

# The Part You Already Have, and the Part You Need to Train

The Last lecture for international students learning Japanese.

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# Introduction

- You already have something
- Remember what you already do in your own language.

## **Q.1 You already have something. What are they?**

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You have already learned universal language skills.

- You use them unconsciously every day.
- It is available in Japanese too.

## Q.2 What is language?

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Language is interaction.

- Language is not just "carrying meaning."
- Consensus is always established between sender and receiver.
- It progresses by creating agreement.

## Q.3 You have two layers in your brain. What are they?

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Two layers: think fast and think slow.

- Fast: very quick, automatic, intuitive, and emotional, but sometimes prone to errors.
- Slow: deliberate, logical, and analytical, but requires more effort and time.

Daniel Kahneman's System 1 and System 2:  
Thinking, Fast and Slow in 2011

## Q.4 There are two layers in grammar. What are they?

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Immediate and Adjustive.

- Immediate grammar: speaking when time does not stop
- Adjustive grammar: organizing when writing/explaining

## Q.5 Why do you get stuck when speaking Japanese?

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You cancel your universal skills.

- Suddenly focus only on "accuracy," and you get stuck.

## Q.6 Why do you stop using your universal skills?

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Because you believe "You have to understand everything."

- Even in your native language, you do not understand everything.
- It is not a Japanese problem but a "comprehension problem."
- It causes double stopping in both languages; native and Japanese.

## Q.7 What do you consider while conversation goes on?



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Conversation time does not stop.

- You cannot ask for clarification every time.
- You cannot stop the time for thinking.
- Your communication partner keeps talking.
- There is no assumption of perfect understanding.

## Q.8 What is the real technique?

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Let's "pretend to understand."

- Pretending to understand and moving forward is not cheating

## Q.9 Another technique?

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Let's "pretend not to know."

- Pretend not to know and let the partner explain it again.
- You can recover your understanding later while listening.

## Q.10 What part do you need to train in Japanese?

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Use the part you already have. Train the part you need.

- Vocabulary and fixed expressions enhancement
- Phrase construction and operation
- Training of adjustive grammar (writing/explaining)
- Remember your language behavior and use it in Japanese as well.

## Conclusion

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Remember what you already do in your own language.

Which side, immediate or adjustive, honorifics skills are belonging to?

**The answer is...**

**Of course, adjustive grammar.**

| But conversation lives in immediate grammar.

**One last message**

# One last message

- Japanese is not a special language.
- You are already excellent language users.

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Your language partner in Japan.

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