

# Living in Japan Guide

## Language Guide

### Essential Japanese Language Skills for Everyday Life

Prepared by JP Supports

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## Welcome

Moving to Japan is an exciting experience, and while many people in major cities understand some English, learning basic Japanese will make your daily life much easier and more enjoyable. Even simple greetings and common phrases can help you communicate with local people, build friendships, and show respect for Japanese culture.

You do not need to become fluent before arriving in Japan. However, learning a few essential words and phrases will help you navigate public transportation, shop confidently, ask for assistance, visit hospitals, and communicate with your employer or school.

This guide introduces the basics of the Japanese language, useful expressions for daily life, pronunciation tips, cultural etiquette, and resources to continue learning after your arrival.

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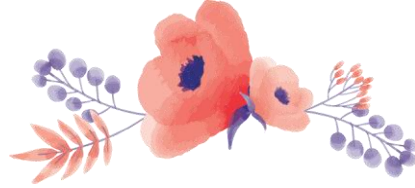
## Why Learn Japanese?

Although Japan welcomes people from around the world, Japanese remains the primary language used in everyday life.

Learning Japanese can help you:

- Communicate more confidently.
  - Make new friends.
  - Understand signs and announcements.
  - Improve your employment opportunities.
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- Build stronger relationships with colleagues.
- Handle emergencies more easily.
- Enjoy Japanese culture on a deeper level.

Even learning a few phrases demonstrates respect and is greatly appreciated by Japanese people.

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## Understanding the Japanese Writing System

Japanese uses three writing systems.

### Hiragana (ひらがな)

Hiragana is the first writing system most learners study. It is used for native Japanese words and grammar.

Examples:

こんにちは (Konnichiwa) – Hello

ありがとう (Arigatou) – Thank you

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### Katakana (カタカナ)

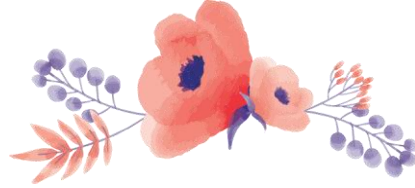
Katakana is used for foreign words and names.

Examples:

ホテル (Hoteru) – Hotel

コーヒー (Koohii) – Coffee





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スーパー (Suupaa) – Supermarket

## Kanji (漢字)

Kanji are Chinese characters used throughout written Japanese.

There are thousands of Kanji, but beginners only need to recognize a few common ones for everyday life.

Don't worry if Kanji seems difficult at first—it becomes easier with practice.

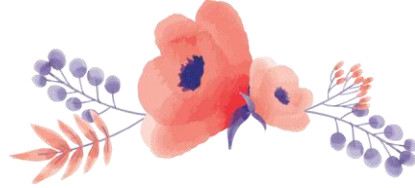
## Essential Greetings

Using greetings is an important part of Japanese culture.

| English          | Japanese   | Pronunciation      |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Good Morning     | おはようございます  | Ohayou Gozaimasu   |
| Hello            | こんにちは      | Konnichiwa         |
| Good Evening     | こんばんは      | Konbanwa           |
| Good Night       | おやすみなさい    | Oyasuminasai       |
| Goodbye          | さようなら      | Sayounara          |
| Thank You        | ありがとうございます | Arigatou Gozaimasu |
| You're Welcome   | どういたしまして   | Doutashimashite    |
| Excuse Me        | すみません      | Sumimasen          |
| I'm Sorry        | ごめんなさい     | Gomen Nasai        |
| Nice to Meet You | はじめまして     | Hajimemashite      |

Using polite greetings every day leaves a positive impression.





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## Useful Everyday Phrases

Here are some expressions that you will use frequently.

### Asking for Help

Can you help me?

助けてください。

*Tasukete Kudasai*

I don't understand.

わかりません。

*Wakarimasen*

Do you speak English?

英語を話せますか？

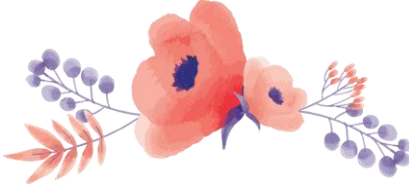
*Eigo o Hanasemasu ka?*

Please speak slowly.

ゆっくり話してください。

*Yukkuri Hanashite Kudasai*





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Thank you very much.

どうもありがとうございます。

*Doumo Arigatou Gozaimasu*

## Shopping Vocabulary

Shopping in Japan is simple once you know a few words.

How much is this?

これはいくらですか？

*Kore wa Ikura Desu ka?*

Where is the supermarket?

スーパーはどこですか？

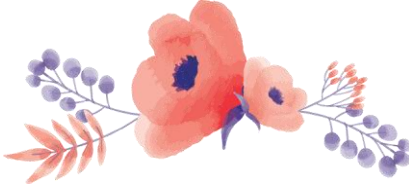
*Suupaa wa Doko Desu ka?*

Can I pay by card?

カードで払えますか？

*Kaado de Haraemasu ka?*





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Receipt, please.

レシートをお願いします。

*Reshiito o Onegaishimasu*

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## Transportation Phrases

Public transportation is widely used in Japan.

Where is the station?

駅はどこですか？

*Eki wa Doko Desu ka?*

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Which train goes to Tokyo?

東京へ行く電車はどれですか？

*Tokyo e Iku Densha wa Dore Desu ka?*

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I want to buy a ticket.

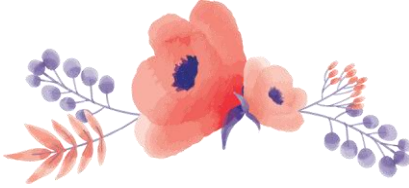
切符を買いたいです。

*Kippu o Kaitai Desu*

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Thank you for your help.





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助けていただきありがとうございます。

*Tasukete Itadaki Arigatou Gozaimasu*

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## Restaurant Phrases

When dining out, these phrases are useful.

The menu, please.

メニューをお願いします。

*Menyuu o Onegaishimasu*

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Water, please.

お水をお願いします。

*Omizu o Onegaishimasu*

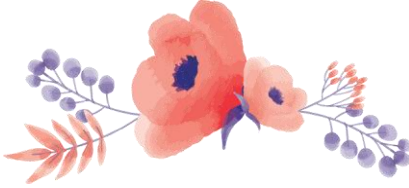
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It was delicious.

とてもおいしかったです。

*Totemo Oishikatta Desu*





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Thank you for the meal.

ごちそうさまでした。

*Gochisousama Deshita*

Saying this after eating is considered polite.

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## Emergency Vocabulary

Knowing emergency words is very important.

Hospital

病院

*Byouin*

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Police

警察

*Keisatsu*

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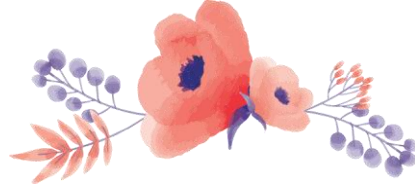
Fire

火事

*Kaji*







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Ambulance

救急車

*Kyuukyuuusha*

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Help!

助けて！

*Tasukete!*

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Emergency

緊急

*Kinkyuu*

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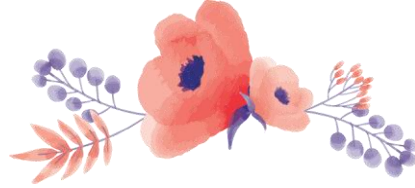
## Japanese Etiquette in Conversation

Japanese communication places great importance on politeness and respect.

Some useful habits include:

- Bow slightly when greeting someone.
  - Say "Sumimasen" when asking for assistance.
  - Speak politely with strangers.
  - Avoid interrupting others.
  - Listen carefully during conversations.
  - Thank people whenever they help you.
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These small gestures create positive relationships.

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## Learning Japanese Faster

You do not need to study for hours every day.

Instead, try these habits:

- Learn five new words each day.
- Watch Japanese television with subtitles.
- Practice speaking with classmates or coworkers.
- Listen to Japanese music and podcasts.
- Read simple Japanese signs.
- Label household items with Japanese names.
- Use language-learning apps regularly.

Consistency is far more effective than studying only occasionally.

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## Helpful Learning Resources

Many free resources can help you improve.

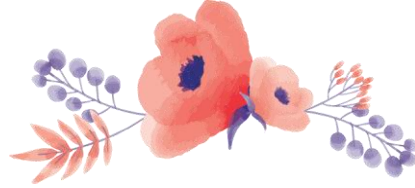
Popular options include:

- Duolingo
- NHK World Easy Japanese
- YouTube language lessons
- JapanesePod101
- Language exchange groups
- Local community Japanese classes

Practicing with native speakers is one of the fastest ways to improve.

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## Need Help Preparing for Life in Japan?

Learning Japanese is just one part of preparing for your journey. If you are planning to move to Japan from **Sri Lanka** and need guidance with visas, relocation, or settling into life in Japan, **JP Supports** proudly works with our trusted Sri Lankan consultation partner:

### Moshi Moshi Nippon

**Website:** <https://moshimoshinippon.com/>

Their experienced team can assist you with:

- Student Visa Consultation
- Work Visa Consultation
- Japan Travel Preparation
- Pre-Departure Guidance
- Living in Japan Advice
- Japanese Cultural Orientation
- Document Preparation Support
- General Information for Students and Workers

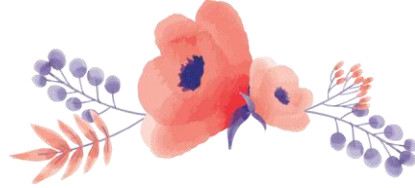
Whether you are moving for education, employment, or long-term opportunities, professional guidance can help you begin your journey with confidence.

**Please note:** Language learning is a personal process, and consultation services provide guidance and preparation but do not replace formal language education or official immigration procedures.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, visit:

 <https://moshimoshinippon.com/>





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## About JP Supports

JP Supports is committed to helping international students, professionals, and newcomers successfully adapt to life in Japan. Through practical guides, reliable resources, and trusted partnerships, we aim to make your transition easier and more enjoyable.

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## Conclusion

Learning Japanese is one of the best investments you can make before and after moving to Japan. Even a basic understanding of the language will improve your confidence, strengthen your relationships, and make everyday tasks much easier.

Remember, you do not need to speak perfect Japanese. Every new word you learn brings you one step closer to feeling at home. Be patient, practice regularly, and enjoy the rewarding journey of learning the language and embracing life in Japan. Welcome, and best of luck on your new adventure!

