



A Dictionary of Japanese Loanwords

Toshie M. Evans

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Recent studies report that Japanese is the second most productive source of new loanwords to English. Such studies indicate that English-speaking countries are paying more attention to Japan than ever before. This dictionary lists and defines hundreds of terms borrowed from Japanese that are now used in English-language publications. Entries provide variant spellings, pronunciation, etymological information, definitions, and illustrative quotations. These quotations were collected from books, newspapers, magazines, novels, texts, advertisements, and databases published or distributed in the United States between 1964 and 1995.

When countries engage in a significant amount of commercial or cultural contact, they frequently borrow words from each other's language. These loanwords are assimilated to varying degrees and show how one country gains exposure to another country's culture. Recent studies report that Japanese is the second most productive source of new loanwords to English, showing that English-speaking countries are paying more attention to Japan than ever before. This dictionary includes entries for hundreds of Japanese terms now used in English-language publications.

Included are terms from art and architecture, medicine and the sciences, business and education, philosophy and religion, and numerous other fields. Entries provide definitions, pronunciations, variant spellings, etymological histories, and illustrative quotations. These quotations were collected from books, newspapers, magazines, novels, texts, advertisements, and databases, all of which were published or distributed in the United States between 1964 and 1995. While the volume is a valuable guide to the meaning and assimilation of particular loanwords, it is also a fascinating chronicle of how certain elements of Japanese culture have strongly influenced American civilization.

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