University of Exeter



Evening language programme 2026/27

Course title: Japanese Upper-Intermediate – Part 5

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of the course is to further develop learners' Japanese reading, listening, written and oral skills at upper-intermediate level (JLPT N4, progressing towards N3 in communicative competence) for effective communication. Therefore, by the end of the course participants will be able to:

- understand the main ideas of complex Japanese texts on both concrete and abstract topics, including selected authentic materials;
- interact with a high degree of spontaneity and fluency, enabling sustained interaction with native speakers in a range of contexts;
- discuss a wide range of topics and express, justify and develop their own opinions, responding appropriately to others;
- produce clear and coherent spoken and written Japanese, making effective use of an expanded range of grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Participants will further develop reading, listening, speaking and writing skills through a series of task-oriented and communicative sessions, with increasing emphasis on extended discourse, accuracy and flexibility. Informal formative feedback will be provided during contact hours.

In seminars, participants will engage in practical exercises and group interaction designed to develop independent language use, strategic competence and confidence in more complex communicative situations. The role of the instructor is to facilitate this process, provide targeted guidance and encourage participants to become autonomous users of the language.

The instructor will also introduce various aspects of Japanese culture, including some lesser-known and more niche topics that participants may find new and interesting.

Language-specific information:

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:

You should have completed our upper-intermediate part 4 course or equivalent. You should have a solid understanding of core beginner grammar and vocabulary. You may have already studied these grammar points using textbooks such as *Genki* or *Minna no Nihongo*, for example.

If you are unsure whether your current Japanese level is suitable for this course, please contact us via elp@exeter.ac.uk

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Coursebook and/or learning resources:

WEEKLY J book 1 -日本語で話す 6 週間-
(WEEKLY J book 1: Talk in Japanese for 6 weeks w/2CDs). **WEEKLY J book1　日本語で話す 6 週間｜にほんごの凡人社 出版社サイト**
(Official website)

The instructor will provide additional resources in class.