

# Introduction to Anime

## Terms

**Otaku** - A Japanese term for people with obsessive interests, commonly in anime and manga fandom. Otaku subculture is a central theme of many anime and manga works, documentaries and academic research.

**Manga** - Japanese comics. Or conforming to "manga style", usually marked by features such as large eyes, long limbs and exclamatory typography.

**Magical Girl** - Is a subgenre of Japanese fantasy anime and which feature girls who use magic. They are often young and the transformation to the magical girl persona is often accompanied by a frilly outfit.

**Shonen** - Anime aimed at boys, of all ages. Often there is a lot of fighting in these anime.

**Slice of Life** - Anime depicting everyday experiences. No magic or aliens.

**Mech(a)** - A science fiction genre that centers on robots or machines controlled by people. These machines vary greatly in size and shape, but are distinguished from vehicles by their humanoid or animal-like appearance. They are often piloted by humans, the pilots generally ride in the head or neck of the robot.

**Bishonen** - A Japanese term literally meaning "beautiful youth (boy)" and describes one or more young men whose beauty (and sexual appeal) transcends the boundary of gender or sexual orientation. Shows are meant for both men and women.

**Bishojo** - Literally "beautiful girl". Animes featuring one or more attractive women.

**Harem** - An emphasis on polygamous or love triangle relationships characterized by a protagonist surrounded amorously by three or more members of either the same and/or opposing gender, sex, and/or love interests. When the object of desire is a women being pursued by multiple men it is called a reverse harem.

**Yuri** - Also known as Girls' Love is a Japanese jargon term for content and a genre involving love between women. Yuri focuses on the sexual or the romantic orientation aspects of the relationship.

**Yaoi** - Boys Love, sometimes male-on-male sexual content; usually created by women for women.

**Tsundere** - A character, usually female, who's disapproving, cold and/or hostile to the person they like. Occasionally letting slip their warm and loving feelings hiding inside due to being shy, nervous, insecure or just they can't help acting badly in front of the person they like.

**Chibi** - Super-deformed, a character design that uses toddler-like body proportions. Large heads.

**Kawaii** - Extremely cute and adorable, almost too sweet, like sleepy kittens with bows.

**Original video animation (OVA)** - Anime which is intended to be distributed on DVDs and not shown in movies or on television. It is also less frequently referred to as Original Animated Video (OAV). DVDs are sometimes known as Original Animated Discs (OAD)

**Fan Service** - Show elements specifically included to sexually amuse (such as scantily-clad and/or naked males or females) or titillate the audience that are necessary or unnecessary to plot development.

**Hentai** - A term used outside of Japan to describe erotic or pornographic anime, derived from the word for "pervert". Anime is often somewhat sexual, Hentai is very sexually explicit and can involve bondage or violence.

## Anime Graphic Conventions

**Nosebleed** - Mostly happens to a character being sexually aroused. It is a visual depiction of having high blood pressure when a real person is sexually aroused. Often exaggerated for comic effect.

**Anger** - Symbols carried over from manga to anime. Often shown by a symbol near the head (image to right)

a blue forehead, parallel lines on the forehead or glowing red eyes.



## Great Anime Shows and Movies (in no particular order)

**Full Metal Alchemist** (the original) or Full Metal Alchemist: Brotherhood. Brotherhood is closer to the manga and has a beginning, middle and an end. The original is more episodic.

**Soul Eater** - Some special people are weapons, some special people are weapon meisters. They go to a special school to learn how to fight and who to fight. This is the story of a group of them and their teachers. Unusual animation, some humor and fighting.

**Ranma ½** - The story of a teenage boy who turns into a girl when he gets wet. Comedy and action.

**InuYasha** - A television series and movies. A half demon in feudal Japan runs into a girl teleported from today. Their adventures with others they meet along the way. Humor, fighting and romance.

**Sgt. Frog** - Space frogs come to Earth to take over the planet. Their leader is easily sidetracked, especially by building models of Japanese mechs. Humor.

**Moribito** - A swordswoman who must become a bodyguard to keep a prince from being killed.

**FairyTale** - Follows the adventures of a guild of magicians. Comedy and fighting.

**Akira** - A classic post apocalyptic movie. The adventures of teenage biker Tetsuo Shima, his psychic powers, and the leader of his biker gang.

**Steins;Gate** - A group of teenagers finds a way to send messages into the past via a microwave oven and a cell phone. The past a changed but the group's leader is not happy with the changes and wants to undo them.

**Assassination Classroom** - Someone has blown up the moon. A middle high classroom teacher claims to be the one who did it. He tells the class unless they kill him he will destroy the earth shortly after they graduate. He is also a land based yellow octopus who can move a mach 3. Humor and fighting. Currently extremely popular.

**Attack of the Titans** - Large naked humans with no skin are killing mankind. Humankind is reduced to living in am single walled city. A lot of violence. Currently very popular in Japan.

**Black Butler** - A demon has taken on the role of a butler on the condition that once the young boy he serves dies, he will take the boys soul. Morbid and funny.

**Lupin III** - The adventures of a thief. Comedic and sexy.

**Case Closed** - Mysteries solved by a teenage detective who has been turned into a child.

**Big Windup** - A slice of life show about high school baseball.

**Cowboy Bebop** - Bounty hunters in space...

**Paprika** - A movie, arguably the basis for Inception. Psychedelic!

**Ghost in the Shell** - A movie, arguably the basis for the Matrix.

**Mongolian Chop Squad** - A slice of life show about a band forming.

**Mobile Suit Gundam** - The mobile suits and their pilots fighting in a war, in which destruction and dehumanization are inherent. Each faction has their own heroes and villains, all of which have their own unique motives, failings, and virtues. Political battles and debates on important philosophical issues and political ideals on the nature and meaning of war, the ideal of pacifism, and the continuing evolution - natural or engineered - of humanity and its consequences.

**Slayers** - A television series and movies. The adventures of a female witch and her companions.

**Bleach** - A television series and movies. Fighting against demons in this dimension and another.

## Great Anime Shows and Movies continued

**Sword Art Online** - Something goes very wrong, trapping players in an online role playing game.

**Trigun** - Set on a world that looks a lot like the old west. The story follow a man who is good (and violent) but bad things happen as a result. He is know as Vash the Stampede and he is followed by two female insurance adjusters who try to minimize the cost to their employer.

**Space Battleship Yamato** - The battleship Yamato is raised from the bottom of the ocean to sail again as a space battleship.

**Daiguard** - Civil servant office workers piloting big robots, Mecha parody

**Demon King Daimao** - An orphan who goes to school to become a priest finds out that he is fated to be King of Demons

**Abenobashi Shopping Mall** - two young children get transported through time and space, trying to return to the run-down shopping district where they started, homage themed episodes.

**Bobobo-Bo Bobo-Bo** - a surreal superhero with bodybuilder sized muscles and a giant yellow afro fights the forces of evil using his nose hair

**Ninja Nonsense** - A silly, young female ninja is befriended by a pragmatic school girl with a crush on her. She trains in an all-male dojo, presided over by a yellow smiley-face, where everyone is a peeping tom.

**Samurai Champloo** - Two men and a woman have adventures and personal conflicts, traveling through a the Japanese countryside of the 1800s

**My Neighbor Totoro** - Movie When a young girl and her little sister move to a rural home with their dad, they encounter magical creatures that inhabit the area.

**Spirited Away** - Movie On the way to their new home, a reluctant girl and her parents encounter the spirit world at an abandoned theme park. After her parents are transformed into animals, she must find a way to rescue them and escape.

**Ono Monogatari (My Love Story)** - A slice-of-life story about first love between two high school freshmen. Poignant and funny, it shows that right actions mean more than good looks or popularity.

**Food Wars (Shogeki no Soma)** - students at a top culinary institute contend with each other to see whose dish will be judged the best. Tastings have very erotic overtones.

**Avatar: The Last Air Bender** - In a world dominated by magic wielding clans, the aggressive Fire nation has conquered all others, destroying political harmony. The Avatar, a boy who can master all of the elemental disciplines, has returned after almost a century. He must learn his art and restore balance to the world. (originally made for broadcast in USA)

**Gurren Lagann** - Earth is ruled by the Spiral King, who forces mankind to live in isolated subterranean villages. Two teenagers, Simon and Kamina, go to the surface using a mecha known as Lagann, They start fighting alongside other humans against Lordgenome's forces.

**Is this a Zombie?** - Ayumu Aikawa is a zombie resurrected by a necromancer after being killed by a serial killer. As he tries to make the best of his undead life, he encounters a Magical Garment Girl, and inadvertently takes her magic powers, being forced to become a Magical Garment Girl (and thereby cross-dress) in the process, He battles demons while trying to figure out the mystery behind his own death.

## **Legal Steaming Websites**

**Aniplex** - <http://aniplexusa.com>

**Viz** - <http://www.viz.com/anime/streaming>

**Daisuki** - <http://www.daisuki.net> No dubbing. A Japanese website focused on streaming anime content by six anime studios

## **Broadcast and/or Web Streaming:**

**Anime Network** - <http://www.theanimenetwork.com>

**Adult Swim** - <http://www.adultswim.com>

**Occasionally The Cartoon Network**

## **Streaming Services**

On the web, the Roku, some smart TVs, game consoles etc.

**Amazon Prime** has some great **free** videos. Here are a few:

InuYasha (2 years of the television series)

Bleach (3 years of the television series)

**Some are free with commercials**

FairyTale Season 1 the first half of it

Black Butler Season 1

Full Metal Alchemist Season 1

Trigon Season 1

Soul Eater

**The ones below charge for their services.**

**Netflix** - Most are dubbed into English some are not. Anime is becoming more popular here.

Full Metal Alchemist and Full Metal Alchemist: Brotherhood

Sword Art Online

FairyTale

Soul Eater

Rosario & Vampire

Knights of Sidonia - a Netflix exclusive

Gargantia

The Seven Deadly Sins

Black Butler

InuYasha (the first 2 seasons)

Case Closed

Puella Magi Madoka Magica (a series re-edited into 2 movies)

**Hulu** - Many are dubbed. Huge selection. Large overlap with Funnimation.

**Funimation** - The subtitled ones come out and then many are dubbed into English. Huge selection.

**Crunchy Roll** - Not dubbed, subtitled only. Huge selection.

## **Magazine**

**Otaku USA** - A magazine for the Otaku lifestyle. Sections on anime, manga, games, and cosplay. They also do special issues just on anime.

<http://www.otakuusamagazine.com>