (ni dai no kuruma) would be "the two cars" as opposed to just "two cars."

Juu-ni no tamago ga haitte iru.
十二の卵が入っている。
There are twelve eggs inside.

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KARA PARTICLE 1

KA-RA
から
from

NOUN (from this noun)

Kara (から) is a marker that represents the origin of something or where something started. In math, this is used for subtraction since you are taking something FROM something else.

Ichi kara hajimeru.
一から始める。
(Let's) start from scratch.

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O PARTICLE 1

O
を
direct object marker

NOUN (being counted)
NUMBER + COUNTER

This represents a general count. Its usage is reversed from that of の. To use this, place the noun to the left and the number + counter to the right. For example, 車を一台 (kuruma o ichi dai) for "one car." This is the same as the direct object marker, so を from any other decks may also be used the same way.

Hon o sanbon kudasai.
本を三本ください。
Please give me three books.

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ME SUFFIX 2

ME
め
目
ordinal suffix

Place this after a counter to indicate position in order. For example, 一台 (ichi dai) means "one machine," whereas 一台目 (ichi dai me) means "the first machine" and 二台目 (ni dai me) means "the second machine."

Sankaime de seikou shita.
三回目で成功した。
He succeeded on the third time.

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KA END PARTICLE 1

KA
か
question marker

Used at the end of your sentence (after a predicate) to turn your sentence into a question. Questions asked in familiar company end with the question marker の (no) instead.

Dai ni shou o yomimashita ka?
第二章を読みましたか?
Did (you) read the second chapter?

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NAN SUFFIX 2

NA-N
なん
何
how many

6

This is an interrogative number, meaning the speaker is asking "how many?" instead of telling how many. Its sentence must use the end particle か (ka). The counters in this deck each contain the interrogative form at the end of the explanation so that you know when the pronunciation changes.

Nan nin ga kita ka?
何人が来たか?
How many people came?

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JAPANESE



THE GAME

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