

# U.S.A. KOBUDO CLUB

## Japanese Phrases & Terminology

### PART I: PHRASES USED DURING TRAINING

**Arigato gozaimashita** (“thank you”; past tense) *This term is used more frequently, for example to say “thank you for training with me” to your training partner or “thank you for teaching me” to your teacher in the closing ceremony.*

**Arigato gozaimasu** (“thank you”; present or future tense)

**Chihayafuru kami no oshie wa tokoshieni tadashiki kokoro mio mamoruran** (“To those who have a pure heart, the gods will grant a happy life”) *This is a special phrase, which helps to make contact with higher powers.*

**Domo arigato** (“thanks a lot”; less formal)

**Domo arigato gozaimashita** (“thank you very much”; past tense, very formal)

**Ei, Ya, To Shouts** (ki-ai) *to focus energy (ki). “ei” and “ya” are usually used when attacking. “to” is normally used when defending or receiving, for example when blocking. The kiai should come from your hara, not your chest, and is made by constricting your lower stomach muscles quickly to expel air.*

**Hai** (“yes”)

**Hai Senpai** (“yes, senior student”) *Senpai is the name used for senior students.*

**Hai Sensei** (“yes, teacher”)

**Hai Shihan** (“yes master”) *Shihan is a title awarded to very high-ranking individuals who have passed a specific test.*

**Hai wakarimashita** (“yes, I understand”)

**Hai yoku wakarimashita** (“yes, I understand it well”)

**Hajime** (“start/begin”)

**lie wakarimasen** (“no, I don’t understand”)

**lie yoku wakarimasen** (“no, I really don’t understand”)

**Kamae** (“take your stance”)

**Kamaete** (“take your stance”; polite form)

**Kon banwa** (“good night”) *This term is said to other students when leaving the dojo at night.*

**Kon nichiya** (“good evening”) *This term is said to other students when entering the dojo in the evening.*

**Mate** (“wait”)

**Mokuso** (“meditate”) *This is the order to start meditating/internal concentration. It said in the opening ceremony.*

**Mokuso yame** (“stop meditating”) *This is the order to stop meditating. It said in the closing ceremony.*

**Mouichido** (“do it again”)

**Mouichido onegai shimasu Sensei** (“once more please, teacher”) *For example, if you wanted to see a technique once more, you could say this.*

**Ohayo gozaimasu** (“Good morning”) *This term is said to other students when entering the dojo in the morning.*

**Onegai shimasu** (“please teach me”) *This term is said in the opening ceremony while bowing to the teacher. Also said to your training partner each time you wish to practice together.*

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**Ote yawarakani** (“be gentle with my hands”) *Used in some ryu-ha bows. This is a martial artists’ phrase used when preparing for a fight.*

**Shikin haramitsu daikoumyo** (“powerful light of wisdom”) *These are the best words with which to contact the spirit world.*

**Shisei o tadashite sensei ni rei** (“present yourselves to the teacher bow”) *This phrase is said in the opening ceremony by the senior student. When it is said, all students should make sure they are sitting up straight and alert in front of the teacher. Then when rei is called, bow by putting your left hand on the ground first, followed by your right hand, so that your index finger and thumb touch and form a triangle. Bow your head towards this triangle, keeping your back straight.*

**Shitsurei shimasu** (“excuse me”; apology for doing a rude thing) *For example, if you stepped on someone’s toes, you would say this.*

**Sougo ni rei** (“bow to the class”) *This is a bow to show your respect to the other students.*

**Suimasen** (“excuse me”) *This term is usually said in casual circles or by young people.*

**Sumimasen** (“excuse me”) *This term is used to ask a question. For example, “Sumimasen, could you show me this technique?”*

**Wakarimasen** (“I don’t understand”)

**Wakarimashita** (“I understand”)

**Yame** (“stop”)

**Yo-I** (“get ready”)

**Yoshi** (“let’s go!”) *This term is used in some ryu-ha bows.*

## PART II: COUNTING TERMS

<b>Ichi</b>	#1	<b>Roku</b>	#6
<b>Ni</b>	#2	<b>Shichi</b>	#7
<b>San</b>	#3	<b>Hachi</b>	#8
<b>Shi</b>	#4	<b>Ku</b>	#9
<b>Go</b>	#5	<b>Ju</b>	#10

## PART III: DIRECTIONAL TERMS

**Hidari** (“left”)

**Hidari Mae** (“left front”)

**Hidari Ushiro** (“left back”)

**Mae** (“front”)

**Migi** (“right”)

**Migi Mae** (“right front”)

**Migi Ushiro** (“right back”)

**Ryoho** (“both ways”)

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**Sayu** (“alternating left and right”)

**Ushiro** (“back/behind”)

**Yoko** (“side”)

**Zengo** (“alternating front and back”)

**Zengo Sayu** (“alternating front and back, left and right”)

### **PART IV: MARTIAL TERMS**

**Bu-do** (“martial way”)

**Bu-do-ka** (“martial-way-person”) *Martial artist.*

**Bu-gei** (martial-styles)

**Bujin** (“martial-person”) *Martial Artist.*

**Bu-jutsu** (“martial-art/-techniques”)

**Chu** (“middle”)

**Chu-dan** (“mid-level”)

**Chu-den Menkyo** (“intermediate-level-teaching license”) *An intermediate-level mastership license.*

**Chugoku Kenpo** (Chinese martial arts)

**Den-sho** (“written-teaching/transmission”)

**Ge-dan** (“low-level”)

**Gendai Budo** (modern martial-way) *Modern martial art systems.*

**Hakkesho** (Ba Gua of Chinese martial arts)

**Henka** (“variation”)

**I-ai** (draw cut)

**Jodan** (high-level)

**Kamae** (“stance/posture”)

**Kihon** (“basic”)

**Ko-ryu** (“old/traditional school”)

**Koryu Bujutsu** (classical martial art systems)

**Koryu Karate** (“old-school China-hand”)

**Ku-den** (“oral-teaching/transmission”)

**Ninniku Seishin** (“Spirit of Ninja/Ninpo martial artist”) *A special poem from the Amatsu Tatara tradition.*

**Oku** (“secret/inner”)

**Okuden** (“secret/inner teachings”)

**Okuden Menkyo** (“upper-level-teaching license”) *A high-level mastership license.*

**Shoden Menkyo** (“beginning-level-teaching license”) *A beginner-level mastership license.*

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### PART V: MARTIAL ART NAMES

**Bi-ken-jutsu** (“secret-sword-art”)

**Bo-jutsu** (“staff-art”)

**Daken-taijutsu** (“striking-art”)

**Goshin-jutsu** (“preserve-body-art”) The Art of Self-Preservation is street self-defense.

**Han-bo-jutsu** (“half-staff-art”)

**Jo-jutsu** (four-[foot]-staff-art)

**Ju-jutsu** (“gentle-/supple-art”)

**Jutte-jutsu** (“jutte art”) *Jutte is a short truncheon with a hook protruding from just past the handle.*

**Ken-jutsu** (“sword art”)

**Koppo-jutsu** (“bone art”)

**Kos-shi-jutsu** (“finger-bone-art”)

**Naginata-jutsu** (“naginata-art”)

**Nin-jutsu** (“ninja-/shinobi-art”)

**Nin-po** (way of ninjutsu)

**Rokushaku-bo-jutsu** (“six-[foot]-staff-art”)

**-Ryu/-Ryu-ha** (traditional school) Appended to the name of a school, such as “Takagi Yoshin Ryu.”

**Sanjaku-bo-jutsu** (“three-[foot]-staff-art”)

**Shuriken-jutsu** (projectile art)

**So-jutsu** (“spear-art”)

**Tai-hen-jutsu** (“body-movement-art”)

**Yawara** (“Ju-jutsu”)

### PART VI: MARTIAL TOOLS

**Bok-ken** (“wood-sword”)

**Dai-to** (“long-sword”)

**Han-bo** (“half-staff”)

**Kusari-gama** (sickle & chain)

**Naginata** (halberd)

**Roku-shaku-bo** (“six-[foot]-staff”)

**Sanjaku-bo** (“three-[foot]-staff”)

**Sho-to** (“short-sword”)

**Shuri-ken** (hand thrown blade)

**Tan-to** (knife)

**Yari** (“spear”)

**Yumi** (“bow”)