

## Long Vowels

In Japanese, if you change the length of vowels, the meaning of words may be completely different. Please take a look at these examples.

### Long あ

おばさん obasan (middle-aged woman)  
\*You simply add あ after the “a” sound.

おばあさん obaasan (elderly woman)

### Long い

おじさん ojisan (middle-aged man)  
\*You simply add い after the “i” sound.

おじいさん ojiisan (elderly man)

### Long う

くき kuki (stem)  
\*You simply add う after the “u” sound.

くうき kuuki (air)

### Long え

てき teki (enemy)  
\* You add い after the “e” sound.  
\* There are some exceptions, such as おねえさん.

ていき teeki (fixed period)

### Long お

おじ oji (uncle)  
\* You add う after the “o” sound.  
\* There are some exceptions, such as おおきい (big).

おうじ ooji (prince)