

What is Japanese?

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?

Goals and Plans

- The goal of this program isn't fluency; it's just to give a pretty basic understanding of Japanese as a starting point.
 - This program covers the three alphabets, some basic grammar, and about 85 words, with the eventual goal being able to understand some random manga I found on the internet that I think is neat.
 - I also included a section about anime, but that's after the manga thing, so I don't know if we'll get to it.
- There might (just maybe) be a small amount of homework.
 - Tighten your asscheeks, it's gonna be tough. You *will* cry.
 - (I'm just kidding, it'll be easy-peazy, lemon obliterated.)



Lesson Plans

1. Japanese Overview (this one)
2. Hiragana (The first alphabet.)
 - a. Should be covered today, too.
3. Vocabulary One
 - a. Will also cover simple grammar at the same time.
4. Train Presentation
 - a. In case you're getting bored of pure Japanese, I wanted to do a quick pass over a presentation I made for class to keep your attention.
5. Grammar One
 - a. Dedicated grammar lesson that builds on Vocabulary One.
6. Katakana (The second alphabet.)
7. Vocabulary Two
 - a. Also a little more grammar at the same time.
8. Kanji (The third, hardest alphabet.)
9. Manga (Crystal Hunters)
10. Anime (Lucky Star/Azumanga Daioh/Nichijou)
 - a. *NOT just* watching anime! We'll be translating clips from various shows.
 - b. We might not reach here, but it'd be *really* cool if we could, so let's keep pace and get it all done!

So, what is Japanese? (History)

- Japanese comes from Japan. (Big wow)
- Japanese dates back to around 300 AD, but it was the same thing as Old English is to English pretty much.
 - Like, it's pretty distant from modern Japanese.
 - Japanese has stolen a lot of words from other languages over the years.
 - It has TWO whole alphabets for this. (Namely Kanji and Katakana.)



- The Japanese alphabets are three (main) alphabets are Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji, in order of difficulty.
 - We'll be covering Hiragana, the first alphabet, first, today, after I finish this part.
 - Hentaigana (lit. “weird syllabary”) used to be a thing, but was eliminated when it fell out of usage, hence the name.
- All three alphabets, Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji are composed of the same sounds.
 - Kanji and Katakana use the same sounds as Hiragana.
 - All sounds are made of either just a vowel or a vowel + a consonant, or just the consonant n.
 - When reading sounds in Japanese, you kinda have to keep time, since each sound should get one beat at whatever pace you're speaking.
 - Pitch should be relatively constant, but some words have pitch alterations.
 - **Hiragana makes up native Japanese words, Kanji is used for loanwords from Chinese, and Katakana is used for loanwords from any other language.**



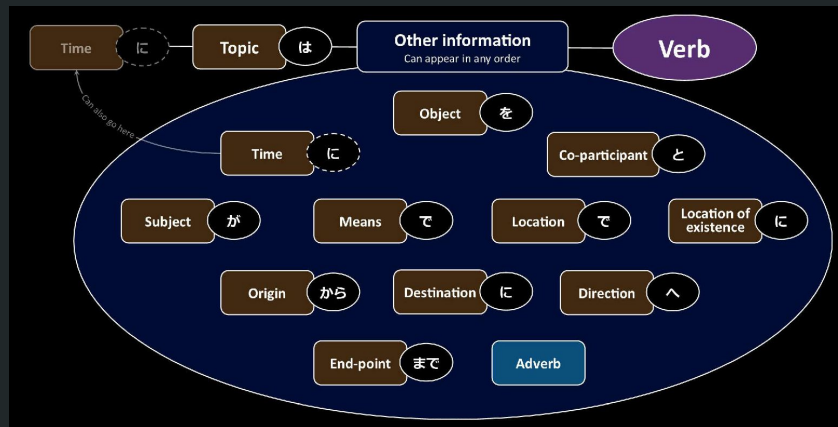
Unimportant Dialect Notes

- There are a few different dialects in Japanese... They vary more than US dialects do, but the words are mostly interchangeable, so don't worry about it-- as long as you understand the basic grammar and the vocab words, you'll be fine.
 - English dialects are things like people saying "soda" or "pop," "yall," or other similar words.
 - Old English is a dialect of English. (eg; Prithee, dost thou knoweth it?)
- Similar things exist for Japanese;
 - This will teach Tokyo Japanese, Since it's the most common and the one I know.



Important Word Order And Basic Structure Notes

- In general, its sentences in Japanese are structured in Subject-Object-Verb order.
 - As opposed to English's Subject-Verb-Object
 - Word order is relatively loose in Japanese; there are usually a lot of ways to say one sentence that are grammatically correct.
- As an example of the word order:
 - “It is an orange.” becomes “It an orange is.”
S V O S O V
- We'll now do an exercise to practice reordering words.



Word Order Exercise

Rewrite the following to have a more Japanese word order. (Stream your notes)

- EX: It is an orange.

- (it) an orange is.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Japanese is Cool. | ➤ | Japanese cool is. |
| 2. Sam hates oranges. | ➤ | Sam oranges hates. |
| 3. Sam has an orange allergy. | ➤ | Sam an orange allergy has. |
| 4. I feed Sam oranges. | ➤ | I feed sam oranges. |
| 5. Sam went to the hospital. | ➤ | Sam hospital (to) went |

Your first steps to Japanese literacy: **Hiragana**

What is Hiragana?

- Originally, Japanese was a *spoken-only* language.
 - This is why the pronunciations **exactly** match their writings.
 - English evolved alongside writing and that's why its pronunciations suck. (read/read, the/the)
 - The sounds in Hiragana are made out of 46 basic sounds, plus more modified sounds. (We'll go over each letter individually.)

n	w	r	y	m	h	n	t	s	k		
ん	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ	a
		り		み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い	i
		る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う	u
		れ		め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え	e
	を	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お	o

Here's what we'll do to learn them!

- Because knowing this alphabet is absolutely essential to knowing Japanese, we'll start by memorizing each character separately.
 1. Learn each character individually, via writing them out a few times, then practice reading them via flipcards on my computer.
 - a. Instead of making more slides for each individual character, I'm just gonna use my textbook to teach you instead...
 2. Activity: Play Hiragana Teacher to get faster at recognizing the characters.
 - a. Because Hiragana Teacher learns what you're bad at, it's really good for getting started.
 3. Activity: Regress to old Hiragana Teacher for the three-in-one mode that I was too lazy to copy to the web version.
 4. Worksheet if we have time, otherwise it's homework.

Next time: Modified Sounds (Get your tear ducts ready! It's only another 61 things to remember!)

Don't peek past here!!!

Jeez what did I just say

I swear to god if you go down one
more slide why I'll

:| Go back; it'll just spoil your fun.

Is it next time yet? No? I can't stop you,
so here it is:

Modified Sounds

Modified Sounds

- Small ticks are added to make the sound sorta vibrate in your throat... it's kinda weird how to explain it. A circle is added to make a pX-type sound-- to make it pop.
 - KA -> GA, SA -> ZA, TA -> DA, HA -> BA
 - Only the HA row can be given the °
- You can combine KI, SHI, SA, NI, HI, MI, RI, or any of their modified versions with YA, YU, or YO to create glides, like KYA, KYU, or NYA
 - (Nya~~ Nya~~)

p	b	d	z	g	
ぱ [°]	ば	だ	ざ	が	a
ぴ [°]	び	ぢ	じ	ぎ	i
ぷ [°]	ぶ	づ	ず	ぐ	u
ぺ	べ	で	ぜ	げ	e
ぽ [°]	ぼ	ど	ぞ	ご	o

p	b	d	z	g	r	m	h	n	t	s	k	
ぴ [°] や	び [°] や	ぢ [°] や	じ [°] や	ぎ [°] や	り [°] や	み [°] や	ひ [°] や	に [°] や	ち [°] や	し [°] や	き [°] や	ya
ぴ [°] ゆ	び [°] ゆ	ぢ [°] ゆ	じ [°] ゆ	ぎ [°] ゆ	り [°] ゆ	み [°] ゆ	ひ [°] ゆ	に [°] ゆ	ち [°] ゆ	し [°] ゆ	き [°] ゆ	yu
ぴ [°] よ	び [°] よ	ぢ [°] よ	じ [°] よ	ぎ [°] よ	り [°] よ	み [°] よ	ひ [°] よ	に [°] よ	ち [°] よ	し [°] よ	き [°] よ	yo