

Setting up Japanese for your computer

Before you can fully start taking advantage of online resources, you'll want to make sure your computer is properly configured to support Japanese. Fortunately, this has become a lot easier with modern software, often only requiring setting some configuration options and in some cases, inserting the original installation disk.

Below are guides that explain the process fairly well.

1. [Instructions for Windows](#)
2. [Instructions for Mac OS X](#)

Here are a few tips that I found useful for using Japanese on the computer.

Windows Tips

1. You can safely remove the English language setting. This is done in the same window you used to add Japanese input language. Simply click the "EN" English input language and click "Remove". It will inform you that you will need to restart to remove it completely.
2. The Japanese input mode already allows you to switch to English so having a separate English setting is redundant and only adds more key-strokes for switching languages.
3. Press the Alt and "~" keys (the tilde key left of the "1" key) to quickly switch between English and Japanese input. If you have a Japanese keyboard, you can simply press the 半角／全角 key, also located left of the "1" key.
4. Press the F7 key after you type something to quickly change it into Katakana. While not necessary for displaying and inputting Japanese, some older Japanese programs may require you to set Japanese as the default language in order to function properly. This will also replace your backslash key with the Yen mark.

<http://www.guidetojapanese.org/learn/resources/setup>