An Anime Fan's Guide to Learning Japanese

PARTI Why You Should Learn Japanese

Reasons You Might Want to Learn Japanese

- To get by when visiting Japan.
- To better understand Japanese culture.
- To make new friends.
- To watch anime without subtitles.
- To live and work in Japan.
- To work in translation.
- To improve your brain and help prevent dementia in later life.

PART II Why Learning Japanese is Easier than You Might Think

Unless you think it's really easy $[\psi_{1}]$

Reasons People Think Japanese is Hard to Learn

- Three writing systems with thousands of characters.
- The grammar structure is totally different to English.
- Several levels of formality

Reasons Japanese isn't as hard to earn as you might think

- behind them.
- speakers to pronounce.
- Many of the grammar rules are actually simper than English

The writing systems make more sense when you understand the rules

Japanese has a limited range of sounds and none are difficult for English

PART III The Building Blocks of Japanese



- The ABCs of Japanese
- 51 phonetic characters
- Each character represents a single sound lacksquare
- Organised in blocks of five \bullet
- Learning hiragana should be one of the first \bullet things you do

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| ha | - | | 50 | 80 | Hiragana | Chart | | | | |

"ah" like in "car"

"i" like in key"

"u" like in m<u>oo</u>"

'eh' like ir "edge"

"oh" like in "j**o**e"

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- Believe in the me that believes in you!
- http://www.textfugu.com/resources/hiragana-chart/
- Study three to five new characters a day
- Drill the characters you have studied whenever you get the chance
- Use a flash card app such as Memrise

Download a hiragana chart and put it somewhere you will see it often.



- Represent the same set of sounds as hiragana
- Mostly used to sound out foreign loan words
- Similar to upper and lower case in English
- Also used for emphasis and onomatopoeia
- Hiragana and Katakana together are referred to as kana

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OW TO GATO GATA ANA

- Repeat the same methods you used to learn hiragana.
- Learn to write your own name.
- Practise writing English words in katakana.

Vocabulary & Grammar 単語と文法

Vocabulary & Grammar

- Japanese grammar is very different to English
- Trying to literally translate sentences leads to awkward results
- Expose yourself to as much natural Japanese as possible to develop an ear for what it should sound like

Vocabulary & Grammar

- If you're self studying then audio lessons and podcasts are your friend.
- Beginner text books are a good source of basic Japanese and usually come with audio CDs. They're usually quite wooden though.
- Tae Kim's Grammar Guide http://www.guidetojapanese.org/learn/ is an excellent overview of sentence structure.
- Many people like Japanese Pod 101.





- Pictographic characters adapted from \bullet Chinese.
- Used to represent the meaning of words. ullet
- 2,136 "daily use" characters required for basic adult literacy!
- Words can be made up of a single kanji, compounds containing two kanji, or combinations of kanji and hiragana.





- bigger picture.
- meaning of a character, often in an abstract way.
- that radical.

Kanji are made up of "radicals", smaller components that make up a

Radicals have their own meanings, when combined they represent the

Some kanji only contain a single radical and often share a meaning with

- Japanese children learn kanji by constant repetition. This is slow.
- They learn characters with simpler meanings first, not simpler characters.
- Many Japanese classes will teach kanji in this order, not expecting you to learn them.
- There are better ways to learn kanji.

- Study the radicals as well as the characters.
- Learn characters roughly in order of written complexity.
- Practise hand writing but don't mindlessly repeat the same character.
- When you learn new words try to learn how they are written at the same time.
- Focus on learning key words for a character over learning all of its readings.
- Used spaced repetition to recall characters just as you are about to forget them.

Levels of Formality

PART IV Learning Japanese from Anime

PART V Useful Resources

Beginner Textbooks

- Genki and Japanese for Busy People are two of the best known.
- If you take a class they will probably follow one of these books.
- They are okay when you know nothing but you should aim to move on to other materials.
- Make sure you don't use a romaji textbook.



- Online Japanese textbook specifically designed for self-study.
- Focuses on motivation and study techniques as well as content.
- The first few chapters are available to read for free but afterwards there's a subscription.

TEXTFUGU Assessment to the text

Learn Japanese The Hard Way



What Makes TextFugu A Different Japanese Textbook?

Made For Self-Learners

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Kanji That Boesn't Make You Crazy

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Remembering the Kanji

- Guides you through all of the radicals.
- Uses stories as mnemonic devices to recall kanji.
- Assigns a single keyword to each kanji.
- Doesn't tackle readings or vocabulary.

James W. Heisig

Remembering the Kanji 1

A Complete Course on How Not to Forget the Meaning and Writing of Japanese Characters

6th edition, updated to include the 196 kanji approved in 2010 for general use

6th edition, updated to include the 196 kanji approved in 2010 for general use

- Web app using a similar methodology to ightarrowRemembering the Kanji.
- Contains radicals, kanji and vocabulary. ightarrow
- Tackles meanings and readings \bullet
- Splits kanji into 50 levels (plus 10 bonus levels).
- Uses spaced repetition to quiz you at timed intervals.
- Free up to level 3, paid afterwards. ightarrow



Thank You for Coming ありがとうございました

