My Goal

1) What are your goals for this course? Today we're going to think about the yellow box on the graphic above: "Set Goals"

Consider goals related to course content, to your language development and to your development as an independent, self-regulated, Japanese language learner.

What you will need to do to meet your goals?

How are you thinking of making your "My Textbook?" What would you like to include in it?

2) Comment on two peer posts.

My Goalsについて

* Learn more Kanji , their pronunciations and how can they be used.
  + Build Kanji List, review everyday (at least periodically).
  + Find alternative use of each kanji and their pronunciations.
  + If possible, find their source (how the kanji comes from) which could help understand more kanji and their structures.
* Get used to each known vocabulary’s usage and how can they be used to express ideas and emotions , especially in songs and pop Japan cultures.
  + Compare words with similar meaning but can have various meaning depending on the places, atmosphere, etc.
  + Also learn pop/modern Japanese usages in words. (such as アニメソン->アニソン, the usage of まい(my), etc.)
* Learn about each singer and how they utilize the Japanese words and grammar to be used in their creation of songs and how they express the language in songs
  + As I want to speak the young Japanese languages, I think personalities cultivates the wordings and grammar use of language speakers. Therefore, I’m thinking of learning the backgrounds and other information about singers while learning and analysis their songs.

MyTextbookについて

* I’ve already built my textbook using a Recipe template. As I’m concerned, learning Japanese through songs are just like making and eating foods. By learning each word, grammar, and the structure, when we know all these things and put them together, we can then ‘eat’ the song and cultivate our Japanese skills.
* So far, I include the Title, Singer, Album, published year, Song length, Lyrics, Vocabulary list, Paragraphs to learn, and personal thoughts and reflections.
* I may include the background about the songs and the singers; for instances, how the song was made and what it is talking about.

Self-Assessment & Planning, Week 2

Reflect on your Japanese language learning since the course started, and set goals for the coming week. You may touch on the following points, or other points relevant to you:

* What is going well?
* What challenges are you facing?
* What would you like to do differently, or continue to do, between now and the next self-assessment?
  + Here you might consider *My Textbook*, oral/monologue assignments, song selection, using Japanese in class, etc.
* What are your plans for the coming week?
* What have you been learning from your own materials and/or from other students?
* What is inspiring you?

Everything’s going well so far. However, for this week’s song (week2: ずっと真夜中でいいのに。『お勉強しといてよ』), I found the song was too long and kinds of difficult for me to learn and understand the whole song. So, What I did is to fully study the first half of the song, including, new vocabularies, kanji, and grammars.

Changes I want to make might be taking notes of the useful vocabulary and find out meaningful sentences that can be used In real life.

For next week, I want to try to select another ZUTOMAYO’s song, trying to learn the full song this time.

What I’ve learned from classmates are my group member, Sophia, print her song’s lyrics by hand typing instead of copy and paste. I did this on this week’s song (which spent me a lot of time on such a difficult song). However, it does help my self-learning on the pronunciations of kanji.

Things that inspire me are that I more deeply find out the meaning of the song through self-study, because when I only listen to the song and trying to catch those lyrics, I was thinking “oh, this song might be talking about this”. However, after self-studying, I found out that the song was actually talking about a girl’s love on a juvenile delinquent.

Self-Assessment & Planning, Week 3

For this week's self-assessment and planning, the topic is \*song choice.\*

1. How are you selecting songs for use in this class?
2. How do you feel about the songs you have selected so far in terms of a) your interest/motivation to spend time with the song and the song's language and b) your language learning from the song?
3. Consider issues related to choosing songs you like vs. choosing songs for language learning? Do these go hand in hand or is there any conflict?
4. Are you happy with your approach to selecting songs, or do you want to make any changes?

For the previous three weeks, I selected songs from artists I like. I would prefer to select songs of my interest and spend time listening to the song I choose again and again for my textbook. By selecting songs I like, it won’t be boring for me to listen to the song and study the content (lyrics, story, background.)

However, choosing songs I like may lead me to choose a very difficult song, such as the song I chose last week, 「お勉強しといてよう」- ZUTOMAYO. The song is very fast, which can be harsh for me to separate each word out and analysis on the lyrics. I have to listen and compare the lyrics instead of my study style of trying to get the lyrics out by only listening first and then looking at the lyrics.

On the other hand, choosing songs for language learning can be boring, which may cause me to lose interest in self-learning from songs.

However, solutions can be made. For the very difficult song I chose, which is a song I like, I just fully study the song as much I can, which also make effort to the self-learning process. Therefore, I think I won’t make changes, but I’ll try to fully study a difficult song in the future.

Self-Assessment & Planning, Week 4

Reflect on your Japanese language learning since the course started, and set goals for the coming week. You may touch on the following points, or other points relevant to you:

* What is going well?
* What challenges are you facing?
* What would you like to do differently, or continue to do, between now and the next self-assessment?
  + Here you might consider *My Textbook*, oral/monologue assignments, song selection, using Japanese in class, etc.
* What are your plans for the coming week?
* What have you been learning from your own materials and/or from other students?
* What is inspiring you?

I’ve learned a lot of new Kanji and vocabulary during the self-learning process. I also learn various modern use of Japanese. The challenges I’m facing can be understanding the modern Japanese uses of short forms because they are adding plenty of this kind of usage in pop songs. To overcome this challenge, I’m thinking of also reading some modern Japanese literature to get used to their modern language.

In addition, another challenge I’m facing is how to use the things I’ve learned so far. Because I’m still kind of a Japanese beginner, I always think of those formal forms while speaking the language. One reason can be my afraid of making mistakes. So, I think maybe I will need more oral practice and chatting with peers.

So, for next week, I plan to start reading Japanese literature and also participate in the J-Songs Club. I think I need more chances to practice my oral Japanese skills with classmates and Japanese students. So, I think such activities provide good chances to chat with others, especially on topics that we are both interested in.

Self-Assessment & Planning, Week 6

Reflect on your Japanese language learning since the course started, and set goals for the coming week. You may touch on the following points, or other points relevant to you:

* What is going well?
* What challenges are you facing?
* What would you like to do differently, or continue to do, between now and the next self-assessment?
  + Here you might consider My Textbook, oral/monologue assignments, song selection, using Japanese in class, etc.
* What are your plans for the coming week?
* What have you been learning from your own materials and/or from other students?
* What is inspiring you?

I’ve learned a lot of new pronunciations of Kanji and new vocabularies during self-learning Japanese songs. In addition. I also learn various use of modern Japanese, especially understanding plenty of short-form uses in the modern Japanese language. However, I’m suffering most of the modern Japanese languages from understanding, learning, and remembering them. Because sometimes they can become very confusing. To overcome this challenge, I’ve started reading modern Japanese literature, not only manga but also novellas. I just read the stories very slowly to fully study the works, just like I’ve done via self-learning pop songs and creating MyText book.

In addition, I’m still facing a challenge to utilize what I’ve learned via real Japanese conversation or oral practice. One clear reason can still be my afraid of making mistakes. So, I think I need to fully remember what has been learned and do more oral practice.

For next week, I think I will join the Japanese Song club again to have more opportunities through oral practice. I will also try to create another MyText book for my self-learning from Japanese novellas. I may also look for more chances in Japanese activities or even an internship opportunity to expand my Japanese language learning. What’s more, I’m also looking forward to having Japanese friends/partners for daily topics chatting, which can both increase my knowledge of Japanese as well as Japan Culture.

Reflect on your Japanese language learning since the course started, and set goals for the coming week. You may touch on the following points, or other points relevant to you:

* What is going well?
* What challenges are you facing?
* What would you like to do differently, or continue to do, between now and the next self-assessment?
  + Here you might consider *My Textbook*, oral/monologue assignments, song selection, using Japanese in class, etc.
* What are your plans for the coming week?
* What have you been learning from your own materials and/or from other students?
* What is inspiring you?

I am more confident to choose difficult and long Japanese songs. Sometimes my choice can be hard learning but now I am able to learn complicated songs. I’m also more confident to learn and understand modern usage of Japanese, especially learning short forms and various Kanjis. In addition, I can also more fluently speak the lyrics of the songs, although I still cannot sing the songs. However, I found reading the lyrics out after self-learning helps improve our oral Japanese skills as well. Especially as a Chinese native speaker, I’m also not confident and can forget the pronunciations of kanjis, even though I know their meaning and would have an image of that kanji that reminds me to use it while speaking. However, it can be hard for me to correctly pronounce the kanji. So, reading the lyrics a loud can improve my memory of the pronunciations of kanjis.

I may keep utilizing my previous method to continuously my self study progress.

This is a good week to review as part of your self-assessment!

Read over the materials you have created for this course. What do you notice about your learning/development by doing this? Do you see that there are words/expressions that you can recognize that you've learned or retained? Areas you want to review?

How does "looking back" help with "moving forward?" How can you incorporate "looking back" or review into your self-study processes?

I noticed that sometimes I would put duplicated vocabularies in the vocab list. I think doing this is also kind of reviewing what I have learned and realizing the cons of what has been known. In addition, I found that the genre of the songs I’ve chosen are most related to romance or starting some new relationships, which provides me with a lot of new words, grammar, and saying in the same topics. Therefore, I’m more confident in chatting with others by using these words. I would have a mind to try to use these new vocabularies and grammar while speaking. In addition, I believe that reviewing what has been learned is important to establish basic knowledge that would let us continue our future learning process. So, "looking back" kind of establishes all the foundations for "moving forward". For looking back, I think every time we recall what has been learned counts for reviewing.

Planning for Summer

Summer is coming! And, that means, for most of you, that means no Japanese classes. Please write about one or more of the following:

* Do you have summer Japanese study plans? If so, please share them.
* Are there skills you used, or learned, in this class that will support your language study in the summer? If so, please explain.
* Imagine your ideal self-study of Japanese: What does that look like for you? What components does it include?

I plan to explore more Japanese Pop songs and do the MyTextBook self-studying process once per two weeks. In addition, because I’m now focusing more on Japan literature, I plan to read four books of Japan modern literature to prepare for my fall learning in the academic interest. I’m thinking of reading the original one, which are in Japanese version. I may do parts of the MyTextBook self-learning process, which is to record all the new vocabularies in the vocabulary list and highlights the sentences that are interesting to learn. What’s more, I want to reflect myself on the background of the stories, relating the contents to the contemporary society and consider of the purpose of writing these kind of stories.

I believe by doing so, I would be more confident in reading Japanese. If I have time, I would also prefer to read aloud the texts which also helps me improve my oral Japanese skills.

I think my idea Japanese self-studying process is to record unknown vocabularies every day and remember them on that day. Then, on the next morning, I would review these vocabularies and also start to learn new ones, which would fasten my process of learning Japanese. I also think the oral practice is vital as well. If it’s possible, I would want to chat with peers or native speakers for few minutes to improve my skills and confidence.