Directions

Hello, in this video we will be going over on how to give and ask for directions. This is very what I would call “survival” Japanese, because it is something you will need to use a lot. Like when describe how to get somewhere to a friend over the phone or if you just want to be able to navigate your day to day life.

In this overview of our week’s topic, I’ll be explaining some of the vocabulary you will be encountering as well as some sentence structures to effectively use this new vocabulary.

* First let’s get an easy one out of the way, you might notice there’s two words for street:
* The first, , means a small street, such as local streets, low traffic whilst the second, , usually refers to a wider, more main street. As these two pictures show here
* Here we have the cardinal directions, north, south, east, west
* And to say northwest, southeast and so forth we simply add them together use there on’yomi reading
* As we already know with kanji, they generally have two…on’yomi and kun’yomi
* If you want to have a refresher on kanji, please refer to my lesson on the Japanese alphabets in Week 1 of this course
* However unlike in English where north and south come first, in Japanese it is the opposite
* So northwest would be:
* And southeast would be:
* We can use these directions in a sentence like this:
* Which reads “I live south-west from here”
* You can also include the time it takes as well:
* “I live 1 hour south-west from here”
* I’ve personally used this a lot because having an idea of how long it takes to get somewhere gives a sense of distance in your head
* Which helps a lot in your understanding of a conversation about like where you live if you have a rough idea where a town or something is on a map you make in your head
* Note that just saying this in Japan most people will assume you mean by train, which are very fast in Japan, which can go something like 320km/hr
* If you want to specify the means of transport you would use this structure:
* For example: “I live 1 hour south west from here by train”
* So if anybody asks you: “Where do you live?” You can reply with something along the lines of these sentences
* “Where is the…?”
* Now there’s a lot of words in this week more applicable for when your navigating a town, such as “turn”, “straight”, “left” and “right”
* Let’s start simple:
* Which allows us to say something simple like: “Go down this street” or “Go (turn) left”
* However this isn’t too useful if the place we need to go is farther away, to give directions here you can use this slightly more complex form of the above sentence structure:
* So: “Go straight for 3 intersections/blocks”, “Turn left at the 2nd corner”
* Or you can also use sights as direction markers:
* “From the bank go straight till you see the supermarket then turn left”
* We can be even more specific by adding this after:
* “You will see the … on the left side of the street”
* To give more directions we just use ‘connector’ words which you’ll find in this week’s vocab such as: and, and then, if you do that then
* For example:
* “From the bank go straight till you see the supermarket then turn left. Then go straight for 3 intersections, if you do that then you will see the department store on the left side of the street”
* That’s the end of this overview if you’ve got any questions please put a comment below or email me by my email which you can find on the courses homepage. I’ll see you in the next video.