

Introduction to Japanese Language

Basic understanding and interesting characteristics of Japanese

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Writing system of Japanese

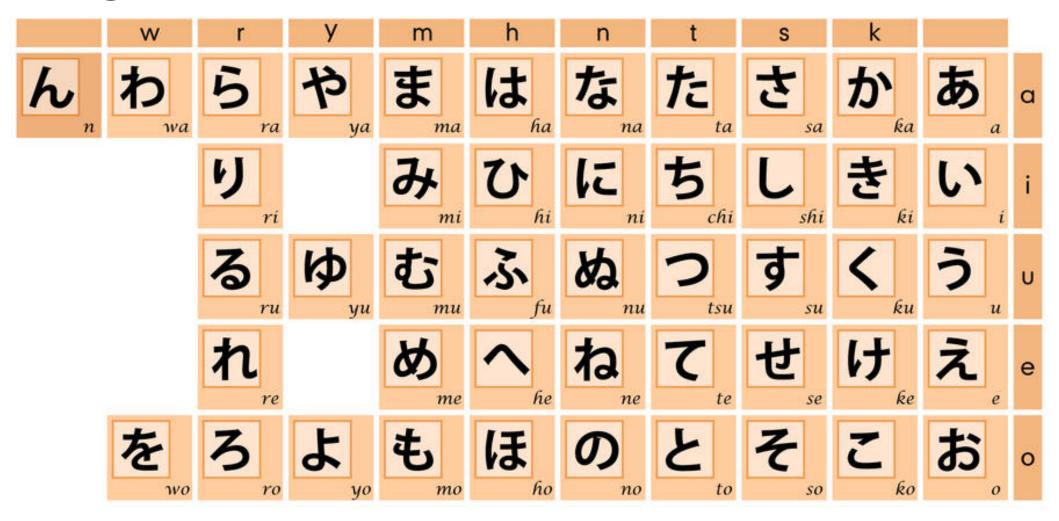
Three types of symbols in Japanese

- Kanji 漢字 (Chinse character)
 - About 2,000 symbols in elem. and mid. school combined
- Hiragana ひらがな
 - 46 symbols for basically about 100 sounds
- Katakana カタカナ
 - Each Katakana corresponds to a Hiragana Mostly used for foreign words

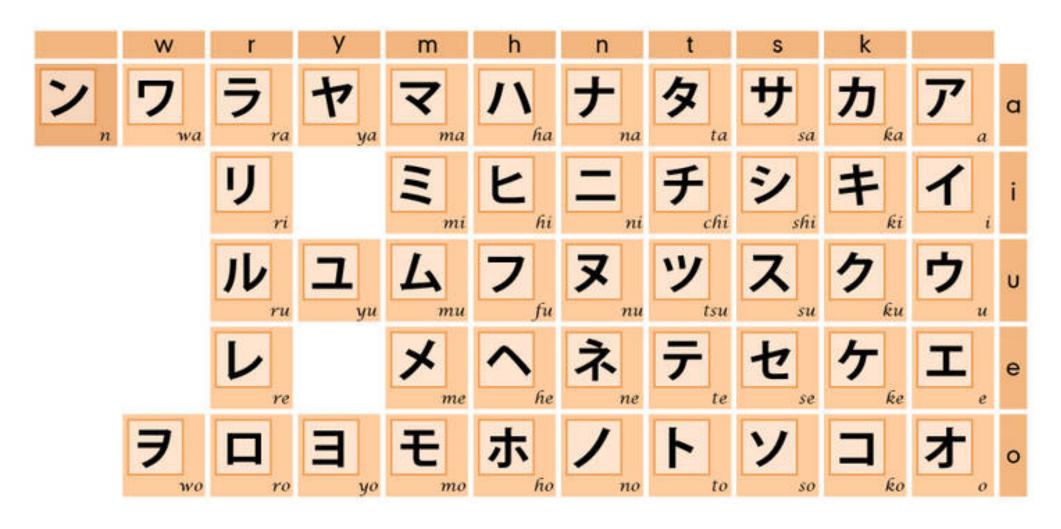
Examples of Kanji

桑	潜	誓	炊	芯	詳	叙	蹴	邪	施	歳
掃	遷	請	帥	辛	彰	徐	龍	蛇	恣	載
曹	薦	醒	粋	侵	憧	升	汁	酌	脂	剤
曾	纖	斥	衰	津	衝	召	充	釈	紫	削
爽	鮮	析	醉	唇	償	匠	矛木	爵	嗣	柵
喪	禅	脊	遂	娠	礁	床	渋	寂	雌	索
痩	漸	隻	睡	振	鐘	抄	銃	朱	摯	酢
葬	膳	惜	穂	浸	丈	肖	獣	狩	賜	搾

Hiragana chart



Katakana chart



Examples of Katakana words

- イングリッシュ
- ミルク
- スマートホン
- マクドナルド
- ウイルス

• ワクチン



- アルバイト 🥞
- デッサン
- ・ズボン
- ・コンセント

Writing system of Japanese

Example

今日は食堂でコーヒーを飲みました。

Writing system of Japanese

Example



What Japanese words do you know?

Japanese words you may know

- Emoji (絵文字/えもじ)���
- Kawaii (かわいい)
- Karaoke (カラオケ)
- Tycoon (大君/ たいくん)
- Samurai (侍/ さむらい)
- Macha (抹茶/ まっちゃ)
- Tsunami (津波/ つなみ)
- Judo (柔道/ じゅうどう)

Japanese words you must know!

・こんにちは

・はじめまして

ありがとう

ありがとうございます

さようなら

バイバイ

• はい/いいえ

• すき/きらい

kon'nichiwa

hajimemashite

• わたしは(name)です watashi-wa(name)desu

arigato

arigatou-gozaimasu

sayou-nara

baibai

hai/ iie

suki/ kirai

Hello

Nice to meet you.

I'm (name).

Thanks

Thank you

See you

Bye-bye

Yes/No

like/ dislike

Gramar

Characteristic grammar of Japanese

Flexible word order

```
(S)OV
(私は)コーヒーを飲みます。
(Watashi-wa) koohii-o nomimasu
(I +) coffee + drink

O(S)V
コーヒーを(私は)飲みます。
koohii-o (Watashi-wa) nomimasu
coffee + (I +) drink
```

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(S)VO *Emphatic sentence
(私は)飲みます、コーヒーを。
(Watashi-wa) nomimasu, koohii-o
(I +) drink + coffee
```

You can also drop particles (or postpositions)

(私は)コーヒーを飲みます

(Watashi-wa) koohii-o nomimasu

I drink coffee in the cafeteria

食堂で(私は)コーヒーを飲みます。 adv+S+O+V(私は)食堂でコーヒーを飲みます。 S+adv+O+V(私は)コーヒーを食堂で飲みます。 S+O+adv+V食堂でコーヒーを(私は)飲みます。 adv+O+S+Vコーヒーを食堂で(私は)飲みます。 O+adv+S+Vコーヒーを(私は)食堂で飲みます。 O+S+adv+V(私は)食堂で飲みます、コーヒーを。 S+adv+V+O食堂で(私は)飲みます、コーヒーを。 adv+S+V+O(私は)コーヒーを飲みます、食堂で。 S+O+V+advコーヒーを(私は)飲みます、食堂で。 O+S+V+adv

Grammatical similarity to Chinese

Adjective clauses

This is ramen [that I cooked].



これは[私が作った]ラーメンです。







Grammatical similarity to Chinese

Sentence-final particles 終助詞/文末助詞

Particles which are put at the end of sentences. They don't have meaning themselves but change the meaning of the sentences or put some nuance to the sentences.

```
This is yours. \Rightarrow Is this yours? (inversion) これはあなたのです \Rightarrow これはあなたのですか? 这是你的 \Rightarrow 这是你的吗?
```

わかってるよ/我知道呀 (I know) The particles milden the tones/nuances早く来いよ/快来呀 (Come quickly)

The particles tell you a nuance that the speaker is a bit irritated/ urging you to come/ etc… (depending on the contexts and the tones of the speaker.)

Grammatical similarity to Chinese

Double subject/ topic-based sentences

Topic

象は 鼻が 長い S+S+V 大象 鼻子 很长 (Topic+S+V) The elephants the noses are long. (S+[SV]as V)

この公園は

这座公园

This park

桜が

樱花

cherry blossoms

有名

很有名

are famous.

Japanese phonology, vocabulary, and history of mutual influence with Chinese

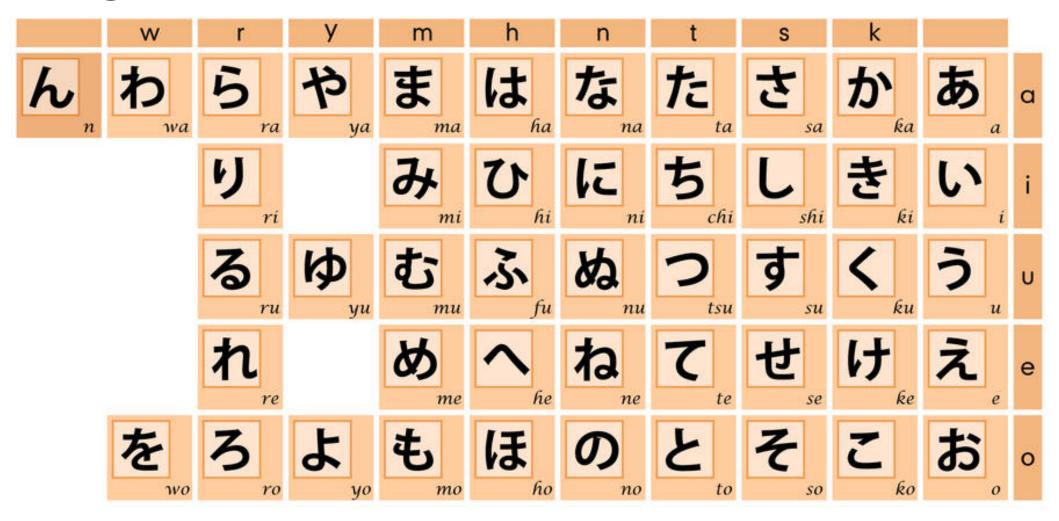
Simple phonetic system

- Only 5 vowels and 14 consonants
 - (cf. 21 vowels and 21 consonants in English;
 - 23 vowels with 4 tones and 36 consonants in Chinese)
- Each syllable contains one vowel with/without a consonant
- ⇒ Many syllables in a word to differentiate each word.

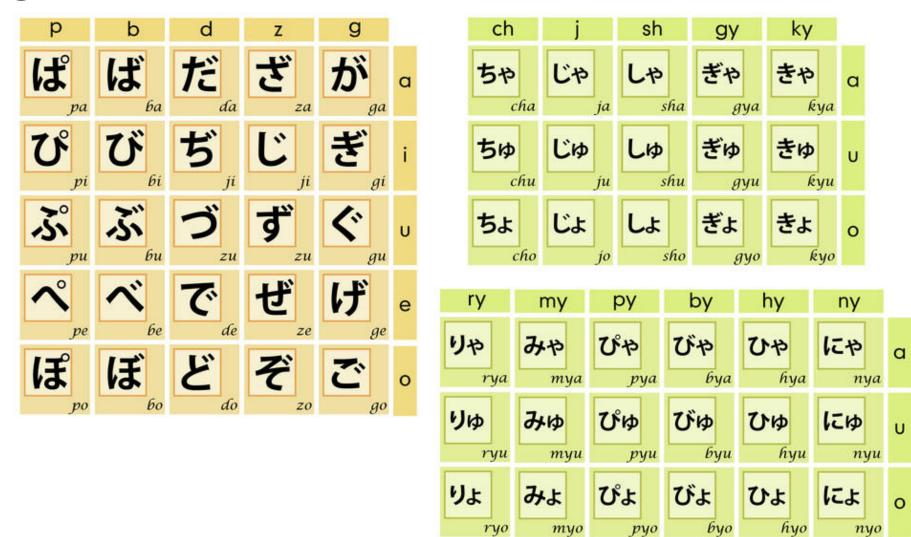
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Ex.) "あたたかい(atatakai)" (5 syllables) for "hot" (1 syl.)
"わたしは あたたかい ぎゅうにゅうを のみました" (18 syl.)
(watasiwa tumetai gyuunyuuo nomimashita) for "I drunk hot milk" (4 syl.)
```

• Pronunciation of each syllable is highly regular with the written system, unlike English.

Hiragana chart



Hiragana chart



Influence from Chinese

- After introducing Chinese characters, Chinese characters were used as a writing system for Japanese. At the same time, innumerable Chinese words were introduced to Japanese.
- At a much later time, Hiragana and Katakana were invented, derived from Chinese characters.
- Even after the invention of the two, official documents were written only with Chinese characters until the 19th c.

无	和	良	也	末	波	奈	太	左	加	安
光	fr	25	やや	李	彼	李	た	さ	カッ	安
ん	わ	5	ヤ	ま	は	な	た	Z	か	あ
	為	利		ま美	比	仁	知	~	幾	以
	25	$\langle m \rangle$		美	比	12	43	Ž		wl
	あ	ŋ		4	V	C	ち	し	きき 久	\ \
		留	由	武	不	奴	川	七	_	宇
		为	rd	也	3	处	10	寸	2	萝
		る	ゆ	む	دک	ぬ	つ	す	<	う
	恵	礼		女	部	袮	天	世	計	宇守う衣ええ於
	惠	礼		D	1	孙	2	世	计	え
	3	れ		め	^	ね	て	せ	け	え
	恵忍忌遠き	呂ろ	与	毛	保	乃	止	曽やそ	己	於
	き	3	ょ	6 to	俘	03	とと	や	ر ، زم	杉
	を	ろ	ょ	ŧ	ほ	0	と	そ	ر ،	お

ア	阿	1	伊	ウ	宇	工	江	オ	於
力	加	キ	機	ク	久	ケ	介	コ	己
サ	散	シ	之	ス	須	セ	世	ソ	曾
夕	多	チ	千	ツ	川	テ	天	 	止
ナ	奈	1	仁	ヌ	奴	ネ	祢	1	乃
ノヽ	入	ヒ	比	フ	不	^	部	ホ	保
マ	末	111	Ξ	ム	牟	メ	女	モ	毛
ヤ	也			ユ	由			3	與
	•		利		.,	$ \mathcal{V} $	礼	口	呂
ワ	和	中	井			卫	恵	ヲ	乎
ン	尔								

Different ways to read a Kanji

• 訓読み (Kun'yomi) meaning reading

The reading based on the pronunciation of a native Japanese word. Ex.) 開く/hiraku、打つ/utsu、会う/au、読む/yomu、水/mizu、犬/inu

• 音読み (On'yomi) sound(-based) reading or Sino-Japanese reading

The reading based on the historical Chinese pronunciation of the character.

Ex.) 開/kai、打/da、会/kai/e、読/doku、水/sui、木/moku、犬/ken Cf.) in CH: 開/kai, 打/da, 会/hui, 読/du, 水/shui, 木/mu, 犬/quan Cantonese:開/hoi, 打/daa, 会/wui, 読/duk, 水/seoi, 木/muk, 犬/hyun

Different readings in on'yomi

- The possible ways of on'yomi (Sino-Japanese reading) differ depending on the time when a Chinese word was introduced to Japanese, classified into 3 categories.
- 呉音/go-on

Introduced before the 7th c. Used especially on terms related to Buddhism.

• 漢音/kan'on

Introduced around the 7th and 8th c.

• 唐音/to-on

Introduced around the 11th to 19th c. Came from a variety of periods and regions.

 Both go-on and kan'on are based on the classical pronunciations of Chinese characters, so many of them sound similar to pronunciations of Southern Chinese languages such as Cantonese and Min Chinese, which also preserve characteristics of Middle Chinese well, and Hakka Chinese, whose phonology was said to be formed during the Song Dynasty.

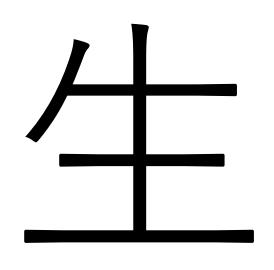
Similarity to Cantonese

Kanji	Meaning	Japanese	Cantonese	Chinese
簡単	Easy	Kantan	Gaandaan	Jiandan
自殺	Suicide	Jisatsu	Zisaat	Zisha
了解	OK/I understand	Ryoukai	Liugaai	Liaojie
時間	Time	Jikan	Sigaan	Shijian
散歩	Stroll	Sampo	Saanbou	Sanbu
目	Eye	Moku	Muk Muk	Mu
力	Power	Riki	Lik	Li

Similarity to Mandarin

Kanji	Meaning	Japanese	Chinese	Cantonese
図書館	Library	Toshokan	Tushuguan •	Tousyugun
安心	Feel at ease	Anshin	Anxin	Onsam
新鮮	Fresh	Shinsen	Xinxian	Sansin
修理	Repair	Shuuri	Xiuli	Saulei Saulei
開始	Start	Kaishi	Kaishi	Hoici
豆腐	Tofu	Touhu	Doufu	Daufu
困難	Difficulty	Konnan	Kunnan	Kwannaan

A Kanji with the most ways to read



- セイ/sei (Kan'on)
- ・ショウ/shou (Go'on)
- ジョウ/jou
- い(きる)/i(kiru)
- う(まれる)/u(mareru)
- は(える)/ha(eru)
- ・ なま/nama
- お(う)/o(u)
- き/ki

9 ways for ordinary use, but even more

Different forms of the same Chinese characters

Туре	Meaning	Japanese	CH (simplified)	CH (traditional)
JP≠CS≠CT	Wide, large	広	广	廣
JF + U3 + U1	Sell	売	卖	賣
JP=CT, JP≠CS	Recognize	認	认	認
JF = O1, JF + O3	Forgive	許	许	許
JP=CS, JP≠CT	Change	変	变	變
Jr −03, Jr + 01	Body	体	体	盟
CS=CT	lce	氷	冰	冰
JP≠CS/CT	Window	窓	窗	这

Words in Chinese characters that have different meanings from Chinese

Kanji (JP/CH)	Pronunciation (JP/CH)	Japanese	Chinese
勉強/勉强	Benkyo/Mianqiang	Study	To force sb to do
手紙/手纸	Tegami/Shouzhi	Letter	Toilet paper
湯/汤	Yu/Tang	Hot water, bath	Soup
明白	Meihaku/Mingbai	Obvious	Understand
愛人/爱人	Aijin/Airen	Lover	Loved one, partner
走	Sou/Zou	Run	Walk
丈夫	Joubu/Zhangfu	Tough	Husband

Kanjis that don't exist in Chinese

- 峠 mountain pass
- 笹 bamboo grass
- •畑 field
- 働 work
- 枠 frame
- 辻 (used for names)

Similar phenomena happened in Korea and Vietnam as well.

Influence TO Chinese

- 哲学 philosophy
- 科学 science
- 物理 physics
- 電気 electricity
- 世界 world
- 思想 thought

- 社会 society
- 主席 Chairman
- 目的 object
- 民主 democracy
- 説明 explain
- 自由 freedom

Games and Interaction

Self-introduction 自己紹介

- Name
- Home country/ town
- Hobby
- Anything you like or know about Japan (if any)

Try to write your name in Japanese 自分の名前を日本語で書いてみよう

Let's try to write your name in Hiragana, Katakana, and/or Kanji with help from your Japanese fellows

カルタ Karuta

- The reader of your group reads out the name of a card, and then the players race to find the card.
- You can see the list of names on the cards. If you feel it's too easy to play with the list, you can also try without it.
- You can also adjust the number of cards

Concentration 神経衰弱

- Put all cards upside down.
- When your turn comes, you can open 2 cards. If the two are a name and an image that correspond each other, you can take the cards.
- After taking cards, you can try again until you fail.
- The player who gets the most cards at the end is the winner.

Try translate your favorites into Japanese 好きなものを日本語に訳してみよう

- Let's try to translate your favorite words(colors, proverbs, etc.), names of animals, something about your hobbies, or anything into Japanese working together.
- You can also translate the phrases that you want to use in Japan or talk about culture or any.