



University
of Exeter



Evening language programme 2026/27

Course title: Japanese Beginners Part I

Course descriptor/objectives

The aim of the course is to offer an introduction to Japanese language for a range of basic communication purposes. Therefore, by the end of the course (part I and II) participants will be able to:

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type.
- introduce themselves and others.
- ask and answer questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know and things they have.
- interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Participants will develop some basic 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.

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:

This non-credit bearing weekly course is intended for complete beginners who wish to explore Japanese for the first time.

Technical requirements:

-PC, laptop or tablet with camera and microphone

-Stable internet connection

Delivery will be via Zoom or Teams

Once the course has been confirmed your teacher will invite you to the first session by 12:00 on the day of the course

Coursebook and/or learning resources:

Genki 1 Third Edition

ISBN: 9784789017305

Please do not purchase the book until the course has been confirmed.