

# Housing



When renting housing, the usual procedure is to go through a real estate agent. In order to smooth the process, it is also a good idea to bring along a Japanese acquaintance to help you.

When you find a suitable house or apartment, the landlord will draw up a contract. Japan has special additional fees like key money and rental deposits, so be sure you read and fully understand the contract.

## Housing Terminology

Apa-to/Manshon アパート・マンション	A building with multiple tenants. The style and size may vary, but there is no clear distinction between the terms.
Jou, Tatami じょう 畳	Jou (畳) is one way of expressing a room's dimensions. Ichi-jou (1 じょう 畳) means one tatami mat, which is 90cm X 180cm
L/K/DK	L means living room, K means kitchen, and DK means a large combined kitchen and dining room. A "2LDK" means a residence with a large kitchen-dining area, a living room, and 2 additional rooms.
Yachin やちん 家賃	One month's rent. In some cases, even when moving to an apartment in the middle of the month, tenants may have to pay a full month's rent.
Shikikin しききん 敷金	Collateral deposit paid to the landlord upon renting an apartment or house, normally equal to one or two months' rent. It is usually repaid to the tenant when the tenant moves out, but in cases where the tenant has neglected rental payments or left the apartment in poor condition, the deposit will be taken as rent or used for maintenance fees.
Reikin れいきん 礼金	One-time payment to the landlord when moving in. This money will not be returned, even upon ending an apartment contract.
Chuukairyou ちゅうかいりょう 仲介料	Fees paid to a real estate agency. Fees usually amount to one month's rent.
Kanrihi かんりひ 管理費	Fees paid for the apartment's administrative costs. This fee is usually levied with the rent every month. They payment may or may not be separate from the rental sum.
Kaiyaku かいやく 解約	End of rental contract. See your contract to see when it ends. Please notify your landlord in advance according to the details of the contract if you wish to continue or discontinue your residency.