

# Independent Japanese Study – Beginner Resources!!!

## I Books – Context Focused:

- **Genki I and II: Beginner Japanese:** Learn through conversation. Published by The Japan Times. There is also a workbook for both I and II.
- **Minna No Nihongo I and II:** Beginner Japanese Books. Learn through conversation. For both I and II there are two books: one in English and one in Japanese.
- **Japanese For Busy People**
- **Clair Japanese Courses:** These are free!! So be sure to sign up for them!
- **Understanding Japanese** by Yasuko Obana

## II Books – JLPT Focused:

- **完全マスター(kanzen masutaa) Complete Master Series:** Books for both Kanji and Grammar, starting from Level 3.
- **Unicom Inc Series:** Grammar and Kanji books starting from Level 4.
- **日本語総まとめ問題集 (nihongoso matome mondaishu):** These books are JLPT based. There are different books for grammar, vocabulary, kanji, and reading. All levels have the English translation.

## III Kanji:

- **Basic Kanji Books:** 4 different books, each covering about 500 kanji. Includes onyomi, kunyomi (Japanese and Chinese readings for a character), writing space and practice exercises.
- **A Guide to Writing Kanji and Kana:** 2 books covering all 1945 basic kanji. Book one includes hiragana and katakana. There are examples and ample writing space. Written by Wolfgang Hadamitzky and Mark Spahn.
- **Hyaku-en Books:** Many Hyaku-en stores carry practice books for the kanji taught to different levels of primary school. Kanji includes space for writing, practice exercises and onyomi (but usually not kunyomi).
- **Tuttle Flashcards:** 4 volumes covering the 1945 kanji required by the Ministry of Education. Organized by the way they are learned in Japan (starting with Primary school first grade). Each card includes stroke order, radical meanings, vocabulary words, onyomi and kunyomi. Onyomi and kunyomi are written in romaji. Many vocabulary words not very practical.
- **Whiterabbit Flashcards:** 2 volumes, one for JLPT 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, one for JLPT 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Each card includes stroke order, memorization strategies for radicals, vocabulary words, onyomi, kunyomi, and kanji which look similar. Vocabulary words include some vocab from JLPT. Onyomi is written in katakana, and kunyomi is written in hiragana.
- **Manga books:** Many manga books can be found with only a certain level of kanji. For example there are Doraemon (a popular Manga character) books that only contain only the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade primary school level kanji. Talk with the person who sells text books to your school.

## IV Other:

- **A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar (Yellow Cover)**
- **A Dictionary of Intermediate Japanese Grammar (Blue Cover)**
  - Both of these books are a great secondary resource for grammar explanations. Many example sentences, and notes on grammar structure and usage. All grammar points have an English translation.

## **V Internet Resources:**

- <http://www.kanjistep.com/> : Japanese Resource Center - practice hiragana, katakana and kanji. There is also a chat site, where you can make friends.
- <http://www.geocitites.co.jp/NeverLand/2002/> : Easy to use website with animation for hiragana, katakana and kanji up to second year elementary school.
- <http://www.fll.purdue.edu/ultimate/> : Ultimate Kana Challenge- game based learning
- <http://hellonavi.com/foldera/index.html> : Let's Learn Japanese - pronunciation practice from your computer.
- <http://www.japanesecentral.com/index.html> : Japanese Web - hiragana and katakana sheets with lots of reading material
- <http://web.mit.edu/21f.500/www/> : MIT Japanese - teaches hiragana, katakana and kanji. Also links to many other sites.
- <http://www.nhk.or.jp/lesson/> : NHK World Japanese Lessons - Easy to study website with Japanese lessons.
- <http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/wwwjdic.html> : Jim Breen's WWWJDIC Japanese Dictionary Server - One of the best online dictionary resources. There are also links for your mobile phone!
- <http://www.spurymoses.com/jlpt/> : The JLPT Study Page - good page for studying for the JLPT, great vocabulary lists, and kanji vocabulary

## **VI Japanese Classes:**

- **Japanese Online Institute:** This is an online school. Go to [www.japonin.com](http://www.japonin.com) for information.

📍 There are many schools or places where you can take classes throughout Japan. Some people have done summer immersion programs and others classes at the YMCA. You can find many program or class options on the internet!