

Japanese architectural terms

Choose one of the words below and explain what it is until your partner guesses which one you are talking about. See if your partner can improve your explanation, then take turns doing the same.

Tatami	Tokonoma
Washlette	Shouji
Fusuma	Byoubu
Chabudai	Unit bath
Oshiire	Futon
Kotatsu	Getabako
Zabuton	Tansu
Kamidana	Butsudan
Amado	Torii
Shichirin	Ikebana
Genkan	Washitsu
Youshitsu	Jou (size of room)
Doma	
Kura	Machiya
Nagaya	Minka
Sentou	Apato
Manshon	Yashiki
Ryokan/	Minshuku
Honkan – Bekkan	Koban
Kenpeiritsu	Reikin
Hoshounin	

Useful language for describing Japanese architecture

- Made of bamboo/ reeds/ straw/ earth/ pottery
- Used to../ for...
- Similar to../ Like...
- You slide/ fold/ store it.
- Square/ rectangle/ triangle/ oval/ circle
- Big/ little/ medium-sized
- Traditional/ New/ Modern/ Old-fashioned

When your teacher stops you, share a good explanation you came up with together and see if the class can improve on it.

Ask about anything you don't know, can't explain, etc, working together as a class to explain those things.