

## **Janglish for architects**

*How could you say or explain these things to British or American people?*

2LDK

air con

alumi

apaato/ apart

B2

baby bed

bed town

centi

cooler

culture centre

dump car

dust box

dining kitchen

flooring

(hotel) front

game centre

Hello Work

interphone

live house

living kitchen

log house

model house/ model room

one room mansion

roof balcony

(alumi) sasshu

sharp pen

show window

system kitchen

unit bath

washlet

*What are the differences in meaning between Japanese and British or American English?*

apart  
blinds  
building  
bungalow  
consent  
driveway  
flooring  
gondola  
ground  
kilo  
knob  
lift  
living  
mansion  
reform  
skyline  
stove  
tenant  
terrace  
veranda

## Japlish answer key for teachers

air con (ea kon, short for air conditioner) – a machine that both cools and heats air, so different from a “cooler”  
alumi (arumi) – short for aluminium  
apart (apaato, short for apartment) – wooden two story block of flats, as opposed to a “mansion”  
baby bed (beibi beddo) – cot  
barracks (barakku) – decrepit buildings  
bed town (beddo taun) – commuter town  
blind (buraindo) – shutters  
buil (biru – short for building) – office building (not buildings more generally, which is tatemono)  
bungalow (bangaroo) – cabin  
centi (senchi) – short for centimetre  
cloak (kurooku) – cloakroom, not a cape  
cock (kokku) – tap for water or gas  
concour (konkooru- from French) – competition  
consent (konsento) – electric socket, never used with the meaning of giving consent  
cooler (kuura) – an air conditioner that only cools the air and doesn’t heat, so different from “air con”  
corner (koona) – section of shop or magazine, as in “cash corner” (place with ATMs)  
culture centre (karucha sentaa) – cultural centre, e.g. local place for adult education  
depart (depaato) – short for department store, and the full expression is never used. Not used for departments of a company.  
dining kitchen (dainingu kitchin) – a combined kitchen and dining room (usually a sign of a small flat rather than of modern open plan design)  
driveway (doraibuuei) – highway/ speedway  
dump car (dampu kaa) – dump truck  
dust box (dasuto bokkusu) – trash can/ bin  
echo (eko) – the acoustics of a space  
flooring (furooringu) – wooden flooring  
foundation (faundeishon) – make up only, not building etc.  
front (furonto) –hotel reception/ front desk  
game centre (geimu sentaa) – amusement arcade/ video arcade  
gird (gaado) – girder bridge  
gom (gomu, from Dutch) – rubber and rubber band  
health centre (herusu sentaa) – recreation centre, rather than a clinic  
Hello Work (hero waaku) – the official and most commonly used name for government job centres  
interphone (intaahon) – intercom  
kilo (kiiro) – short for both kilometre and kilogramme  
kiosk (kiyosuku) – kiosk/ station shop (i.e. also something you can walk into)  
knob (nobu) – any kind of door handle, not just a circular one  
konbinat (konbinaato – from Russian) – industrial complex  
kraan (karan – from Dutch) – tap

lift (rifuto) – only for cargo, giving elevator (for passengers) and lift two different meanings in Japanese  
live house (raibu hausu) – a kind of live music venue  
living (ribingu) – short for living room  
living kitchen (ribingu kitchin) – open plan living room/ kitchen  
log house (rogu hausu) – log cabin  
mansion – a slightly higher class of concrete apartment block, so not a large house  
milli (miri) – short for both millimetre and milligrams  
office buil (ofisu biru) – office building, often shortened to ‘biru’, as this only refers to office buildings in Japanese (the Japanese word tatemono being more general)  
one room mansion (wan ruumu manshon) – studio apartment (manshon being an apartment building)  
pension (penshon) – a Western-style minshuku, meaning basically a B&B  
reception (resepushon) – formal dinner, not desk you see when you enter (that’s “uketsuke” for offices and “front” for hotels)  
reform  
reform (rifoomu) – alteration or repair, e.g. of building or clothes  
renewal (rinyuuaru) – store renovations  
ropeway – cable car (in Japanese “cable car” is only used for one that runs on rails)  
scramble (sukuaramburu) – a crossing where pedestrians can cross from all sides of a crossroads at the same time, like the famous one outside Shibuya station  
sharp pen (shaa pen, short for sharp pencil) – mechanical pencil/ automatic pencil  
skate rink (sukeeto rinku) – skating rink  
skyline (sukairain) – scenic mountain highway  
sofa (sofaa) – sofa and armchair  
stove (sutoobu) – (gas, oil or electric) heater/ fire, so not connected to cooking  
suite room (suite rummu) – a hotel suite  
super (suupa) – short for supermarket (the longer form exists but is rarely used)  
tenant (tenant) – for rent (often seen on signs in windows)  
terrace (terasu) – terrace/ balcony, i.e. often smaller than a terrace would be in English  
toile (toire) – toilet (note the missing t sound)  
trailer house (toreeraa hausu) – trailer/ mobile home  
trunk room (toranku ruumu) – storage room, e.g. a place where you pay to put things into storage  
unit bath (yunitto basu) – modular bathroom/ prefabricated all in one bathroom  
veranda (beranda) – usually more like a balcony  
washlet (uoshuretto, from wash + toilet) – combined toilet and bidet