

[My Japanese Coach: Lesson I, Basic Words](#)

Lesson One: Basic Words

Hi! I'm Haruka! It's nice to meet you. I'm here to teach you Japanese. So let's get right into it! Here is a list of words in Japanese. They're all very basic words that you will hear all the time. These lists of words are very useful! Click on the button to hear the word and see it written in Latin letters. Above the list of vocabulary words are tabs with a couple of actions. "Write" lets you practice writing the word in Japanese characters. "Speak" lets you compare your voice against mine! Try to match my pronunciation.

good	ii	いい
bad	dame	だめ
yes	hai	はい
no	iie	いいえ
hello	konnichiwa	こんにちは
goodbye	sayounara	さようなら
this	kore	これ
that	sore	それ
thank you	arigatou	ありがとう
I (formal)	watashi	わたし

You'll need to master all the words in each lesson before you can move on. I track them by giving you mastery points. You'll need to play games to get mastery points. Each correct answer will get you mastery points for that word. When you've mastered all the words in a lesson, you'll get a new one! With enough mastery points, you can even get new games and titles! You don't want to be a baby forever, do you? Enough talking about it! Try it out for yourself.

GAME: Hit-a-word

How was it? Did you get a lot of mastery points? Probably not enough to master the whole lesson yet! Just keep at it and you'll get a new lesson in no time. Here's another game to practice with. Enjoy!

GAME: Multiple choice

We're off to a good start. You'll be able to speak Japanese before you know it. Next time, I'll cover more on pronunciation.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson II, Pronunciation

Lesson Two: Pronunciation

Let's look at some words that many people are familiar with. These are words that commonly used in English. See how many you can recognize! You need to pay close attention to differences in pronunciation! English speakers pronounce them based on English rules. But the original words are pronounced quite differently in Japanese.

Here are the first five words. Tap the button to hear how they would be pronounced in Japanese.

Did you compare them with how they sound in English? The sound isn't the only thing that changed! In English, for example, manga and anime refer to certain styles of comics and cartoons. But in Japanese manga refers to ALL comics and anime refers to ALL cartoons. Also, most Japanese people don't use the word kamikaze.

karaoke	カラオケ
kamikaze	かみかぜ
karate	からて
anime	アニメ
manga	まんが

Here's another set of words for you. Remember to check the English pronunciation against the Japanese!

futon	ふとん
romaji	ローマじ
tsunami	つなみ
samurai	さむらい
ninja	にんじゃ

There are a few things I need to point out. Romaji is what we call Japanese that is written in English letters instead of Japanese characters. Also, a futon is a mattress that you sleep on in Japan. They are really comfortable!

Are you feeling comfortable with these words? Then it's game time! **がんばって!** (ganbatte!) (Hang in there!)

GAME: Hit-a-word

There you go! It's important to know how to pronounce words correctly in Japanese. Try your best to match my pronunciation. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let's go through one more game to get ready for the next lesson.

GAME: Word search

If you master all the words from this less, the next lesson will become available. I'm looking forward to teaching you more, so hurry up and master your words!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson III, Numbers

Lesson Three: Numbers

Now that we've eased into Japanese with some familiar words, let's cover something that everyone is familiar with. Numbers! すうじ(suuji)! Numbers are very useful and are easy to remember. Let's get started.

Here are one through five. Give them a touch to see how they are spoken. Notice that when you touch the Japanese words in the table below they will change between Japanese and romaji.

one	ichi	いち
two	ni	に
three	san	さん
four	yon	よん
five	go	ご

Now, here are 6 through 10. Touch them on and off to check your memory.

six	roku	ろく
seven	shichi	しち
eight	hachi	はち
nine	kyuu	きゅう
ten	juu	じゅう

It's time for a quick quiz. I know you'll do well!

GAME: Multiple choice

To use numbers to their fullest extent in Japanese, you'll need to know counters. Counters tell the numbers what kind of thing they are counting. They can be a little confusing, so we'll cover them in a later lesson.

Some simply counters that don't make us change how the numbers are said are えん(en) "yen" and ねん(nen) "years." See how they are used below.

five yen	go en	五円
ten yen	juu en	十円

This is small change though. 1 yen is only worth about a penny.

In the phrases below it says "year" first because it is telling the number of the year, not how many years there are.

year three	san nen	三年
year seven	shichi nen	七年

Even if you don't know the correct counter yet, you should practice counting things in Japanese. Remember that practice makes perfect, or at least very good!

Here are the numbers from 11 to 15, so you can count even higher! Notice that we're putting ten before the number we want to say. This works all the way up to 19.

eleven	juuichi	じゅういち
twelve	juuni	じゅうに
thirteen	juusan	じゅうさん
fourteen	juuyon	じゅうよん
fifteen	juugo	じゅうご

You're doing well so far! I think you deserve a new game. Give it a try!

GAME: Hit-a-word

Remember that you need to master all the words in a lesson to move on to the next one! I know you can do it!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson IV, Colors

Lesson Four: Colors

Ready for some basic colors? Colors are everywhere, so they're easy to point out and practice with. In Japanese, some colors are adjectives and some are nouns. Adjectives are words that describe nouns. There are two types of adjectives in Japanese. But don't worry about it too much now, I'll just cover the very basics.

White, black, red and blue are adjectives. Just put them in front of the word that needs color.

white	shiroi	しろい
black	kuroi	くろい
blue	aoi	あおい
red	akai	あかい
green	midori	みどり

Here are some examples of adjectives in use.

red apple	akai ringo	あかいりんご
black paper	kuroi kami	くろいかみ

Here are some more colors that are nouns. Green, from the last list, is also a noun.

brown	chairo	ちゃいろ
yellow	kiiro	きいろ
orange	orenji iro	オレンジいろ
grey	haiiro	はいいろ
pink	pinku	ピンク

In order to connect a noun to a noun we need to put a の (no) between the words. Remember to put the color before the noun! It would go in this order: "color" -の (no)- "noun." See the examples below.

yellow hat	kiiro no boushi	きいろのぼうし
grey car	haiiro no kuruma	はいいろのくるま

Alright! Time to get some practice in!

GAME: Multiple choice

What is your favorite color? Did I cover it? My favorite color is pink. It's so cute! Remember to practice in real life! It's okay to say the noun in English if you don't know it in Japanese yet. Just remember which colors are adjectives and which are nouns!

Let's get a little more practice in. Remember that until you master all the words in a lesson I can't teach you anything new.

GAME: Hit-a-word

You're making great progress! Now go finish mastering those words! Ganbatte!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson V, Days

Lesson Five: Days of the Week

What day is it? きよはなんようびですか? (kyou wa nan'youbi desu ka?)

Let's cover the days of the week. You know, Sunday through Saturday? All you have to do is say "It is ____." Fill in the blank with Sunday, Monday, whatever works best for you. This works out to be "____です (desu)" in Japanese. にちようびです (nichiyoubi desu.) "It is Sunday."

Go ahead and get used to the vocabulary. Focus on the sound of my voice.

Monday	getsuyoubi	げつようび
Tuesday	kayoubi	かようび
Wednesday	suiyoubi	すいようび
Thursday	mokuyoubi	もくようび
Friday	kin'youbi	きんようび

です (desu) is a form of "to be" in Japanese. It's a very useful word, and I have a whole lesson dedicated to it.

Saturday	doyoubi	どようび
Sunday	nichiyoubi	にちようび
day	hi	ひ
today	kyou	きょう
tomorrow	ashita	あした

Get some practice in. I'll be waiting for you!

GAME: Hit-a-word

Now you can say what day it is!

Today is Friday.	kyou wa kin'youbi desu.	きょうはきんようびです。
Tomorrow is Saturday.	ashita wa dooyoubi desu.	あしたはどようびです。

You're doing great! Get some more practice in and we can move on to the next lesson.

GAME: Word search

Next time we're going to practice writing in Japanese! Don't forget to master those words!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson VI, Kana I (Hiragana Vowels & K)

“Akihabara: Akihabara is best-known as one of the largest shopping areas on Earth for electronic, anime, and otaku goods, including new and used items.”

Lesson Six: Kana I

I can just hear you asking, “Haruka, I thought Japanese had funny symbols for words. Why are we learning Japanese without those symbols?” Don’t worry, we’re going to start learning them now! Before we can really learn Japanese we need to be able to use kana. Kana refers to both hiragana and katakana, which are two of the writing systems that are used in Japanese. The other system is kanji. It’s more complicated than the other two, so we’ll come back to that later. For now, we’re going to start learning hiragana since it’s the default writing system for Japanese.

Here are the first five characters. Be sure to use the Speak and Write functions below. The letters on this page are the vowels. The vowels are always in this order. Also, unlike English, the vowels will always sound the same!

a	あ
i	い
u	う
e	え
o	お

Here, each character starts with k and is followed by one of the vowels. This pattern is followed by most hiragana. Don’t forget to see how they are written. The WAY that you write something is much more important in Japanese than it is in English.

ka	か
ki	き
ku	く
ke	け
ko	こ

Let’s get some practice writing these out. Ganbatte!

GAME: Fading characters

As you learn more hiragana, you’ll be able to stop writing in English letters. You’ll be that much closer to really knowing Japanese! Here are a few words that you can write already! Give them a try.

blue	aoi	あおい
no	iiie	いいえ

Great! These words used characters from both sets. Test out your memory!

hill	oka	おか
go	iku	いく

If we only had the 46 hiragana characters to choose from, Japanese wouldn’t have many ways to pronounce words. But adding more characters isn’t a very good solution. Instead, we can place little symbols next to a character to show that it is read differently. The symbol I’m going to talk about this time is the dakuten (also called a tenten).

The dakuten looks like quotation marks. It’s placed in the top right corner of a character. Not all characters can use a dakuten.

All “k” character can use a dakuten. Putting a dakuten on them gives them a g sound instead of a k sound.

ga	が
gi	ぎ
gu	ぐ
ge	げ

Let's really get these practiced! I've got a new game for you!

GAME: Write cards

Many people new to Japanese think that each character is a word, but hiragana and katakana only represent sounds. They don't mean anymore than the letters of the English alphabet do.

Go ahead and practice these some more, and I'll get more hiragana characters ready for you to study. Next time we'll cover the months!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson VII, Months

Lesson Seven: Months

Let's cover the months now. They're actually very easy!

They are listed out by number, the first month is January, the second month is February, etc.

Remember when I mentioned counters? Months are a type of numeric counter!

Here are the first four months.

January	ichigatsu	いちがつ
February	nigatsu	にがつ
March	sangatsu	さんがつ
April	shigatsu	しがつ

If you remember the numbers then these are really easy!

May	gogatsu	ごがつ
June	rokugatsu	ろくがつ
July	shichigatsu	しちがつ
August	hachigatsu	はちがつ

Japanese people use standard 12 month calendars, just like you!

September	kugatsu	くがつ
October	juugatsu	じゅうがつ
November	juuichigatsu	じゅういちがつ
Decemeber	juunigatsu	じゅうにがつ

Got them memorized? Earn some mastery!

GAME: Word search

Remember how to use days of the week. Months can be used the same way.

It is September.	kugatsu desu.	九月です。
It is April.	shigatsu desu.	四月です。

Get some more practice in on the vocabulary!

GAME: Multiple choice

Great! Did you get September right? That's when my birthday is. When is your birthday?

That wasn't too hard, was it? Next time we're going to cover more hiragana.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson VIII, Kana II (Hiragana S & T)

Lesson Eight: Kana 2

Good to see you again! I've got more characters that I want to teach you! This time we'll be covering the hiragana starting with S and T.

Don't forget to listen to the pronunciation and check how to write it. Stroke order is very important!

sa	さ
shi	し
su	す
se	せ
so	そ

Did you notice what was different with the S set? The second character has an extra letter in it! That is because this character has more of a "sh" sound than a "ss" sound. There are a few other characters that don't fit perfectly with the rest of the sounds.

For example, with the T characters there are two that are pronounced differently. ち(chi) and つ(tsu).

ta	た
chi	ち
tsu	つ
te	て
to	と

Remember when I told you about the dakuten earlier? The dakuten works for both the S characters and the T characters. The S characters turn into 'z' sounds and the T characters turn into 'd' sounds. However, the し(shi) character with a dakuten turns into a (ji). The ち(chi) with a dakuten turns into a ぢ(ji), and the つ(tsu) turns into a づ(zu).

Here's how the S characters look with a dakuten.

za	ざ
ji	じ
zu	ず
ze	ぜ
zo	ぞ

And here's how the T characters look with a dakuten.

da	だ
ji	ぢ
zu	づ
de	で
do	ど

Feeling confident? Let's get some practice writing them.

GAME: Fading characters

How did you do? The more practice you get writing hiragana the easier it will become. Most people find hiragana easier to use than romaji after they've been using it for a while. Don't forget that the main use of romaji is for people that don't know Japanese. Switch over as soon as possible!

Let's keep up at it! Hiragana is very different from your writing system, so you have to be sure to practice!

GAME: Write cards

Great! Get those mastered and then we can cover pronouns. You'll be well on your way to making sentences!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson IX, Pronouns

Lesson Nine: Pronouns

Let's learn some new words before we get started on sentence building. Pronouns!
Here are some common words used to describe other people.

those	sorera	それら
me (male informal)	boku	ぼく
me (fem. Informal)	atashi	あたし
you	anata	あなた
we	watashitachi	わたしたち

When you're being polite you should use words or grammar marked as formal. This should be used when talking to people who are above you in rank. This includes your boss, teachers, people that are older than you, or people that you look up to. But you don't need to talk politely with me. We're friends, right?

If you're not talking politely, like with people your age or younger, then you can use words that are marked as informal. Most girls will still use watashi instead of atashi though. But if you're a boy and you're speaking informally, you would refer to yourself as boku.

Just to warn you, it's not very polite to refer to other people with a pronoun like he, she or you. It's better to use their name instead.

he	kare	かれ
she	kanojo	かのじょ
they (mas.)	karera	かれら
they (fem.)	kanojotachi	かのじょたち
you (plural)	anatatachi	あなたたち

I want to make sure that you know these well. So it's game time!

GAME: Word search

Knowing these words will be very useful in the near future! Be sure to practice them!

You're doing great, I want to give you a new game. Try it out!

GAME: Flash cards

Great! Get those mastered and we'll cover some more Japanese writing! See you soon!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson X, Kana III (Hiragana N & H)

Lesson Ten: Kana 3

It's time for even more hiragana! There are a total of 46 hiragana characters. You're halfway through now!

Don't forget to listen to the pronunciation and check how to write it. Stroke order is important!

na	な
ni	に
nu	ぬ
ne	ね
no	の

Pay attention to the (fu) character. It's not a hard f sound, but it's not really an h sound either. It sounds more like a breath out.

ha	は
hi	ひ
fu	ふ
he	へ
ho	ほ

Ready for more practice?

GAME: Fading characters

Is it getting a little easier to pick up new characters? They're get easier with practice! Try to write more words in hiragana at home, at school, anywhere you can! Switch over from romaji as soon as possible!

The n characters can't use the dakuten, but the h characters can! The h characters with a dakuten turn into b sounds. The h characters can also use another symbol, the handakuten (also called a maru). The handakuten is a little circle placed in the same area as the dakuten. An h character with a handakuten gets a p sound. The dakuten and handakuten cannot be used at the same time.

Only the h characters can use the handakuten. Look below to see how they are used.

pa	ぱ
pi	ぴ
pu	ぷ
pe	ぺ
po	ぽ

How well do you remember the new hiragana characters you learned? It's time to test them out!

GAME: Write cards

Great! Get those mastered and then we can start making sentences! Then you'll be able to start speaking Japanese rather than just knowing a few words.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XI, Desu

“Shinjuku Gyoen: The gardens are a favorite hanami (cherry-blossom viewing) spot, and large crowds can be found in the park during cherry blossom season.”

Lesson Eleven: Desu

Now it's time to start making sentences. Just basic ones for now though!

The most basic thing you need to know is that sentences in Japanese are not ordered the same way as English sentences. Be sure to remember that! In English, the order has the subject first, then the verb, and the object of the sentence last. A subject is the thing that does the verb, and the object is the rest of the sentence.

I am fast. Subject: I, verb: am, object: fast.

The English ordering of subject, verb, object can be shortened into S.V.O. Japanese sentences are ordered differently. The verb always goes last. The ordering is S.O.V. In Japanese, the example sentence “I am fast” would have the following ordering. “I fast am.”

The words “am,” “is” and “are” in Japanese are all the same word, desu. Regardless of the subject! So in English we have the following partial sentences. “I am.” “He is.” “They are.” In Japanese they would be;

Watashi desu. Kare desu. Karera desu.

Remember that the desu goes last. The only thing different between these three sentences are the subjects. Technically, desu isn't a verb, but it fits in the same place when looking at sentence structure.

Here are some words that will be useful in basic sentences. The word “this” can also be used as a subject. Also, notice that the u is silent on です(desu).

be	desu	です
man	otoko no hito	おとこのひと
woman	onna no hito	おんなのひと
child	ko	こ
American	amerikajin	アメリカじん

Many of these words are common objects, and Japanese people are certainly common in Japan!

Japanese person	nihonjin	にほんじん
chair	isu	いす
car	kuruma	くるま
book	hon	ほん
house	ie	いえ

Take a minute to get used to these new words then we'll start using them in sentences!

GAME: Multiple choice

Alright! Let's start using these in sentences. We just need to cover one more thing...

Particles. These are very small words that come after a word. They tell you the context of the word they follow. We're only going to cover on particle right now.

That particle is は(wa). は(wa) is used to tell you what word is the topic, or main subject, of the sentence. What is the topic of this sentence? Kore wa kuruma desu.

If you said the topic was これ (kore) then you were right! If you said it was kuruma (car) then you need to remember that the particle goes AFTER what it is attached to.

What about this sentence? What word is the topic? Yamadasan wa otoko no hito desu. Also, what is the translation of this sentence?

For “Yamadasan wa otoko no hito desu,” the topic is Yamadasan! And the sentence translates to “Mr. Yamada is a man.”

Is this starting to feel a little more comfortable? Try making your own sentences! Putting it together on your own is a very effective way of learning Japanese!

I think you've earned a new game to practice with. Enjoy!

GAME: Memory

Next time we'll learn how to change desu around into negative, past tense, and negative past tense. I can't wait!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XII, Desu Tenses

Lesson Twelve: Desu Tenses

While the use of desu is still fresh in your mind, I want to show how you can change it around to make even more sentences. We'll be changing the tense of the words to make even more sentences! First let's cover the past tense form of です(desu). Past tense is where we talk about something that has already happened.

The past tense form of です(desu) is でした(deshita) It is placed in the same place that です(desu) would be.

This is a car.	kore wa kuruma desu.	これはくるまです。
This was a car	kore wa kuruma deshita.	これはくるまでした。

Just like です(desu), でした(deshita) doesn't care who or what the topic is.

I was.	watashi deshita.	わたしでした。
It was them.	karera deshita.	かれらでした。

The negative form can be thought of as isn't.

It isn't.	dewa arimasen.	ではありません。
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The past negative form is a combination of the negative form and the past form. It is "dewa arimasen deshita."

To recap, the different forms are...

Present positive = desu

Past positive = deshita

Present negative = dewa arimasen

Past negative = dewa arimasen deshita

Notice there is no future tense of desu. Don't worry about it for now.

Let's get some new words for you. We've already covered two of these.

was	deshita	でした
isn't	dewa arimasen	ではありません
girl	onna no ko	おんなのこ
boy	otoko no ko	おとこのこ
animal	doubutsu	どうぶつ

And one more group of words. Energetic is a commonly used word in Japanese that we'll be revisiting on the question lessons.

energetic	genki	げんき
person	hito	ひと
English	eigo	えいご
Japanese	nihongo	にほんご
cat	neko	ねこ

Alright! Let's get some playing in!

GAME: Memory

Let's practice with a few sentences.

The man was a boy.	otoko no hito wa otoko no ko deshita.	男の人は男の子でした。
The cat isn't a girl.	neko wa onna no ko dewa arimasen.	猫は女の子ではありません。

Do you see how they are used in the sentences? Remember the subject (topic) goes first, then the object, and lastly the verb. There is no Japanese word for “the,” so it is ignored in the Japanese sentences.

Also, there are formal and informal ways of speaking in Japanese. What I’ve covered so far are the formal forms of です(desu). Informal speech is what is used to talk to our friends and family younger than we are. But in most cases you should use formal speech.

Here are the informal forms of です(desu).

Present positive = da

Past positive = datta

Present negative = ja nai

Past Negative = ja nakatta

To use the informal forms of です(desu) instead of the formal forms just replace the formal form with the informal form. It’s pretty easy to change!

Let’s have one more game to drive the point home!

GAME: Multiple choice

We’re going to cover more hiragana next time, we’re almost done with it! Be sure to practice!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XIII, Kana IV (Hiragana M & R)

Lesson Thirteen: Kana 4

It's time for the fourth lesson on hiragana. One more lesson after this and you'll be finished with hiragana!

Don't forget to listen to the pronunciation of each character and check how to write it. Stroke order is important! Be sure not to confuse め (me) with む (nu). む 'nu' has a loop at the end!

ma	ま
mi	み
mu	む
me	め
mo	も

Now for the r series. Don't forget to check your pronunciation! There is no real r sound in Japanese. What we write as r is actually a sound between r and l. This is why many Japanese speaking have trouble with r and l in English.

ra	ら
ri	り
ru	る
re	れ
ro	ろ

Ready for more practice?

GAME: Fading characters

Don't forget to practice the hiragana that you've already mastered. It's no good going through the alphabet if you've forgotten ABC by the time you've finished! Try to write more words in hiragana, it will really help your practice! Switch over to hiragana instead of romaji as soon as possible!

How well do you remember the new hiragana characters you learned? It's time to test them out!

GAME: Write cards

Great! Get those mastered and then we can start asking questions. Asking questions is actually very easy!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XIV, Questions

Lesson Fourteen: Questions

Asking question in Japanese is actually very simple. It's even easier than asking questions in English!

Remember in lesson 11 when I mentioned particles? We're going to learn a new particle to make questions. This kind of particle goes at the end of a sentence.

The new particle is か(ka). Placing it at the end of a sentence makes the sentence a question. That's the only thing that needs to change!

Compare the statement and the question below.

That is a book.	sore wa hon desu.	それはほんです。
Is that a book?	sore wa hon desu ka?	それはほんですか？

Have you been practicing making sentences? Try making sentences as questions now!

Try using these words to make question sentences.

where	doko	どこ
when	itsu	いつ
why	doushite	どうして
who	dare	だれ
what	nani	なに

Were you able to use them to make sentences? Try making some more sentences with these words.

bathroom	otearai	おてあらい
strong	tsuyoi	つよい
weak	yowai	よわい
pretty	kirei na	きれいな
ugly	minikui	みにくい

Here are some sentences I came up with!

Are you strong?	anata wa tsuyoi desu ka?	あなたはつよいですか？
Where is the bathroom?	otearai wa doko desu ka?	おてあらいはどこですか？

Let's check your memory with this game.

GAME: Memory

Asking question is very important when you go to a foreign country. You're sure to see a lot of things you don't understand! Be sure to practice making sentences. Both ones that are questions and ones that aren't. How do you expect to learn Japanese without practicing it?

Speaking of practice, let's get you some more of it!

GAME: Hit-a-word

I'm really proud of your progress! You're doing great!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XV, Numbers II

Lesson Fifteen: Numbers 2

Way back in lesson II I told you that numbers weren't too useful without counters to show how the numbers are used. Now I'm going to tell you more about counters. Remember, counters go after the number to tell what is being counted! Before we covered えん(en) "yen counter" and ねん(nen) "year counter."

The counters we covered before were easy. This is because all we had to do was put the number in front and the counter afterwards. Most types of counter use a different way of pronouncing the numbers!

There are hundreds of different counters! So I won't be covering them all. Instead, I'm going to cover just one counter, the one for general use. You can get away with using this counter for most purposes.

This counter end with こ (ko). Here are the first five numbers using this counter.

one object	ikko	いっこ
two objects	niko	にこ
three objects	sanko	さんこ
four objects	yonko	よんこ
five objects	goko	ごこ

Some of the numbers don't sound the same as they usually do, right? This is because it's using a different reading for the kanji of the numbers. This will make more sense when we cover kanji.

There's no harm in letting you know what's coming, right?

Here are the other numbers, up to ten.

six objects	rokko	ろっこ
seven objects	nanako	ななこ
eight objects	hachiko	はちこ
nine objects	kyuuko	きゅうこ
ten objects	jukko	じゅっこ

Time to get some practice in!

GAME: Word Search

Let's try using these in sentences. To connect them to what you are talking about, use a の (no).

ten apples	jukko no ringo	じゅっこのりんご
six chairs	rokko no isu	ろっこのいす

Don't forget to try using these in sentences, and you should be able to write all of these in hiragana by now. Practice, practice, practice!

Let's do another game to help you with your mastery.

GAME: Multiple Choice

Okay, now that we've got counters covered let's get going on some larger numbers. Next time!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XVI, Numbers III

“Sanrio Puroland: The theme park is run by the Sanrio Company and is host to various attraction and theme rides using popular characters such as Hello Kitty® and many more.”

Lesson Sixteen: Numbers 3

Let's take a step back and do something a little easier. Suuji, sono ni! (numbers, part two)

When you want to say larger numbers than ten, simply put ten before the next number. This works up to 19. Anything larger than that, and you'll want to put a number before the ten, then another one after the ten. So 22 would be “two ten two” in English.

Here are some examples to work off of. See how up to 19 there is nothing before the ten?

sixteen	juuroku	じゅうろく
seventeen	juunana	じゅうなな
eighteen	juuhachi	じゅうはち
nineteen	juukyuu	じゅうきゅう
twenty	nijuu	にじゅう

Also, there's no need to put a zero in for multiples of ten, as shown below.

thirty	sanjuu	さんじゅう
forty	yonjuu	よんじゅう
fifty	gojuu	ごじゅう
sixty	rokujuu	ろくじゅう
seventy	nanajuu	ななじゅう

Here are some mixed words to study.

42	yonjuuni	よんじゅうに
91	kyuujuuichi	きゅうじゅういち

Here are some larger numbers to work with.

eighty	hachijuu	はちじゅう
ninety	kyuujuu	きゅうじゅう
hundred	hyaku	ひゃく
number	suuji	すうじ

Need to say something bigger than 100? Use the same pattern as the tens!

175	hyakushichijuugo	ひゃくしちじゅうご
298	nihyakukyuujuuhachi	にひゃくきゅうじゅうはち

Ready to test out your knowledge?

GAME: Multiple choice

Let's do one more round of gaming to get you going.

GAME: Hit-a-word

The best way to practice your numbers is to keep counting! So get counting!

That's it for the higher numbers. Next time we're going to finish the hiragana.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XVII, Kana V (Hiragana Y & W, Katakana Vowels)

Lesson Seventeen: Kana 5

Are you ready to finish your hiragana training? This lesson covers the lasts of the hiragana. I hope you've been practicing. If you can't read and write hiragana at the end of this lesson you should review it. When you reach lesson 30, the focus is on real Japanese rather than romaji! Be ready for it!

There are only six more characters left of hiragana so I'm also going to start you on katakana in this lesson. There is a katakana character for every hiragana character.

Here are the Y and W characters. Notice there is no "yi" or "ye."

ya	や
yu	ゆ
yo	よ
wa	わ
wo	を

The last hiragana character is the singular ん (n) character. It's the only character without a vowel.

n	ん
---	---

The Y characters are special. They can be put with other characters to make other sounds. In order to do that, they need to be drawn smaller than usual. They also need to be right after another character that ends with "i."

Here are some examples of using the small Y characters.

kya	きゃ
cho	ちょ

Before moving on to katakana there is something else that should be mentioned. The small つ (tsu) character. The small つ (tsu) character can be used to hold out a consonant sound. When writing in romaji the consonant is written twice.

itta	いった
kekka	けっか

Now let's start on katakana! Katakana is mostly used for foreign words, like America and anime. Anime is short for animation.

Here are the vowels in katakana. You'll notice that katakana is much more angular than hiragana.

a	ア
i	イ
u	ウ
e	エ
o	オ

Okay! Time to test them out!

GAME: Fading characters

Remember, you should be ready to write all words in hiragana by now. Try to write more words in hiragana, it will really help your practice!

On that note, it's time to get some practice in!

GAME: Write cards

Next time let's cover some greeting. Greetings are always useful.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XVIII, Greetings

Lesson Eighteen: Greetings

When trying to learn a foreign language it's always good to know a few basic phrases. They're always helpful! Recently I've been teaching things that require a lot of thought, but phrases just require memorization. I figured it's time to give you a break.

So, here are some phrases!

how are you?	genki desu ka?	げんきですか？
I am fine	genki desu	げんきです
and you?	anata wa?	あなたは？
thank you very much	doumo arigatou	どうもありがとう
you're welcome	doutashimashite	どういたしまして

You can add “gozaimasu” to the end of “ohayou” to make it more polite. Don't forget to check your pronunciation!

good morning	ohayou	おはよう
good evening	konban wa	こんばんは
hey	oi	おい
excuse me	sumimasen	すみません
sorry	gomen	ごめん

Alright, let's play a little game to help you get used to them.

GAME: Multiple choice

You know, I think you deserve a new game. You've been doing so well!

GAME: Flash cards

I hope you enjoyed the easy lesson. I'll be teaching verb types and conjugation in the next lesson.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XIX, Formal Verb Conjugation

Lesson Nineteen: Verbs in Sentences

Now it's time to start using verbs in sentences. You're doing great for getting this far!

When we want to use a verb in a sentence we can use the "masu" form. No matter what kind of verb it is it will end with **ます (masu)** when it's in "masu" form. A verb with **ます (masu)** is non-past.

This means that it can be either present tense or future tense. That can be a little confusing, especially at first!

Since it can be future or present tense, the sentence "watashi wa tabemasu" can be either of the two sentences below.

"I will eat." (I'm going to eat in the future.)

"I eat." (I eat, that's what I do.)

Check out these conjugated verbs and see if you can determine how they were conjugated.

will go	ikimasu	いきます
will see	mimasu	みます

Now let's use these in sentences. Remember there are three main parts of a sentence. The subject (topic), the object and the verb. We need a special type of word called a particle to show how words are used in a sentence. Remember? We mark the topic of the sentence with the **は (wa)** particle.

To mark the direct object of a sentence we use the particle **を (wo)**. Remember that it goes right after the word that is the direct object of the verb. So how do you know what the direct object is? It's the word that the verb acts on in Japanese, or in English.

So for the phrase "Johnny walked to the store," "store" is not the direct object. The walking didn't happen to the store. The store wouldn't afterwards say "Man, I just got walked." But in the phrase "Johnny ate the sushi," the sushi is the direct object. The eating happened to the sushi.

Here are some sentences with verbs and direct objects.

Terakami ate sushi.	terakamisan wa sushi wo tabemashita.	てらかみさんはすしをたべました。
Ueno will read a book.	uenosan wa hon wo yomimasu.	うえのさんはほんをよみます。

Don't forget that the verb goes at the end of the sentence! Learning how to make sentences correctly is important in any language!

Here are some more verbs to play around with. Just so you know, you should use **が (ga)** instead of **を (wo)** with the verb "wakaru." I'll tell you more about **が (ga)** later.

eat	taberu	たべる
read	yomu	よむ
meet	au	あう
write	kaku	かく
hurry	isogu	いそぐ

Here are some words that can work well with direct objects.

speak	hanasu	はなす
see	miru	みる
go	iku	いく
do	suru	する
come	kuru	くる

Time to practice these words. Think of how you can use them in sentences!

GAME: Word search

We can also replace the (masu) with other things to use the verb differently. Using this was can make verbs past tense, negative, or negative past tense! All that we need to change is the **ます** (masu).

We can change it into **ました** (mashita) to make it past tense. We can also change it to “masen” to make it negative. Lastly we can change the **ます** (masu) into **ませんでした** (masen deshita) in order to make it past negative. These different tenses work just like the different tenses of **です** (desu)!

Using verbs is important!

GAME: Flash cards

I hope you're getting used to making sentences in Japanese! If not, it's time to go back and review some lessons!

Remember how there was a formal and informal form of “desu”? I'll explain informal forms of verbs soon!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XX, Kana VI (Katakana K, S & M)

Lesson Twenty: Kana 6

Are you ready for more katakana? I know I am! This time I'll be covering the K, S, and M characters.

Remember how the K and S characters can use the dakuten to make different sounds? It's the same for katakana! Do you remember what sounds they become?

The K turns into a G, and the S into a Z.

Let's get going then! Here are the katakana K characters.

ka	カ
ki	キ
ku	ク
ke	ケ
ko	コ

And these are the katakana S characters.

sa	サ
si	シ
su	ス
se	セ
so	ソ

The M characters can't use the dakuten or handakuten. There's one less thing to worry about!

ma	マ
mi	ミ
mu	ム
me	メ
mo	モ

No point in just rushing through! Let's get some practice writing them out!

GAME: Fading characters

A little more practice never hurt.

GAME: Write cards

Only two more lessons on katakana and you'll be all finished with learning kana! If you haven't switched over to kana instead of romaji, I highly recommend that you do.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXI, Informal Verb Conjugation

“Imperial Palace: The Imperial Palace, home to Emperor Akihito and family, is known for its grand gardens and tours of the grounds happen twice daily.”

Lesson Twenty One: Informal Verbs

Welcome back! Now we’re going to learn more things to do with verbs! Namely tenses and verb informal forms, which we use to talk to our friends and family younger than we are.

Informal verbs can be used the same way that the –masu forms are used. But remember that you should use the informal forms with your friends.

Informal future tense ends with a –u sound and informal past tense ends with a –ta. The work iku is conjugated below.

will go	ikumasu	いきます
will see	mimasu	みます

Remember the general politeness rule of Japanese: the longer and more vague it is, the more polite it is.

Informal negative ends with –nai, and informal past negative with –nakatta. The verb below is taberu.

Terakami ate sushi.	terakamisan wa sushi wo tabemashita.	てらかみさんはすしをたべました。
Ueno didn’t read.	uenosan wa yomimasen deshita.	うえのさんはよみませんでした。

Don’t forget to make your own sentences in order to remember how it all works! Also, be sure to check the V button next to the verb in the dictionary to see how it conjugates. These are some rules, but it’s best to memorize the correct forms as you practice them for now.

Don’t worry, I’ll talk about conjugation in more detail later. For now, try using these words in sentences!

walk	aruku	あるく
learn	manabu	まなぶ
understand	wakaru	わかる
drink	nomu	のむ
hang in there	ganbaru	がんばる

Here are some nouns that are very useful to know.

food	tabemono	たべもの
water	mizu	みず
river	kawa	かわ
mountain	yama	やま
sushi	sushi	すし

Let’s make sure that you know these words before we continue on.

GAME: Word search

Let me review the conjugations available to you now.

For formal verbs we have:

Future/present: V-masu

Negative: V-masen

Past: V-mashita

Past negative: V-masen deshita

For informal verbs we have:

Future/present: V-u

Negative: -nai

Past: -ta

Past negative: -nakatta

Let me explain a little about the Japanese verbs. When you know how verbs work you can conjugate them on your own!

All the verbs ending with –u or –ru are in the informal future/present form. This form is called a dictionary form because the dictionary uses this form for its verb entry.

The negative forms end either with –enai, -inai or –anai. Tab-enai, m-inai, ik-anai, hanas-sanai, sh-inai.

Those verbs that end with –enai and –inai are called “ichidan verbs,” and those with –anai are called “godan verbs.”

Ichidan verbs do not change their stems to add suffixes such as –masu and –nai. Tabe-masu, de-masu, mi-masu. Tabe-nai, de-nai, mi-nai.

Godan verbs conjugate with different forms with those suffixes are attached. I’ve shown you three forms so far. Ik-anai, ik-imasu, ik-u, hanas-anai, hanash-imasu, hanas-u.

Can you see the pattern in godan verbs? The stem plus “a,” “i,” and “u.”

Godan verbs also have “e” and “o” forms. We’re not using them now so just remember the three forms we’ve covered. I hope this all makes sense!

If you know how to manipulate verbs then there are a lot more things that you can talk about! So be sure to practice making sentences!

I might sound like a broken record by now, but that’s only because practicing is important!

GAME: Bridge builder

Next time we’ll finish up the kana. You’re doing great!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXII, Kana VII (Katakana T, N & Y series)

Lesson Twenty Two: Kana 7

How is your kana practice coming? Remember, if you don't practice it then you won't learn! This time I'm covering the t, n and y katakana characters. We're getting close to finishing!

Remember that the t characters can have a dakuten, making their new sound a d. Also, a chi turns into a ji, and a tsu turns into a zu when the dakuten is used.

Here are the t characters in katakana! Remember to keep the correct stroke order.

ta	タ
chi	チ
tsu	ツ
te	テ
to	ト

Now for the n characters.

na	ナ
ni	ニ
nu	ヌ
ne	ネ
no	ノ

Lastly, the y characters. Remember that these can be used to make new sounds like kya (キャ)!

ya	ヤ
yu	ユ
yo	ヨ

Looking at them is only going to do so much for you, so practice writing them!

GAME: Fading characters

Learning new katakana should be a cinch for you by now! All it takes is practice! So lets' get some more practice for you.

GAME: Write cards

Only one more lesson of kana to go! But before that, more on verbs!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXIII, Verb Bases

Lesson Twenty Three: Verb Bases

The verb conjugation covered in lessons 19 and 21 are very similar to what you'll see in many Japanese textbooks. There is a system with this language that can be used to easily explain and organize grammar. This system uses bases, and I'll be using those to teach you new grammar. It follows some simple rules, so let's get on with it.

Let me explain bases by using what we covered before. There are only seven bases, and all verb types use them. In lesson 21 I introduced four bases, so I'll go into more detail now.

Speaking of verb types, remember that there are three of them: ichidan, godan and irregular. (Ichidan is sometimes called ru-verb and godan is sometimes called u-verb).

All ichidan verbs end with eru or iru in romaji. There are a few verbs that end with iru and eru that aren't ichidan though. Be sure to check how they are conjugated in the dictionary or ask a native speaker if you're not sure which kind they are!

Godan verbs are pretty much all the verbs that are not ichidan or irregular. And thankfully there are very few irregular verbs. I'll be sure to warn you when I show you one! Godan verbs are the most common.

Be sure you know how to use them!

There are seven bases to conjugate into for each verb type. Below is the word 食べる (taberu) "eat" in all seven bases.

taberu – to eat	
Base 1	tabe
Base 2	tabe
base 3	taberu
Base 4	tabere
Base 5	tabeyou
Base 6 (te)	tabete
Base 7 (ta)	tabeta

In this lesson I'm just going to cover the bases that are used for the verb forms that I talked about in previous lessons. Those connect with bases 1, 2, 3, and ta. We'll hit the rest later. And don't worry too much about the deeper meaning behind the bases. They all have more than one use.

Ichidan verbs are easier to conjugate, so I'll start with though. The first two bases are the same, just drop the ru. Base 3 is simple, just leave it like you find it in the dictionary. This is why it is also called "dictionary form." Lastly, for base ta you simply replace the る (ru) with a た (ta).

Now for godan verbs! To conjugate them correctly we need to remember the order of vowels in Japanese: A, I, U, E, O. Bases 1-5 follow this order. So for base 1 change the u to an "a," base 2 takes the u to an "i" and base 3 stays as a "u" at the end.

yomu – to read	
Base 1	yoma
Base 2	yomi
Base 3	yomu
Base 4	yome
Base 5	yomou
Base te	yonde
Base ta	yonda

But when the last character is a hiragana う (u) then base 1 changes the u into a wa instead.

au – to meet	
Base 1	awa
Base 2	ai
Base 3	au
Base 4	ae
Base 5	aou
Base te	atte
Base ta	atta

Since I've covered all the bases needed for formal verbs, here's a chart of them with the base method.

Future/Present: Base 2 –masu

Negative: Base 2 –masen

Past: Base 2 –mashita

Past negative: Base 2 –masen deshita

The tricky thing about godan verbs is conjugating bases te and ta. This is a little more confusing because it depends on what the last character of the verb is!

If the last character is an う (u), つ (tsu), or a る (ru) then the last character needs to be replaced with った (tta) for base ta.

au – to meet	
Base 1	awa
Base 2	ai
Base 3	au
Base 4	ae
Base 5	aou
Base te	atte
Base ta	atta

If the last character is a ぶ (bu), む (mu) or a ぬ (nu) then the last character needs to be replaced with (nda) for base ta.

yomu – to read	
Base 1	yoma
Base 2	yomi
Base 3	yomu
Base 4	yome
Base 5	yomou
Base te	yonde
Base ta	yonda

If the last character is a く (ku) then the last character needs to be replaced with いた (ita) for base ta.

kaku – to write	
Base 1	kaka
Base 2	kaki
Base 3	kaku
Base 4	kake
Base 5	kakou
Base te	kaite
Base ta	kaita

If the last character is a ぐ (gu) then the last character needs to be replaced with いだ (ida) for base ta.

isogu – to hurry	
Base 1	isoga
Base 2	isogi
Base 3	isogu
Base 4	isoge
Base 5	isogou
Base te	isoide
Base ta	isoida

If the last character is a す (su) then the last character needs to be replaced with した (shita) for base ta.

hanasu – to relinquish	
Base 1	hanasa
Base 2	hanashi
Base 3	hanasu
Base 4	hanase
Base 5	hanasou
Base te	hanashite
Base ta	hanashita

Using these bases it is very easy to set up the informal verbs.

Future/present: base 3

Negative: base 1 –nai

Past: base ta

Past negative: base 1 –nakatta

Let's get some verbs for you to practice these on!

make	tsukuru	つくる
enter	hairu	はいる
exit	deru	でる
receive	ukeru	うける
give	ataeru	あたえる

Can you tell which are ichidan verbs and which are godan verbs?

rest	yasumu	やすむ
sleep	nemuru	ねむる
die	shinu	しぬ
kill	korosu	ころす
build	tsukuru	つくる

That's a lot to take in. Let's have a simple little game to relax a little bit.

GAME: Flash cards

I'll go over the rest of the bases in a later lesson, but for now just concentrate on getting a good hold of conjugating verbs. It will make it fairly easy to pick up the rest of the bases.

Try getting the correct conjugation in this game!

GAME: Bridge builder

Be sure to keep practicing! It's the only way that you'll learn Japanese!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXIV, Kana VIII (Katakana H, R, & W series)

Lesson Twenty Four: Kana 8

Here we go, the very last lesson on kana! おめでとう！ (omedetou!) Congratulations!

This time I'm going to cover the katakana h, r and w characters. Do you remember what's special about the h characters? The h characters can use the dakuten and the handakuten! The dakuten makes them sound like a b, and the handakuten makes them sound like a p.

Here are the h characters in katakana.

ha	ハ
hi	ヒ
fu	フ
he	ヘ
ho	ホ

Now the r characters in katakana. Don't forget to practice the pronunciation! The r characters sound very different from English.

ra	ラ
ri	リ
ru	ル
re	レ
ro	ロ

And the last of the bunch.

wa	ワ
wo	ヲ
n	ン

Now we've covered all the katakana and hiragana! Feels nice, doesn't it? It's like a breath of fresh air. But you still need to master these before you're finished!

GAME: Fading characters

Just a reminder, you should stop using romaji now. Also, there won't be as much romaji in the game after you get to lesson 30. So you'd better get familiar with writing in Japanese!

GAME: Write cards

Now let's cover something a little easier for the next few lessons. Like time and seasons.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXV, Telling Time

Lesson Twenty Five: Telling Time

Imagine for a moment that you agree, speaking in Japanese, to meet a friend at a train station. You then head to the train station and wait. Shortly after you get there you realize that you didn't understand what time she told you to meet! You could be there for hours!

Don't worry, Haruka is on the case to teach you how to tell time! Part of telling time is easy, but another part is more difficult.

Let's start with the hours. Since hours are numbered things they have a counter. The counter for hours is じ (ji). There are two numbers that are irregular with the hour counter.

4 o'clock is よじ (yoji) instead of よんじ (yonji). 9 o'clock is くじ (kuji) instead of きゅうじ (kyuuji).

The particle that is used for marking time is に (ni). For time, it translates to "at" in English. Here are some basic sentences with time in them.

I will go at 3:00.	sanji ni ikimasu.	さんじにいきます。
Satou ate at 4:00.	satousan wa yoji ni tabemashita.	さとうさんはよじにたべました。

Can you think of your own examples? Try to make your own sentences!

Using はん (han) directly after the hour counter puts another half hour on. So にじはん (niji han) means 2:30.

hour counter	ji	じ
what time	nanji	なんじ
time	jikan	じかん
half	han	はん
4 o'clock	yoji	よじ

Here are some other words that are useful for telling time.

AM	gozen	ごぜん
PM	gogo	ごご
noon	hiru	ひる
midnight	gozenreiji	ごぜんれいじ
yesterday	kinou	きのう

Don't forget to work on your mastery!

GAME: Hit-a-word

Now onto the difficult part! Using minutes in Japanese. Minutes are more difficult than hours because they have more irregular readings with the counter. All the irregular counters are below.

1 minute	ippun	いっぷん
3 minutes	sanpun	さんぷん
6 minutes	roppun	ろっぷん
10 minutes	juppun	じゅっぷん
minute counter	fun	ふん

When telling time, the hour goes first and the minutes follow right after. So 5:35 would be ごじさんじゅごふん (goji sanjuugofun).

なんじですか? (nanji desu ka?) What time is it? Please tell me!

It's game time!

GAME: Flash cards

Be sure to get practice in! Say, in Japanese, what time is it when you do things.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXVI, Verb Bases II

“Tokyo Tower: Tokyo Tower in Shiba Park, Minato, Toyko, Japan. It is 332.6 m (1,091 ft) tall, making it the tallest man-made structure in Japan.”

Lesson Twenty Six: Verb Bases 2

Welcome back! Have you been practicing your bases? Now it's time to go back and teach you all of the bases that I didn't teach you before. They are all used in this game!

Remember that there are three different types of verbs: godan, ichidan, and irregulars.

Let's go over ichidan verbs first, since they are a bit easier to deal with. Remember that for base 1 and 2 the る (ru) is dropped, and nothing changes for base 3. For base 4, replace the ru with a re, and for base 5 replace the ru with a you.

nigeru – to flee	
Base 1	nige
Base 2	nige
Base 3	nigeru
Base 4	nigere
Base 5	nigeyou
Base te	nigete
Base ta	nigeta

For base te, replace the ru with a te. This is very similar to base ta.

eru – to obtain	
Base 1	e
Base 2	e
Base 3	eru
Base 4	ere
Base 5	eyou
Base te	ete
Base ta	eta

Now for the godan verbs. Remember that they follow the order of the Japanese vowels. For godan base 4, replace the u at the end with an e.

osu – to push	
Base 1	osa
Base 2	oshi
Base 3	osu
Base 4	ose
Base 5	osou
Base te	oshite
Base ta	oshita

For base 5, replace the u at the end with an ou.

kagayaku – to sparkle	
Base 1	kagayaka
Base 2	kagayaki
Base 3	kagayaku
Base 4	kagayake
Base 5	kagayakou
Base te	kagayaite
Base ta	kagayaita

Remember that both ichidan and godan have a longer base 5 than the other four bases. Ready for base te?

Remember how godan's base ta was different depending on how the verb ended? Base te is pretty much the same as this but ending with an e sound instead of an a.

If the last character is an う (u), つ (tsu), or る (ru) then the last character needs to be replaced with っ (tte) for base te.

okonau – to transact	
Base 1	okonawa

Base 2	okonai
Base 3	okonau
Base 4	okonaе
Base 5	okonaou
Base te	okonatte
Base ta	okonatta

If the last character is a ぶ (bu), む (mu) or a ぬ (nu) then the last character needs to be replaced with んで (nde) for base te.

yomu – to read	
Base 1	yoma
Base 2	yomi
Base 3	yomu
Base 4	yome
Base 5	yomou
Base te	yonde
Base ta	yonda

If the last character is a く (ku) then the last character needs to be replaced with いて (ite) for base te.

kagayaku – to sparkle	
Base 1	kagayaka
Base 2	kagayaki
Base 3	kagayaku
Base 4	kagayake
Base 5	kagayakou
Base te	kagayaite
Base ta	kagayaita

If the last character is a ぐ (gu) then the last character needs to be replaced with いで (ide) for base te.

isogu – to hurry	
Base 1	isoga
Base 2	isogi
Base 3	isogu
Base 4	isoge
Base 5	isogou
Base te	isoide
Base ta	isoida

If the last character is a す (su) then the last character needs to be replaced with して (shite) for base te.

osu – to push	
Base 1	osa
Base 2	osi
Base 3	osu
Base 4	ose
Base 5	osou
Base te	oshite
Base ta	oshita

To recap, here are the changes for godan base te/base ta.

u, tsu, re – tte/tta
 bu, mu, nu – nde/nda
 ku – ite/ita
 gu – ide/ida
 su – shite/shita

And let's not forget about the irregulars! Since they don't follow nice rules, you'll just have to memorize them if you want to use them. Fortunately, there are very few irregular verbs in Japanese. Unfortunately, they are really common verbs!

Suru, to do, is a very common verb that is irregular. Here it is in all its bases.

Base 1	shi
Base 2	shi

Base 3	suru
Base 4	sure
Base 5	shiyou
Base te	shite
Base ta	shita

Kuru, to come, is also very common.

Base 1	ko
Base 2	ki
Base 3	kuru
Base 4	kure
Base 5	koyou
Base te	kite
Base ta	kita

Iku, to go, is kind of irregular. It just doesn't follow the rules for base te and ta.

Base 1	ika
Base 2	iki
Base 3	iku
Base 4	ike
Base 5	ikou
Base te	itte
Base ta	itta

Now we've covered all of the different bases for the different verb types. Be sure to know all of them, because they are all going to be used!

Practice putting all of these verbs in their different bases. If you're have trouble conjugating them, you can cheat and look in the dictionary.

perform	okonau	おこなう
obtain	eru	える
neglect	mushi suru	むしする
escape	nigeru	にげる
freeze	kooru	こおる
glow	kagayaku	かがやく
mean	imi suru	いみする
destroy	hakai suru	はかいする
press	osu	おす
nod	unazuku	うなづく

Okay! Let's get these words learned!

GAME: Word search

Time to get some more mastery points!

GAME: Hit-a-word

Now you know all the basic rules behind verb conjugation. We'll be using them in the future, so be sure to learn, review, and practice!

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My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXVII, Particles I

Lesson Twenty Seven: Particles I

I've talked before about what particles are, and we've even used them in the past. Now it's time to teach you all that you'll need to know about them! Remember, a particle is a small word that is placed after a noun to tell you how it's used. I'm going to be teaching you ten particles in this lesson.

The first particle is は (wa). As mentioned earlier this marks the topic of the sentences. This particle is actually written with a は (ha) character instead of a わ (wa). But it is still pronounced "wa."

The other particle that only tells what part of the sentence a word is without giving it more meaning is が (ga). が (ga) is used for words that are not the main focus, but shows that it is the subject of the verb or the nouns plus desu. Words that replace X in sentences like "I like X," or "X exists," also use a が (ga).

I like you.	anata ga suki desu.	あんたがすきです。
A cat is here.	neko ga iru.	ねこがいる。

The particle は (wa) is the topic marker (marks what the speaker is going to talk about) and it can take over the function of two other particles in a sentence. Those particles are the subject marker が (ga) and the object marker を (wo). The basic rules I just covered should work fine for now.

Now to cover some particles with real meaning to them! This allows for so much more that you can do in sentences!

The first one I want to cover is to, as in "go to the store." The particle for that in Japanese is に (ni). に (ni) should be placed after the place that the topic of the sentence is going to. Next is "too," as in "I went too." Too is も (mo), and it works just like wa except that it has the added meaning of "too" or "also."

I went to Japan.	watashi wa nihon ni ikimashita.	わたしわにほんにいきました。
I ate sushi too.	watashi mo sushi wo tabeta.	わたしもすしをたべた。

Here they are as a list of words. All words that are particles will be marked as particles by a (p).

topic marker (p)	wa	は
subject marker (p)	ga	が
object marker (p)	wo	を
towards (p)	ni	に
too (p)	mo	も

The next particle is の (no). It's used to modify nouns. Remember how we used it for colors before? Right! We can use "noun の (no) noun" to help describe the second noun. "nihon no ie" means Japanese house. What kind of house is it? It's Japanese!

It can also be used to show ownership. The first noun should be the owner and the second noun the thing that is owned.

Haruka's cat	haruka no neko	はるかのかねこ
My house	watashi no uchi	わたしのうち

Those uses of の (no) are very similar. You'll just have to get used to telling the difference. Good luck! Our next particle, と (to), pulls a double shift, since it can mean something different depending on how it is used. If between two nouns, it means and. "watashi to Suzukisan wa ikimashita." "I and Suzuki went." Notice that both the nouns become the topic. "(watashi to Suzukisan) wa ikimashita."

If the と (to) is placed after one noun, but without a noun after it, the meaning becomes "with." "watashi wa suzukisan ni ikimashita." "I went with Suzuki."

The last particle that I'm going to cover is で (de). Like と (to), it has a double use. When put after a place name it means "at" or "in." This is saying that the verb happens in the place marked with で (de). The other main use is "by means of." "kuruma de ikimashita." "I went by means of a car."

Take some time to review these.

and (p)	to	と
at (p)	de	で
with (p)	to	と
modifier (p)	no	の
by means of (p)	de	で

Check to see how well you remember them!

GAME: Flash cards

Without them you'll just be speaking like Tarzan. "Me Haruka. Me Japanese teach." Let's get some more practice using these in sentences.

GAME: Bridge builder

Next time I'm going to teach you words you can use to talk about your family. Then you can refer to them in a language they don't know!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXVIII, Family 1

Lesson 28: Family 1

When you want to introduce members of your family you simply say „kochira wa watashi no ____ desu“. (This is my ____.)

My	watashi no	わたしの
My Mother	haha	はは
My Father	chichi	ちち
My Siblings	kyoudai	きょうだい
Friend	tomodachi	ともだち

In Japanese it is important whether a brother or sister is older or younger than you are.

My Older Brother	ani	あに
My Younger Brother	otouto	おとうと
My Older Sister	ane	あね
My Younger Sister	imouto	いもうと

The reason that most of these words have a „My“ in front of them is because they should only be used when talking about your own family.

Don't worry, we have words for when you want to talk about other people's families!

The reason that we need different words is because you need to be more polite when talking about other people's families.

Remember to use polite Japanese like „masu“ and „desu“ when talking with people that you are not close to.

Remember that pronouns about others (he, she, you) are impolite and should be avoided.

Japanese speakers will know what you mean from the topic of the conversation even if you drop all pronouns.

But if you really need to say „this,“ like pointing to a person in a picture, or „your“, you should use:

このかた (kono kata) for „this person,“ and おたく (otaku) for „you“. „Otaku“ is more polite than „anata“.

„Is this your ____?“ becomes „kono kata wa otaku no ____ desu ka?“

Remember to be polite so that you don't offend people!

Otaku might sound familiar since it has become an English word for „anime nerd“.

Originally it meant „your honorable home,“ but now is mainly used for „your.“

So here they are, the members of other people's families!

Your	otaku no	おたくの
Your Mother	okaasan	おかあさん
Your Father	otousan	おとうさん
Your Siblings	gokyoudai	ごきょうだい

Remember to be more polite when talking about others' families!

Your Older Brother	oniisan	おにいさん
Your Younger Brother	otoutosan	おとうとさん
Your Older Sister	oneesan	おねえさん
Your Younger Sister	imoutosan	いもうとさん

That's a lot of words! You had better get that mastery going! „Ganbatte!“ (Hang in there!)

GAME: Flash cards

You know what time it is? It's time for a new game!

GAME: Spelltastic

Now you can talk about immediate family.

Next time we'll cover more members of our family and other families.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXIX, Family 2

Lesson 29: Family 2

Last time we covered the immediate family and how to talk about other people's families. This time I want to teach you words for some extended family, both your and others. Some of these words might be most useful if you're married!

My Wife	kanai	かない
My Husband	otto	おっと
My Son	musuko	むすこ
My Daughter	musume	むすめ

And these will be more useful if you know people who are married.

Your Wife	okusan	おくさん
Your Husband	goshujin	ごしゅじん
Your Son	musukosan	むすこさん
Your Daughter	musumesan	むすめさん

The same word for boyfriend can be used whether it's yours or someone else's.

My Grandmother	sobo	そぼ
My Grandfather	sofu	そふ
My Aunt	oba	おば
My Uncle	oji	おじ
Boyfriend	bo-ifurendo	ボーイフレンド

And the same applies for girlfriend.

Your Grandmother	obaasan	おばあさん
Your Grandfather	ojiisan	おじいさん
Your Aunt	obasan	おばさん
Your Uncle	ojisan	おじさん
Girlfriend	kanojo	かのじょ

Let's drill these into your brain.

GAME: Flash cards

Practice these words on your family and other people's families.

But make sure you use the right word!

If you don't use new vocabulary words the you'll lose them!

GAME: Spelltastic

Next time I'm going to go over how to use titles in Japanese.

Do you remember the title **さん(san)**? I've used that before.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXX, Titles and Stations

Lesson 30: Titles and Stations

In Japanese, titles are used all the time. They should only be used for other people, not yourself!

This time I want to teach you words for some extended family, both your and others.

Common titles in English are Mr., Mrs., Miss, and Sir.

Here is a list of the most commonly used titles. I'll explain them in a bit.

Mr./Mrs./Ms.	san	さん
Title - Boy	kun	くん
Title - Girl	chan	ちゃん
Title for superiors	sama	さま
Title for teachers	sensei	せんせい

The title **さん** (san) is a kind of catch-all title. It's a formal title used whether the person is male, female, married or single.

So that's one less thing to worry about!

In Japanese the title goes after the name instead of before the name.

For example, you can call me Haruka san.

ちゃん (chan) and **くん** (kun) are titles that are used with someone that you are familiar with, or are younger than you, or even lower in station.

We're friends, so you can call me Haruka chan if youn like.

さま (sama) is used for people that are really important. People you lokk up to.

So if you really look up to me you could call me Haruka sama, but it loses the friendly feel.

せんせい (sensei) is used for teachers, doctors, and other intellectuals.

Since I'm a teacher you could also call me Haruka sensei! I'm so versatile!

Let's go over those again now that I've covered the details.

Mr./Mrs./Ms.	san	さん
Title - Boy	kun	くん
Title - Girl	chan	ちゃん
Title for superiors	sama	さま
Title for teachers	sensei	せんせい

Think of people you know. What titles would you use for them?

Now for a little twist.

Remember how this lesson is titles and stations?

The stations part is actually train stations.

This is to help you get your bearings if you take the train in Tokyo.

Most people in Japan take the train to get around, so it's good to know popular stops.

Tokyo Station	toukyou eki	とうきょうえき
Shinjuku Station	shinjuku eki	しんじゅくえき
Ueno Station	ueno eki	うへのえき
Ikebukuro Station	ikebukuro eki	いけぶくろえき
Ginza Station	ginza eki	ぎんざえき

You know what time it is? It's game time!

GAME: Multiple Choice

Are you getting used to the titles?

How about ひらがな and かたかな?

Get that mastery going!

GAME: Memory

In case you've forgotten, the romaji has been toned down and you'll be seeing more and more kana in the lessons.

If you're not ready, go back and practice your ひらがな and かたかな! If you are still totally lost, you can go to the Difficulty Options menu and switch the kana back to romaji in the minigames.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXI, Places

Lesson 31: Places

Right now, we're going to focus on asking where places are. I talked a little about it before.

Where is the restroom?	otearai wa doko desu ka?	お手洗いはどこですか？#
Where is the train station?	eki wa doko desu ka?	えきはどこですか？

When you first arrive in Japan these simple phrases will be your best friends. Study the sentences to see what is different so you can put your own places in instead. Once you know how, you'll be able to ask where anything is!

Train station	eki	えき
Front Desk	furontodesuku	フロントデスク
Gate	mon	もん
Escalator	esukare-ta-	エスカレーター
Locker	rokka-	ロッカー

Even simple things like でんわはどこですか? Where is the telephone?

Taxi Stand	takushi-noriba	タクシーのりば
Telephone	denwa	でんわ
Drinking Fountain	mizu nomiba	みずのみば
Baggage Claim	azukarishou	あずかりしょう
Room	heya	へや

Are you starting to feel like you can get around? Let's find out.

GAME: Word Search

It's very simple to ask for directions. Simply put in the right word.

Where is the taxi stand?	takushi-noriba wa doko desu ka?	タクシーのりばはどこですか？
Where is the door?	doa wa doko desu ka?	ドアはどこですか？

As long as you remember this phrase and the vocabulary you'll be able to get around no problem!

GAME: Multiple Choice

Our next lesson will get into something a little meatier.

Adjectives!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXII, I-Adjectives

Lesson 32: I-Adjectives

Now I can teach you how to use adjectives!

Adjectives are words that describes nouns.

There are two types of adjectives, i-adjectives and na-adjectives. They are a little different so I'll cover na-adjectives later.

At least I'm giving you something to look forward to!

An i-adjective is an adjective that ends with い. Here are some examples of i-adjectives.

Good	yoi	よい
Painful	itai	いたい
Beautiful	utsukushii	うつくしい
Fast	hayai	はやい
Dirty	kitanai	きたない

We've actually covered a few i-adjectives before.

Cool	suzushii	すずしい
Strong	tsuyoi	つよい
Ugly	minikui	みにくい
Weak	yowai	よわい

Remember the colors from lesson 4? The ones that are adjectives are i-adjectives!

Red	akai	あかい
White	shiroi	しろい
Blue	aoi	あおい
Black	kuroi	くろい

I-adjectives can be used like nouns in sentences. They can also be placed right in front of the word they're describing.

Haruka is beautiful.	haruka wa utsukushii desu.	はるか <u>は</u> うつくしいです。
It is beautiful Haruka.	utsukushii haruka desu.	うつくしい <u>は</u> るかです。

See how they are used? One sentence is saying something about me, where the other just says I exist but still says more about me.

And yes, I am a little vain.

The really interesting thing about i-adjectives is that they can change tenses, just like desu!

Whenever changing the tense of an i-adjective you need to take the i off of the end.

For this chart remove the い off the i-adjective and replace with the word below. Notice that this means the present positive version stays the same.

Present positive	- い
Past positive	- かった
Present negative	- くない
Past negative	- くなかった

Try making the sentence „Mr. Satou isn't strong.“

Don't change the tense of the です! Just change the tense of the i-adjective!

Did you get it right?

さとうさんはつよくないです。

If so, great! If not, look over how it works and see what you did wrong.

The other interesting thing about i-adjectives is that they don't need a です!

They can finish the sentence on their own.

Since all the conjugation takes place with the i-adjective and not the です, the です is just there for politeness.

When speaking informally it's fine to end a sentence with an i-adjective, dropping desu completely.

Also, never use the informal form of です, だ, with an i-adjective.

さとうさんはうつくしいだ。 This sentence is wrong because it uses だ with an i-adjective.

Here are some more i-adjectives to play with.

Big	ookii	おおきい
Small	chiisai	ちいさい
Smelly	kusai	くさい
Hot	atsui	あつい
Cold	samui	さむい

Alright! Time to see how well you remember these!

GAME: Flash Cards

Now see them in sentences!

GAME: Bridge Builder

Of course the only reason that these are called i-adjectives is because there is more than one type of adjective!

I'll be covering the other type of adjective next time!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXIII, Na-Adjectives

Lesson 33: Na-Adjectives

Before taking a break with easier stuff, let's cover the other type of adjectives.

Na-adjectives!

In a way, na-adjectives are easier than i-adjectives.

They can be used just like nouns for the most part. They even use です the same way!

But when using a na-adjective to describe a noun you'll need a な to connect it with the noun after it.

Remember that i-adjectives use a い, na-adjectives need な and nouns need a の to modify the following noun.

Here are examples of each type in action. See how they work?

うつくしいせんせい	a beautiful teacher
きれいなせんせい	a pretty teacher
にほんごのせんせい	a Japanese teacher

Here is a list of some common na-adjectives. Notice that some of them already come with the な attached that is needed to connect them with a noun.

Poetic	shiteki na	してきな
Rude	shitsurei na	しつれいな
Like	suki	すき
Dislike	kirai	きらい
Quiet	shizuka	しずか

When used as a noun, like right before the „desu“, the な should be removed.

If an adjective ends with ei in romaji then it is a na-adjective, not an i-adjective! Look carefully at pretty and rude.

Lastly, like and dislike are verbs in English, but not in Japanese!

Isn't that interesting!

Here are some more words to work with!

Convenient	benri na	べんりな
Skillful	jouzu	じょうず
Showy	hade na	はでな
Polite	teinei na	ていねいな
Honest	shoujiki na	しょうじきな

Alright! Let's get you used to these words then I'll show you examples of them in sentences!

GAME: Spelltastic

Like I mentioned before, you can use na-adjectives just like nouns, but you need to get rid of the な at the end, if there is one.

But if you're putting it in front of a noun you need a な to connect them!

Check these phrases and see if you can see why they work!

I like you.	anata ga suki desu.	あなたがすきです。
The quiet girl spoke.	shizuka na onna no ko wa hanashita.	しずかなおんなのこははなした。

Simple compared to i-adjectives, right?

Also, na-adjectives can't be conjugated, so です is used as usual!

Let's try putting these together in sentences.

GAME: Word Search

Are you feeling emotional after all these grammatical lessons?

Next time we're covering emotions!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXIV, Emotions

Lesson 34: Emotions

Emotions are usually easy to use in sentences in Japanese. Many of them are i-adjectives, some are na-adjectives. Some are even verbs.

I'm happy!	ureshii desu!	うれしいです！
Suzuki's sad.	suzukisan wa kanashii desu.	すずきさんはかなしいです。

But before I go over adjectives more, did you notice something missing from the „I'm happy“ sentence?

That's right! There wasn't anything marked with a は!

The topic or subject wasn't used at all!

This is because the topic was unspoken. When it is obvious what the topic is, it is usually not spoken in Japanese.

Common unspoken topics are I, you and it.

When talking about emotions the unspoken topic is usually understood to be ‚me‘.

But enough about unspoken subjects, let's get back to talking about emotions!

This group of words is a mixture of both adjective types and nouns. Can you tell which words are which types?

Happy	shiwase na	しあわせな
Sad	kanashii	かなしい
Sick	byouki	びょうき
Jealous	urayamashii	うらやましい
Sleepy	nemui	ねむい

This group of words contains conjugated words as well as one noun. The first two are conjugated to mean they are currently happening with base te いる.

Angry	okotte iru	おこっている
Worried	shinpai shite iru	しんぱいしている
Tired	tsukareta	つかれた
Drunk	yopparatta	よっぱらった
Love	ai	あい

The next two are already in past tense. The future tense means that the subject will end up like that.

So the past tense means that the subject has finished getting to that emotion and is now in that state.

To really use love as an emotion you need to put a する after it and use an object.

Otherwise it's just a noun.

I love you.	anata wo ai shite iru.	あなたをあいしている。
I'm tired.	tsukareta.	つかれた。

As you can see, just because a word is a certain type in English doesn't make it the same type of word in Japanese.

Remember, ‚like‘ is a verb in English, but a na-adjective in Japanese!

Time to get emotional!

GAME: Memory

Are you getting used to Japanese yet?

Remember to practice! Either find someone who knows Japanese, or someone else who's learning, to practice with!

Do you love games? They're a good way to practice your vocabulary!

GAME: Flash Cards

Next time we're going to go around and learn more about places!

The more you know the easier it will be to get around!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXV, Places 2

Lesson 35: Places 2

Going somewhere? Maybe not yet, but when you do it will come in handy to know more place names.

I've already covered the verb go (いく). I hope you remember how to use it!

There are a few things to remember about いく, one is that base te and base ta are irregular (いって and いった).

The other is to mark the place you're going to with a に particle.

Here's a list of important places that you can go to using いく.

Bank	ginkou	ぎんこう
Restaurant	resutoran	レストラン
Gas Station	gasorinsutando	ガソリンスタンド
Post Office	yuubinkyoku	ゆうびんきょく
Pharmacy	yakkyoku	やっきょく

Hotel should be an easy word to remember, since it was originally an English word!

Store	mise	みせ
Book Store	hon'ya	ほんや
Bread Store	pan'ya	パンや
Camera Shop	kameraya	カメラや
Supermarket	su-pa-ma-ketto	スーパーマーケット

Can you find all the places you can go to?

GAME: Word Search

Take a minute and try to make some simple sentences with the words you just learned.

Being able to make your own sentences is a good sign that you're learning!

Also, remember to conjugate your verbs to show the correct tense!

There's a big difference between „I will go to the hospital“ and „I won't go to the hospital“!

Here are some example sentences to study.

I went to the hospital.	byouin ni ikimashita.	びょういんにいきました。
I will go to the bank.	ginkou ni ikimasu.	ぎんこうにいきます。

Notice that specific shops just have a や after the objects being sold there.

Store	mise	みせ
Book Store	hon'ya	ほんや
Bread Store	pan'ya	パンや
Camera Shop	kameraya	カメラや

I'm going to go get some shopping done while you work on this game. Don't wait up!

GAME: Memory

That's all the places for now. Once you've mastered the words here I'll treat you to something new.

Commands!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXVI, Commands

Lesson 36: Commands

Don't do that! Come here! Help me!
Commands are a powerful part of any language!

One of the most important things to know about commands is that there are two main types.

Do-commands and don't do-commands.

The second most important thing to know is that there are different levels of commands. The different levels are all in politeness. There are nicer ways to command, and less polite ways to command.

Here are some of the ways to command someone to do something. The most polite is at the top and the least polite at the bottom.

Base te ください
Base te

For the lowest level of politeness it gets a little more confusing. This is because it changes depending on the verb type.

Godan	Base 4
Ichidan	Base 2 ろ

You remember how to tell the different verb types, right?

But that only covers godan and ichidan verbs! Here are the irregular verbs.

する	しろ
くる	こい
いく	いけ

Here are some examples of these commands in practice.

Help me.	tasukete.	助けて。
Quit it!	yamero!	やめろ!

Here are the basic commands for someone to not do something. The most polite is at the top and the least polite at the bottom.

Base 1 ないでください
Base 1 ないで
Base 3 な

See how the most polite ways to command both have ください on them?
It means please, but shouldn't be used by itself.

Here are some verbs that work well with commands.

Help	tasukeru	たすける
Quit	yameru	やめる
Stand	tatsu	たつ
Become	naru	なる
Shut up	damaru	だまる

Don't you feel like giving commands right now?

Take	toru	とる
------	------	----

Buy	kau	かう
Sell	uru	うる
Search	sagasu	さがす
Apologize	ayamaru	あごまる

Time for some mastery! Get these words learned!

GAME: Multiple Choice

Practice giving commands to your friends and family!

Or even your pets!

You're doing so well! Here's a brand new game to practice with.

GAME: Fill-in-the-Blank

Next time I'll cover directions.

Then you won't have to be lost in Japan!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXVII, Directions

Lesson 37: Directions

You might ask, „Haruka, I know how to say that I’m going to a place, but how do I get there?“

Don’t worry, I’ll teach you how!

When people are telling you how to get somewhere, they will most likely use one of the command forms that I covered last time.

Like, „Turn right at the corner.“

Learn this list of directional words.

Right	migi	みぎ
Left	hidari	ひだり
Straight	massugu	まっすぐ
Up	ue	うえ
Down	shita	した

I take a left, right?

Elevator	erebe-ta-	エレベーター
Turn	magaru	まがる
Stairs	kaidan	かいだん
Door	doa	ドア
Corner	kado	かど

Keep practicing these words until they’re firmly lodged in your head!

GAME: Flash Cards

Don’t forget that the base te command form of いく is 行って!

Base 1	ika
Base 2	iki
Base 3	iku
Base 4	ike
Base 5	ikou
Base te	itte
Base ta	itta

I think you need some more practice before you’ve got all these words mastered.

GAME: Fill-in-the-Blank

Keep practicing! Next time I’ll be covering nations.

You’re really going places now!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXVIII, Nations

Lesson 38: Nations

As you can see below, we are going to learn how to say the names of different nations in Japanese.

Japan	nihon	にほん
China	chuugoku	ちゅうごく
United States	amerika	アメリカ
Spain	supein	スペイン
France	furansu	フランス

,From' is another particle. It is put after the place name.

Russia	roshia	ロシア
Germany	doitsu	ドイツ
Italy	itaria	イタリア
England	igirisu	イギリス
From	kara	から

Most of these are similar to English, so I assume you'll get through this game fast!

GAME: Word Search

Using **いく** you can tell about you are going to and where you've been.

I will go to Japan.	nihon ni iku.	にほんにいく。
I went to France.	furansu ni ikimashita.	フランスにいきました。

To say what country you are from, use the verb **くる** (to come). Literally you say you came from a place.

Haruka is from Japan.	haruka wa nihon kara kimashita.	はるかにはほんからきました。
Carlo is from Italy.	karurosan wa itaria kara kimashita.	カルロさんはイタリアからきました。

Every bit of Japanese that I teach you can be put together in all sorts of different ways.

Can you see how to put it all together to make yourself understood?

As long as you get enough practice in you'll do fine.

GAME: Bridge Builder

That's all for this lesson. Next up: More Particles!

Ganbatte!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XXXIX, Particles 2

Lesson 39: Particles 2

That's right! There are even more particles for you to learn!

So let's get started!

Here's the list of new particles. Of course, each of these will need some explanation!

Or (p)	ka	か
To (p)	e	へ
And, etc. (p)	ya	や
Even (p)	demo	でも
Verb to Noun (p)	koto	こと

か goes between two words to mean or, but remember that at the end of a sentence it still marks a question!

へ has the same directional meaning as に, but cannot be used to mark time or any of the other uses of に. Be sure to check the sound!

や (and) is very similar to と. The major difference is that と refers to a complete list, but や lets people know that there is more that is not being said.

If you said you had „bread と water“ for dinner people might feel sorry for you, but if you say „bread や water“ they'll know you ate more.

でも is used to say ‚even‘. This is connected to the word right before it.

かれでもにほんごがわかる。	Even he understands Japanese.
かれはにほんごでもわかる。	He even understands Japanese.

Last for this group of particles is こと. It is placed after a verb in base 3 to turn the verb into a noun.

The same thing happens in English!

Run - running.

Dance - dancing.

Just as you can't say „I like run“ in English, there are times that you will need a noun instead of a verb in Japanese.

I like learning	manabu koto ga suki desu.	まなぶことが好きです。
Yamada hates dancing.	yamadasan wa odoru koto ga kirai desu.	ぎまださんはおどることがきらいです。

Look at each of these and make a sentence using each particle.

Or (p)	ka	か
To (p)	e	へ
And, etc. (p)	ya	や
Even (p)	demo	でも
Verb to Noun (p)	koto	こと

That's a lot to cover in one lesson! Take a breather now if you need to.

Continue onward when you're ready!

Alright! Now I'm going to tell you about a new type of particles.

Sentence ending particles!

As you may have already guessed, these particles go at the end of a sentence.

This means after the です or the verb!

Here they are, the main grouping of sentence ending particles!

Confirmation (p)	ne	ね
Exclamation (p)	naa	なあ
Assertive (p)	yo	よ
Feminine (p)	wa	わ
But (p)	ga	が

Confirmation is saying things like eh? Huh? Or y'know? It's not really a question, but asks for a confirmation, y'know?

The exclamation *なあ* expresses how impressed you are. „Wow!“, „Man!“, etc.

When being assertive you should use *よ*. Being assertive means that you are trying to emphasize what you are saying.

The emphasis lets people know that you are very sure of what you are saying!

The *わ* particle is mostly used by women. It can be used like *よ*, or to soften the sentence with a feminine touch.

But it's not used so much by young women nowadays. I'm mostly telling you so that you recognize it when you hear it.

Okay, let's recap on these particles.

The best way to learn these particles is through practice!

GAME: Flash Cards

Since Japanese is so different from English you may need a lot of practice!

GAME: Multiple Choice

Phew! That was a lot to cover!

Make sure you can use these in sentences before moving on!

Next time we'll cover something a little more delicious.

I'm licking my lips just thinking about it!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XL, Fruit

Lesson 40: Fruit

We're going to take it easy for the next few lessons and just talk about food.

Everyone eats!

It's time to talk about ほしい. ほしい is an i-adjective that means want.

This is used for wanting nouns, not for saying that you want to do something.

But be careful, Japanese people do not express their desire directly.

It is thought to be undisciplined or too childish to express one's desire directly.

But I'll tell you more about that in a minute. For now, learn about くだもの (fruits).

Grapes	budou	ぶどう
Strawberries	ichigo	いちご
Apples	ringo	りんご
Peaches	momo	もも
Watermelon	suika	スイカ

Now for some easier ones! These all sound a lot like they do in English.

Oranges	orenji	オレンジ
Lemons	remon	レモン
Bananas	banana	バナナ
Pineapples	painappuru	パイナップル
Melons	meron	メロン

Take some time to practice the new words!

GAME: Speltastic

When you want to say that you want something, just say „...がほしいです.“ Remember that since ほしい is an i-adjective the です is just there for politeness!

I want strawberries.	ichigo ga hoshii n desu.	いちごがほしいんです。
I want watermelon.	suika ga hoshii n desu.	スイカがほしいんです。

Since ほしい is an i-adjective the んです is to make it sound more indirect by explaining the situation: „It is that I want ...“

Now when someone asks you „なにがほしいですか?“ you'll know how to respond!

What do you want?	nani ga hoshii desu ka?	なにがほしいですか?
I want a car.	kuruma ga hoshii desu.	くるまがほしいです。

Also don't forget how to conjugate i-adjectives and when to be disciplined!

I don't want this.	kore ga hoshikunai.	これがほしくない。
I wanted that.	sore ga hoshikatta.	それがほしかった。

Try using the correct form of ほしい in this game.

GAME: Fill-in-the-Blank

Next time I'll be focusing on vegetables.

Don't forget to eat your vegetables!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLI, Vegetables

Lesson 41: Vegetables

Eating lots of vegetables will keep you healthy! Be sure to ask for them!

Rice	kome	こめ
Tomatoes	tomato	トマト
Potatoes	jagaimo	ジャガイモ
Corn	toumorokoshi	トウモロコシ
Carrots	ninjin	にんじん

Now for another group of mostly katakana words! You should pick these up quickly!

Beans	mame	まめ
Celery	serori	セロリ
Lettuce	retasu	レタス
Onions	negi	ねぎ
Salad	sarada	サラダ

Pull some veggies out of this word field.

GAME: Word Search

Since we've already talked about likes and wants you should be a pro by now.

I like rice.	kome ga suki desu.	こめがすきです。
I want a salad.	sarada ga hoshii.	サラダがほしい。

It's super important to start thinking of things in Japanese and saying what they are for practice! Try to use every word that you know in your daily life.

GAME: Multiple Choice

Now that we're done with the veggies, how about something that you can sink your teeth into?

Like a nice, juicy steak? It's coming right up!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLII, Meat

Lesson 42: Meat

Now it's time to go over all of the types of meat. Please bear with me, vegetarians!

Beef	bi-fu	ビーフ
Pork	butaniku	ぶたにく
Chicken	chikin	チキン
Ham	hamu	ハム
Steak	sute-ki	ステーキ

The meat that we eat the most in Japan is fish!

Fish	sakana	さかな
Tuna	maguro	まぐろ
Egg	tamago	たまご
Bacon	be-kon	ベーコン
Sausage	so-se-ji	ソーセージ

Anyway, brush up on your meat words and try to save room for dessert.

GAME: Flash Cards

You can also talk about what other people like by making minor adjustments.

Do you like bacon?	be-kon ga suki desu ka?	ベーコンがすきですか？
Suzuki likes eggs.	suzukisan wa tamago ga suki desu.	すずきさんはたまごがすきです。

When you say ...がすきです you can use plural subjects like ,we' without having to change the rest of the sentence.

They want fish.	karera wa sakana ga hoshii.	かれらはさかながほしい。
We want steak.	watashitachi wa sute-ki ga hoshii.	わたしたちはステーキがほしい。

Cheat out some meaty sentences.

GAME: Spelltastic

Now we're finished with the main course.

Time to look at other foods that may have escaped our attention!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLIII, Other Foods

Lesson 43: Other Foods

Here are some other food words that might come in handy when you're feeling hungry!

Milk	gyuunyuu	ぎゅうにゅう
Soup	su-pu	スープ
Bread	pan	パン
Coffee	ko-hi-	コーヒー
Cookie	kukki-	クッキー

The word for bread comes from Portuguese, that's why it's in katakana.

We drink a lot of tea in Japan.

Tea	ocha	おちゃ
Candy	kyandi-	キャンディー
Dessert	deza-to	デザート
Soda	so-da	ソーダ
Ice cream	aisukuri-mu	アイスクリーム

What say we go get some tea of you ace this game?

My treat-

GAME: Memory

なにがすきですか？.

I like candy.	okashi ga suki desu.	おかしがすきです。
I like cookies.	kukki- ga suki desu.	クッキーがすきです。

It's as simple as that. The sentence structure is fairly simple once you get used to it, just check your spelling.

GAME: Spelltastic

Now you're ready to go out for a dinner date.

Don't do anything I wouldn't do!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLIV, Kanji 1

Lesson 44: Kanji 1

Isn't it nice that you're all finished learning Kana?

Now you can write anything that you want, right?

The problem is that there are a number of words that are written the same in kana but have different meanings.

Aside from knowing the circumstances, how can you know what they mean?

By using kanji! Kanji is the part written language that focuses on meanings rather than sounds.

Remember?

But this leads us to a small problem. If the focus is on meaning instead of sound, how do we read kanji?

Most kanji also have a number of readings that tell us the sounds that can be used!

Let me explain the next page. On the top it will show the character, the meaning, and the different readings.

On the bottom you can practice writing the kanji.

日 = Sun, Day

ひ

か

にち

じつ

If you see it by itself it is usually read as ひ.

日曜日	にちようび	Sunday
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月 = Moon, Month

つき

げつ

がつ

When alone, it is usually read as つき, but when after a number it is usually read as がつ.

一月	いちがつ	January
月曜日	げつようび	Monday

火 = Fire

ひ

か

When by itself, it should be read as ひ.

火曜日	かようび	Tuesday
その火を消して	そのひをけして	Put out that fire.

水 = Water

みず

すい

By itself, it is read as みず.

水曜日	すいようび	Wednesday
水を飲む	みずをのむ	Drink water.

木 = Tree, Wood

き
ぼく
もく

By itself, it is read as き.

木曜日	もくようび	Thursday
木刀	ぼくとう	Wooden Sword

Time for a little breather.

How are you doing?

Have you been seeing how the kanji is used in different words to make it use different sounds?

Be sure to read through the examples! Break time is over!

金 = Gold, Metal, Money

かね
きん
にん

By itself, it is usually read as きん (gold), though it is also often read as かね (metal, money).

お金	おかね	Money
金曜日	きんようび	Friday

土 = Earth, Soil

つち
ど
と

By itself, it is usually read as つち.

土曜日	どようび	Saturday
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Let's take another small break. I need to explain something new.

It's called okurigana.

Okurigana is kana that follows a kanji but is still part of the word.

All i-adjectives and verbs have okurigana.

For example, 食べる. This is the word for eat, たべる. It's all one word, but there are two kana letters following the kanji.

The べる in this case are called okurigana.

In order for this to be useful to you I need to show you what letters in a word with kanji would be okurigana.

In the readings section the okurigana is surrounded by parentheses. Check it out!

大 = Big

おお (きい)
おお
だい
たい

大きい	おおきい	Big
大好き	だいすき	Really Like

中= Middle なか ちゅう		
その中にある	そのなかにある	It is inside of that.
中国	ちゅうごく	China

China is literally the middle kingdom.

小= Little ちい (さい) こ お しよ		
小さい	ちいさい	Small
小鳥	ことり	Small bird
小川	おがわ	Small river

Phew! That's a lot of new information!

Be sure to practice it!

Time to practice the writing and the readings with a new game!

GAME: Yomi

Heck, it's been so long since I gave you a new game that I'm going to give you another new game!

GAME: Scrolls

There you do down the road of kanji!

I'm so proud of you!

Next time I want to talk about connecting sentences.

Don't worry, there will be more kanji soon!

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLV, Connecting Sentences

Lesson 45: Connecting Sentences

Sometimes, one sentence alone won't get the job done.

That's why we connect sentences!

There are many methods of connecting sentences together in English and Japanese.

Some common connecting words are but, after, and because.

What are the two sentences that make up the sentence below? What is the connecting word?

He is big, but he is not strong.

Here's how it breaks down.

Sentence 1: He is big.

Sentence 2: He is not strong.

Connector: But.

We can make sentences like this in Japanese too!

But first you need to know the right words!

Guess I should tell you some of those words then.

But	kedo	けど
Because	node	ので
After	kara	から
Interesting	omoshiroi	おもしろい
Be Different	chigau	ちがう

Before going into how the sentence connecting words work, I want to talk a little more about the other two.

おもしろい can mean interesting, amusing, and funny.

Isn't that interesting?

We're pretty polite, and so we don't like telling people they're wrong. We usually just say that the answer is different.

Make a mistake on a game to see ちがう in use!

But back to connecting sentences together!

We need a verb in order to use „after“. The verb needs to be in base te. The first thing that happens goes first in sentence.

After I eat I will go.	tabete kara iku.	たべてからいく。
After I learn Japanese I'll understand.	nihongo wo manande kara waku.	にほんごをまなんでからわかる。

ので should be used with the cause first and the effect second, but the word before it should be in informal tense.

I hate it here because it's hot.	koko wa atsui node kirai desu.	ここはあついのできらいです。
I like him because he's interesting.	kare wa omoshiroi node suki desu.	かれはおもしろいのです。

Lastly, けど can be used to mean ‚but‘ at the end of a sentence. The ‚but‘ applies to the sentence that it is at the end of, like this:

I want this but I have no money.	kore ga hoshii kedo okane ga nai.	これがほしいけどおかねがない。
I'm weak but fast.	watashi wa yowai kedo hayai.	わたしはよわいけどはやい。

Here are some more words that will need a bit of explaining.

Exist (Animate)	iru	いる
Exist (Inanimate)	aru	ある
Here	koko	ここ
There	soko	そこ
Over there	asoko	あそこ

Both of the verbs for exist mean that something exists. In English we would usually say ,is here'.

Animate means something that is alive and moves around, while inanimate means everything else.

Here they are in use!

A cat is here.	neko ga iru.	ねこがいる。
A book is here.	hon ga aru.	ほんがある。

The negative tense for ある is ない. It doesn't follow the regular rules!

Be careful not to forget it!

Lastly, here, there and over there. Here is where the speaker is, there is closer to the listener than the speaker.

And over there is far from both of them!

That's enough explanation for now. Get these practiced!

GAME: Spelltastic

The more you practice the better you'll know it!

GAME: Multiple Choice

Next time I'm going to cover something that you might like a little more.

Talking about our deepest desires.

My Japanese Coach: Lesson XLVI, Desire

Lesson 46: Desire

I've talked before about wanting an object, and about liking something.

Now we're going to take it to another level, grammatically speaking!

How do you say that you want to do something? How do you tell someone that you want them to do something?

That's what I'll be teaching you this time around!

But first off, here are some new verbs to use with the new grammar!

Give	ageru	あげる
Dance	odoru	おどる
Teach	oshieru	おしえる
Get married	kekkon suru	けっこんする
Take a walk	sanpo ni iku	さんぽに行く

And a few more for good measure.

Money	okane	おかね
Play a game	ge-mu wo yaru	ゲームをやる
Be silent	shizuka ni suru	しずかにする
Workout	undou suru	うんどうする
Receive	morau	もらう

Alright! Saying that you want to do something is actually not hard at all.

Just use base 2 of the verb and add *たい* to the end.

Here we can see it in action! The subject can be left out. When making a statement the subject is usually the speaker, or ,I'. Don't forget to be polite by being disciplined!

I want to dance.	odoritai n desu.	おどりたいたいんです。
I want to work out.	undou shitai n desu.	うんどうしたいたいんです。

But when it's phrased as a question the subject is the listener, or ,you'.

Do you want to dance?	odoritai desu ka?	おどりたいたいですか?
Do you want to receive money?	okane wo moraitai desu ka?	おかねをもらいたいたいですか?

The *たい* makes the new word an i-adjective, so you can change it to be negative or past tense.

I don't want this.	kore ga hoshikunai.	これがほしくない。
I wanted to play a game.	ge-mu wo yaritakatta.	ゲームをやりたいかった。

One caution: Being disciplined is polite, and usually you wouldn't ask what someone wants when inviting them to do something, like you would in English.

Would you like to dance?	dansu shimasen ka?	ダンスしませんか?
Would you like some cookies?	kukki- wo tabemasen ka?	クッキーをたべませんか?

To invite people to do something in Japanese, simply ask a negative question.

Would you like to dance?	dansu shimasen ka?	ダンスしませんか?
Would you like some cookies?	kukki- wo tabemasen ka?	クッキーをたべませんか?

Now you can say what you want to do!

But what about telling other people that you want them to do something?

In order to tell someone that you want them to do something, you can use base ,te' ほしい.

I want you to teach Japanese.	nihongo wo oshiete hoshii desu.	にほんごをおしえてほしいです。
I want you to be silent.	shizuka ni shite hoshii.	しずかにしてほしい。

Base 2 たい is another i-adjective, so feel free to conjugate it!

Go back to the i-adjective lesson if you don't remember how!

I want you to learn these words!

このことばをまなんでほしいんです！

GAME: Flash Cards

So you can do with flash cards, but how good is your memory?

GAME: Memory

Now that you've finished the lesson on desire, I know what you want.

More kanji!

