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Welcome Page

Welcome to your kickstarter in learning Japanese! Lets journey through the two writing systems as well as some vocabulary words.

Hiragana Page

The Japanese language writing system consists of three character types Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji with each type playing a different purpose to the language. This lesson teaches Hiragana.

Hiragana is used for Japanese function words. It was first developed in the 5th century and up to this day it is still being used. This writing system is phonetic in nature meaning to say that each character represents one character syllable.

Attached below is a downloadable pdf file to practice. Take note of the stroke order as well for each japanese character.

Fun fact: Did you know kanji was inaccessible to women before? Court ladies and ladies-in-waiting created Hiragana--then known as onnade or 'women's hand'--since men wrote in kanji and katakana.

Katakana Page

Welcome to one of the two Japanese writing systems. Here, we tackle Katakana. Katakana is used for a myriad of things. The most common use of it is for foreign words/non-japanese words--most especially English words. Let's get started shall we?

Attached below is a downloadable pdf file to practice. Take note of the stroke order as well for each japanese character.

Introducing Myself

Lets learn how to introduce ourselves.

This page is just a fun way to teach yourself japanese. Lets begin!

Vocabulary Page 1

Hello again! This is part one of two parts to introduce you some fun vocabulary words!

Attached below is a downloadable pdf file to practice. This time take note of your stroke order when you learned you Hiragana and Katakana. Or you may use your notebook to practice.

Vocabulary Page 2

This is the second and final part in your vocabulary lessons! You're nearly done covering all the parts of this website!

Attached below is a downloadable pdf file to practice. This time take note of your stroke order when you learned your Hiragana and Katakana. Or you may use your notebook to practice.

Lets get complex by learning some short phrases as well!

About Page

Hello there! My name is Mavi Zabala and I am the creator of this website! As someone who has overcome the steep and tedious start in learning Japanese, I wanted to create this website to encourage new learners how to go and fulfill their goal of learning the Japanese Language! I started learning Japanese on and off at the beginning of my middle school years-- specifically grade 8. Hopefully you enjoy/enjoyed your language lessons!

Tips and Tricks Page

To lead you on your journey. This is the final page of encouragement to help you through the long journey of language learning.

Practice, れんしゅ, Practice!

Like anything that we've been taught our whole lives, practice makes perfect. Make it a fact to shell out a few minutes of your time daily to practice the writing system as well as simple words that you've learned. It is recommended to have your own language notebook for yourself so that you may look back at your progress once you've filled the whole book.

Whats that word?

Look up words you use daily. By knowing the name of everyday items, it helps in engaging your mind and subconscious into retaining the word in Japanese longer. Which leads me to another point that connects to this tip.

Immerse yourself

They say the best and fastest way to learn a language is to live in the country that speaks it. But lets be real-- we cant all just pack up and go leave everything we know behind, right? Well another way to immerse yourself in the Japanese language is to consume their products, reading, watching shows/anime and listening to music are just a few of the many ways you can incorporate Japanese to your life.

Reading:

Shonen Manga- this manga is aimed towards kids ages 9 to 18 years old. What makes this manga particularly useful for those looking to read books is that it has furigana beside unfamiliar kanji. Furigana is a Japanese reading aid that consists of smaller kana written above or next to kanji to indicate their pronunciation. Check out Japan's famous manga Shonen Jump! They produce one of the biggest manga names such as Haikyuu! Attack On Titan, One Piece and several others.

Language books:

Genki: An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese (English and Japanese Edition)

This language learning book is well rounded as it covers speaking, listening, reading and writing to cultivate overall language ability. The book also includes an audio CD companion and guides you through the exercises in each page.

Minna no Nihongo-

This series takes you from elementary to intermediate levels as it is written entirely in Japanese. Although total immersion is beneficial for learners it may be deemed difficult studying yourselves. It is highly suggested that this book be used for those that have a solid understanding of hiragana, katakana and some kanji in order to utilize this book to its full potential.

Nihongo Sou-Matome-

For those looking for a study guide for the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test). This series is useful. For each proficiency level there are books broken down into smaller, digestible and specific segments. Depending on the level some contain Grammar, Kanji, Vocabulary and Listening Comprehension.

Recommended shows:

Terrace House- Terrace house (テラスハウス) is a reality show created in Japan. The show follows the lives of six strangers, three men and three women from different walks of life that live together while getting to know each other and possibly date each other. There are currently five series. What makes this show great for language learners is that it uses conversational Japanese. You will be able to learn the grammatical structure as well as learn new words along the way.

Japanese Artists-

Yorushika

Sakanaction

ATARASHII GAKKO!

OFFICIAL HIGE DANDISM

AIMYON

back number

Useful Applications:

DUOLINGO- There's a reason why Duolingo is practically everywhere when you search up individuals online who have started learning a new language. The app was publicly launched on June 19, 2012 and has since then helped learners across the world to reach their language goals in the pace that they prefer. On top of that the app is free!

ANKI FLASHCARDS- Anki is a free and open-source flashcard software that utilizes repetition as its primary way of input for fast and long-lasting memory. There are free downloadable flashcards made by users. If you prefer to make your own, you may as well. The best part of this app is that once your flashcards have been fully downloaded, you may use them offline as well so that you can learn on the go!

References:



