

## **Japanese Course Level Guide**

Questions? Contact the Language Center at [language@japansociety.org](mailto:language@japansociety.org) or 212-715-1269.

### **Table of Contents:**

#### Introductory Japanese Writing Workshops

- Hiragana
- Katakana
- Kanji

#### Introductory

- Level 1
- Anime

#### Beginner

- Level 2
- Level 3

#### Advanced Beginner

- Level 4
- Level 5

#### Intermediate

- Level 6
- Level 7
- Level 8

#### Advanced-Intermediate

- Level 9
- Grand Review
- Level 10 (Parts 1 – 4: can be taken in any order)

#### Advanced

- Level 11
- Level 12
- Level 13

#### JLPT Prep or Kanji Courses

- Kanji N4 or JLPT N4
- Kanji N3 or JLPT N3
- Kanji N2 or JLPT N2
- Kanji N1 or JLPT N1

#### Conversational Courses

- Conversational Japanese: Beginner
- Conversational Japanese: Advanced-Beginner
- Conversational Japanese: Intermediate
- Conversational Japanese: Advanced-Intermediate
- Conversational Japanese: Advanced



Watashi wa kinou benkyou shimasen deshita.  
Senshuu resutoran ni ikimashita. Hon-ya nimo ikimashita.  
Kinou nihongo o sanjikan benkyou shimashita.  
Kouen de shashin o takusan torimashita.  
Nihongo to eigo o hanashimasu. Tomodachi to kankoku ni ikimasu.  
L.5 Nihongo wa tanoshii desu. Tomodachi wa totemo genkina hito desu.  
Yamashita sensei wa manga ga suki deshita.  
Kissaten de koohii o nomimasenka?  
Lee-san wa kitte o sanmai kaimashita.

### Level 3

(covers textbook *GENKI 1* Lesson 6-7 & Kanji)

You must be able to use both *Hiragana* and *Katakana* comfortably. This course will focus on the introduction and use of the て and ない forms of verbs, and students will continue to build upon their conversational skills and vocabulary.

- L. 6           かんじを おしえてください。  
                  きょうかしょを みてもいいですか。  
                  ここでしゃしんを とってはいけません。  
                  けさ6じにおきて、しゅくだいを しました。  
                  こんばん うちで べんきょうします。あした テストがありますから。  
                  にもつを もちましょうか。
- L.7           おとうさんは、いま テレビをみています。  
                  キムさんは けっこんしています。  
                  トムさんは かみが ながいです。  
                  あのホテルは きれいで、よかったです。  
                  デパートに かばんをかいに いきました。  
                  クラスに イギリスじんのがくせいが ひとりいます。

### Level 4

(covers textbook *GENKI 1* Lesson 8-9 & Kanji)

Students will practice the informal speech style in both present and past tenses, and will learn the ない form of verbs. The た form will be introduced, and students will learn to modify nouns with verbs, as well as practice phrases using ～とおもいます ("I think") and ～と いいます ("he/she says").

- L. 8 Short Forms, affirmative: (Verb) たべる、よむ  
 (Adj) かわいい、げんきだ  
 (Noun) がくせいだ
- ない form: (Verb) たべない、よまない、こない、しない  
 (Adj) かわいくない、げんきじゃない  
 (Noun) がくせいじゃない
- Informal speech: 今日、行く？ ううん、行かない。  
 ～とっていました  
 ～とおもいます  
 ～ないでください  
 ～のが好きです  
 ～がきましたか？  
 なにか and なにも
- L.9 Short Forms, past affirmative: (Verb) たべた、よんだ  
 (Adj) かわいかった、げんきだった  
 (Noun) がくせいだった
- Short Forms, past negative: (Verb) たべなかった、よまなかった  
 (Adj) かわいくなかった、げんきじゃなかった  
 (Noun) がくせいじゃなかった
- Qualifying Nouns with Verbs and Adjectives: これは母がつくったケーキです。  
 まだ～ていません  
 あしたテストがあるから、べんきょうします。

## Level 5

(covers textbook *GENKI 1* Lesson 10-11 & Kanji)

Students will learn various usages of the た form, and comparative sentence patterns will be introduced.

- L.10 Comparatives: A のほうが B より～  
 Superlatives: Group のなかで、A がいちばん～  
 Adjective/Noun の: その小さいのをください。  
 ～つもりです  
 Adjective + なる  
 どこかに and どこにも  
 ～で: はしでごはんを食べます。

- L.11           ～たいです  
                  ～たり～たりする  
                  ～たことがある  
Noun A や Noun B: コーヒーやおちやを飲みます。

## Level 6

(covers textbook *GENKI 1* Lesson 12, *GENKI 2* Lesson 13-14 & Kanji)

Students will learn how to use various modifying clauses to create complex sentences.  
Recognition of 100 *kanji* is expected.

- L. 12           ～んです  
                  ～すぎる  
                  ～ほうがいいです  
～ので: 今日は日曜日なので、ぎんこうは休みです。  
～なければなりません  
～でしょう: あしたは雨でしょう。
- L. 13           **Potential Form:** 日本語をはなせます。  
～し: あのみせは安いし、家に近いし、よく行きます。  
～そうです: この本はむずかしそうです。  
～てみる  
～なら  
一週間に三回
- L. 14           ほしい  
                  ～かもしれません  
                  あげる/くれる/もらう  
                  ～たらどうですか  
#も、#しか～ない: ともだちは、ねこを四ひきも  かっています。

## Level 7

(covers textbook *GENKI 2* Lesson 15-17 & Kanji)

Students will be introduced to the volitional form, and will learn to describe the giving and receiving of services (instead of goods). The structure for reporting hearsay (そうです) will be practiced. The たら variation of conditional sentence structures will be taught.

- L. 15           Volitional Form : 食べに行こう。  
                  Volitional+と思っています  
                  ～ておく

Using Sentences to Qualify Nouns : 日本で見れないえいが

- L. 16 ~てくれる/あげる/もらう, ~といい  
~時, ~てすみませんでした
- L. 17 ~そうです (I hear...), ~って  
~たら  
~なくてもいいです, ~みたいです  
~前に/~てから

## Level 8

(covers textbook *GENKI 2* Lesson 18-20 & Kanji)

Transitive and intransitive verbs will be compared extensively, and honorific verbs will be introduced. *はずです* (supposed to be the case) will be taught. Students will practice “extra-modest expressions” followed by “humble expressions.” Students will also study how to include a question as a part of a longer sentence such as “Do you know when David will go to Japan?”

- L. 18 Transitivity Pairs : ドアをしめます v s ドアがしまります  
~てしまう  
~と, ~ながら  
~ばよかったです
- L. 19 Honorific Verbs : いらっしゃる、めしあがる、おっしゃる  
Giving Respectful Advice : お読みください  
~てくれてありがとう, ~てよかったです  
~はずです
- L. 20 Extra-Modest Expressions : おります、申します、ございます  
Humble Expressions : お会いします、本をいただきました  
~ないで  
Questions within Larger Sentences : Japan Society がどこにあるか知っていますか。  
Name という Item, ~やすい/にくい

## Level 9

(covers textbook *GENKI 2* Lesson 21-23 & Kanji)

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N4 or JLPT N4)

This is the last level in which students learn essential grammar. Students will learn passive and causative sentence patterns along with other expressions such as *ば*, *のに* and *ても* to achieve more effective communication skills.

- L. 21            Passive Sentences : カードを使われました  
                  ～である  
                  ～間に  
                  Adj+ する  
                  ～てほしい
- L. 22            Causative Sentences : 野菜を食べさせます  
                  Verb+なさい  
                  ～ば  
                  ～のに  
                  ～のような/ように
- L. 23            Causative-Passive Sentences : 勉強させられました  
                  ～ても  
                  ～ことにする  
                  ～まで  
                  ～方

-----**PLEASE NOTE: Courses listed below are designed to be taken repeatedly.**-----

### **Grand Review**

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N4 or JLPT N4)

For students who want a review of previous levels to practice their speaking, listening and reading skills. Content from levels 4 – 9 will be covered over several semesters. The prerequisite for this course is level 9 or equivalent. This course is not required to proceed to level 10.

### **Level 10**

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N4, Kanji N3, JLPT N4, or JLPT N3)

This class follows level 9 in the progression from the *Genki II* textbook, elevating a student's formal study of Japanese grammar to a higher level. Vocabulary and *kanji* will be introduced over several semesters (**Parts 1 – 4: can be taken in any order**) with a particular emphasis on speaking practice. It is recommended that students take level 10 four times (parts 1, 2, 3, and 4) before moving to level 11.

### **Level 11**

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N2 or JLPT N2)

Reading materials include short articles and stories of current interest. Listening comprehension is improved by the use of television programs, including Japanese drama. Use of idioms is emphasized in both speaking and writing. Recognition of approximately 500 kanji is necessary to take this course. Topic based courses may also be offered.

## Level 12

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N4, Kanji N3, JLPT N4, or JLPT N3)

Theme based courses such as Breaking News in Japan, J-Drama in Action, Business, and Contemporary Japanese Novels may be offered.

**Breaking News in Japan:** Students will be asked to express their opinions on a wide range of topics in class. They will also discuss social implications and how it compares with other cultures. Each class is heavily discussion-based and accompanied by articles, news clips, and videos. Recognition of 800 kanji is expected.

**J-Drama in Action:** Students will explore many interesting, non-traditional aspects of Japanese language (e.g. slang and other colloquialisms, regionalisms, etc.) by watching excerpts from recent Japanese dramas or movies. Rather than just reading about the scenes, students will practice “acting” the lines themselves by paying particular attention to tone, intonation and body language to sound more smooth and convincing.

**Business Japanese:** Students in this course will learn advanced Japanese grammar and vocabulary, with specific focus on mastering Japanese polite speech (*keigo*), as well as proper Japanese business etiquette and communication strategies at a fluent or native level.

**Contemporary Japanese Novels:** A single-book club, with an emphasis on reading and discussion using a popular Japanese novel. Comprehension of the storyline, culture, lifestyles and characters will be supplemented through watching the DVD version.

## Level 13

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N1 or JLPT N1)

The most advanced level. Original source materials from current events from television programs, Japanese newspapers and magazines, as well as drama, movies, etc. will be used to increase knowledge of useful expressions and idioms. Discussion will be encouraged to promote oral communication. Writing is also emphasized. Students should be able to recognize at least 1200 kanji. Topic based courses may also be offered.

## Kanji N4 or JLPT N4

(Students may also want to consider Level 9 or Level 10)

**Kanji N4:** For students who want to master the essential *kanji* taught in Japan’s elementary schools. Students are expected to learn approximately 300 *kanji*, with a focus on understanding the basic radical systems. This course covers the *kanji* necessary for taking the JLPT N4 and N5 tests. This course is conducted mostly in Japanese.



**JLPT N4:** This course is intended to prepare students for JLPT N4. While the focus is to master approximately 300 JLPT N4 *kanji* and radical systems, the course will also include other relevant N4 content such as reading and grammar. This course is conducted mostly in Japanese.

### **Kanji N3 or JLPT N3**

(Students may also want to consider Level 10 or Level 111)

**Kanji N3:** For students who have already mastered approximately 300 *kanji*, and are looking to learn 680 total *kanji* (taken from the JLPT N3 preparatory books). This course is conducted in Japanese, and covers the *kanji* necessary for taking the JLPT N3 test.

**JLPT N3:** This course is intended to prepare students for JLPT N3. While the focus is to master approximately 380 new *kanji* (680 in total) and radical systems, the course will also include other relevant N3 content such as reading and grammar. This course is conducted in Japanese.

### **Kanji N2 or JLPT N2**

(Students may also want to consider Level 11 or Level 12)

**Kanji N2:** Students will study approximately 500 *kanji* (taken from the JLPT N2 preparatory books) to master 1,180 *kanji*, a level at which Japanese newspapers can be read with some assistance. This course is conducted in Japanese, and covers the *kanji* necessary for taking the JLPT N2 test.

**JLPT N2:** This course is intended to prepare students for JLPT N2. While the focus is to master approximately 500 new *kanji* (1,180 in total), the course will also include other relevant N2 content such as reading and grammar. This course is conducted in Japanese.

### **Kanji N1 or JLPT N1**

(Students may also want to consider Level 13)

**Kanji N1:** Students will study approximately 950 *kanji* (taken from JLPT N1 preparatory books) to master the 2,000 plus *kanji* necessary to comfortably read Japanese newspapers. This course is conducted in Japanese, and covers the *kanji* necessary for taking the JLPT N1 test.

**JLPT Kanji N1:** This course is intended to prepare students for JLPT N1. While the focus is to master approximately 950 new *kanji* (2,000 in total), the course will also include other relevant N1 content such as reading and grammar. This course is conducted in Japanese.

---

## **Conversational Japanese Levels**

**Beginner Conversation=** for students who have finished Level 1 or 2 content (from our regular levels above)

**Advanced-Beginner Conversation**= for students who have finished Level 3 or 4 content (from our regular levels above), or equivalent.

**Intermediate Conversation**= for students who have finished Level 5, 6 or 7 content (from our regular levels above), or equivalent.

**Advanced-Intermediate Conversation**= for students who have finished Level 8, 9, Grand Review or 10 content (from our regular levels above), or equivalent.

**Advanced Conversation**= for students who are at Level 11 or higher (from our regular levels above), or equivalent.

---

***Still have questions? Unsure about your level?***

Please call Director and Japanese instructor Tomoyo Kamimura at 212-715-1269 to discuss further, or email [language@japansociety.org](mailto:language@japansociety.org).

We hope to see you soon!

頑張りましょう！ Ganbarimashou!