

A BASIC COURSE IN JAPANESE

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PREFACE

This book is prepared primarily to meet the requirements of engineering students to acquire a basic knowledge in Japanese language in the course of 30 hours.

The objective of this book is to empower the students to possess good conversational skills in Japanese language together with the understanding of Japanese culture. However, attempt is also made to encourage the students to learn the native scripts viz, Hiragana, Katakana and basic Kanjis, which are Chinese characters that form part of the Japanese language writing system.

The lessons are prepared in such a manner that basic grammar is introduced right from the beginning. The lessons are aimed at enabling the students to speak the language that will be applicable to daily life situations. The main lessons are written in Hiragana script with Romaji (Roman script) and English side by side for better understanding. The vocabulary and meanings, grammar and exercises for each lesson is also given at the end of each lesson.

A brief description about Japan, its culture and society is given in the Glossary in English. Adjectives, verbs and N5 Kanjis are given in the Additional Information section. All this information has been procured from the internet. A glossary of terms such as greetings, family relationships, time expression, numbers, etc. is also appended for reference at the end of every lesson. Hiragana and Katakana practice charts are included to practise the scripts.

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Chennai

LESSONS



Lesson 5

Keeki o yattsu kudasai

Preparation for the meeting

田 中 : ラジャさん あしたは きんようびですね。
とうきょうでんきの ひとたちが きますね。
ラジャ : はい、そうですね。かいぎの ために なにが ひつようですか。
田 中 : ノートが よつと えんぴつが やつ ひつようです。
ラジャ : はい、わかりました。



While concluding the meeting

中 : それでは コンピューターを
4 0 だいおねがいします。
わたなべ : はい、ありがとう ございます。
田 中 : らいしゅうの 金ようび までに
おくって ください。
わたなべ : はい、わかりました。

しよくどうで

ラジャ : ケーキと コーヒーを やつってください。
てんいん : はい、かしこまりました。



Tanaka: *Raja* san, ashita wa kinyoubi desu ne.
Tokyo denki no hitotachi ga kimasu
ne.

Raja: Hai, sou desu ne. Kaigi no tame ni
nani ga hitsuyou desu ka.

Tanaka: *Nooto* ga yottsu to enpitsu ga yattsu
hitsuyou desu.

Raja: Hai, wakarimashita.

Tanaka: Soredewa *konpyuutaa* o 40 dai
onagai shimasu.

Watanabe: Hai, arigatou gozaimasu.

Tanaka: Raishuu no kinyoubi made ni
okutte kudasai.

Watanabe: Hai, wakarimashita.

Shokudou de

Raja: *Keeki* to *koohii* o yattsu kudasai.

Tenin: Hai, kashikomarimashita.

Tanaka: Mr Raja, tomorrow is Friday isn't it?
The people from Tokyo Electric will
be visiting us, right?

Raja: Yes, that's right. What do we need
for the meeting?

Tanaka: We need 4 notepads and 8 pencils.

Raja: Yes, got it.

Tanaka: Well then, we need 40 computers.

Watanabe: Yes, thank you.

Tanaka: Please send it by next Friday.

Watanabe: Yes, of course.

At the Cafeteria

Raja: 8 cakes and 8 cups of coffee please.

Waiter: Yes, certainly.

れんしゅう

1. Kodomo ga go nin imasu.
 - a. Onna no hito, hachi
 - b. Otoko no hito, ni
 - c. *Amerikajin*, yon
 2. Ravi san wa yon kai ni imasu.
 - a. *Raja* san, ichi
 - b. Yamada san, san
 - c. Yukiko san, nana
 3. Koohii o mittsu kudasai.
 - a. *Remon juusu*, roku
 - b. *koohii*, yon
 - c. ‘Mineral water’, ichi
 *when you ask for a cup of water, say “Mizu o ippai kudasai”.
 4. Tsukue no shita ni inu ga sanbiki imasu.
 - a. Ike, naka, sakana, ni
 - b. Isu, ue, neko, roku
 - c. hondana, shita, mushi, juu
 5. Kaban no naka ni ringo ga muttsu arimasu.
 - a. isu, shita, keshigomu, ni
 - b. Tsukue, ue, denwa, ichi
 - c. Tsukue, ue, keitai denwa, san
 6. Kuruma ga nidai to baiku ga ichidai arimasu.
 - a. *nooto*, 4; *boorupen*, 2
 - b. kutsu, 2; kaban, 4
 - c. ani, 3; ane 2
 7. Q: Kekkon shiki no tame ni nani ga hitsuyou desu ka.
 A: (Kekkon shiki no tame ni) keeki ga hitsuyou desu.
 - a. Kuruma
 - b. Okane
 - c. *Sarii*
-

Exercises

I) Fill in the blanks

1. Akai ringo ga ____ arimasu. (5)
2. Kutsushita ga ____ arimasu. (3)
3. *Terebi* wa ____ arimasu ka. (how many)
4. Enpitsu ga ____ arimasu. (6)
5. Ano heya ni hito ga ____ imasu. (2)

II) Rearrange the following sentences

1. nin/ga/ni/gakusei/imasu/sanjuu/kyoushitsu
2. ga/ni/tsukue/ue/no/arimasu/mannenhitsu/muttsu
3. o/kamera/dai/kaimasu/ni
4. wa/aoi/ikutsu/ka/arimasu/ringo
5. niwa/ga/inu/biki/nan/to/neko/ka/imasu/ni

III Translate into Japanese

1. There are 3 dogs on the chair.
 2. There are 8 books on the table.
 3. How many pencils are there in the bag?
 4. There are 4 computers in this room.
 5. There is a man and a woman on the second floor.
-

Kono lesson no kotoba

でんき	denki	light, electricity
コンピューター	<i>konpyuutaa</i>	computer
テレビ	<i>terebi</i>	television
(—の) ひとたち	hitotachi	people
かいぎ	kaigi	meeting
けっこんしき	kekkon shiki	wedding
ノート	<i>nooto</i>	notepad
えんぴつ	enpitsu	pencil
ボールペン	<i>boorupen</i>	ballpen
ください	kudasai	please
わかりました	wakarimashita	understood
もちろん	mochiron	of course
ひつよう (な)	hitsuyou	necessary
きます	kimasu	to come

grammar

～までに	made ni	by, not later than
～ (の) ために	(no) tame ni	for the purpose of
と	to	and (used to connect two nouns)

others

りんご	ringo	apple
くつした	kutsushita	socks
ねこ	neko	cat
むし	mushi	insect

Grammar notes

Counters are used both in English language and Japanese, but more extensively used in Japanese. In English when you count uncountable substances such as paper, rice and coffee, we use words such as three sheets of paper, two scoops of rice, two cups of coffee, etc. These underlined words are called counters.

In Japanese counters are expressed by suffixes used immediately following the numbers. Thus, counters are not independent words and cannot be used in isolation. Logically all numbers must be used with appropriate counters depending upon what is being counted. Counters are broadly classified based on size and shape of things, people, animals, frequency and so forth.

Japanese has two numerical systems

- 1) For counting numerals the sino-japanese system is used. Eg: ichi, ni, san, yon, go, roku, nana, hachi, ku, juu.
- 2) For counting things based on their shape - Japanese native counting system is used only from 1-10 numbers. For greater than 10 numbers only the sino-japanese system is used accompanied by the counter.

Bunpou

Counters

Objects	Counter	Examples
General/irregular objects	~tsu	Fruits, marbles, erasers
People	~nin	Man, Woman, child
General animals	~hiki	Dogs, cats, insects, small animals
Machinery	~dai	Cars, computers, sewing machine, automobiles
Floors/times	~kai	1 st floor, 3 rd floor, 5 th floor / 3 times, 5 times

Number	~tsu	~nin	~hiki	~dai	~kai
1	hitotsu	hitori	ippiki	ichidai	ikkai
2	futatsu	futari	nihiki	nidai	nikai
3	mittsu	sannin	sanbiki	sandai	sankai/sangai*
4	yottsu	yonin	yonhiki	yondai	yonkai
5	itsutsu	gonin	gohiki	godai	gokai
6	muttsu	rokunin	roppiki	rokudai	rokkai
7	nanatsu	shichinin	nanahiki	nanadai	nanakai
8	yattsu	hachinin	happiki	hachidai	hakkai
9	kokonotsu	kyuunin	kyuuhiki	kyuudai	kyuukai
10	too	juunin	juppiki	juudai	jukkai
<i>how many</i>	ikutsu	nan nin	nan biki	nan dai	nankai/nangai*

* sankai – three times, sangai – 3rd floor

かぞく	KAZOKU	ごかぞく	GOKAZOKU	FAMILY
ちち	chichi	おとうさん	otousan	father
はは	haha	おかあさん	okaasan	mother
あに	ani	おにいさん	oniisan	elder brother
あね	ane	おねえさん	oneesan	elder sister
おとうと	otouto	おとうとさん	otoutosan	younger brother
いもうと	imouto	いもうとさん	imoutosan	younger sister
そふ	sofu	おじいさん	ojiisan	grandfather
そば	sobo	おばあさん	obaasan	grandmother
おじ	oji	おじさん	ojisan	uncle
おば	oba	おばさん	obasan	aunt
いとこ	itoko	いとこ	itoko	cousin

COMMON EXPRESSIONS**Family greeting**

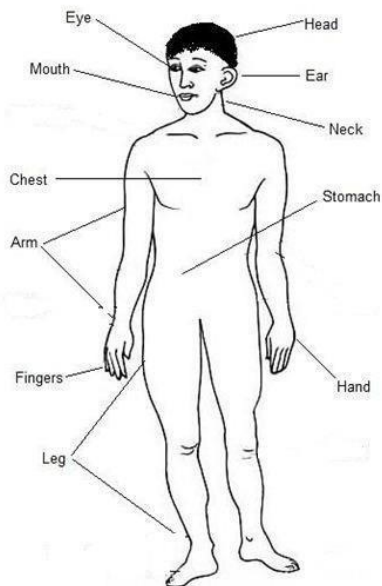
いってきます	itte kimasu	will be back
いってらっしゃい	itte rasshai	see you
ただいま	tadaima	I am back home
おかえりなさい	okaerinasai	welcome back

**At a meal**

いただきます	itadakimasu	a greeting used before eating a
ごちそうさまでした	gochisousama deshita	greeting used after eating

**In an organization**

おつかれさまでした	otsukaresama deshita	compliment given to someone working for you
おさきにしつれいします	osakini shitsurei shimasu	sorry for leaving (before you)
だいじょうぶですか	daijoubu desuka	is it okay?
おだいじに	odaijini	take care/get well soon

**BODY PARTS**

あたま	atama	head
め	me	eye
みみ	mimi	ear
はな	hana	nose
くち	kuchi	mouth
くび	kubi	neck
むね	mune	chest
せなか	senaka	back
おなか	onaka	stomach
うで	ude	arm
て	te	hand
あし	ashi	leg, foot

5. JAPANESE HOUSE AND LIVING STYLE



Japan has both modern and traditional styles of housing. The traditional Japanese house is a beautiful sight to behold. Made of wood and paper, it has an organic feel and look that can hardly be found anywhere else. Individual houses in Japan are either single or two storeys. The interior design is what really sets the traditional Japanese house apart from European or American designs. With the exception of the entry way (genkan), the kitchen (daidokoro), the bathing room (ofuro) and the toilet (otearai), the rooms in a traditional Japanese house does

not have a designated use.

A room can easily be a living area, a bedroom, a dining room or any combination. Large rooms are partitioned by sliding doors (fusuma) made of wood and thick paper. These sliding doors can be removed whenever a larger space is needed. Windows are made of wood and shoji paper, which is thin enough to let the light shine through.

Even modern Japanese houses tend to have one traditional Japanese room, called a washitsu. This room is sparsely if at all furnished and has tatami mats on the floor. In a traditional Japanese house, this style may be reflected throughout the home. Tatami are thick straw mats covered with stitched, woven rushes. Tatami are smooth and firm enough to walk on and are also useful for an afternoon nap.

The genkan is usually a step below the level of the rest of the house. When people enter the home, they leave their shoes in the genkan, pointed toward the door so they only need to slip them on when they are ready to go out. Indoor slippers are often worn inside the house, of course, except in the Japanese style room (washitsu).

The bathing room contains a tub and is often waterproof. An adjacent area is available for showering. The Japanese re-use bathwater, either for other bathers or for washing laundry, so it is important not to dirty the water with soap and dirt. Dirty portions of the body can be washed before stepping into the bath. This is very important especially in a public bath.



Buddhism is practiced in Japan, as it is in many other Asian countries. In Japan, though, indigenous gods have been worshipped alongside the Buddha in homes since long ago. Buddhist altars (butsudan) are shaped like a cabinet with doors at the front that swing open. The altar for Japanese gods (kamidana) is shaped like a small shrine and is kept on a shelf near the ceiling. It contains a paper or wooden tablet (ofuda) with prayers on it.