

TEA PHRASES AND VOCABULARY

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Chanoyu = Tea ceremony (literally “hot water for tea”)
Chado or Sado = Tea ceremony (literally, “the way of tea” - the difference in spelling and pronunciation reflects regional variations)

Ryakubon = tray-style method of preparing tea
Temaie = An individual tea ceremony (can be combined with the name of the ceremony, as in “ryakubon temaie” or “bon temaie”)

Matcha = powdered green tea used in chanoyu (tea ceremony)
Usucha = thin tea
Koicha = thick tea

Fukusa = cloth to wipe utensils
Sensu = fan
Kaishi = papers used to eat sweets
Natsume = tea container (literally “jujube”)
Chashaku = tea scoop
Chawan = tea bowl
Chakin = loose-woven white cloth used to wipe chawan
Chasen = tea whisk
Kensui = waste water container
Bon = tray (can be either tray used to carry utensils or tray used to serve sweets)
O-kashi = tea sweets
Jiku = scroll
Hana = flowers
Hanaire = flower container (vase)
Benibachi or Binkake = brazier used to hold fire for tea
Tetsubin = water kettle

Teishu = host
Kyaku = guest (first guest = shokyaku)

Aisatsu = greetings (exchanged between host and guest or between students and teacher)

Haiken = Formal examination of utensils

Chashitsu = tea room

Tokonoma = alcove in tea room that holds scroll and flowers

Ro = sunken hearth (also used to refer to winter season, when the ro is used)

Nijiriguchi = kneeling (sliding-in) entrance

Mizuya = kitchen/preparation area

Tatami = woven grass mats used on floor (traditional Japanese flooring)

Shoji = Paper sliding doors (wooden frame covered with translucent rice paper that lets the light through)

Fusuma = Sliding doors covered with heavy opaque paper, sometimes decorated with paintings

Amado = Wooden sliding doors protecting a room from the outside.

Sen no Rikyu = Founder of most modern tea lineages

Urasenke = One of the Sen family schools of tea ceremony (the one you are currently studying!)

Omotesenke = Another Sen family school of tea ceremony (this and Urasenke are the two largest schools and the most commonly encountered here in the U.S.)

Ojigi = bow

Shin = most formal bow (hands completely on the floor; used between host and guest)

Gyo = semi-formal bow (fingers on floor, heel of palm off the floor; used between guests)

So = least formal bow (fingertips only touch the floor; used only by host when space does not permit a more formal bow)

Greetings at lessons

At beginning:

Host to teacher: "Sensei, o-keiko onegai itashimasu" or "o-keiko yoroshiku onegai itashimasu" ("Teacher, may I have a lesson?")

Students to teacher: "Sensei, kyaku no o-keiko onegai itashimasu." ("May I have a guest lesson?")

Host to other students who are acting as guests: "O-kyaku-sama onegai itashimasu." (Please be my guests.)

Students to each other: "Yoroshiku onegai itashimasu" or (short form) "Onegai itashimasu." ("Let's work together.")

At end:

Host to teacher: "Sensei, o-keiko arigato gozaimashita" (Teacher, thank you for the lesson.)

Students to teacher: "Sensei, kyaku no o-keiko arigato gozaimashita." ("Teacher, thank you for the guest lesson.")

Host to other students: "O-kyaku-sama arigato gozaimashita." ("Thank you for being my guests.")

Students to each other: "Arigato gozaimashita." (Thank you!)

Guest phrases:

Before eating sweets or drinking tea, bow to the guest to your left and say, "osaki ni" ("Excuse me for going before you.")

Before drinking tea only, bow to the guest to your right and say "o-shoban itashimasu" ("Thank you for letting me join you.")

Also before drinking tea, bow to the host and say "o-temae chodai itashimasu" ("Thank you very much for preparing the tea.")

(When drinking, the order in which you thank people is always: person to your right, person to your left, host.)

First guest only -- asking host to finish: "oshimai kudasai" or "dozo oshimai-o" (Both translate, "Please finish.")

Host phrases:

Greeting guests at beginning (optional): "Ippuku sashi agemasu" ("Allow me to make a little tea for you.")

Asking guests to eat sweets: "Dozo o-kashi-o" ("Please have a sweet.")

Accepting first guest's invitation to finish: "Oshimai itashimasu" ("I will finish.")

Leaving the room at the end: "Shitsurei itashimashita" ("Excuse me.")