

## Japanese Course Level Guide

### COURSES

#### Table of Contents:

##### Introductory

- Level 1
- Casual Japanese through Anime

##### Beginner

- Level 2
- Level 3

##### Advanced Beginner

- Level 4
- Level 5

##### Intermediate

- Intermediate Japanese through Anime (for level 6-9)
- Level 6
- Level 7
- Level 8

##### Advanced-Intermediate

- Level 9
- Grand Review
- Level 10, and Special Topic Level 10

##### Advanced

- Level 11, and Special Topic Level 11
- Level 12, and Special Topic 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

### WORKSHOPS

#### Introductory Japanese Writing Workshops

- Hiragana - Recommended prior to Level 2
- Katakana – Recommended prior to Level 3
- Kanji, Part 1 – Recommended for anyone Level 1-9
- Kanji, Part 2 – Recommended for anyone Level 1-9, with pre-requisite Kanji Workshop, Pt. 1

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## Level 1

(covers *textbook GENKI 1* Lesson 1-3 & *Hiragana*)

For complete beginners of the Japanese language. Basic vocabulary, elementary conversation and simple sentence structure will be taught in *romaji* (Japanese written phonetically in the English alphabet). *Hiragana* (a Japanese syllabary) and some introductory *kanji* will be introduced. The required textbook is **GENKI Vol. I**. The following are the sentence patterns that you will be expected to master in each chapter.

Objectives	Example Sentences
L. 1 Numbers (1-100)	Watashi wa nihonjin desu.
Time	Ima nanji desuka.
Telephone numbers	Takeshi-san no denwa bangou wa nan desuka.
The particle <i>no</i>	
<i>X wa Y desu</i>	
Questions sentences	
L. 2 Numbers (100-100,000)	Are wa nan desuka. Ano tokei wa sen-en desu. Toire wa asoko desu.
<i>Kore/Sore/Are/Dore</i>	
<i>Kono/Sono/Ano/Dono</i> + noun	Kore wa dare no kaban desuka.
<i>Koko/Soko/Asoko/Doko</i>	Otousan wa nihonjin desu. Okaasan mo nihonjin desu.
<i>Dareno</i> + noun	Watashi wa gakusei ja naidesu. Kore wa sakana desuyo.
The particle <i>mo</i>	
Noun + <i>janai desu</i>	
The particles <i>ne</i> and <i>yo</i>	
L. 3 Verbs (present tense)	Tanaka-san wa kaisha de koohii o nomimasu.
The particles <i>o</i> , <i>de</i> , <i>ni</i> , and <i>e</i>	Nichiyoubi ni nihon ni kaerimasu.
Time expressions	Ashita, eiga o mimasenka.
<i>-masenka</i>	Maki-san wa zenzen manga o yomimasen.
Word order	Kyou wa nani o shimasuka.
Frequency adverbs	
The topic particle <i>wa</i>	

### **Special Topic: Casual Japanese through Anime**

Structured for fans of Japanese animation, this course will use various popular anime as a medium to introduce students to basic vocabulary, elementary conversation, and simple sentence structures. No prior Japanese language experience is necessary; also recommended for students who have completed Level 1 (as review).

***In this course, you will not learn Hiragana and all of the necessary grammar patterns from Level 1, so Casual Japanese through Anime alone may not prepare you for Level 2. (Please consult with your instructor if you are already enrolled in this course.)***  
***If you plan to continue to Level 2, we recommend that you take a Level 1 course.***

## Level 2

(covers textbook *GENKI 1* Lesson 4-5 & *Katakana*)

Students will continue to actively participate in the process of acquiring beginners' level language skills in basic Japanese. Recognition of *hiragana* is expected. *Katakana* and more *kanji* will be introduced.

Objectives	Example Sentences
L. 4 X <i>ga arimau/imasu</i>	Asoko ni sensei ga imasu. Getsuyoubi ni kurasu ga arimasu.
X <i>wa Y no mae desu</i>	Ginkou wa kissaten no tonari desu.
Nouns (past tense)	Yamashita sensei wa ryuugakusei deshita.
Verbs (past tense)	Watashi wa kinou benkyou shimasen deshita.
The particle <i>mo</i>	Senshuu resutoran ni ikimashita. Hon-ya nimo ikimashita.
<i>-jikan</i>	Kinou nihongo o sanjikan benkyou shimashita.
<i>takusan</i>	Kouen de shashin o takusan torimashita.
The particle <i>to</i>	Nihongo to eigo o hanashimasu. Tomodachi to kankoku ni ikimasu.
L. 5 Adjectives (present and past)	Nihongo wa tanoshii desu. Tomodachi wa totemo genkina hito desu.
<i>Suki (na)/ Kirai (na)</i>	Yamashita sensei wa manga ga suki deshita.
<i>-shimashou ka</i>	Kissaten de koohii o nomimasenka?
<i>-mai</i> (counter for stamps)	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.

Objectives	Example Sentences
L. 6 The て-form of verbs	かんじを おしえてください。
～て ください	きょうかしよを みてもいいですか。
～ても いいです	ここでしゃしんを とってはいけません。
～ては いけますん	けさ6じにおきて、しゅくだいを しました。

The て-form for describing two activities	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。
～から	にもつを もちましょうか。
～ましょうか	
L. 7	おとうさんは、いま テレビをみえています。
～て いる	キムさんは けっこんしています。
Describing people	トムさんは かみが ながいです。
The て-forms of adjectives/nouns	あのホテルは きれいで、よかったです。
Verb stem + に いく	デパートに かばんをかいに 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 いていました ～と おもいます ～ないで ください ～の が すきです ～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) たべなかつた、よまなかつた

(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: コーヒーやおちゃを飲みます。

## **SPECIAL INTERMEDIATE CLASS: ANIME**

While introducing fundamental grammar, this class will look at the spoken expressions, vocabulary, slang, and onomatopoeia that commonly appear in anime. There will also be simple discussions about the story. This course is recommended for student considering Levels 6-9. There will be different anime each semester.

Please see this link for a sample of class material: coming soon.

## **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

### Grand Review: Conversation

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

For students who want a review of previous levels with an emphasis on conversation practice. Content from previous levels will be reviewed, with an emphasis on levels 7-9. The prerequisite for this course is level 9 or equivalent. This course is not required to proceed to level 10.

### Level 10 / Special Topic Level 10

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

**Level 10 (non-special course) is offered in 4 Parts: they can be taken in any order and each Part is separate and self-contained, e.g. taking Part 1 is not necessary before Part 2. All Parts are recommended at least once before moving to Level 11. Text: *An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese (Revised Edition)***

This class follows level 9 in the progression from the *Genki II* textbook, continuing a formal study of Japanese grammar. More advanced grammar, vocabulary and kanji will be introduced over several semesters. A particular emphasis will be placed on speaking practice. This course is designed to provide students with the necessary tools to move up to Level 11.

### ***Special Topic Level 10: Japan Right Now*** (offered Summer 2020-Spring 2021)

This class will reveal current Japanese society and language by exploring only the latest news in Japan every week. Students will first read articles written in simpler Japanese and actively discuss them.

***PLEASE NOTE: Courses above Level 9 and JLPT & Kanji courses are designed to be taken repeatedly.***

***Enrollment in a JLPT or kanji course is recommended for students at these levels.***

***Special topic courses are also offered at level 10 and above. These topics will change/rotate periodically. Regular courses level 11 and above titled Culture + Current Topics will likely be offered every semester.***



Having understood the basic concept, students will then take the challenge of reading the original articles written with sophisticated vocabulary and grammar for native-speaking audience. There will also be listening exercises through video and audio clips.

This class is ideal if you want to reinforce any of the following skills:

- Reading comprehension
- Vocabulary building (including very advanced-level words)
- Kanji building and refresher
- Listening comprehension
- Discussion skill
- Learning about Japanese society

Please see this link for a sample of class material:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aMP-DbLVa5PIf0uq1odQQ2HL65ZAefXw/view?usp=sharing>

### **Level 11 / Special Topic Level 11**

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

#### ***Level 11 (non-special topic):***

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.

#### ***Special Topic Level 11: 漫画で読む日本社会 Japanese Society through Manga (offered Spring 2021)***

One of the most successful, highly-developed storytelling tools in Japan is manga. In this class, we will read revealing stories to examine various aspects of Japanese society. In addition to engaging in lively discussions, students will practice colloquialism as well as keigo. Manga is especially rich with onomatopoeia. Imagine being stranded in a haunted mansion, a chill running down your spine, and hearing every creak of the floor boards. Onomatopoeia gives you that impact. It lets you experience the world with all of your heightened senses. Most importantly, the compelling stories you'll read in this class will motivate you to continue learning more Japanese.

This class will be particularly helpful in reinforcing these skill sets:

- 単語: Learn a wide range of vocabulary and expressions
- 音読: Read aloud and act with your voice
- 文化: Learn about the complex relationships of family, friends, and others

***PLEASE NOTE: Courses above Level 9 and JLPT & Kanji courses are designed to be taken repeatedly.***

***Enrollment in a JLPT or kanji course is recommended for students at these levels.***

***Special topic courses are also offered at level 10 and above. These topics will change/rotate periodically. Regular courses level 11 and above titled Culture + Current Topics will likely be offered every semester.***

- 会話: Discuss social and cultural implications and express your point of view
- 読解: Read various genres and recognize the central themes and character motivation.

Please see this link for a sample of class material: coming soon

### ***Special Topic Level 11: Short Stories (offered Fall 2020)***

Students will read a few short stories each week and discuss the themes, character motivation, and hidden meanings. There will be a *Rodoku* (staged reading) exercise, which provides a special training on fluency and pronunciation. This course is an excellent opportunity to increase vocabulary in an enjoyable way. Students will be able to access to the material and prepare in advance.

Please see this link for a sample of class material:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A1IQvb9BiGFn\\_hvRmglt8k-RGPaC-Jq/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A1IQvb9BiGFn_hvRmglt8k-RGPaC-Jq/view?usp=sharing)

## **Level 12 / Special Topic Level 12**

(Students may also want to consider Kanji N2, Kanji N1, JLPT N2 or JLPT N1)

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

**Poetic Expressions:** This course dives into the world of poetry in various forms, including literary poetry, haiku, waka, and senryuu. Students will examine the intricate relationship between structure and content, the way the rules both restrict and heighten the story. Students will analyze and discuss the works of well-known poets such as Shuntarou Tanikawa, Kenji Miyazawa, and Bashou Matsuo among others. Poetic expressions will be further explored through poetry-writing exercise each week.

**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.

**J-Drama:** Students will watch episodes of a Japanese TV series and actively discuss the themes, language nuances, and specific cultural references. Non-traditional aspects such as slang and regionalisms will be analyzed in detail.

***PLEASE NOTE: Courses above Level 9 and JLPT & Kanji courses are designed to be taken repeatedly.***

***Enrollment in a JLPT or kanji course is recommended for students at these levels.***

***Special topic courses are also offered at level 10 and above. These topics will change/rotate periodically. Regular courses level 11 and above titled Culture + Current Topics will likely be offered every semester.***

Please see this link for a sample of class material (note that it is specific to the J-Drama used that semester):

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ma\\_Gh4vy2sRgoa4w46QZkd\\_zN2EjArAB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ma_Gh4vy2sRgoa4w46QZkd_zN2EjArAB/view?usp=sharing)

**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 11)

**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

***PLEASE NOTE: Courses above Level 9 and JLPT & Kanji courses are designed to be taken repeatedly.***

***Enrollment in a JLPT or kanji course is recommended for students at these levels.***

***Special topic courses are also offered at level 10 and above. These topics will change/rotate periodically. Regular courses level 11 and above titled Culture + Current Topics will likely be offered every semester.***

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.

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## **Conversational Japanese Levels**

Conversational Japanese classes are offered in the 5-week semesters between every core-curriculum 10-week semester. They were structured to supplement and reinforce coursework from the numbered levels, and therefore the prerequisites refer to what level you have finished. New students are also welcome to join, even if you have not taken classes at Japan Society before.

These courses are offered during the 5-week semesters, approximately: mid-April to mid-May, early August to mid September, and early December to late January.

**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.

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

Please call the Language Center office at 212-715-1269 or 212-715-1293, or email [language@japansociety.org](mailto:language@japansociety.org). It may also be possible to arrange a level assessment with the Director, Kamimura sensei. Level assessment appointments are typically on Wednesdays between 2-3 pm Eastern Time, and can be arranged by emailing [language@japansociety.org](mailto:language@japansociety.org).

We hope to see you soon!

頑張りましょう！ Ganbarimashou!