

# **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.

We, the faculty members hereby acknowledge that we are highly indebted to our **Ryoko Iseda sensei**, who was formerly, the senior Japanese language advisor from the Japan Foundation, New Delhi for her valuable suggestions and corrections made by her in the preparation of this book. We also express our sincere thanks to our sensei Ms. Vimala Solomon, Director, Surya Nihongo Gakko, Madurai, who gave her valuable suggestions towards the preparation of this book. A special mention about **Hideyuki Fujisawa sensei** and **Ms. Chiho BABA** our voluntary teachers from JICA, Japan for their invaluable contribution in bringing out this book to suit the needs of the learners.

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We also express our sincere gratitude to the SRM Management, the Director (Engineering & Technology) for facilitating the department to hold seminars and workshops conducted by Japan foundation, New Delhi, for improving our teaching methodology in Japanese on couple of occasions. These seminars prompted us to write a book for the use of our own students of Japanese language.

Chennai

# LESSONS



## Lesson 4

### Toukyou *tawaa* wa docchi desu ka

ラジャ： すみません。とうきょうタワーは どっち ですか。

男の人： ええっと、あっちです。あそこに あかい  
とうが ありますね。あれ ですよ。

ラジャ： ああ、あの おおきい とう ですね。  
どうも ありがとうございます。

男の人： どういたしまして。  
とうきょう タワーで

ラジャ： チケットの まどぐちは どちらですか。

かかりいん： はい。あちらです。

ラジャ： あのう。。。うえに きっさてんは  
ありますか。

かかりいん： はい、さんがいに ありますよ。

ラジャ： トイレは どこですか。

かかりいん： あの かいだんの みぎです。

ラジャ： ああ、どうも。



**Raja:** Sumimasen, Toukyou *tawaa* wa docchi  
desu ka.

**Otoko no hito:** Eetto... Acchi desu. Asoko ni  
akai tou ga arimasu ne. Are desu yo.

**Raja:** Aa, ano ookii tou desune. Doumo  
arigatou gozaimasu.

**Otoko no hito:** Dou itashimashite.

**Toukyou tawaa de**

**Raja:** *Chiketto* no madoguchi wa dochira desu ka.

**Kakari in:** Hai, achira desu.

**Raja:** Anou...ue ni kissaten wa arimasu ka.

**Kakari in:** Hai, sangai ni arimasu yo.

**Raja:** *Toire* wa doko desu ka.

**Kakari in:** Ano kaidan no migi desu.

**Raja:** Aa, Doumo.

**Raja:** Excuse me, which way is the Tokyo  
Tower?

**Man:** Well, It's that way over there. You see a  
red tower over there. That's the one.

**Raja:** Oh, that big tower over there! Thank  
you very much.

**Man:** You're welcome.

**At the Tokyo tower**

**Raja:** Where's the ticket counter?

**Clerk:** Well, It's that way (over there).

**Raja:** Er... is there a coffee shop on top?

**Clerk:** Yes, there's one on the third floor.

**Raja:** Where's the toilet?

**Clerk:** It's on the right side of the staircase.

**Raja:** Oh, thanks.

## れんしゅう

1. れい: Eki wa docchi desu ka. Acchi desu.

1. ginkou, kocchi
2. eigakan, socchi
3. taishikan, acchi
4. jimusho, kocchi
5. shokudou, socchi

2. れい: *Suupaa wa resutoran no tonari ni arimasu.*

1. kuukou, mae
2. sono biru, mukou
3. daigaku, ushiro
4. bijutsukan, soba
5. kouban, hantai

3. れい: Chuushajou wa konbini no hidari ni arimasu.

1. *Erebeetaa, toire*, migi
2. *Takushii* noriba, honya, chikaku
3. *Basunoriba*, eki, soba
4. Kusuriya, kousaten, hidari
5. Ginkou, gakkou, hantai

4-1. れい: Q : Hon wa doko ni arimasu ka ?

1. *dejikame, handobaggu*, naka
  2. Kutsu, isu, shita
  3. Hondana, *terebi*, soba
  4. Okane, saifu, naka
  5. *Pasokon, teeburu*, ue
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4-2. れい: Q : tsukue no ue ni nani ga arimasu ka ?

A : (tsukue no ue ni) hon ga arimasu.

1. *handobaggu*, naka, *dejikame*

2. isu, shita, kutsu

3. *terebi*, soba, hondana

4. saifu, naka, okane

5. *teeburu*, ue, *pasokon*

5. れい: Radha san, kirei → Radha san wa kirei desu ne.

1. Ano yama, takai

2. Kono kaban, yasui

3. Sono hana, kirei

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## Exercises

### I) Fill in the blanks

1. Toshokan \_\_\_\_ dochira desu \_\_\_\_.
2. Asoko \_\_\_\_ kissaten \_\_\_\_ arimasu yo.
3. Acchi \_\_\_\_ kissaten \_\_\_\_ arimasu ka.
4. Yamada san, *toire* \_\_\_\_ acchi desu \_\_\_\_.
5. *Toire* \_\_\_\_ *Erebetaa* \_\_\_\_ hidari \_\_\_\_ arimasu.
- 6-1. SRM daigaku \_\_\_\_ chikaku \_\_\_\_ nani ga arimasu ka?
- 6-2. (SRM daigaku \_\_\_\_ ) soba \_\_\_\_ yuubinkyoku \_\_\_\_ arimasu. Hantai \_\_\_\_ eki \_\_\_\_ arimasu.

### II) Rearrange the following sentences

1. ni/wa/ka/arimasu/sochira/honya
2. ginkou/arimasen/ni/wa/kochira/iie
3. ka/wa/inu/niwa/imasu/ni
4. ga/ni/uchi/naka/no/imasu/kodomo
5. tsukue/arimasu/ni/no/ue/ga/hon

### III) Translate into Japanese.

1. The bank is this way.
  2. Mr Yamada is in the library.
  3. There is a cat under the chair.
  4. Which way is the restaurant?
  5. Where is the Japanese language book? It is in the bookshelf.
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**Kono lesson no kotoba**

あいさつ	<b>aisatsu</b>	<b>greeting</b>
すみません	sumimasen	excuse me
あのう	anou	well, er...
ひと	<b>hito</b>	<b>person</b>
おとこ	otoko	man
かかりいん	kakari in	clerk in charge
<b>Road</b>		
みち	michi	way, road, street
こうさてん	kousaten	crossing
たてもの	<b>tatemono</b>	<b>building</b>
えいがかん	eigakan	movie theatre
びじゅつかん	bijutsukan	art gallery
ぎんこう	ginkou	bank
じむしょ	jimusho	office
くすりや	kusuriya	medical shop
ほんや	honya	book shop
コンビニ	<i>konbini</i>	convenient store
スーパー	<i>suupaa</i>	super market
レストラン	<i>resutoran</i>	restaurant
しょくどう	shokudou	dining hall
きっさてん	kissaten	coffee shop
とう	tou	tower
こうばん	kouban	police box
がっこう	gakkou	school
だいがく	daigaku	university
たいしかん	taishikan	embassy
くうこう	kuukou	airport
タクシーのりば	<i>takushii</i> noriba	taxi stand
バスのりば	<i>basu</i> noriba	bus stand
ちゅうしゃじょう	chuushajou	parking lot

まどぐち	madoguchi	ticket window
トイレ	toire	toilet
かいだん	kaidan	steps
エレベーター	erebeetaa	elevator
~かい	~kai	floor of a building

### Locations

Noun の e.g. Building Room Person Town Country...	{	ひだり	hidari	left
		みぎ	migi	right
		まえ	mae	front
		うしろ	ushiro	behind
		となり	tonari	next
		ちかく	chikaku	near
		むこう	mukou	other side
		はんたい	hantai	opposite

### Bunpou

こっち	kocchi	this way/side/direction
そっち	socchi	that way/side/direction
あっち	acchi	that way/side/direction over there
どっち	docchi	which way/side/direction

こちら、そちら、あちら、どちら are polite forms of all demonstrative words

Ex) こちら means ここ、これ、この、こっち and このかた

~よ	yo	used when expressing the speaker's experience/feeling/knowledge
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## Grammar notes

### Demonstrative pronouns for Direction

よ - A sentence ending particle that indicates the speaker's assertion about something that is assumed to be known only to him. (I tell you; I'm telling you; you know)

Japanese adjectives can either modify nouns by directly preceding them or act as predicates.

Adjectives are of two kinds – ㇿ-ending and ㇿ-ending.

When a na-ending adjective is used in the predicate, na is dropped. The following sentences will illustrate the usage of na-ending adjectives.

Who is the person you are in love with?

(Anata no) sukina hito wa dare desu ka? (the adjective comes before the noun – hito)

Who do you like?

(Anata wa) dare ga suki desu ka? (the adjective is at the end of the sentence as predicate)

With ㇿ-ending adjectives, they remain the same whether they are used before or after the noun as seen below.

I love a gentle person. (Watashi wa) yasashii hito ga suki desu.

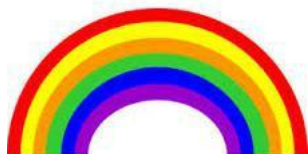
\*ga – object marker of adjective sentence.

She is gentle. Kanojo wa yasashii desu.

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## COLOURS

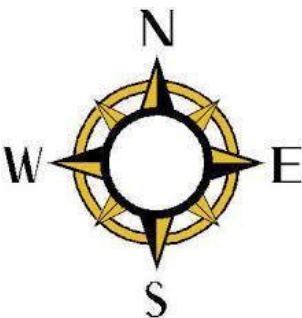
いadj		
あかい	akai	red
あおい	aoi	blue, green
しろい	shiroi	white
くろい	kuroi	black



## Noun

あか	aka	red
あお	ao	blue
しろ	shiro	white
くろ	kuro	black

## DIRECTIONS

	きた	kita	north			
にし	nishi	west		ひがし	higashi	east
	みなみ	minami	south			

#### 4. JAPANESE SPORTS AND MARTIAL ARTS

##### すもう / Sumou

Sumou is a Japanese style of wrestling and Japan's national sport. It originated in ancient times as a performance to entertain the Shinto gods. Many rituals with religious background are still followed today.



The basic rules of sumou are simple: the wrestler who first touches the ground with anything besides the soles of his feet, or who leaves the ring before his opponent, loses. Fights take place on an elevated ring, called a “dohyo”, which is made of clay and covered in a layer of sand. The fights themselves usually last only a few seconds, or in rare cases, about a minute.

Most elite wrestlers are highly trained athletes between 20 and 35 years old. They typically live together in residential and training complexes

(sumoubeya), where all aspects of life, from sleeping and eating to training and free time, are strictly regimented by the coach (oyakata).

There are no weight restrictions or classes in sumou, meaning that wrestlers can easily find themselves matched off against someone many times their size. As a result, weight gain is an essential part of sumou training. The typical sumou dish, chanko nabe, is a hearty stew full of vegetables, meat and fish.

Six tournaments are held every year, each one lasting 15 days. Three of the tournaments are held in Tokyo (January, May, September), and one each in Osaka (March), Nagoya (July) and Fukuoka (November).

##### じゅうどう / Juudou



The modern form of Juudou was developed by Professor Jigoro Kano at the end of the 19th century from the ancient martial art, jujutsu.

In Juudou, the aim is not only winning fights but also the training of one's body and spirit. The literal translation of Juudou is “the gentle way”: softness exceeds hardness in Juudou, and techniques are more important than strength.

## からて / Karate

In karate, one strikes with their fists, elbows and feet in defensive action. Karate is related to Chinese Kung-fu and the Korean Taekwondo. Karate means “empty hand” since karate does not usually employ weapons.



## けんどう / Kendou



Kendou is Japanese fencing. It means “the way of the sword”. Swords used to be a main weapon in Japanese warfare for many centuries. They continued to be the symbol of the samurai into the 19th century.

The participants in modern kendou are well protected and use bamboo swords. As in all the Japanese martial arts, the training of one’s mind is essential.

## やきゅう / Yakyuu - Baseball

Baseball is called yakyuu in Japanese, combining the characters for fielding and ball. It was introduced to Japan in 1872. The first baseball team was called the Shimbashi Athletic Club and was established in 1878. Baseball has been a popular sport ever since. Sometimes it is called “small baseball” because it focuses on technique rather than power unlike the Americans. However, the Japanese team emerged as winners in all the three World Baseball Classic games, held so far since 2006. The Japanese have been on the podium winning the first prize twice and the third prize once.