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karaoke, *n.*

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Pronunciation: /karəˈəʊki/  /kariˈəʊki/

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●

Etymology: < Japanese, < *kara* empty, void + *ōke*(*sutora* (< English *orchestra*)).

A form of entertainment, originating in Japan, in which a person sings the vocal line of a popular song to the accompaniment of a pre-recorded backing tape, and the voice is electronically amplified through the loudspeaker system for the audience; (also) the audio (and video) equipment used for this. Freq. *attrib.*, esp. as **karaoke bar**, **karaoke music**.

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1977 *Japan Times* 8 Nov. 2/3 Businessmen taking their cue from the Japanese predilection to break into song after having a few drinks have built up a booming trade in 'karaoke' musical backup tape sets.

1979 *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) 23 Sept. 33/1 The 'Karaoke' (literally 'empty orchestra') bars are popular with Japanese office workers.

1982 *Japan Times* 11 July 10/3 The Japanese consumer electronics industry is now cashing in on the sing-it-yourself boom. The Electronics Industries Association of Japan has no official production or sales data on *karaoke* equipment.

1983 *McAllen (Texas) Monitor* 30 Oct. 8 c/1 *Karaoke music* is recorded on cassette, 8-track tape, laser video disc and compact digital disc... The rock scorings closely duplicate the original hit recordings, with just the vocal missing.

1985 J. RANDLE & M. WATANABE *Coping with Japan* 58 *Karaoke* songs are usually lyrical and sentimental.

1987 *Daily Tel.* 30 Mar. 17/7 *Karaoke* is important as a 'lubricant for human relationships within the company'.

1990 *Independent* 24 Apr. 27/8 The brewers are now introducing *Karaoke* into selected pubs on a trial basis.

1992 *Premiere* Jan. 59/3 (*advt.*) This new combi player plays hundreds of *karaoke* music video song titles, hits from the '50s through the '80s, all with on-screen lyrics.

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This entry has not yet been fully updated (first published 1993).

Publication history


Entry profile

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cited in Slep-tone Entertainment Corp. v. Wired for Sound Karaoke and DJ
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