

# Japanese Kanazukai

Written by Morris Alper

Below is a chart of Japanese words, written using the historical and modern systems. Use these to answer the questions below, making sure to show your work.

<b>Kyuukanazukai</b>	<b>Shinkanazukai</b>	<b>English</b>
Kefu	Kyou	Today
Kiuri	Kyuuri	Cucumber
Deseu	Deshou	Probably is
Arigatau	Arigatou	Thank you
Wobasan	Obasan	Aunt
Wefu	You	To get seasick/drunk
Kaha	Kawa	River
Jifuji	Juuji	10 o'clock
Te	Te	Hand
Kwashi	Kashi	Sweets
Kaheru	Kaeru	To return
Takubokuteu	Takubokuchou	Woodpecker
Warahau	Waraou	“Let's laugh”
Ahimasu	Aimasu	To meet
Wiru	Iru	Is/exists

**Assignment 1:** Fill in the table below.

<b>Kyuukanazukai</b>	<b>Shinkanazukai</b>	<b>English</b>
Keushitsu		Classroom
Wotoko		Male
Tefu		Butterfly
Tafutoi		Exalted
Toukyau		Tokyo

**Assignment 2:** What sound changes have occurred since the Heian period? Which can you place in chronological order? (Try to answer using as few and as simple steps as possible.)

**NB:**

Kanazukai refers to any system for spelling the Japanese language using kana, the native syllabic scripts. Kyuukanazukai was the system used before World War II, which reflected the pronunciation of the Heian period (794-1185). After the war, Japan adopted the Shinkanazukai system, which was designed to reflect modern pronunciation. (This problem uses a variation of Hepburn romanization.)