

# Vzone Academy Whitepaper on Japanese Language

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## Japanese Course Outline

### 1. About the language

**Japanese** (日本語, *Nihongo*) is an East Asian language spoken by about 128 million people, primarily in Japan, where it is the national language.

Japanese in its written form it makes prevalent use of Chinese characters, known as *kanji* (漢字), and a large portion of its vocabulary is borrowed from Chinese. The Japanese writing system also uses two other Alphabetic scripts: *hiragana* (ひらがな) and *katakana* (カタカナ). Katakana is generally used for non-Japanese words.

### 2. Importance of the language

Japan is a prosperous country and has the most diverse economy in Asia. With a GDP of \$4.9 trillion in 2005, Japan's economy is 2nd only to that of the U.S. The leading Japanese companies are among the largest, most efficiently run, and most well-known firms in the world. Familiar names like Sony, Toshiba, Sanyo, Casio, Canon, Minolta, Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, and many others have infiltrated the world market in a variety of sectors.

Whether you're in the field of business, engineering, manufacturing, research, economics, or politics, chances are you will be competing with, if not working for, a Japanese entity.

### 3. Objectives

The Objective of Japanese course will be to acquaint the learner with reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The basic level will acquaint you with around 150 Kanji and 71 basic Alphabets of Hiragana and Katakana and the derivatives. You will also learn grammar patterns useful for your conversation. Also, emphasis on listening skills from exam perspective as well as to enable you to watch Japanese movies and drama.

### 4. Outcomes

From anime to sushi bars, karaoke to manga, bonsai to origami, Japanese culture has become part of international culture. A knowledge of the language will give you direct access to Japanese film, animations, and comic books give you insight into the special terminology used in your favourite martial art, help you understand the cultural basis for kamikaze training and the origin of the samurai warrior, and develop your ability to order sashimi like a native at your favourite Japanese restaurant!

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## 5. Why to choose it

The Japanese have relied on their creativity and scientific know-how to succeed not only economically but also in ecology- and efficiency-oriented ways. The Japanese are known as high tech leaders in fields such as optical media, semiconductor manufacturing, industrial robotics, and fermentation processes. Their drive for innovation has made the Japanese the world leaders in patent filings at 420,000 applications annually.

## 6. Job opportunities

There are over two million jobs open in Japan. Most Popular Jobs for Foreigners in Japan · English teacher · IT professional · Translator/interpreter · Sales staff · Military personnel.

In the finance sector · Capital Market · Regulatory Reporting · Financial Services · Project Management · Business Analyst · Technology · Investment Banking Operations ...

For not very educated ... Waiter/Waitress, Dish Washer, Kitchen Server, Cleaner, Construction, Factory, Caregiver, Delivery, Farming, Fishery, etc.

## 7. About its culture

Japanese culture is ancient and is filled with rites and traditions to honour the family. Because Japan is an island country, it was able to moderate the influence of other cultures for centuries. This allowed a distinct culture and heritage to develop for the beautiful Land of the Rising Sun.

With important rites of passage, festivals of celebration, and unique dress and style, details from the lives of your Japanese ancestors will brighten your family stories.

Two major religions influence Japanese traditions and culture: Shintoism and Buddhism. Shintoism has been practiced in Japan for over 2,000 years. Simply said, Shintoism is the belief in kami (gods). Because Shintoism has a lot to do with rituals, some Japanese may not feel it is a religion at all, but rather a way to celebrate many of Japan's social traditions. For this reason, Buddhism can be practiced right alongside Shinto customs.

Japanese politeness stresses loyalty, justice, sense of shame, refined manners, modesty and honor among other values. Japanese has a complicated system of honorific expressions, and it's troublesome for Japanese learners. A speaker chooses words taking into consideration the relationship between himself and the person he is speaking to (according to social status, rank, age, gender, the favor that he owes, etc.). There are two types of honorific expression; one is to use respect (i.e. elevate the listener), and the other is modesty (i.e. to humble the speaker).

In conclusion, the most important thing about politeness is respect for others.

## 8. About levels and exam

The JLPT is held worldwide to evaluate and certify proficiency in Japanese of non-native speakers. JLPT certificates offer various advantages, ranging from recognition as academic credit and graduation certification at schools to preferential treatment at companies and acknowledgement of qualification in society.

The JLPT has five levels: N1, N2, N3, N4 and N5. The easiest level is N5 and the most difficult level is N1.



N4 and N5 measure the level of understanding of basic Japanese mainly learned in class. N1 and N2 measure the level of understanding of Japanese used in a broad range of scenes in actual everyday life. N3 is a bridging level between N1/N2 and N4/N5.

Exams are held on First Sunday of July and December every year in many countries across the globe. For further details please write to [ceo@vzoneacademy.com](mailto:ceo@vzoneacademy.com)