

Want to Learn Japanese? Use This.

The Japanese PDF Check-List for New Beginners

Are you a beginner? Wondering what to do and where to start?

Complete the steps and check off the to-do items in the boxes on the left side. I suggest you work your way down this list but it doesn't really matter which step you pick first — as long as you do all.

 1. Learn Hiragana/Katakana (the Japanese Alphabet)

Once you've actually decided to learn, learning the alphabet is the very first step in learning any language. So, your first step is to learn Hiragana and Katakana. Please don't use an App (the only way to do it is to write, not swipe) or buy anything because you can do this online for free.

Resource -> [Click here to get the Free Hiragana/Katakana PDF Workbook](#)

 2. Get Comfortable Writing Basic Words and Phrases.

Once you've learned the alphabet or are in the process of learning, you should jump in and start writing basic words, phrases and sentences.

Doing this will help solidify the letters. Again, you are better off learning to write by directly practicing with a pen/pencil and paper, and NOT by downloading some app and swiping around.

Resource: [Free Japanese Writing Workbooks/Worksheets \(click here\)](#)

 3. Get a Japanese textbook.

Why? A textbook is a safe approach that gets you going with basic grammar, vocabulary acquisition and gets you reading EASY Japanese on a consistent basis.

Unfortunately, most apps can't guide you as good as a textbook can. (of course, you should get some Apps, but they'll always be supplemental tools because no one App can be complete enough, 99% of apps exist to make money whethand, and they're not made by teachers that know how you should learn.

Resource: <https://www.linguajunkie.com/japanese/best-japanese-textbooks>

 4. Learn to Introduce Yourself in Japanese

Why? Because you're learning Japanese to talk with others. And for that, you'll need to be able to introduce yourself. Plus, Japanese speakers will want to know about you too. Talking about ourselves is fundamental human nature so you should learn these phrases first.

Resource -> [How To Introduce Yourself in Japanese in 1 Minute \(click here\)](#)

 5. Get a Listening Resource/Program that Helps with Listening/Speaking

Why? Because aside from reading and learning Japanese words and grammar with a book... you will NEED to hear real Japanese. And that Japanese must be "Easy" enough for you to understand. Not advanced, high-speed native Japanese (because what's the point if you don't understand it?) Also, it can't just be random vocab lessons on YouTube... because hearing words and phrases alone is not enough.

For that, I recommend **JapanesePod101** - a program that teaches Japanese through conversations, and has teachers explain the conversations you hear... so you can just listen/watch and follow along.

Resource - >> JapanesePod101.com (click here to get a free account)

6. Download an App that teaches you words

Oh, does this sound hypocritical to the above? Well, I did say you should get apps - but they can't teach you *everything*.

If you're on your way to school or work and have 5 minutes to kill on the train, why not learn some Japanese words? So, yes, do get an App that supplements your Japanese. One such suggestion is Anki — a spaced repetition flashcard app.

But, I am sure you already did this step already, so feel free to check it off.

7. Japanese Music & TV Shows

Yes, it's important to have fun. While you will not immediately understand Japanese in shows and music... It's important to find some that you like. Why?

Because you want to create "attachments" or "anchor points" to the Japanese language. The more you have, the more you're attached to the language, the more it's part of your life, and the more you're intrinsically motivated to learn and improve. Plus, it will be nice once you start picking up words that you can actually understand. I am sure this is the first step you've done already before coming across this checklist.

To do: Go find music and shows you like.

8. Create a Japanese Learning Routine

Your ability to stick with a routine is what will ultimately guarantee your success... or kill your success.

It's pointless to write much more about this topic because it's just a matter of... either you do it or you don't... and nothing I can say will help you unless you do it. However, you can and should check out my guide on how to learn, stay motivated and stay consistent below.

[Click here -> How to Learn Japanese: A Guide for Beginners ONLY PDF Guide](#)

9. Interact with Japanese Speakers

This is one of the most important steps... BUT... it may not be 100% useful for beginners just yet. I am including this so that you can keep it in your mind.

Eventually, you will want to practice speaking real Japanese with native speakers. It could be a month, 3 months, or a year into your journey — it depends on you and when you think you want to. But the rule of thumb is 1) when you know enough basic phrases (which you can learn in a month) and 2) you start FEELING you need to speak or else you can't improve more. Again, people are different. Plus tutors cost money so... Either way, no need to do it now, but keep it in mind. Because the best way to speak Japanese is to speak it with a native speaker.

To do: Nothing urgent yet. But consider finding a tutor or a teacher in the future.

Oh, you made it to the end you sneaky little rascal.

Well, let me reward you for your curiosity with a **Free Japanese 50+ Lesson Audio Course for Absolute Beginners**. But yes there is a catch - you only get 3 free months of access and they will lock it back up sometime in the future because this is normally a paid program. You can read more about it on the JapanesePod101 page. So while it's free... [Click here](#) to get it.

