

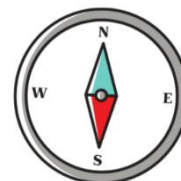


Compass Directions in Japanese

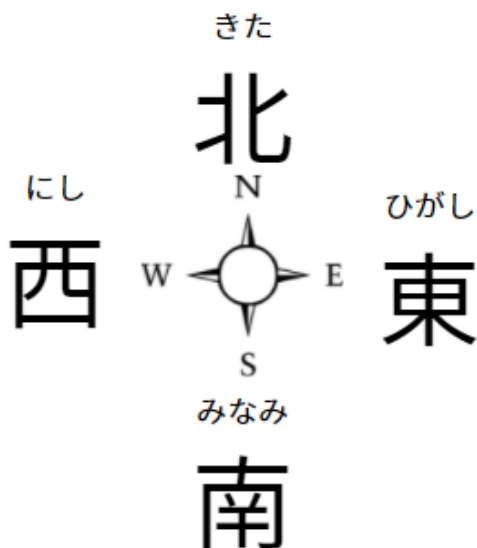
For sound, quizzes, and more information, please visit:

<https://thejapanesepage.com/what-are-the-cardinal-directions-in-japanese/>

Takeaway: The cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) are pronounced with the Japanese (*kun yomi*) reading. But the in-between directions are pronounced with the "Chinese" (*on yomi*) readings.



The Four Main Directions



North ^{きた}北

South ^{みなみ}南

East ^{ひがし}東

West ^{にし}西

The rest of the directions use the *on yomi* readings of the kanji. While the *on* and *kun* readings are different, the kanji and meaning do not change.

北 means "north" whether it is pronounced 「きた」 or 「ほく」.

Other than the fact the inter-cardinal directions use *on yomi* and the four main cardinal directions use *kun yomi*, the compass directions in Japanese is pretty straightforward.

For the next four directions, note how it starts with either north 北 or south 南.

The Four Intercardinal Directions



And for the next set of directions, you start with whichever cardinal direction is closest (north-south-east-west).

