

NipponGO!

日本語

**An Introduction to Elementary Modern Japanese Language**

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Patricia Welch

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## Preface—How to Use this Book

Welcome to Elementary Japanese! This book is designed to provide a detailed foundation in modern Japanese that will allow you to engage in everyday conversation on a variety of topics, as well as talk about yourself and your own interests. You will also learn how to write short essays, letters, and emails on everyday topics. By the end of the eight chapters in this textbook you will have covered essential elements of basic Japanese grammar, will know hiragana and katakana, practical vocabulary related to the thematic lessons, and will have learned approximately 150 kanji (Chinese characters).

The book consists of an introduction and eight chapters. The introduction provides an overview of the Japanese language and a detailed introduction to the sounds and orthography of Japanese. Chapters 1 through Chapter 8 approach language through useful communicative activities, including greetings and self-introductions, daily lives, shopping, and so forth. Given language learners' desire to communicate, this text introduces verb and adjective patterns in Chapter 2, so that by Chapter 5, when students are introduced to the *〜て* form (an essential grammatical building block in Japanese), they will already be very familiar with both everyday verbs and adjectives and the sentence patterns in which they are found.

Each chapter consists of the following:

- Dialogue
- Vocabulary
- Grammar and practice (between 4-6 primary grammar and usage patterns)
- Kanji (each chapter contains about 15 kanji)

The book is ring-bound; workbook exercises are at the back of the book.. Other back matter includes a Japanese-English glossary, a list of verbs, and a master kanji list. Additional exercises are accessible through a class Quizlet page. A flash drive included with the text provides students with listening practice.

To best prepare for class, first master hiragana and katakana as quickly as you can. Make flashcards for recognition purposes, and write out each hiragana multiple times! Pay attention to stroke order. It makes a difference, and your teacher can (usually) tell when you have used incorrect stroke order. Once you enter lessons 1-8, carefully study the vocabulary for each lesson before class. You should also carefully read each of the grammatical explanations, and work with the exercises *before class*. In class, you will primarily be using this vocabulary and these patterns. Try to put in at least 30 minutes of language practice per day, but prepare in a mindful way: put your phone away! Don't let yourself be distracted by texts or emails, or your friend's photos on Instagram. When you prepare, don't just read silently—take as many opportunities as you can to speak and read Japanese. Carefully write out your homework. In your class, you will have some opportunities to type in Japanese, but initially writing by hand is the best practice, since it trains both hand and mind. Note that “cramming” doesn't work too well for learning a language. Sure, you can memorize a vocabulary list if you cram, but not too much of it will go into long-term memory unless you pace yourself, review, and use the words. The best way to move what you learn into long-term memory is to study mindfully every day. Carefully read and practice new material, and review material from previous classes.

In class, use as much Japanese as you can! Your teachers will be moving you through a variety of drills, each building on earlier ones, as you learn more complex patterns. Above all, don't be afraid to make mistakes! Children learn their native language, making many mistakes as they do. They don't worry about it, because they are learning how to communicate.

Good luck, and let's begin, or as we say in Japanese: <sup>がんば</sup>頑張って! <sup>はじ</sup>始めましょう!

### Greetings and Useful Classroom Expressions

 File 0-1

The following list contains useful expressions for the classroom, and a list of objects commonly found in the classroom. Do you know any of these?

いってください	Please say it/ please repeat after me
もういちどいってください	Please say it one more time
ゆっくりいってください	Please say it slowly
おおきいこえでいってください	Please say it loudly
ちいさいこえでいってください	Please say it quietly
これは <sup>なん</sup> 何ですか	What is this?
それは <sup>なん</sup> 何ですか	What is that?
あれは <sup>なん</sup> 何ですか	What is that over there (far from both speaker and hearer)?
これは <sup>ほん</sup> 本です。	This is a book.
これは <sup>にほんご なん い</sup> 日本語で何と言いますか	How do you say this in Japanese?
はい/ええ	Yes
いいえ	No
<sup>しつれい</sup> 失礼します	Excuse me.
おはようございます	Good morning.
こんにちは	Good day. Hello.
こんばんは	Good evening.
さようなら	Good bye.
おやすみ (なさい)	Good night.
じゃあまた	See you again.
あのう...	(Hesitation) ...well/um...
すみません	Excuse me.

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