

Classroom Japanese

When teaching the Japanese lessons, it is a good idea to use some standard Japanese phrases with the children. They don't need to be able to reproduce the sentences, just recognise their meaning and respond accordingly. This helps create a more authentic atmosphere in the classroom. Here is a selection of the most common classroom phrases you may need:



Instructions

tatte kudasai	立ってください	stand up please
suwatte kudasai	座ってください	sit down please
te o agete kudasai	手を上げてください	put your hand up please
shizuka ni (shitekudasai)	静かに (してください)	quieten down please!
kite kudasai	聞いてください	listen please
mite kudasai	見てください	look please
itte kudasai	言ってください	say please
mo ichi do	もう一度	one more time
isshoni	いっしょに	all together

Praise

yoku dekimashita	よくできました	well done
jozu desu ne	上手ですね	very good
subarashi	素晴らしい	wonderful
hai, so desu	はい、そうです	yes, that's right
sugoi desu	すごいです	great
sono tori	その通り	that's right

Questions

nan desu ka	何ですか	what is this/that?
wakarimasu ka	分かりますか	do you understand?

General Names

- A teacher should be referred to as 'surname + sensei', so Mr/s Brown would be 'Brown sensei'.
- It is considered polite to attach the suffix 'san' after people's names (regardless of whether it is the first name or surname), so Nicola would be 'Nicola san'.
- As more affectionate terms, children can attach 'kun' or 'chan' to other children's names. Generally, kun is used for boys and chan for girls, so Matt would be 'Matt kun' and Nadiya would be 'Nadiya chan'.

Note: you would never apply these suffixes when talking about yourself – you can only use them to refer to other people as it shows respect to them.