Extra Resources text:

In this section I’ve included a link to a website called Lang-8, which is a website where you can write in your language of choice and get native speakers to proof-read it for you. I’ve included it under extra resources because not everybody wishes to be able to write proficiently as much as they wish to speak conversationally. For those who are interested, maybe for as part of a preparation for exams or school, watch the video down below to get a quick introduction into Lang-8 and how it works. Happy writing!

Lang-8 video script:

Hey guys, so this is Lang-8. Lang-8 is a community-driven writing platform that is used to help a person’s writing proficiency in foreign languages. After making an account by clicking here, and setting up your profile, you can begin writing in a foreign language of your choosing, which, if you’re in this course, would be Japanese and click publish.

Now what will happen now is that a native Japanese speaker will eventually see your post, they will then proof-read it then provides you with a corrected version of your post. This is a fantastic way to go if you want to increase your writing proficiency as the feedback you receive is so much faster than more traditional means like hiring a tutor. Although tutors have their place, if you want to pump out a piece of writing a couple times a week and expect feedback, I feel this is the way to go.

Now if you want your piece of writing to be proof-read quicker, you simply proof-read somebody else’s work in your own native language, which will prioritise your work for native speakers to read by putting it at the top of the queue. And this is how Lang-8’s incentive system works.

So if you have the time, I do recommend spending 5 minutes or so, just proof-reading others work, and remember everyone here is learning just like you so you don’t need to be a English linguistics expert to help correct others, so that your work can be proof-read as well. It’s a give and take system and I wished I knew of this when I was stories in Japanese when I was preparing for my school exams. So yes if you want, set up an account, publish a piece of work, it doesn’t have to be a masterpiece, a lot of people like to start off with a diary sort of format, talking about their day and help others, who’re learning your native language if you want quicker feedback on your own.

I hope this short explainer has been helpful, if you still have any questions though, please just leave a comment down below or even look through Lang-8’s support pages as I’m sure they’ll have what you need there. And if you want, send me a link directly to your post; I’ll love to see what you guys have learnt so far from this course. Anyway I hope you have a fantastic day and thank you.