

ようこそ日本語スレへ！

Welcome to the Japanese language topic!

Topic 2: <http://boards.endoftheinter...howmessages.php?topic=7796071>

Topic 1: <http://boards.endoftheinter...howmessages.php?topic=8010214>

This is the Japanese language topic, where we chillpost about learning Japanese (sometimes, IN Japanese!) If you're interested in learning the language or wanted some practice, you've come to the right place.

Dictionaries

- <http://jisho.org/> - English J<->E dictionary, including a kanji by radical feature.
- <http://www.alc.co.jp/> - Japanese J<->E dictionary.
- <http://dictionary.goo.ne.jp/> - Japanese J<->E dictionary.
- <http://www.weblio.jp/> - Japanese J->J dictionary.
- <http://zokugo-dict.com/> - Japanese slang dictionary.

Studying Tools

- <http://ankisrs.net/> - Anki is a flashcard program using spaced-repetition-software. More on Anki later.
- <http://rikaisama.sourceforge.net/> - Rikaisama is a modification of the Firefox extension Rikaichan, which creates a dictionary entry when you mouseover Japanese words.
- <https://code.google.com/p/rikaikun/> - Rikaikun is a port of the above for Google Chrome.
- <http://iknow.jp/> - A paid site which focuses on comprehensive Japanese (and also Chinese) learning environment. Free trial available.
- <http://www.renshuu.org/> - Free online studying resource, including vocabulary, grammar, and kanji practice, divided by JLPT level.
- <http://skritter.com/> - Paid online site which focuses entirely on writing, costs \$10 per month.
- <http://lang-8.com/> - Free site where you write blog entries, which then get corrected by native speakers of your target language. Good for finding Japanese penpals.
- <http://kanji.koohii.com/> - Companion site for Remembering The Kanji. Very nice Japanese learning community on their forums.
- <http://sourceforge.net/projects/subs2srs/> - Subs2SRS will create anki decks out of television shows, movies, songs, or whatever. You give it the Japanese subtitles, the accompanying media, and (optionally) the English subtitles, and it will spit out a complete Anki deck for you.
- <http://www.v2p.jp/video/english/> or <http://www.keyholetv.jp/> - KeyholeTV. Allows you to stream live Japanese television. Follow this guide. <http://preview.tinyurl.com/oylgm6g>
- <http://kanjitomo.net/> - An OCR tool for Japanese text.

Useful Websites

- <http://www.guidetojapanese.org/learn/> - Beginner's guide to Japanese grammar.
- <http://www.japanesepod101.com/> - Japanese lessons in podcast form.
- <http://www.jlpt.jp/e/> - Official site of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, includes some practice tests so you can see what you're in for.
- <http://yahoo.co.jp/> - The Japanese version of Yahoo! Answers. Great reading practice, and if you've ever got a question about the etymology of a word or something, there are a lot of helpful people on here who can answer you.

- <http://thejadednetwork.com/sfx/> - A compilation of sound effects used in manga.
- <http://kitsunekko.net/subtitles/japanese/> - Japanese subtitles for anime.
- <http://www.d-addicts.com/forum/> - Japanese subtitles for dramas.
- <http://dramanote.seesaa.net/> - Japanese scripts for dramas.

Books

A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/ltyvzu8>

- This is a great grammar dictionary, the first in a series of three, but in particular I find the intermediate one useful, not just for its entries but for the massive trove of information hidden in convenient lists back in the appendices.

Nihongo Sou Matome Grammar JLPT N2 (Japanese Language Proficiency Test)

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/n2bkcx6>

- This whole series of books is easily the best set of JLPT study materials I have seen. I'm using them for my N1 studies.

Remembering the Kanji

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/mltaavf>

<http://www.mediafire.com/download/8a3b3b3b3b3b3b3b/remembrancesofmydogkanji.7z>

- A long-term approach to learning kanji. The book teaches radicals (the components of kanji) and associates stories or keywords with them to help build a lasting frame of reference, so you can easily distinguish 総 from 統, for instance. This book does NOT teach any readings, and is thus best served by studying vocabulary alongside.

Remembering the Kana

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/n29ddqk>

<http://www.mediafire.com/download/8a3b3b3b3b3b3b3b/ikanarememberthisbook.7z>

- If you're at the complete entry level, this is a great way to learn the hiragana and katakana that doesn't involve brute-force, rote memorization. Extremely similar to Remembering the Kanji.

Genki

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/mx9lnuy>

<https://mega.co.nz/#!c9tVSARhjaTvdth8mrjspwK-IFwslEROX6aM> (password is soitgoes)

<http://www.mediafire.com/download/8a3b3b3b3b3b3b3b/ctnk/genkirensuuchoujanai.7z> (workbook)

- Genki is a good beginner's book for self study. The first volume is (annoyingly) mostly romaji, but other than that it's decent.

Kanji in Context

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/lapvyvj>

http://www.mediafire.com/download/8a3b3b3b3b3b3b3b/nxhedoj4/contextual_kanji.zip

- I've never heard a bad word uttered about this series, which focuses on kanji, their readings, and associated vocab. This is definitely geared more towards an intermediate learner, however. There's no hand-holding, just page after page of kanji, readings, and vocab.

Tips

- Try to read and review real Japanese as much as you can every day. REVIEW the kanji and words you have learned every day. SRS is great for this so you don't overwhelm yourself as the numbers of things learned gets higher and higher.
- If you're into anime and manga you can watch/read that in Japanese I guess, but the one thing I've found to be really helpful is playing games in Japanese. Japanese ROMs are easily accessible and DS flash carts or emulators can play them. I've been playing the Professor Layton games in Japanese and it has been IMMENSELY helpful. Many modern Steam games such as Skyrim or Bioshock Infinite can be switched over to Japanese.

Starting Guide to Learning Japanese

Hiragana and Katakana

If you're completely new to the language, your first step will be memorizing the hiragana and katakana. Japanese has three sets of written language. Hiragana looks like this: ひらがなはおいしいですね. These are the phonetic Japanese syllabary. Each symbol represents either a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or a vowel and consonant pair (te, ki, su, to, ja, na, etc.) Notice the rounded shapes.

The second set are katakana, which look like this: カタカナノツカйкаハムズカシクナイヨ. These are used for transcribing foreign words into Japanese, written sound effects, or otherwise emphasizing something. Notice the sharp lines. Katakana and hiragana both represent the exact same sounds, they're just different. Why? Because.

The final set are known as kanji, which are logograms, kinda like hieroglyphics. They look like this: 漢字之書方突然変異平仮名戸片仮名存在. If you look closely, you might see some similarities between the kana and the kanji. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_language#History and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiragana#History> for details.

Okay, so, with all that in mind, how on earth do you start to memorize this crap? There's like 50 of these suckers, and you gotta memorize them twice? And there's *how* many kanji? Whaaat? Yes. Yes you do. But, it's actually very easy! All you need is a program called Anki.

Anki

Anki is a completely customizable program for displaying and testing you on flash cards. Remember those? You probably learned your multiplication tables on them in 1st grade and never saw them again? Well they're back, baby, and in a big way. Just download the program (at <http://ankisrs.net/>) and load up a kana deck, like this one. <https://ankiweb.net/shared/info/3158257782>

So you'll launch the deck, your card will display と, and you'll think to yourself "Oh, that's 'to'!" So you click "Show Answer," the back of the card is "To" along with an audio file of a Japanese person pronouncing it, and you're done. Then you grade yourself on how easy it was to remember. You progress through cards like that until you've done all of your new cards and reviews for the day.

Okay, so you've learned the kana, either by rote memorization or using a study guide like Genki or Remembering the Kana? Good. Now, your next step should be vocabulary and grammar, but if you're having trouble at any point telling kanji like 大丈夫犬 apart, you'll want to start studying them together with your vocab and grammar.

Grammar

I'd start here: <http://www.guidetojapanese.org/learn/complete>

There's a pretty thorough introduction to Japanese grammar on here, along with a lot of introductory vocab. There's also several Anki decks to go along with it, such as this

one: <https://ankiweb.net/shared/info/4249761762>

Or, if you're using a book like the N2 Grammar guide: <https://ankiweb.net/shared/info/1430508927>

Basically, just look around the Anki shared deck library, there's probably a deck for whatever you've got.

Vocabulary

Okay, so you know your なぎゃs and your なくてならないs. Good. Now, for the vocabulary. My personal recommendation is the Core2k/6k/10k Anki deck. This is based off of the iknow.jp website's "Core 2000/6000/10000" set, which is a corpus designed using the most common 2k, 6k, and 10k words in Japanese. Studies have shown that if you know the 6k most common Japanese words, you know around 96% of the words in Japanese newspapers. And if you can read a Japanese newspaper without help, you're fluent. So that's more or less the goal. Basically, what you want to do is import this spreadsheet as an Anki deck.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pJZ1BUbzdINTF5QXc&hl=en#gid=0>

Just sort it by Core2k/6k index before you start, and the deck will automatically be arranged to show you words in the order of most common to least common. Just place these files in your Anki's .media folder

<http://www.mediafire.com/file/2/kore-sound-vocab-munged.zip>

<http://www.mediafire.com/file/re-sound-sentences-munged.zip>

<http://www.mediafire.com/?nrvpcx9a766nh1t>

and you'll have fully voiced vocabulary with fully voiced example sentences, all spoken by native speakers. It's really rather delightful. The best part is, since Anki is so customizable, there are a million things you can do with this deck. You can practice Japanese->English written recognition, you could do Japanese->English listening comprehension, you could do English->Japanese vocabulary recall, the possibilities are endless.

Even if you're just following along with Genki, there are Anki decks for that, too.

Kanji

Okay, so you can *tell* them how many cakes you want, but you can't keep up with the menus? Or are you a ワープ口馬鹿? Well, there's several solutions to this problem. You can try Heisig's Remembering the Kanji. The Core 2k/6k deck includes a field ordered by RTK index, so if you wanted to do both at once, you could learn the kanji in RTK and then start on the associated vocab in the deck. Or, you could try a different book. I've heard nothing but good things about Kanji in Context. There's also the... slightly less academic (although still perfectly valid) series like Kanji de Manga. The important part is to check and see if there's an Anki deck for your book out there. If not, make your own and share it with the world! I'd also recommend while doing reps to actually write the kanji down on a piece of paper. I have sheets of them from when I was going RTK. The physicality of it will help embed the kanji in your memory and improve your stroke order and stuff.