

## JWL 1: Conversion Rules Review

1) The /r-/ that begins a mora may represent an English /r/ or //, even though this Japanese sound is different from both these English sounds.

Maria [ma ri a] マリア                      Lisa [ri sa] リサ

2) In English, unlike Japanese, many words and syllables end in a consonant. In Japanese with an exception of //n/. When borrowing into Japanese items with a final consonant that is not /n/, the most common procedure is to add /u/, such as /consonant + u/ mora. Therefore, in converting from Japanese back to English, try omitting occurrences of the /u/ vowel that follow consonants at the end of words and syllables.

Tom [to mu] トム                              Ken [ke n] ケン  
Sam [sa mu] サム                             Kenny [ke ni i] ケニー

3) The /t +u/ combination in Japanese regularly has a pronunciation similar to English /tsu/. This is different from English /tu/. So, to represent /t/ at the end of English words or syllables, instead of following the usual /consonant + u/, Japanese usually uses /to/. When converting from Japanese back to English, try dropping the /o/ of the mora /to/ when it occurs at the end of an English word or syllable.

Kate [ke e to] ケイト・ケート

4) Check any occurrences of /-aa/ (and also /-a/ in word-final position) for possible representation of English /ar/ or /er/.

Mark [ma a ku] マーク

5) An /s/ may convert back to English as an /s/ or a /th/ as in “thank”.

Thank [sa n ku] サンク サンキュ

6) The /s/ in the mora /si/ may represent English /s/ or /sh/ or, as previously pointed out, /th/.

Sheena [si I na] シーナ                      Cecelia [si si ri a] シシリア・セシリア  
Nancy [na n si i] ナンシー                      Ruthie [ru u si i] ルーシー

7) When converting a Japanese initial /ee/ or /ie/, try /ye/ as the foreign equivalent.

Yale [i e e ru] イェール

## JWL 2: Conversion Rules Review

8) In converting the mora /hu/, try both /hu/ and /fu/ as possible foreign equivalents. Note /フー/fu u/ ‘who?’ and /フレー/fu re e/ ‘hooray’ as well as place-names and given-names.

France [f/hu ra n su] フランス      Frank [f/hu ra n ku] フランク  
Africa [a fu ri ka] アフリカ      Francis [f/hu ra n si su] フランシス

9) A long /-oo/ vowel followed by a mora beginning with a consonant may convert to an /or/ in English. In word-final position, Japanese /-oa/ may also convert to /or/.

North America [no o su a me ri ka] ノース アメリカ  
Eleanor [e re no a] エレノア

10) The consonant /z/ in Japanese may represent the /th/ of ‘this’ in English as well as the /z/ of ‘zone’. In addition, the mora /zi/ may serve as the conversion of English /zee/, /jee/, /dee/, and, occasionally, of the /si/ of ‘Asia’. In word- or syllable-final position, /ジ/ may represent English /j/.

Kansas [ka n za su]      カンザス      Asia [a z/ji a] アジア  
Jim [z/ji mu] ジム      Missouri [mi zu u ri] ミズーリ  
Heather [he za a] ヘザー      Jean [z/ji i n] ジーン

11) When converting a sequence that contains /do/ back to English, try omitting the /o/.

Sydney [si do ni i] シドニー      Ireland [a i ru ra n do] アイルランド  
Long Island [ro n gu a i ra n do] ロングアイランド  
Edward [e do wa a do] エドワード

12) When converting a Japanese sequence that contains a mora beginning with /b/ back to its original English, try /v/ as well as /b/.

Vietnam [be to na mu] ベトナム      Las Vegas [ra su be ga su] ラスベガス  
Eve [i bu] イブ      Oliver [o rib a a] オリバー

### JWL 3: Conversion Rules Review

13) For converting an occurrence of /ti/chi チ/ back to English, try both /tee/ and /chee/ and word- and syllable-final /ch/ as possibilities.

Haiti [ha i chi/ti] ハイチ                      Karachi [ka ra chi/ti] カラチ  
Vatican [ba chi/ti ka n] バチカン

14) Occurrences of both /kus-/ and /kis-/ may represent conversions of English /x/.

Nixon [ni ku so n] ニクソン                      Texas [te ki sa su] テキサス  
Mexico [me ki si ko] メキシコ

15) An occurrence of /tu ツ/ in Japanese may represent English /tsu/ or, more commonly, /tu/. Remember! The /u/ vowel, regularly added when borrowing English consonants that end syllables or words or are followed by consonants other than /n/, is usually replaced by the /o/ vowel when the consonant is /t/ because of the special value of /tu/.

Tour [tsu a a] ツアー                      Germany (Deutsh) [do i tsu] ドイツ

16) With /ッ/ representing the lengthening of a following consonant (or the double consonants), the combination /-ッフ/-hhu/ is used as a conversion of English long /f/, and /-ahha/-ッハ/, /-ihhi/-ッヒ/, /-ehhe/-ッヘ/, and /-ohho/-ッホ/ approximate the kind of final sounds that occur in German /ach/, /ich/, /ech/, and /och/.

Gogh [gohho] ゴッホ                      Bach [bahha] バッハ  
Heinrich [hainrihhi] ハインリッヒ

17) Both /ka カ/ and /kya キヤ/ are conversions for English /ca/ or /ka/, and /ga ガ/ and /gya ギヤ/ for English /ga/. The existence of these /consonant + y + vowel/ mora in Japanese means that conversion from English can distinguish between the initial sounds of pairs like

‘socks’ [sokkusu] (ソックス) and ‘shocks’ [shokkusu] (ショックス).

When the vowel of the /consonant + y + vowel/ is lengthened, the symbol indicating length is written in line with the symbols of regular size.

New [nyuu] ニュー

The /consonant + y + vowel/ mora may be immediately preceded or followed by /ッ/, indicating consonant lengthening (or the double consonants).

Mushroom [massyuruumu] マッシュルーム  
Shopping bag [syoppingu baggu] ショッピング バッグ