

Module 2-2 Long and Short Vowels in Japanese

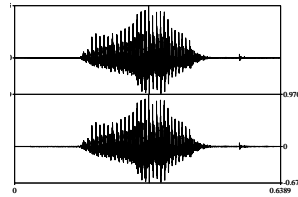
In this module:

- You will listen to and practice distinguishing between long and short vowels.
- You will practice pronouncing words with long and short vowels correctly.

Short vowels receive one mora; long vowels receive two morae. The vowel length (short vs. long) in Japanese changes the meaning of some words, as you can see below.

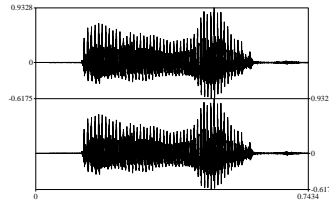
Examples:  2-2-1

1 いえ
 ○○
 (house)



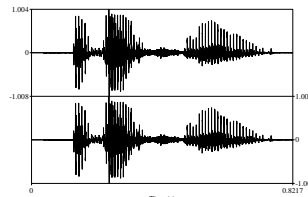
いえ

 いいえ
 ○○○
 (no)



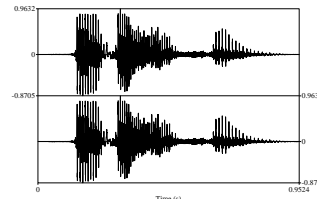
いいえ

2 おばさん
 ○○○○
 (aunt)




おばさん

 おばあさん
 ○○○○○
 (grandmother)





おばあさん

Practice I: Listen to the audio file and repeat the words.  2-2-2

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. おじさん
○○○○
(uncle) | おじいさん
○○○○○
(grandfather) | 2. ビル
○○
(building) | ビール
○○○
(beer) |
| 3. しゅじん
○ ○○
(my husband) | しゅうじん
○ ○○○
(prisoner) | 4. りょこう
○ ○○
(trip) | りょうこう
○ ○○○
(very good) |
| 5. ちず
○○
(map) | チーズ
○○○
(cheese) | 6. こと
○○
(Japanese harp) | コート
○○○
(coat) |
| 7. かれ
○○
(boyfriend/he) | カレー
○○○
(curry) | | |

Practice II: You will hear a set of words (A – B). Then, you will hear either A or B. Choose which one you have heard.

	A →	B →	Choose A or B	Audio
Example:	おばさん	おばあさん	A / B	 2-2-3
1	おじさん	おじいさん	A / B	 2-2-4
2	ビル	ビール	A / B	
3	しゅじん	しゅうじん	A / B	
4	りょこう	りょうこう	A / B	
5	ちず	チーズ	A / B	
6	こと	コート	A / B	
7	かれ	カレー	A / B	

Vocabulary List:

Example: aunt & grandmother

3: my husband & prisoner

6: Japanese harp & coat

1: uncle & grandfather

4: travel & very good

7: he/boyfriend & curry

2: building & beer

5: map & cheese

Practice III: Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words.



1. きょうかしよ

○ ○ ○ ○

(textbook)

2. べんきょう

○ ○ ○ ○

(studying)

3. きょうしつ

○ ○ ○ ○

(classroom)

4. こうえん

○ ○ ○ ○

(park)

5. ちゅうごく

○ ○ ○ ○

(China)

6. がくせい

○ ○ ○ ○

(student)

7. えいが

○ ○ ○

(movie)

8. しゅうまつ


○ ○ ○ ○

(weekend)

9. きょう

○ ○

(today)

Practice IV: Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words and phrase.  2-2-6

1. りょこう

○ ○ ○

(trip)

2. りょうり

○ ○ ○

(cooking)

3. ばんごう

○ ○ ○ ○

(number)

4. どようび

○ ○ ○ ○

(Sunday)

5. りゅうがく

○ ○ ○ ○

(study-abroad)

6. ありがとうございます

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Thank you very much.)

Practice IV: Practice with a Sound Recognition Device (ex. Siri, Google)

1. If you have access to a sound recognition/search device, say words and phrase (1) through (15) below to the device. Were the words and phrase recognized correctly? (Before speaking to the device, you may need to change the input mode into Japanese.)

If the words and phrase have been recognized correctly, the device will display the following words and phrase.

	Say these words	The device will display these		Say these words	The device will display these
1	きょうかしよ	教科書	9	きょう	今日
2	べんきょう	勉強	10	りょこう	旅行
3	きょうしつ	教室	11	りょうり	料理
4	こうえん	公園	12	ばんごう	番号
5	ちゅうごく	中国	13	どようび	土曜日
6	がくせい	学生	14	りゅうがく	留学
7	えいが	映画	15	ありがとうございます	ありがとうございます
8	しゅうまつ	週末		ます	ます

2. If the words and phrase are not recognized correctly, keep trying until they are. Did you figure out any tips for pronouncing the sounds correctly?