

# Japanese Language Basics @ Katsucon 2007

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Panel archives and information at <http://obligatorydiscord.blogspot.com/>

- Introduction
  
- Part One - Overview
  - kanji, hiragana, katakana
  - grammar
  - vocabulary
  
- Part Two - Model Lesson: Introductions
  - making introductions
  - names and titles
  - cultural notes
  
- Part Three - Further Study
  - time frame and expectations
  - recommended books and media
  
- Questions and Answers

## Japanese Language Extra

(times and locations subject to change, confirm details with convention staff)

- Friday @ 8PM, Live 3 – everyday vocabulary making invitations
- Sunday @ 12PM, Live 2 – hobbies and favorite things, like/dislike
- Sunday @ 1:05PM, Live 3 – food and drink, orders and requests

About the moderator: Roehl Sybing is a graduate student studying Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Japanese Language Education, and an English instructor in the international student community at New York University. Prior to this, he spent two years teaching English in Yokohama, Japan. Roehl holds a Level 3 Certificate of Japanese Language Proficiency, and teaches elementary and intermediate Japanese privately and at anime conventions. This is the sixth edition of *Japanese Language Basics*, which started in 2002 at *Anime Expo New York*, and has been taught at *Anime Central* (Rosemont, IL), *Anime Boston*, and *Anime USA* (Vienna, VA).

## Japanese syllabaries

あ / ア a	い / イ i	う / ウ u	え / エ e	お / オ o			
か / カ ka	き / キ ki	く / ク ku	け / ケ ke	こ / コ ko	きゃ / キャ kya	きゅ / キュ kyu	きょ / キョ kyo
さ / サ sa	し / シ shi	す / ス su	せ / セ se	そ / ソ so	しゃ / シャ sha	しゅ / シュ shu	しょ / ショ sho
た / タ ta	ち / チ chi	つ / ツ tsu	て / テ te	と / ト to	ちゃ / チャ cha	ちゅ / チュ chu	ちょ / チョ cho
な / ナ na	に / ニ ni	ぬ / ヌ nu	ね / ネ ne	の / ノ no	にゃ / ニャ nya	にゅ / ニュ nyu	にょ / ニョ nyo
は / ハ ha	ひ / ヒ hi	ふ / フ fu	へ / ヘ he	ほ / ホ ho	ひゃ / ヒャ hya	ひゅ / ヒュ hyu	ひょ / ヒョ hyo
ま / マ ma	み / ミ mi	む / ム mu	め / メ me	も / モ mo	みゃ / ミャ mya	みゅ / ミュ myu	みょ / ミョ myo
や / ヤ ya		ゆ / ユ yu		よ / ヨ yo			
ら / ラ ra	り / リ ri	る / ル ru	れ / レ re	ろ / ロ ro	りゃ / リャ rya	りゅ / リュ ryu	りょ / リョ ryo
わ / ワ wa				を / ヲ o			
ん / ン n							
が / ガ ga	ぎ / ギ gi	ぐ / グ gu	げ / ゲ ge	ご / ゴ go	ぎゃ / ギャ gya	ぎゅ / ギュ gyu	ぎょ / ギョ gyo
ざ / ザ za	じ / ジ ji	ず / ズ zu	ぜ / ゼ ze	ぞ / ゾ zo	じゃ / ジャ ja	じゅ / ジュ ju	じょ / ジョ jo
だ / ダ da	ぢ / チ ji	づ / ツ zu	で / デ de	ど / ド do			
ば / バ ba	び / ビ bi	ぶ / ブ bu	べ / ベ be	ぼ / ボ bo	びゃ / ビャ bya	びゅ / ビュ byu	びょ / ビョ byo
ぱ / パ pa	ぴ / ピ pi	ぷ / プ pu	ぺ / ペ pe	ぽ / ポ po	ぴゃ / ピャ pya	ぴゅ / ピュ pyu	ぴょ / ピョ pyo

hiragana (ひらがな) / katakana (カタカナ)  
romaji

## Lesson One - Introductions

A: **Watashi wa Buraun desu.** Doozo yoroshiku.

B: *Tookyoo Daigaku no Nakamura desu.* Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

A: Nihongo o benkyoo shite imasu. Nakamura-san wa?

B: Koogaku desu.

### Grammar point: "desu" - to be

- Watashi wa **Buraun desu.** - I am Mr. **Brown.**
- Kore wa **enpitsu desu.** - This is a **pencil.**
- Kore wa **nan desu ka.** - **What** is that?
- Sore wa yukata desu. - That is a yukata.

### Grammar point: "no" - possessive marker

- **Tookyoo Daigaku no** Nakamura desu. - I am Nakamura of **Tokyo University.**
- **Watashi no** hon desu. - (This is) my book.
- **Sumisu-sensei no** kurasu desu. - (This is) **Professor Smith's** class.

### Language point: omitted words

- *Nihongo o benkyoo shite imasu.* Nakamura-san wa ~~nan desu~~ ka.  
- *I am studying Japanese.* (**How about**) Mr. Nakamura?
- **Koogaku** desu. - It's **engineering.** (I am studying **engineering.**)
- ~~Sore wa~~ yukata desu. - (That is) a yukata.

### Language and cultural notes

- It is inappropriate to use titles when talking about oneself. Only when referring to others does a speaker use "san" or "sensei."
- It is acceptable to leave out words that are understood and not necessary, especially in a casual conversation between equals. It may not be appropriate when speaking to superiors such as teachers or bosses, however.
- There is a word for "you" (anata), but it is used casually and rarely. It may seem odd, but get used to using a person's name even when you are speaking to them. When addressing Mr. Nakamura, you may and should ask "What does Mr. Nakamura think?"
- English has multiple linking verbs (is, am, are, be), though Japanese has one coupler, or copula (desu). Verbs do not change because of number or person. "I am a student," "He is a student" and "They are students" all translate to "Gakusei desu."

### Vocabulary / expressions

- Doozo yoroshiku. - It's nice to meet you.
- Yoroshiku onegai shimasu. - It's nice to meet you.
- yukata - kimono, worn in summer

### After that...

- **Donna** anime ga *suki* desu ka. - **What kind of** anime do you *like*?
- Naruto ga suki desu. - I like Naruto.
- **Wan-piisu** ga suki desu ka. - Do you like **One Piece**?
- Hai, suki desu. - Yes, I like it.
- **Amari** suki de wa *arimasen.* - I **don't** like it **very much.**

## Studying Japanese in and around Washington, DC

- The Japan-America Society. Elementary and intermediate evening classes of up to 12 students per section are offered. Late registration for spring semester classes available as space permits; classes for summer semester to begin in early June. Tuition discounted for Japan-America Society members. <http://www.us-japan.org/dc/language/linfo.html> or (202) 833-2210.
- Berlitz Language Center. Private and group Japanese lessons offered at all levels. Enrollment is year-round. <http://www.berlitz.com/> or (202) 331-1160.
- Inlingua Language Service Center (Arlington, VA). Private and semi-private Japanese classes offered at all levels. Group classes NOT offered. Enrollment is year-round. <http://www.inlinguava.com/> or (703) 527-8666.
- International Center for Language Studies. Private, semi-private and group Japanese classes offered at all levels. Enrollment is quarterly. <http://www.icls.com/> or (202) 639-8800.
- International Language Institute. Private, semi-private and group Japanese classes offered at all levels. Spring enrollment for group classes is underway until April. <http://www.transemantics.com/flp.html> or (202) 362-2505.

### Recommended Books

Geers, T., and Geers, E. (1988). *Making Out in Japanese (Revised Edition)*. North Clarendon, Vermont: Tuttle Publishing. ISBN 0-8048-3396-6.

Strugnell, L. (1994). *Essential Japanese*. Princeton, New Jersey: Berlitz Publishing Company. ISBN 2-8315-6234-1.

Nishi, G. (2001). *Japanese Step by Step: An Innovative Approach to Speaking and Reading Japanese*. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN 0-6580-1490-0.

O'Neill, P.G. (1973). *Essential Kanji*. Trumbull, Connecticut: Weatherhill. ISBN 0-8348-0222-8.

Heisig, J. W. (1977). *Remembering the Kanji, Volume 1*. New York: Kodansha America. ISBN 4-88996-075-9.

Kobo, Y., Mori, R., and Okuhara, G. (1987). *Japanese for Children*. Chicago, Illinois: Passport Books. ISBN 0-8442-8514-5.