



Japanese Companion Guide

Congratulations on choosing **Little Pim Japanese**.

This *Little Pim Companion Guide* is designed to help you with the proper pronunciation of Japanese if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

In addition to the pronunciation tips on this sheet, you can:

- Download our *Companion Script*, which includes all the words and phrases in **Little Pim** in Japanese, English **and Romaji**. Romaji, or “the Romanization of Japanese”, is the most widely used phonetic spelling of Japanese words. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.
- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch.

The big picture:

Here is a brief guide to pronouncing phonetically spelled Japanese.

A pronounced “**AH**”

I pronounced “**EE**”

U pronounced “**OOH**”

E pronounced “**EH**”

O pronounced “**OH**”

R pronounced like **L**

The word “**wo**” is pronounced “**o**”

Double vowels – note elongation of the vowel

Double consonants – note an emphasis on the consonant

For a more complete guide to Romaji, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romaji>

Notes on Japanese

Boys and girls often refer to themselves by using different words for “I”. Boys use “boku” and girls use “watashi”. In order to make things a little easier for Little Pim viewers, *Little Pim* always uses the feminine “I” since it can be used universally, whereas the masculine “I” can only be used by males.

The subject in a sentence is often dropped by young children. Therefore, the translation for “He is eating an apple” versus “She is eating an apple” is the same.

Unless specific numbers are involved, there is no difference between singular and plural objects. Therefore, the translation for “apple” versus “apples” is the same.