

Comics Plus Manga Terms

These are the Japanese Terms found on Comics Plus. Please note that Japan is a more conservative nation when it comes to gender norms and roles. Many of these terms are specific to gender between male and female, i.e., "boys manga" and "girls manga."

Manga- Japanese book series that are illustrated. The books are typically read right to left (backward from English books). The authors are called mangakas, and the artwork is almost all hand drawn.

Light Novel- This is similar to a manga but it is primarily in novel form with illustrations added to pages. It can typically be read right to left like mangas.

Gagkushu- Educational Manga. This manga teaches on one subject matter. *Cells at Work* is a manga about the human body.

Gekiga- adult manga style from the 1960's and 70's. This manga has sharp lines, thick ink slashes. There is action, adventure, and violence, but it is more toned down than modern adult manga. The most famous manga from this style is *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

Hentai- this is pornographic manga. HENTAI IS NOT ON COMICS PLUS, but it is a term you may want to know for anyone reading manga.

Isekai- Fantasy manga where a person from Earth is transported to, reborn, or trapped in a parallel universe or fantasy world. This manga ranges from middle school to adult audiences. There could be action, adventure, romance, comedy, violence, gore, cursing, or sexual situations. *Re:Zero Starting Life in Another World* is a popular **light novel*** and **anime** (animated show based on the book) that would include action, adventure, comedy, gore, violence, and romance.

Josei- Adult manga for women. Has little to no violence, but strong on the romance. May have sexual situations and scenes. Primarily a female protagonist. *Princess Jellyfish* is on the tame side of the Josei mangas where *My Boss's Kitten* would have more adult and sexual situations.

Kodomomuke- means children's manga. Manga geared toward younger children in primary school. *Chi's Sweet Home* is a cute manga about a kitten and all the trouble that kittens can find.

Mecha- Mechanical or Robot manga. Lots of action and fighting between robots, people in robots, or people with biomechanical bodies. This can range from middle school to adult audiences and can include action, adventure, violence, gore, romance, perhaps some nudity (rare). The protagonists are typically male. *Astro Boy* is a popular manga in this genre.

Seinen- Adult manga for men. Lots of violence, gore, cursing, and perhaps nudity, and sexual situations. Primarily male protagonists. *Attack on Titan*, *Berserk*, and *Parasyte* are popular mangas with lots of violence. Note, *Berserk* is not filled with sexual scenes, but the opening scene of the book is a sex scene that turns into violence.

Shonen- Boy manga. **Shonen** means young boy but it is geared toward middle school and high school students. Lots of action, adventure, and comedy. Some cursing, violence, and may have "fan service." Fan service is a term where the female characters may have to wear a bikini to the beach or someone flips their skirt and you can see underwear for a scene. Primarily male protagonists. *My Hero Academia*, *One Piece*, *Bleach*, and *Naruto* are all very popular **Shonen** mangas.

Shoujo- Girl manga. Shoujo means young girl but it is geared toward middle school and high school students. Lots of romance, miscommunications, drama, and probably kissing. Typically set in school, and primarily a female protagonist. *House of the Sun* is a cute manga where a high school girl falls in love with her next-door neighbor.

Yaoi/Yuri- **Yaoi** is also called boys' love. It is two male characters that fall in love and have a relationship. **Yuri** is two female characters who fall in love and have a relationship. These mangas are generally geared toward a female audience from middle school to adult. In Japan, the term for girls who read boys' love manga is **Fujoshi**. These are filled with romance, kissing, and may have sexual scenes.