



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2025/26

Course title: Japanese Upper-Intermediate – Part I

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of the course is to help the learner to develop Japanese reading, listening, written and oral skills at upper-intermediate level and for communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course (Part I & II) participants will be able to:

1. understand the main ideas of complex Japanese text on both concrete and abstract topics.
2. interact with a degree of spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
3. produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Participants will further develop reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented sessions and will be provided with informal formative feedback during contact hours.

In seminars, participants will have to engage in practical exercises and group interaction in order to develop relevant language-specific learning strategies. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide useful tools and encourage participants to become independent learners and basic users of the languages too.

There are around 124,000,000 native speakers of Japanese and it is the national language of Japan. As a language isolate, Japanese syntax and phonology is very different from other languages. No other country uses Japanese as a first language, although there are many Japanese communities across the world.

The writing system makes use of two syllabaries: Hiragana for pure Japanese words and Katakana for borrowed words. Both syllabaries are used together with Kanji, which is composed of characters from Chinese. The written language is also closely tied to iconic elements of Japanese culture such as manga and possibly the first ever novel: The Tale of the Genji.

Prerequisite:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for learners, who have completed our “Intermediate Part III” course or equivalent.

If you have not taken any previous seminars of this level, please refer to the following essential forms and grammars that we have covered;

- Short (Plain/ふつうけい) Form
- verb て form/dic form まえ
- verb present & past tense と き
- modifying noun with verb etc.

Language-specific information:

Coursebook and/or learning resources:

Continuation of Japanese for Busy People II from
Lesson 13, Revised 4th edition (not 3rd!). The
instructor will provide additional resources in class.