

Aikido Glossary

Or, in Japanese: 合気道の語彙 (あいきどうのごい - Aikidō no goi): 語彙 (ごい, goi) = vocabulary, glossary.

Some Aikidō, 合気道, terms, with *kanji*, 漢字, (Chinese character, as used in Japanese language) and short explanation..

Introduction	Pronunciation	Jim Breen's WWWJDIC
Counting	General Terms	Directions
Stance		

A few words of introduction

There are many similar pages on the net, this is for me, especially for having the 漢字 and the reading in the same page!

I will include the *romanji* (the reading in our alphabet), the *kanji* version (Chinese characters) and the *kana* version, ie. the phonetic Japanese alphabet, using *hiragana*, ひらがな, for this.

And, yeah, a small description! 😊

When writing the meaning of a *kanji* I will refer to one of the best and my favourite Japanese-English web pages (opening in a new window):



..and to my [kanji](#) books..

[Top](#)

Pronunciation

A bit *longish* explanation about pronunciation is [here](#) and even more about phonology, ie. the sound system in Japanese language, [here](#).

As shorter notes for the use here:

- I put the pronunciation, when necessary, between brackets [###].
- The letter or letters between parenthesis (#) are mute, not to be pronounced.
- Vowels: **a** as in **father**; **e** as in **get**; **i** as in **macaroni**; **o** as in **polo**; **u** as in **put** or **book**.
- Long sound: the vowel is followed by “u”, う, except if it is an **e**, where the longer sound is done by an “i”, い, after (yep, the correct pronunciation of *sensei* is “sensee”, without saying the “i”) and I will try to write as often as possible with a stroke “-” over the letter: *ā, ī, ū, ē, ō*.
- **g** has a strong sound, something in between of **give** and **sing**.
- When **nothing** it is specified it means no special rule applies, so just read it! 😊

[Top](#)

*** 合気道 *** 合気道 *** 合気道 *** 合気道 *** 合気道 ***

Counting:

1: ichi 一 (いち) - [ich(i)]

2: ni 二 (に)

3: san 三 (さん)

4: shi 四 (し)

5: go 五 (ご)

6: roku 六 (ろく) - [rok(u)]

7: shichi 七 (しち) - [shich(i)]

8: hachi 八 (はち) - [hach(i)]

9: ku 九 (く)

10: jū 十 (じゅう) - [juu]

...and for the higher numbers, it is actually extremely easy:

11: juu-ichi; 12: juu-ni;...; 16: juu-roku;...; 20: ni-juu; 21: ni-juu-ichi;...; 50: go-juu;...; 99: ku-juu-ku

and 100, 1000, 10000 are different names, but it is a long way before I will have counts that high at


practice, maybe only at sword practice.. for a good old time warming up



[Top](#)

General terms:

Aikidō - 合気道 (あいきどう): The art of blending with the mats without feeling too much pain..

oh, no.. not here.. be serious!  OK, then, Aikido, literally mean the harmonic way of the energy, being composed by three characters:

- Ai - 合 (あう - yeah, actually the main reading is not “ai” but “aa”, long sound): joint; associate; accomplice; fit; put together.
- Ki - 気 (き): spirit; mood.
- Dō - 道 (どう): road; path; street; way; method.

Rei - 礼 (れい): literally, expression of gratitude; salutation; thanks - it means “to bow”.

Reishiki - 礼式 (れいしき): etiquette, manners.

Onegai shimasu - おねがい します [onegai shimas(u)]: literally it means “please”, and it is always said at the beginning of every class and beginning the practice with a partner, when bowing to the instructor or to each other.

Doumo arigatou gozaimashita - どうも ありがとう ございました [doomo arigatoo gozaimash(i)ta]: formal way to say “thank you very much”, always used at the end of practice, when bowing to the instructor.

Aikidōka - 合気道家 (あいきどうか): Aikidō practitioner. The last *kanji* 家 (it can be read “ie” also) means *family, house* and, better, when used as a suffix, like here, it takes the meanings of: house; family; person; expert; -ist (sort of: Aikidō-ist).

[Top](#)

Directions

Hō - 方 (ほう) [ho]: direction (example: shi-hō-nage = four-direction-throw)

Mae - 前 (まえ): front, before

Ushiro - 後 (うしろ): back, behind

Migi - 右 (みぎ): right

Hidari - 左 (ひだり): left

Omote - 表 (おもて): forward direction, or in the front side of the opponent

Ura - 裏 (うら): backward direction or in the rear side of the opponent

[Top](#)

Stance

Hanmi - 半身 (はんみ): half-facing stance. Composed by the two *kanji* 半 (はん, han) = half; 身 (み, mi) = body.

Or, the stance is also referred as:

Kamae - 構え (かまえ): it comes from 構う [かまう] to mind; to care about; to be concerned about

Migi Hanmi - 右 半身 (みぎ はんみ): right foot forward half-facing stance

Hidari Hanmi - 左 半身 (ひだり はんみ): left foot forward half-facing stance

Gyaku Hanmi - 逆 半身 (ぎゃく はんみ): opposite half-facing stance (one is in left stance and the other in right, for example)

Ai Hanmi - 相 半身 (あい はんみ): same half-facing stance (both are either in left or right stance)

[Top](#)