

Onomatopoeia Forms				
	Double	TO-end: つと	RI-end: り	っ + RI-end: っり
smiling	にこにこ	にこっと	にこり	にっこり
grinning	にやにや	にやっと	にやり	にや <del>り</del>
stealthily	こそこそ	こそっと	こ <del>り</del>	こっそり
<div>• Onomatopoeia (擬態語) are words which illustrate actions or characteristics by mimicing their “sound.” (This includes many actions/characteristics which don’t actually make a physical sound.)</div> <div>• The standard particle used with double, り and っつ form onomatopoeia is と.</div> <div>と: と required/common. り: り preferred (for adverb usage) NP: usually used without a particle. No icon: と may be used, but is frequently omitted. (including it serves to emphasize the aural aspect of the word)</div> <div>• The と in the っつ onomatopoeia form is the particle と, therefore no additional particle is used.</div> <div>• Sounds with * (G/D/B) are usually related to, but feel more “heavy” or “powerful” than their K/T/H counterparts. P sounds are “smaller” and “lighter” than H/B. However, they are not always interchangeable.</div> <div>Detailed article: <a href="http://nihonshock.com/gitaigo">http://nihonshock.com/gitaigo</a></div>				

Usages	
Usage is marked for a word <b>only</b> if it has a significant tendency toward a particular usage. However, most words have some degree of flexibility.	
ADV	• Describing an action or process (Adverb function)
おんなこわら 女の子はにこにこ笑った。The girl smiled.	
する	• Used with する as a verb unit (と omitted)
しんそう 心臓がどきどきしている。My heart is pounding.	
ADJ	• Describing a state of being (Adjective function)
ごつごつ【とした】手 : a rugged, sturdy hand	
N-ADJ	• Adjective function, but with noun-like grammar.
だぶだぶのズボン : baggy pants	
びしょびしょになる : to become soaking wet	

AIUEO	
あっぷあっぷ	struggling to swim/stay above water - “up, up” (increasing)
いじいじ	cowardly/timidly - to fiddle with (one’s phone, etc.) (する)
いそいそ	ADV in a flurry of excitement/joy
いちゃいちゃ	する (a couple) acting flirtatiously, cuddling
いよいよ	ADV NP at last/finally (the time has come), any moment
いらいら	する to be edgy/testy, ticked off 苛々
うじうじ	inability/re reluctance to make a decision
うじゃうじゃ	ADV many small (insects) squirming around 蠢く 2
うずうず	する struggling to resist some urge ≡むずむず
うだうだ	ADV/する saying/doing pointless things - being lazy/idle ●
うとうと	ADV/する drowsy/nodding off - enraptured (っり)
うねうね	long, winding (road) - wiggly/undulating
うようよ	ADV swarming/teeming with (animals, people, etc.) いる
うろうろ	する wandering from place to place aimlessly - loitering
おずおず	と timidly, sheepishly ≡おどおど
おたおた	する to be rendered helpless by shock/surprise
おめおめ	ADV と shamefully/shamelessly
おろおろ	する frustrated/flustered, having a breakdown 泣く

T/D	
たじたじ	N-ADJ する cowering, overwhelmed by someone
だぶだぶ	N-ADJ loose - baggy (clothing)
たらたら	drip/dribble - incessant (complaining/flattery)
だらだら	ADV/する oozing out - dawdling/loitering - rambling on ●
ちくちく	ADV/する prickly/needle-like (pain) - a little bit at a time 痛い 2
ちょちょこ	ADV frequent - restless - (walking) in short steps あそび っつ
ちびちび	ADV sipping - doing something in small increments 飲む
ちまちま	“bit by bit”/“here and there” - small, compact
ちらちら	ADV/する (seeing/looking) briefly - (leaves) scattering 見る 2
つかつか	ADV と marching boldly/straight for somewhere 歩く
つやつや	N-ADJ shiny, glossy 艶々
つるつる	N-ADJ smooth, polished - the sound of slurping noodles
つんつん	aloof, cranky - spiky - to pout - to poke/tug on
でかでか	ADV と prominently/conspicuously large (for people to see)
てくてく	steadily walking for a very long distance, trudging 歩く
でれでれ	N-ADJ する infatuated/head-over-heels - lacking discipline
とことこ	ADV quickly and in short steps 歩く
ときどき	する heart beating (due to fear/surprise/anticipation) っつ
とぼとぼ	ADV walking wearily/mopingly 歩く
とろとろ	N-ADJ droopy (eyelids) - creamy (food) - sluggish (movement) 2
どろどろ	covered in a thick/murky liquid, mud - (feelings) in disarray
とんとん	ADV a series of light sounds (knocking on door, walking up/down stairs)
どんどん	ADV proceeding unimpeded (NP) - sound of drum/cannon

N		
なよなよ	ADJ soft/weak, flexible/pliable	ねちねち sticky, tenacious (personality)
にこにこ	ADV/する smiling (happily) 笑う っつ 2	ねばねば ADJ sticky ≡ねとねと、べとべと
にやにや	ADV/する grinning (playfully/mischievously) 笑う っつ 2	のうのう ADV と uncaring, without thinking deeply, half-heartedly
にょにょ	ADJ squirming (like a snake/worm)	のこのこ ADV showing up (where one doesn’t belong/isn’t wanted)
ぬくぬく	warm (bed, food) - (living) leisurely, without labor/hardship	のそのそ ADV (moving) slowly and clumsily - plugging/grinding along
ぬるぬる	ADJ wet and slippery, slimy - smooth (animation) 2	のろのろ lazy, sluggish 歩く

● : Can be used with 言う to (beratingly) describe someone’s speaking as banter/complaining/whining/etc.

1 : Dots next to words indicate suggested learning priority: 2 dots = high, 1 dot = medium, no dots = low.

K/G	
かさかさ	dry (skin) - rustling (grass, leaves)
がしがしや	ADV disorderly, rough - hard objects bumping/breaking
がたがた	ADV shaking, trembling ≡ がくがく
かちかち	N-ADJ hard, solid - typing (keyboard) ≡ がちがち
がつがつ	ADV (eating) greedily, ravenously 食べる っり
がみがみ	ADV nagging, griping, scolding 叱る
がやがや	ADV/する raucous (dried), noisy voices ≡ わいわい
からから	many small (insects) squirming around
かりかり	parched, dry/died - empty - (to smile) delightedly
ぎざぎざ	N-ADJ spiky, jagged-edged
ぎすぎす	ADJ/する tense/on pins and needles - slim/thin (body)
きびきび	brisk/prompt, business-like (behavior or manner)
ぎゅうぎゅう	に (squeezed/packed) tightly 詰める
きよきよ	ADV/する looking around nervously/in search of something
きらきら	to shine/sparkle/glitter ひか 2
きりきり	spinning/whirling around, (stomach)ache
ぎんぎん	strong (headache) - “pumped up”/energized
ぐいぐい	ADV (pulling/dragging along) forcibly 引く 2
くすくす	ADV laughing/chuckling (quietly/bashfully) 笑う 2
ぐずぐず	する lazy/slow, procrastinating - congested (nose) ●
くたくた	N-ADJ weak with exhaustion (に) つかれる
ぐちゃぐちゃ	N-ADJ soft and soggy, in disarray
くどくど	ADV long-winded, preachy ●
ぐにやぐにや	N-ADJ floppy, soft and bendable
くねくね	ADV/する squirming/twisting (dance) - squiggly, wavy (hair)
くよくよ	ADV/する dwelling on (a mistake/problem) 悩む
くらくら	する to feel dizzy/light-headed
くるくる	spinning/turning - curly (hair) 回る
くんくん	(the sound of sniffing with one’s nose)
ぐんぐん	ADV NP changing/progressing in bursts, vigorously
げらげら	ADV/する (laughing) boisterously 笑う
ごくごく	ADV bowing/nodding うなず っつ 2
ごくごく	ADV swallowing vigorously ≡ がぶがぶ 3
ごしごし	ADV/する rubbing/brushing/wiping vigorously
こそこそ	ADV/する (speaking) secretively, quietly 話す っつ 2
ごそごそ	ADV/する making a rummaging noise
ごちゃごちゃ	N-ADJ a disorderly jumble - tangled up ≡ ごたごた ●
ごつごつ	ADJ chipping, tapping - slow & steady progress
ごつごつ	ADJ rugged, rough and hard - bulky
こりこり	ADJ crisp/crunchy (meat) - stiff (muscles)
ころころ	ADV small objects rolling - constantly (changing) かわる 2
ごろごろ	ADV/する (lying around) lazily, relaxedly
ごわごわ	ADJ fabric/fibers that are stiff and dry

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2 : Can also replace any usage of うだうだ or うようよ

3 : Homophone: 極々 “very, extremely”

っり Words	
・あっさり	(too) easily - lightly (flavored)
・うっかり	ADV/する carelessly blunder - accidentally
うんざり	する fed up (with something) NP
・がっかり	する disappointed
がっくり	ADV/する (to drop down) disappointedly
きっちり	ADV precisely, nearly, surely
・きっぱり	ADV (to cut) cleanly, unequivocally
くっきり	ADV distinctly, easily noticed/visible
・ぐっすり	(sleeping) soundly
・ざっくり	ADV roughly, skipping over the details
・さっぱり	clean/refreshed - totally (～ない)
・しっくり	firm, steadfast
しっくり	to “click”/be harmonious - tight (grip)
・じっくり	ADV calmly, unhurried
・しっとり	moist - tranquil, modest, graceful
しょんぼり	moping/despondent
・すっかり	ADV completely/totally (forget) NP
・すっきり	する rid of burden/negativity
すんなり	ADV (unexpectedly) easy - slender
・そっくり	N-ADJ striking (likeness) - perfect (match)
・たつぷり	more than required/enough
ちょっぴり	ADV just a little
てっきり	ADV I was sure of... (, but was wrong) NP
・のんびり	leisurely, relaxed
・はっきり	ADV/する clearly, plainly
ぼっそり	ADV boldly (cut off/remove excess hair)
ぼったり	ADV (to meet) unexpectedly - fall/flop
・ぼっちり	skillfully, right on
・びっ(っ)たり	(stopping) instantly (と) - perfectly fitting
ひょっこり	ADV “dropping in” unexpectedly
ぼっそり	exact/precise (amount) - break/snap
・ほっそり	ADJ thin and elegant/classy
ぼっちょり	N-ADJ ADJ plump, chubby, portly
・ほんのり	ADV faintly (warm, flavorful, aromatic)
・ぼんやり	vague, blurry - idle-minded, spaced out
まったり	slow, relaxed - milky, creamy
みっちり	ADV exhaustively/painstakingly
むっつり	gloomy, sullen - (a pervert) in private
・やっぱり (＝やはり)	just as one suspected NP
・ゆっくり	ADV slowly
ゆったり	unhurried, relaxed

っつ Words	
・あつという間(に)	(in) an instant/flash
かつと	する・くる・なる to flare up suddenly
きつと	surely, without a doubt
きよとんと	confused/bewildered ADJ/する
ぐつと	with a surge of energy/strength
・さつさと	quickly, hurriedly (＝とつと)
・ざつと	in short/briefly
・じつと	still/motionless - staring at something
しれつと	nonchalantly, indifferently
・ずっと	forever, unending - so much (more)
ずばつと	without hesitation
・そつと	softly, gently
ちつとも…ない	not even a little bit
・ちゃんと	properly, correctly, obediently
・ちよつと	a little bit, somewhat
どつと	bursting with (laughter, cheers, etc.)
はつと	sudden, minor shock (sound of a gasp)
ばつと	見る at a (quick) glance
・ぱつとしない	lacking spice/zest, doesn’t “pop”
はたと	to suddenly hit on/notice something
・ふつと思	without warning, just (occurred to me)
・ぼーつと	to space out, be distracted ADJ/する
・ほつと	to be relieved する
むすつと	annoyed, upset ADJ/する
・もつと	more
・やつと	at last, finally, after a long wait

S/Z	
ざあざあ	ADV (sound of pouring rain or TV static) 降る
ざくざく	(walking on snow/gravel) - plentiful/many - spiky
・さばさば	ADJ candid, brusque, untroubled
・さらさら	smooth & dry - clear, freely flowing (liquid) 5 っつ 2
しくしく	ADV sobbing/weeping pitifully - a dull pain 泣く
しげしげ	ADV staring at something - frequently 見る
・しばしば	ADV often, frequently - blinking one’s eyes (frequently)
じめじめ	ADJ damp/humid ≡じとじと
しゃきしゃき	ADJ crisp (vegetables), (food which) cuts cleanly
じゃぶじゃぶ	splashing water around - using lots of (money/etc.)
じやりじやり	(sound of gravel) - gritty, coarse-grained
じよりじより	(sound of shaving/stroking beard)
じりじり	ADV advancing slowly - steadily intensifying (pressure)
・じろじろ	ADV staring fixatedly 見る、≡まじまじ っつ 2
・じわじわ	ADV steadily, without haste っつ
すいすい	ADV (swimming/flying) effortlessly through something
・すかすか	N-ADJ having a lot of available room/space - empty
ずかずか	ADV making an unabashed entrance/barging in
ずきずき	ADV a throbbing pain - heartbroken いた 痛む
すくすく	ADV growing straight/tall, healthily 育つ
ずけずけ	ADV (speaking) candidly/bluntly 言う
すごすご	ADV (retreating/leaving) dejectedly ≡しおしお
・すたすた	ADV (walking) briskly, without wasting time 歩く
・ずたずた	N-ADJ (cut/torn) to shreds, ragged 寸々
ずぶずぶ	ふにやふにや N-ADJ in-severable (relationship)
すやすや	ADV (sleeping) peacefully 寝る
・すらすら	ADV unimpeded, continuous - sleek 2
・するする	ADV (sliding/moving along) smoothly っつ 2
ずるずる	ADV sliding heavily, forcibly - slurping a liquid
せかせか	ADV/する in a busy/hurried, hectic way
・ぞくぞく	する feeling a thrill/a rush of adrenaline/get the chills 6
・そろそろ	ADV NP before long, any time now - slowly/quietly (と ok)
ぞろぞろ	ADV many (people/insects/etc.) moving in a group
・そわそわ	する restless, fired up, excited

M	
まごまご	する to be flustered/confused/unsure what to do
まちまち	N-ADJ mixed (results, reviews, etc.), having slight differences
むかむか	する to feel a surge of sickness/nasuea or anger
・むずむず	する to be antsy, fidgety - irritated (nose) ≡うずうず
むじやむじや	ADV/する babbling incoherently (in one’s sleep)
むらむら	する to be overcome with a sudden urge/feeling (esp. sexual)
・めきめき	ADV developing/maturing/improving rapidly っつ
・めそめそ	moping, sobbing pitifully
めろめろ	N-ADJ charmed by (someone/thing) - loss of strength
もぐもぐ	ADV/する chewing (without opening one’s mouth widely) 食べる
もさもさ	overgrown (hair/grass/etc.) - to draw roughly/sketch
・もじもじ	する antsy/squirmy due to reluctance to say/do what one wants
もぞもぞ	ADV/する to wiggle around (eg. in bed) - unsettled, anxious うご 動く
・もたもた	ADV/する muddling around/inefficient behavior or action
もちもち	ADJ chewy /sticky (food) - elastic (skin) - plump, tubby
・もやもや	ADJ/する unclear, undefined, foggy - (emotionally) unsettled

Stem Doubling	
• i-ADJ/Verb stems ( め form) are often doubled and used like onomatopoeia.	
• These doubled-words retain or are related to the meanings of the original words.	
• With some exceptions, this usage is mostly limited to 2-syllable stems.	
ながなが はな	あか は は
長々と話す	赤ちゃんが這い這いしている。
to speak for a long time	The baby is crawling.
Common examples:	
あつあつ 熱々 N-ADJ	うきうき 浮き浮き : cheerful, lighthearted
しんぱん 渋々 ADV	のの 乗る 乗る N-ADJ
reluctantly	: in the spirit, ready for action
やすやす 易々 ADV	のの 伸び 伸び
と 2	: carefree - stretching/growing freely
と 2	ばれ ばれ N-ADJ
と 2	: obvious, “not fooling” anyone

Animal sounds	
dog: ワン	cat: ニャー
cow: モー	sheep: メー

5 : Set usage: ～気はさらさら( have no intention of doing ～)

H/B/P	
はきはき	adept and confident (speech) - clear/well-defined
・ばくばく	ADV/する opening and closing one’s mouth repeatedly
ばさばさ	N-ADJ having little moisture or oil, dry
・ばたばた	ADV/する busy, hurried - flapping wings, scurrying footsteps
ばちばち	hands clapping, objects crackling - blinking (eyes)
はらはら	ADV/する to worry/be nervous - weeping quietly - leaves/petals falling
・ばらばら	N-ADJ scattered/in pieces - (hail)stones falling (と ok)
ばらばら	ADV/する flipping through pages - (a few, small) stones falling
・ばりばり	energetic/overt - breaking/splitting an object 割く
ばりばり	N-ADJ crispy, crunchy - the sound of a crisp object cracking (と ok)
・びかびか	ADV/する shining, gleaming, sparkling, new/fresh ひか 光る
・びくびく	する to twitch/spasm (っつ) - to be fearful/uneasy
・びゅくり	吃驚
びしびし	ADV intensely, unforgivingly/strictly っつ
・びしょびしょ	N-ADJ drenched, dripping wet っつ
・ひそひそ	ADV (talking) in whispers - secretively っつ
びちびち	N-ADJ a tight (dress) - (a girl) full of youth and vitality
・ひやひや	する to get tense, worried =ひんやり 冷や冷や
ひよひよ	ADV up & down - (moving) lightheartedly 振る
ぴよぴよ	ADV/する hopping, jumping (like a rabbit) 跳ねる
ひよろひよろ	swaying - too tall/long to support itself well 2
・ひりひり	a stinging/burning (pain)
ぶくぶく	ADV/する bulging, giving off bubbles - becoming fat/obese
・ぶつぶつ	ADV mumbling, grumbling about something ●
ふにやふにや	N-ADJ soft, mushy, flabby - unreliable
・ふらふら	ADV/する woozy, unstable, weak, swaying side to side
・ぶらぶら	ADV/する (walking) aimlessly - drooping/dangling 振る
・ぶるぶる	ADV/する shivering, trembling, vibrating 震える
・ふわふわ	soft, fluffy, light - floating =ふんわり
ぶんぶん	ADV/する quickly swinging/waving (a bat, hand, etc.) 振る
ぶんぶん	ADV/する very angry - to reek /have a pungent smell
・ぺこぺこ	bowing repeatedly (also: 2) - empty (stomach)
・べとべと	N-ADJ sticky, adhesive ≡べたべた
・へとへと	N-ADJ physically exhausted (に) 疲れる
へなへな	bending/wavering/collapsing (under pressure)
へらへら	ADV/する laughing/smiling lightheartedly ちら 笑う
・べらべら	ADV (speaking) fluently - flipping through (pages)
べろべろ	ADV/する sound of licking - extremely drunk (に) 舐める・酔う
ほいほい	ADV NP impulsively, thoughtlessly
・ほかいほか	N-ADJ hot (food), warm/toasty
ほくほく	ADJ/する soft & moist (potato) - unable to conceal one’s delight
・ぼこぼこ	N-ADJ dented/beaten up - burbling (water) (ADV)
ぼさぼさ	N-ADJ unkempt/shaggy (hair), ragged (fibers)
・ぼそぼそ	ADV (speaking) in a low/soft voice っつ
・ぼちぼち	ADV NP occurring slowly/infrequently - “picking up steam”
ぼつぼつ	ADV a little bit at a time - light/scattered (rain) ≡ばたばた
・ぼやぼや	N-ADJ fresh (eg. food giving off steam) - new/lywed
・ぼろぼろ	N-ADJ ripped up (clothing), worn out, dilapidated (house)
ぼろぼろ	ADV (round objects/teardrops falling) one after another 落ちる
ぼんぼん	ADV/する patting/tapping - a repeated, effortless occurrence たた 叩く

Y/R/W	
やわやわ	ADV softly, smoothly, gently =やんわり
・ゆきゆき	ADV/する large/heavy object swaying, to shake (a sleeping person)
・ゆらゆら	ADV/する shaking/wavering/trembling 揺れる
よばよば	N-ADJ (walking) unsteadily due to old age/bad health
よろよろ	ADV (walking) unsteadily/tottering
・らぶらぶ	N-ADJ lovey-dovey
・わいわい	ADV/する excited and/or noisy (voices), a commotion
・わくわく	する nervous/anxious due to anticipation or joy
わさわさ	ADV restless/busy, fidgety - rustling (papers, hair)
・わざわざ	ADV NP (needlessly) going out of one’s way to... 態々
わらわら	ADV to scatter/scramble, not in unison 散る・集まる

crow: カー	duck: ガー	lion/tiger: ガオー	chicken: コケコッコー
pig: ブー	mouse: チュー	frog: ケロ	horse: ヒヒーン
			cicada: ミーン

6 : Homophone (続々) - “one after another”

Pseudo-Onomatopoeia	
⚠ : Used with particles other than と	
・ぎりぎり	⚠ just barely (within limits)
・くれぐれも	be doubly sure to... 異々
しみじみ	strongly/deeply (feel that...)
・そこそこ	⚠ a considerable amount/degree
そもそも	NP to begin with, originally
・それぞれ	NP respectively, for each one
・たまたま	NP by coincidence 偶々
ついつい	NP unintentionally, unwittingly
つくづく	NP adamantly, intently, deeply 熟々
とうとう	NP at last, after much build-up 倒頭
・ますます	NP more and more 益々
・まだまだ	NP (not yet) finished/ready 未だ未だ
淡々	ADJ thin, faint, subtle
・色々	in various ways
延々	と continuing for a long time
各々	NP for each (person)
轟々	thunderous, rumbling
・散々	NP to an extreme/unpleasant extent
粛々	と somber, quiet
・少々	NP (polite form of ちょっと)
・深々	と (sinking) deeply
・精々	NP with all one’s might
度々	NP repeatedly, time and again
・段々	increasingly, incrementally
つぎつぎ	と one after another, “left and right”
・次々	と
堂々	と proudly, openly
・時々	NP sometimes, occasionally
所々	と here and there (＝あちこち)
・中々	⚠ more/better than expected
・久々	に “It’s been a long time since...”
・別々	⚠ (paying) separately
・程々	に in moderation
見る見る	NP before one’s very eyes
黙々	silently, without talking
・元々	NP from the beginning, originally
悶々	と agonizing over something
朗々	と sonorously, clearly (voiced)

2nd-Syllable Repeaters		
あたふた	ADV/する	in a hurry/feverishly
・あちこち		here and there, all over the place
いざこざ	(noun)	a quarrel/fight
ぎくしゃく		jerky/strained, awkward
・じたばた	ADV/する	to wiggle/flail one's limbs
たちまち	ADV に	in a flash/instant
・ちราบら	ADV	here and there, sporadically
・てきぱき		prompt and efficient (work)
どさくさ	(noun)	confusion/chaos
・どたばた	する	romping around haphazardly
はたっつ	ADJ	vivacious, high-spirited
つべこべ (言う)		trifling complaints/excuses ●
やきもき	ADV/する	to get flustered/irritated