

Using Japanese Synonyms

Being a successful speaker of a given language involves control of the meaning and use of vocabulary items, taking in their lexical content (what phenomena they refer to), combinatorial behaviour (what items they occur with) and situational characteristics (e.g. as colloquial or formal terms). This essential reference book provides clear information on these aspects for around 300 groups of Japanese near-synonyms, supplemented by a wide range of authentic examples. The result is a clear profile of the meaning and use of each item, highlighting similarities and distinctions among neighbouring terms and expanding learners' lexical range. The book is designed primarily for English-speaking learners, and the selection of groups and items and the overall treatment adopted reflect the author's extensive experience in teaching Japanese to English speakers. Japanese forms and examples appear in both romanization and Japanese orthography, and the bilingual indexes allow readers to locate synonyms quickly and easily.

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Symbols and abbreviations

Adj/adj	adjective
Adv/adv	adverb
N/n	noun
V/v	verb
vintr	intransitive verb
vtr	transitive verb
1, 2-1, 2, 2-3, 3	formality levels, from least to most formal
H	subject-honorific
H<	non-subject-honorific
HR	honorific referent: person towards whom social deference is being communicated
M	typically used by males
P	polite/softer term
PP	term used in extra-formal/hyperpolite style
esp	especially
fig	figuratively
sb	somebody: individual or group
sth	something
usu	usually