
コース: Japanese Self-study

Japanese Notebook

作家: Anrich Tait

Contents

1	Basics	1
1.1	Basics of timing:	1
1.2	Unique sounds of Japanese	1
1.3	Word order:	2
1.4	Topic vs Subject Prominence	2
1.4.1	Ommision of the Subject	2
2	Writing System:	3
2.1	Hiragana:	4
2.1.1	Basic Syllables:	4
3	Vocab list:	6

Abstract

My self-study Japanese notes.

Chapter 1

Basics

1.1 Basics of timing:

1. Japanese is a moratimed language. Every character occupies the same length of time. There is no word stress.
2. There are 5 vowel characters:
 - あ = a
 - い = i
 - う = u
 - え = e
 - お = o

1.2 Unique sounds of Japanese

1. R is pronounced more like a mix between "r" and "l".

1.3 Word order:

English word order is Subject, verb, object (SVO), where as in Japanese it is subject, object, verb (SOV).

Consider the following sentences:

English: I ate an apple (remove article "an" for simplicity)

Japanese: 私りんご食べました. or Watashi ringo tabemashita. atashi ringo tabemashita

Watashi 私 I	ringo りんご apple	tabemashita. 食べました. ate.
-------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------

Notice how the English word order changed with the object now coming second in the sentence.

1.4 Topic vs Subject Prominence

1. English is a subject prominent language, meaning that the subject is generally more important than the rest of the sentence. The key piece of information about that sentence.
2. Japanese is a topic prominent language. So what is being done is more important than who did the action. Therefore if the subject has already been established in a conversation/text then it is common to omit the subject completely.

1.4.1 Omission of the Subject

Consider the previous example of:

English: I ate an apple.

Japanese: 私がりんごを食べました. Watashi ga ringo o tabemashita.

Chapter 2

Writing System:

There are three kinds of characters in Japanese:

1. Hiragana: Represents sounds and has a more round shape than other character sets. Hiragana is used for conjugation endings, function words and native Japanese words not covered in kanji.
2. Katakana: Also represents sounds but has more straight lines than hiragana and is used mainly for writing loanwords and foreign names. For example the Japanese word for "television" is written in katakana as " テレビ".
3. Kanji: Also known as Chinese characters, these represent not only sounds but also meanings. Kanji is mostly used for nouns and the stems of verbs and adjectives.

2.1 Hiragana:

2.1.1 Basic Syllables:

Hiragana – <http://www.FreeJapaneseLessons.com>

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko
が ga	ぎ gi	ぐ gu	げ ge	ご go
さ sa	し shi	す su	せ se	そ so
ざ za	じ ji	ず zu	ぜ ze	ぞ zo
た ta	ち chi	つ tsu	て te	と to
だ da	ぢ ji	づ zu	で de	ど do
な na	に ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の no
は ha	ひ hi	ふ fu	へ he	ほ ho
ば ba	び bi	ぶ bu	べ be	ぼ bo
ぱ pa	ぴ pi	ぷ pu	ぺ pe	ぽ po
ま ma	み mi	む mu	め me	も mo
や ya		ゆ yu		よ yo
ら ra	り ri	る ru	れ re	ろ ro
わ wa	を wo	ん n/m		

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko

Chapter 3

Vocab list:

1. ありがとう = Thank you
arigato
2. すみません = Excuse me/I'm sorry
sumimasen
3. トイレ = Bathroom
toire
4. 駅 = Train station
eki
5. ホテル = Hotel
hoteru
6. コンビニ = Convenience store konbini
7. おばあさん = Grandmother
o ba a sa n
8. (name of place) はどこですか = Where is (name of place)?
wa doko desu ka
"wa" (は) marks the place as subject of sentence
"doko" (どこ) means "where"
"desu" (です) roughly translates to "is" (also "be")
"ka" (か) creates a question

9. わさび = wasabi
wasabi

10.