

# Independent Japanese Study—Intermediate

*Goal Setting/Expectations:* “SMART”

Short-term goals (learn X # of kanji per week, be able to call the post office on your own, learn to write your address/place of work in kanji, follow a television drama from beginning to end, etc.)

*Write your goals here*

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Long-term goals (pass a Japanese exam, read a children’s book or manga before X date)

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*Study Style:* Find what works for you

*Methods:*

At work

- being approachable approaching co-workers
- the importance of small talk
- interacting with students
- drinking and enkais
- studying at work, learning relevant words

Social

- importance of introductions
- getting involved in non-language study activities
- language partners (exchange studies)
- international center or clubs

On your own

- study schools (Some Contracting Organisations may grant study leave)
- private tutors/group classes
- proficiency tests
- CLAIR course (late October through May)

*Materials/Resources—see appendix*

Traditional Materials

-textbooks, flashcards, paper and electronic dictionaries

Media resources

-movies, music, TV, internet

Print resources

-magazines, newspapers, books, manga

*Motivation/Frustration*

Ask when you don’t understand.

-Be shameless: you’re not expected to know everything, and you don’t have to be embarrassed about it

*Support:* Talk to peers, get advice

## **\*\*APPENDIX\*\***

### ***Textbooks/Dictionarys***

- many popular Japanese textbooks and links: <http://www.ohayosensei.com/books/lgeneral.html>

Basic Connections: Making Your Japanese Flow

Read Real Japanese: All You Need to Know to Enjoy Eight Contemporary Writers

The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary

A Guide to Reading & Writing Japanese

Kanji in Context, The Japan Times, Koichi Nishiguchi and Tamaki Kono

"Remembering the Kanji" Vol. 1 and 2, James W. Heisig

A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar by Seiichi Makino/ Michio Tsutsui

A Dictionary of Intermediate Japanese Grammar by Seiichi Makino/ Michio Tsutsui

The Kanji Dictionary, Mark Spahn/ Wolfgang Hadamitzky

The Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary

Kenkyusha's English-Japanese Dictionary

The New Nelson Japanese-English character dictionary (Tuttle Publishing)

### **Electronic Dictionarys**

- Canon/Casio
- "Kanji sono mama" for Nintendo DS

## **DIGITAL MEDIA**

Getting your PC Japanese-ready

Help for PCs: <http://greggman.com/japan/xp-ime/xp-ime.htm>

...and for Macs: <http://redcocoan.org/cab/mysoft.html>

**TV Shows** (<http://www.tvguide.or.jp/cgi-bin/top.cgi>)

**Movies** (吹き替え版 is dubbing, 字幕 is subtitles)

**Music** [www.d-addicts.com](http://www.d-addicts.com)

**Podcasts:** Japanese 101

### ***Japanese Language Tests***

JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) [http://www.jees.or.jp/jlpt/en/jlpt\\_guide.html](http://www.jees.or.jp/jlpt/en/jlpt_guide.html)

Given on Sunday Dec 2, 2007. Application cost is 500yen. Exam cost is 5500yen

JETRO (Business Japanese) <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/bjt/>

JTEST (Practical Japanese) <http://www.jtest.org/jtest/>

Kanji Kentei— <http://www.kanken.or.jp/index.html> (the official site in Japanese).  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanji\\_kentei](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanji_kentei)

## ***Japanese Language Schools***

Amica Language School in Tokyo. <http://www.amica.ac.jp>

The Yamasa Institute in Aichi-ken (near Nagoya) with satellite school in Hokkaido.  
<http://www.yamasa.org/index.html>

Sapporo Nihongo Gakko, Hokkaido <http://www.silnihongo.com/homeeng.html>

Kumamoto YMCA Japanese Language School

<http://www.kumamoto-ymca.or.jp/nihongo/japanese/index-e.html>

## ***Online Study Resources***

Online dictionaries

<http://www.popjisy.com> (you can wave the mouse over any kanji and both the Japanese reading and English meaning will be displayed)

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/wwwjdic.html>

Free study materials:

grammar, vocabulary, JLPT preparation

<http://www.mlcjapanese.co.jp/Download.htm>

JLPT kanji preparation

<http://www.jlpt-kanji.com/>

<http://www.speedanki.com/cards.php?level=3>

General study links and Kanji-a-day mailing list

<http://www.yookoso.com>

Firefox extension:

<http://www.polarcloud.com/rikaichan/>

<http://www.guidetojapanese.org/>

Mnemonics, based on Heisig's book:

<http://www.kanji.koohii.com>