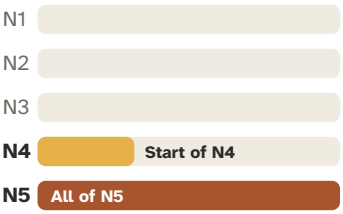
My Japanese roadmap

N5 and the start of N4 · 35 Units in 9 chapters

MY LEVEL

This course takes you through N5 and into the start of N4.



N5 Some basic Japanese
Reads set phrases and short sentences in hiragana, katakana and basic kanji. Follows short, slowly spoken conversations about daily life and the classroom.

N4 Basic Japanese
Reads short passages on familiar everyday topics. Follows everyday conversations when they are spoken slowly.

Based on the JLPT's official level descriptions. The JLPT has not published official word, kanji or grammar lists since 2010, so matching a course to a level is always an approximation. This course is not exam preparation on its own.

THE COURSE MAP

In order. Each Unit uses only what came before it.



● Unit ○ Review

1 Saying what things are
2 Adjectives
3 Verbs
4 Things, places and numbers
5 Wanting, inviting, asking
6 Joining actions, and what is going on
7 The plain form
8 Describing and comparing
9 Plans, experience and reasons

WHAT I WILL BE ABLE TO DO

Chapters 1–2	Say who you are and what you do, tell the time, and describe how things are.
Chapters 3–4	Talk about your day and about yesterday, say where things are, and ask how many and how much.
Chapters 5–6	Say what you want, invite someone, ask for things, and say what is going on.
Chapters 7–8	Speak casually, say what you think, and compare things.
Chapter 9	Talk about plans, experiences and reasons, and give advice.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A LESSON

Check — Quiz on the last Unit → **Words** — English to Japanese → **Grammar** — An example, then your own sentences → **Drills** — Out loud → **Review** — What you can say now

You recognise a pattern before you produce it, and you say everything out loud.

BETWEEN LESSONS

Lessons alone are not enough to start speaking. Practice is what makes it stick.

Lesson → **Read aloud** — 5 to 10 minutes, most days → **Homework and words** → **Quiz** — next lesson

next Unit

Read the Japanese from each Unit aloud.

Sound and kana Your reading gets faster.	Rhythm Your mouth gets used to Japanese.	Automatic Patterns come out without thinking.	Anywhere On your own, in a few minutes.

ABOUT ME

Why I'm learning Japanese	
What I know already	
What I want to be able to do	

MY MATERIALS

Slides	In the lesson	Open them again to review.
Homework	Before the next lesson	Try it first, then check the answers.
Vocabulary sheet	Between lessons	Cover the Japanese and test yourself.
Quiz	Next lesson	Shows what to go over again.
Kana chart	Any time	For when a kana slips your mind.
Roadmap	Keep it	Tick each Unit as you finish it.

Printables come a chapter at a time. Print (Recommended) · Tablet · Typing · Notebook

Writing by hand helps many learners remember, and a sheet is easy to keep.

INTRODUCING MYSELF

はじめまして。 hajimemashite	Nice to meet you.
アンナ です。 anna desu	I'm Anna.
よろしく おねがいします。 yoroshiku onegai shimasu	I look forward to learning with you.

WHEN I'M LOST

もう いちど おねがいします。 mou ichido onegai shimasu	One more time, please.
ゆっくり おねがいします。 yukkuri onegai shimasu	Slower, please.

START AND END EVERY LESSON

こんにちは。 konnichiwa	Hello.
ありがとう ございました。 arigatou gozai mashita	Thank you (for the lesson).
また よろしく おねがいします。 mata yoroshiku onegai shimasu	See you next time. (to your tutor)

Unit by Unit

Tick each Unit when you finish it. After every four Units there is a review.

GETTING STARTED

☐	Unit 0	オリエンテーション Orientation	How the course works · how to practise · introducing yourself

CHAPTER 1 · Saying what things are 名詞の文・かず

☐	Unit 1	なまえ Introducing yourself	X は Y です · ～ですか
☐	Unit 2	これ・それ This, that, and what it is not	これ・それ・あれ · も · じゃありません
☐	Unit 3	だれの Whose it is, and checking	の · だれの · ～ね ・ ～よ
☐	Unit 4	なんじ Telling the time, from and until	～じ～ふん ・ なんじ · ～から ～まで
☐	**Review**	**Units 1–4: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 2 · Adjectives 形容詞

☐	Unit 5	い形容詞 I-adjectives	い形容詞 · い形容詞 + 名詞
☐	Unit 6	な形容詞 Na-adjectives, what you like, and describing people	な形容詞 · すき・きらい · ～は ～が
☐	Unit 7	たのしかった It was fun, fun and cheap, and cheap but good	～かったです · ～くて・～で · ～が、～
☐	**Review**	**Units 5–7: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 3 · Verbs 動詞

☐	Unit 8	まいにち Everyday actions, and where you do them	ます形 · ます・ません · て（ばしょ）
☐	Unit 9	なにを・どこへ Objects, means, and destinations	を · で（手段） · へ
☐	Unit 10	いつ When, how often, and who with	に · よく・ときどき・ぜんぜん · と
☐	Unit 11	きのう Yesterday, and why	ました · でした · ～から
☐	**Review**	**Units 8–11: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 4 · Things, places and numbers もの・場所・数

☐	Unit 12	なにか・なにも Something, anything, nothing	なにも・どこにも · なにか・なにも · どこか・どこにも
☐	Unit 13	ある・いる What is where	あります・います · うえ・した・なか
☐	Unit 14	かぞえる Counting, listing, and prices	助数詞 · や · いくら
☐	**Review**	**Units 12–14: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 5 · Wanting, inviting, asking お願い・さそう

☐	Unit 15	したい・ほしい What you want to do, and what you want	～たい · たくない ・ たかった · ～が ほしい
☐	Unit 16	さそう Inviting and offering	～ませんか · ～ましょう · ～ましょうか
☐	Unit 17	て形 The て form, and asking for things	て形 · ～てください
☐	Unit 18	いい・だめ May I, and you must not	～てもいいです · ～てはいけません
☐	**Review**	**Units 15–18: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 6 · Joining actions, and what is going on つなげる・ている

☐	Unit 19	つなげる Joining actions, and doing one after the other	て形でつなぐ · ～に行く · ～てから
☐	Unit 20	～ている Going on, and already done	～ている · ～ている
☐	Unit 21	かわる Already, not yet, and becoming	もう・まだ・から · く なる · に なる
☐	Unit 22	あげる・もらう Giving and receiving	あげる ・ くれる · もらう
☐	**Review**	**Units 19–22: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 7 · The plain form 短い形

☐	Unit 23	短い形 The plain form, and asking someone not to	短い形 · ない形 · ～ないでください
☐	Unit 24	できること What you can do, what comes first, and だ	～ことが できる · ～まえに · だ ・ じゃ ない
☐	Unit 25	思う・言う What you think and what they said	～と思います · ～と言っていました
☐	Unit 26	た形 The plain past	た形 · た形（用法） · なかった形
☐	**Review**	**Units 23–26: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 8 · Describing and comparing くわしく・くらべる

☐	Unit 27	くわしく Describing a noun, and naming an activity	～ている人 · ～ている人は… · ～のが好きです
☐	Unit 28	くらべる① Comparing two things	より · のほうが · どちらが
☐	Unit 29	くらべる② The most	いちばん · なに/だれ/どこ が いちばん
☐	Unit 30	「の」で言いかえる の standing in for a noun	～の · な の · わたし の
☐	**Review**	**Units 27–30: homework and quizzes again**	

CHAPTER 9 · Plans, experience and reasons 予定・経験・理由

☐	Unit 31	つもり What you intend to do	つもり · ない つもり
☐	Unit 32	経験 Things you have done	～たり～たり · ～ことがある
☐	Unit 33	理由 Explaining why	～んです · ～ので
☐	Unit 34	アドバイス Advice, and what you must and need not do	～ほうがいいです · ～なきゃいけません · ～なくてもいいです
☐	Unit 35	ていねいに Probably, asking politely, and too much	～でしょう · ～でしょうか · ～すぎる
☐	**Review**	**Units 31–35: homework and quizzes again**	

Recommended textbooks

None of these are used in lessons, and none are required. If you want to review on your own between lessons, pick one.

WHICH ONE?

If you want clear English explanations and plenty of practice	**GENKI I**
If you want lots of sentence-pattern drills	**Minna no Nihongo Shokyu I**
If you want to start from zero and study alone	**Japanese From Zero! 1**
If you want practical spoken Japanese, fast	**Japanese for Busy People I**
If you want everyday situations and culture	**Marugoto Starter (A1)**
If you want not to buy a book at all	**Irodori Starter**

GENKI I: An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese

The Japan Times · Book

Good for learners who want clear explanations in English and plenty of practice.

- Grammar is explained in English, so it works well for studying on your own.
- The workbook is sold separately.
- Audio is on the publisher's app, OTO Navi.

Minna no Nihongo Shokyu I

3A Corporation · Book

Good for learners who like repeating sentence patterns until they stick.

- The main book is written entirely in Japanese.
- The English explanations come in a separate book, Translation & Grammatical Notes. You will want both.
- 25 lessons of pattern practice, aimed at the JLPT N5 level.

Japanese From Zero! 1

George Trombley and Yukari Takenaka · Book

Good for complete beginners studying alone.

- Starts in romaji and gradually replaces it with hiragana as you learn.
- The workbook and answer key are inside the same book.
- Free audio online.

Japanese for Busy People I

AJALT, Kodansha · Book

Good for adults who want practical spoken Japanese quickly.

- “Survival Japanese”: it covers less than a full first-year course, on purpose.
- Comes in a Romanized version and a Kana version with the same content.
- Audio for the dialogues and listening exercises is included.

Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1)

The Japan Foundation · Book

Good for learners interested in everyday situations and Japanese culture.

- Two books on the same topics: Katsudoo (activities) and Rikai (language knowledge).
- Audio can be downloaded free from the Japan Foundation website.
- Also offered as a free self-paced online course.

Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan, Starter

The Japan Foundation · Free

Good for learners who do not want to buy a book, or who plan to live or work in Japan.

- The whole book and all its audio are free to download.
- Built around real situations from daily life and work in Japan.
- Plenty of listening practice.

ALSO USEFUL

NHK WORLD-JAPAN: Easy Japanese NHK · Free Short audio lessons with a story. A few minutes a day.

Jisho.org Online dictionary · Free Type English, kana or romaji to see how a word is written and used.

A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar Makino & Tsutsui · Book The long explanation of a grammar point, for when you are curious.

This course is not affiliated with any of the publishers listed here. If you already use one of these, tell your tutor.