



# Learn Japanese Pod with Ami and Alex

## Podcast 40: Daily Japanese Onomatopoeia

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In this lesson you will learn the following:

- ✓ Useful Japanese onomatopoeia which are words that resemble sounds
  - ✓ How to use Japanese onomatopoeia in naturally daily conversation
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## Introduction

In this lesson you will learn all about Japanese onomatopoeia which are words that resemble sounds. Some examples in English are splash, bang, zap and beep and you will learn how similar words are used in daily Japanese conversation. Check out the dialogue and grammar notes below.

## How to study

This lesson includes the main podcast lesson, PDF show notes and an extra audio drill. You can find all of these resources by going to <https://learnjapanesepod.com> and clicking on the title for this lesson.

In the main podcast lesson Ami Sensei and Alex demonstrate the main dialogue, briefly explain the grammar and talk about other Japan related topics.

Then you can use these show notes to read through and study in more depth. We include grammar and vocabulary explanations to better understand the main lesson dialogue.

Finally, you can use the Japanese dialogue only audio file to practice your listening. You can listen to the audio, phrase by phrase, and then repeat afterwards to practice your speaking and listening skills.

To access the audio podcast for this lesson go to <https://learnjapanesepod.com> and navigate to this lesson.



## Main Dialog 1 - Daily Japanese Onomatopoeia (Japanese)

A: ね、外見て、雨がザーザー降っているよ。

B: 雷もゴロゴロ鳴ってる。ハラハラする。

A: え？どうしたの？大丈夫？

B: 天気が悪くなると頭がクラクラするんだ。

A: ちょっと休んだら？

B: うん、そうする。

## Main Dialog 1 - Daily Japanese Onomatopoeia (Pronunciation)

A: Ne, soto mite, ame ga zaa zaa futteru yo.

B: Kaminari mo gorogoro natteru. Hara hara suru.

A: E? Dōshita no. Daijōbu?

B: Tenki ga waruku naru to atama ga kurakura surun da.

A: Chotto yasundara?

B: Un, sō suru.

## Main Dialog 1 - Daily Japanese Onomatopoeia (English)

A: Hey, look outside, it's raining really hard.

B: The thunder is rumbling too. I feel kinda nervous.

A: Eh? What's the matter? Are you OK?

B: When the weather turns bad my head gets dizzy.

A: Why don't you have a rest?

B: Yup, I'll do that.



## Japanese Onomatopoeia

In this lesson we are studying Japanese onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia are words that resemble sounds such as splash, bang and beep. Japanese also has onomatopoeia and they are called 擬音語 *Giongo*.

There is a huge number of Japanese *giongo* and they are frequently used in casual daily conversation. Therefore they are worth learning as they will improve your comprehension and make you sound more natural when speaking.

However, because there are so many *giongo*, it would be impossible to teach them all in a single lesson. Also, students of Japanese sometimes feel overwhelmed by the sheer number of them. However, if you get regular listening and speaking practice in Japanese, you can eventually start to pick them up naturally.

You'll notice a common pattern with most *giongo* which is a pair of repeating sounds as below (although there are exceptions):

コロコロ	Korokoro	The sound of something rolling
ドキドキ	Dokidoki	Excitement (from the sound of a beating heart)

Another thing you might notice is that some *giongo* are written in Katakana and others Hiragana. There aren't any strict rules on this but generally speaking, Hiragana is used for softer sounds and Katakana for harder sounds.

Also, although it's not strictly necessary to learn the following grammar rules, *giongo* are divided up into five different types.



Here are the five types and examples:

### 1. 擬音語 *Giongo*

These are words that resemble sounds made by inanimate objects and nature as mentioned before.

ゴロゴロ - Gorogoro - Rumbling (thunder)

コロコロ - Korokoro - Sound of rolling

ガタガタ - Gatagata - Rattling

ガチャ - Gacha - Sound of a door closing or similar sound

### 2. 擬態語 *Gitaigo*

These describe conditions and states of things.

クラクラ - Kurakura - Feeling dizzy

すべすべ - Subesube - Smooth to the touch

フワフワ - Fuwafuwa - Fluffy

もちもち - Mochimochi - Chewy, sticky, squidgy

### 3. 擬声語 *Giseigo*

These are animal and human sounds.

ワンワン - Wanwan - Woof

ニャン - Nyan - Meow

コケコッコ - Kokekokko - Cock-a-doodle-doo

ゲロゲロ - Gerogero - Croak (frog)

ガオー - Gaoo - Roar (lion, tiger etc.)

### 4. 擬容語 *Giyōgo*

These describe movements and motions.

ノロノロ - Noronoro - Move very slowly

ぐっすり - Gussuri - Sleep soundly

ブルブル - Buruburu - To shiver



## 5. 擬情語 *Gijōgo*

These describe feelings and emotions.

ウキウキ - Ukiuki - Excitement

ワクワク - Wakuwaku - Excitement

もやもや - Moyamoya - To feel uneasy or gloomy

### Random phrase of the week

出た！ **Deta!**

Most students of Japanese will immediately recognize 出た *deta* as the verb which means to leave, exit or go out of something. However, there is deeper meaning.

*Deta* can be used as a negative criticism or a tease in response to something someone says repeatedly. In this scenario it means something like “oh here we go again” or “Oh no, not that again” or “Again?”.

So if someone starts talking about their favorite conspiracy theory again you can say:

出た！

Or your uncle starts talking about his health problems for the 100th time:

出た！

Or your mum starts bugging you to do the chores yet again:

出た！

Of course this isn't very polite so only use this with your friends and family members.



Hi, this is Alex, the creator of Learn Japanese Pod. Thanks for downloading these show notes, I hope you find them useful. If you need any help with your Japanese or have any questions or comments please drop me a line at [info@learnjapanesepod.com](mailto:info@learnjapanesepod.com)

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Enjoy!

Alex