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[Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo) is a Japanese [manga](/wiki/Manga) series written and illustrated by [Masashi Kishimoto](/wiki/Masashi_Kishimoto). It tells the story of [Naruto Uzumaki](/wiki/Naruto_Uzumaki), an adolescent [ninja](/wiki/Ninja) who constantly searches for recognition and dreams to become the [Hokage](/wiki/World_of_Naruto#Kage), the ninja in his village who is acknowledged as the leader and the strongest of all. The series is based on a [one-shot manga](/wiki/One-shot_(comics)) by Kishimoto that was published in the August 1997 issue of [*Akamaru Jump*](/wiki/Akamaru_Jump).

*Naruto* was serialized in [*Weekly Shōnen Jump*](/wiki/Weekly_Shōnen_Jump) magazine from the 43rd issue of 1999 to the 50th issue of 2014, with the chapters collected into seventy-two [*tankōbon*](/wiki/Tankōbon) volumes by [Shueisha](/wiki/Shueisha). The manga was later adapted into a television [anime](/wiki/Anime), which was produced by [Studio Pierrot](/wiki/Studio_Pierrot) and [Aniplex](/wiki/Aniplex). It premiered across Japan on the [terrestrial](/wiki/Terrestrial_television) [TV Tokyo](/wiki/TV_Tokyo) and other [TX Network](/wiki/TX_Network) stations on October 3, 2002. The first series lasted 220 episodes, while [*Naruto: Shippuden*](/wiki/#Naruto:_Shippuden), a sequel to the original series, has been airing since February 15, 2007. In addition to the anime series, Studio Pierrot has developed eleven movies and several [original video animations](/wiki/Original_video_animation). Other types of merchandise include [light novels](/wiki/Light_novel), video games, and trading cards developed by several companies.

[Viz Media](/wiki/Viz_Media) has licensed the manga and anime for North American production. Viz serialized *Naruto* in their digital [*Weekly Shonen Jump*](/wiki/Weekly_Shonen_Jump_(magazine)) magazine, as well as publishing the individual volumes. The anime series began airing in the United States and Canada in 2005, and later in the United Kingdom and Australia in 2006 and 2007, respectively. The films, as well as most OVAs from the series, have also been released by Viz, with the first film premiering in cinemas. *Naruto: Shippuden* was first released by Viz in North America in September 2009, started broadcast on [Disney XD](/wiki/Disney_XD_(United_States)) in October of the same year and on [Adult Swim's](/wiki/Adult_Swim) [Toonami](/wiki/Toonami) block in January 2014. Viz Media began streaming both series on their streaming service Neon Alley in December 2012.

As of October 2015, the manga has sold over 220 million copies worldwide, making it the fourth [best-selling manga series](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_manga) in history.[[1]](#cite_note-1)