



Pimsleur®

Japanese 3

Reading Booklet
&
Culture Notes

Japanese 3

*Travelers should always check with
their nation's State Department for
current advisories on local conditions
before traveling abroad.*

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Introduction

In Japanese 1 and 2, you learned to read both *hiragana* and *katakana*. These Reading Lessons presume a comfortable familiarity with the two alphabets. If you are unfamiliar with these alphabets, you may wish to review those Lessons before proceeding. In this Level, you will be introduced to some *kanji*, the characters which originally came from China. Unlike *hiragana* and *katakana*, which are alphabets with sound value, *kanji* can represent sound and meaning. Additionally, one *Kanji* can have more than one reading, depending on other *kanji* or *hiragana* that it is combined with. Because *kanji* originated in China, some of the pronunciations remain close to the original Chinese sounds. However, many pronunciations were later added to represent words that are unique to Japanese.

This brief introduction to *kanji* will by no means teach you all the characters, nor all the many pronunciations for the thousands of *kanji* that exist. A *kanji* dictionary will provide a complete listing of the various ways of pronouncing a particular character and its multiple meanings. *Kanji* can represent entire words, but they're also often used in conjunction with *hiragana* or other *kanji*. When you read *kanji*, it's helpful to read and grasp the entire meaning of the phrases or sentences first. In these Lessons, many examples of *kanji* will appear in a phrase or sentence

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which was taught in Levels 1 to 3. The sentence or phrase itself, often coupled with *hiragana* and / or *katakana*, will give you clues as to the appropriate meaning and pronunciation of each character.

Kanji can be written right to left in vertical columns or left to right in horizontal lines. In these lessons, we will use the traditional western horizontal left to right format.

For these Reading Lessons, it is assumed that you will have completed both the audio lessons and the Reading Lessons of Japanese Levels 1 and 2. You will be asked to recall words and phrases from all three levels of the course. This will serve to further deepen your memory and understanding of learned vocabulary as well as to begin the work of connecting the words and phrases that you have learned to the written *kanji*. You will also be introduced to new vocabulary, which you'll be able to read based on what is taught, or based on the *katakana* or *hiragana* that you have already learned. You are encouraged to repeat each lesson as often as necessary in order to familiarize yourself with the sounds and shapes of the characters.

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Lesson One

1. アメリカたいしかん
2. バスてい
3. カナダじん
4. まんタン
5. なんキロありますか。
6. クラシックおんがく
7. どんなスポーツをしますか。
8. テニスをします。
9. バasketボールもします。
10. ゴルフのチャンピオン
11. レストランへいきませんか。
12. フィッシャーマンズワーフはどうですか。
13. メニューをどうぞ。
14. あかワイン
15. わたしは しろワイン。
16. ビールが ほしいです。
17. キリンビール
18. おちやとコーヒー
19. ミルクはいりますか。
20. いいえ、ブラックでのみます。

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Lesson One Translations

1. American embassy
2. bus stop
3. Canadian
4. fill
5. How many kilometers?
6. classical music
7. What kind of sports do you do?
8. I play (do) tennis.
9. (I) also play basketball.
10. golf champion
11. Won't you go to a restaurant?
12. How about Fisherman's Wharf?
13. Here's the menu.
14. red wine
15. I'll (have) white wine.
16. I want beer.
17. Kirin beer
18. tea and coffee
19. Do you take (lit. "need") milk?
20. No, I'll drink black.

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Lesson Two

1. チーズケーキ、おねがいします。
2. ピアノが じょうずです。
3. ニューヨークに すんでいます。
4. スミスさんが いらっしゃいます。
5. スミスさんと しゅっちょうします。
6. タクシーは はやいです。
7. まいにち ジョギングをします。
8. コンピューターが うごかないんです。
9. Tシャツを かいます。
10. パーティーが あります。
11. ヘミングウェイのしょうせつ
12. サンフランシスコで かいぎがあります。
13. えきのキオスク
14. ハーバードだいがく
15. ニューヨークに りょこうしたいんです。
16. しんぶんは テーブルのうえです。
17. ゆうびんきょくで きつてをかいます。
18. ぎんこうまで くるまでじゅっぷんです。
19. ピンズラーで ひらがなと かたかなと ...
20. かんじを べんきょうします。

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Lesson Two Translations

1. Cheese cake, please.
2. (Someone) is good at playing piano.
3. I live in New York.
4. Mr. Smith is coming.
5. I will make a business trip with Mr. Smith.
6. Taxi is fast.
7. Every day I do jogging.
8. The computer does not work.
9. I'll buy a T shirt.
10. There's a party.
11. Hemingway's novels
12. There's a meeting in San Francisco.
13. (the) station's kiosk
14. Harvard University
15. I'd like to travel to New York.
16. Newspaper is on the table.
17. At the Post Office, I buy a stamp.
18. It's ten minutes to the bank by car.
19. By (with) Pimsleur *hiragana* and *katakana* and ...
20. kanji (I) study.

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Lesson Three

1. 一
2. 一/ パーティー
3. きって、一まい おねがいます。
4. 一ぽん
5. ビール、一ぽん ください。
6. 一り
7. 一りで かえますか。
8. 一つ
9. いなりずしは すしの 一つです。
10. 二
11. 二がつ
12. 一がつか二がつかに かえます。
13. 二か
14. 二か すごしたいです。
15. 二り
16. 二りおとこのこが います。
17. おんなのこも 一り います。
18. 人
19. にほん人
20. ジョンソンさんは アメリカ人です。

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Lesson Three Translations

1. one (number)
2. one / party
3. Stamp, one sheet please.
4. one (bottle, long cylindrical objects)
5. Beer, one (bottle) give (me) please.
6. one person
7. Are you going back alone?
8. one
9. *inarizushi* is one of the sushi.
10. two
11. February
12. (I)'m going back in January or February.
13. day two, two days
14. (I) want to spend (stay) two days.
15. two persons
16. (I) have two boys.
17. (I) also have one girl.
18. nationality
19. (of) Japanese nationality / Japanese person
20. Mr. Johnson is an American.

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Lesson Four

1. にほん人がくせいが 二り います。
2. 一がつにアメリカ人が 一り きます。
3. 一人
4. 二人
5. あの人
6. こくさいぶの人
7. 三
8. 三人
9. こくさいぶに なん人いますか。
10. ちゅうごく人が 三人います。
11. 日ほん人
12. 日よう日
13. 日ほんご / どよう日
14. まい日
15. 二日
16. 三日
17. なん日? 二、三日。
18. なん人? 二人。
19. ともだちが 二、三人います。
20. きょうは なんよう日ですか。

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Lesson Four Translations

1. There are two Japanese students.
2. In January, one American is coming.
3. one person
4. two people
5. that person
6. people in International Affairs Department
7. three
8. three people
9. How many people are in the International Affairs Department?
10. There are three Chinese people.
11. Japanese people (person)
12. Sunday
13. Japanese language / Saturday
14. every day
15. two days
16. three days
17. How many days? Two or three days.
18. How many people? Two people.
19. (I) have a few friends (two or three).
20. What day of the week is it today?

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Lesson Five

1. きんよう日に 日ほんのともだちが きました。
2. ともだちは ボストンに 二日いました。
3. シカゴにも 二、三日いました。
4. 白
5. 白ワイン
6. 百
7. 二百
8. 三百
9. 十
10. 十一
11. 二百三十一
12. 木
13. にわに 木が あります。
14. 木よう日
15. 木よう日に さくらの木をかいました。
16. 本
17. 日本人
18. ビール、一本
19. 三本
20. 白ワイン 一ぱい

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Lesson Five Translations

1. On Friday a Japanese friend came.
2. The friend stayed in Boston for two days.
3. (He) stayed in Chicago also for two or three days.
4. white (color)
5. white wine
6. hundred
7. two hundred
8. three hundred
9. ten (number)
10. eleven
11. two hundred thirty-one
12. wood / tree
13. In the garden, there's a tree(s).
14. Thursday
15. On Thursday, (I) bought a cherry tree.
16. book(s)
17. Japanese person
18. beer, one bottle
19. three bottles
20. white wine, one glass

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Lesson Six

1. 木よう日のクラスは 三十人います。
2. 白くろのえいがをみました。
3. 四
4. 四十
5. 四じ
6. 四じ十ふん
7. 四つ
8. 四つのきせつ
9. 四き
10. 日本の四きは きれいです。
11. 大きい
12. こどもは大きいです。
13. 大がく
14. 大すき
15. 大がくは 大きいです。
16. 小さい
17. 小さいこどもが 二人います。
18. 小せつ
19. 大がくで 小せつを たくさんよみました。
20. バスは 四じ二十ふんに きます。

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Lesson Six Translations

1. Thursday's class, there are thirty people.
2. (I) saw a black and white movie. [white and black – Japanese order]
3. four
4. forty
5. four o'clock
6. 4:10 (four ten) / ten past four
7. four
8. four seasons
9. four seasons (formal)
10. Japan's four seasons are beautiful.
11. big
12. The child is big.
13. college
14. like very much
15. The college is big.
16. small
17. I have two small children.
18. novel
19. At college, (I) read many novels.
20. The bus comes at 4:20.

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Lesson Seven

1. ヘミングウェイの 小せつが 大すぎです。
2. わたしのくるまは 小さいです。
3. 八
4. 八十三
5. 八百
6. 八百二十
7. 上
8. テーブルの上
9. 日本ごの 本は テーブルの上に あります。
10. 上げます
11. おかねを 上げます。
12. 下
13. ノートの下
14. ボールペンはテーブルの下に あります。
15. 下さい
16. ドルを下さい。
17. きいて下さい。
18. 六
19. がくせいが 六人います。
20. 六百

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Lesson Seven Translations

1. (I) like Hemingway's novel(s) very much.
2. My car is small.
3. eight
4. eighty three
5. eight hundred
6. eight hundred twenty
7. on
8. on (top of) the table
9. The Japanese book is on the table.
10. give
11. (I) will give (you) some money.
12. under (location)
13. underneath the notebook
14. There's a ball point pen under the table.
15. (Please) give (me)
16. (Please) give (me) dollars.
17. Please listen.
18. six (number)
19. There are six students.
20. six hundred

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Lesson Eight

1. くるまの下に ねこがいます。
2. しんぶんの上に なにがありますか。
3. 八百ドル下さい。
4. いいえ、六百ドル上げます。
5. 千
6. 六千
7. 八千
8. 八千六百
9. 六千八百
10. 三千
11. 三千三百
12. 中
13. バスの中
14. しんかんせんの 中で たべました。
15. 中ごく
16. 中がっこう
17. 中がっこうのとき、テニスをしました。
18. 五
19. 五千
20. 五千五百五十五

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Lesson Eight Translations

1. There's a cat under the car.
2. What is on (top of) the newspaper?
3. (Please) give (me) eight hundred dollars.
4. No, (I) will give (you) six hundred dollars.
5. thousand
6. six thousand
7. eight thousand
8. eight thousand six hundred
9. six thousand eight hundred
10. three thousand
11. three thousand three hundred
12. inside
13. inside the bus
14. (I) ate in the Shinkansen.
15. China, literally, "middle country"
16. middle school
17. (I) played tennis when I was in middle school.
18. five
19. five thousand
20. five thousand five hundred fifty-five

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Lesson Nine

1. ホテルの中に きっさてんが あります。
2. クラスに 中ごく人が 二人います。
3. 円
4. 一ドルは 円で いくらですか。
5. 円を いくら もっていますか。
6. 七
7. 七千七百七十七
8. 七じ
9. まい日 七じはんのバスに のります。
10. まい月
11. まい月 おまつりが あります。
12. 月が きれいです。
13. 月よう日
14. 月よう日に 日本ごのクラスが あります。
15. 七月
16. 八月に りょこうします。
17. 九じ
18. コンサートは 九じに はじまります。
19. 九十
20. 九千九百九十九

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Lesson Nine Translations

1. In the hotel, there's a coffee shop.
2. In class, there are two Chinese people.
3. Japanese monetary unit, yen
4. How much yen is one dollar?
5. How much yen do you have?
6. seven
7. seven thousand seven hundred seventy-seven
8. seven o'clock
9. Everyday (I) take 7:30 bus.
10. every month
11. Every month, there's festival.
12. The moon is beautiful.
13. Monday
14. On Monday, there is Japanese class.
15. July
16. In August, (I)'ll travel.
17. nine o'clock
18. The concert starts at nine o'clock.
19. ninety
20. Nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine

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Lesson Ten

1. 七じ / 七月
2. 九月 / 九十
3. こん月
4. らい月パーティがあります。
5. まい月 / 月よう日
6. 水
7. 水を のみたいんですが。
8. つめたい水を 下さい。
9. 水よう日
10. 日よう日、月よう日、水よう日
11. 万
12. 二万
13. 三万九千七百
14. 火
15. 火は あついです。
16. 火よう日
17. 火よう日に しゅっちょうします。
18. お金
19. お金を もっていますか。
20. 金よう日

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Lesson Ten Translations

1. seven o'clock / July
2. September / ninety
3. this month
4. Next month there's a party.
5. every month / Monday
6. water
7. I'd like to drink water.
8. Please give (me) cold water.
9. Wednesday
10. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday
11. ten thousand
12. twenty thousand
13. thirty-nine thousand seven hundred
14. fire
15. Fire is hot.
16. Tuesday
17. On Tuesday, I'm taking a business trip.
18. money
19. Do you have money?
20. Friday

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Lesson Eleven

1. お金を 五万円下さい。
2. 金요일に たちます。
3. キャンプファイアーの火
4. 火요일か水요일
5. 土요일
6. 土요일に カラオケに 行きました。
7. 半
8. 六時半
9. ひこうきは 九時半に つきました。
10. 山
11. 山に のぼりました。
12. 山本さん
13. 山下さん
14. ふじ山
15. なんたい山
16. 川
17. 川でおよぎました。
18. 山川さん
19. 山下さんと 山川さんは ...
20. アップルのかいしゃにいます。

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Lesson Eleven Translations

1. Please give (me) fifty thousand yen.
2. (I)'ll leave on Friday.
3. campfire's fire
4. Tuesday or Wednesday
5. Saturday
6. (I) went to karaoke on Saturday.
7. half past
8. half past six
9. The airplane arrived at nine thirty.
10. mountain
11. (I) climbed a mountain.
12. (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss) Yamamoto
13. (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss) Yamashita
14. Mt. Fuji
15. Mt. Nantai
16. river
17. (I) swam in the river.
18. (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss) Yamakawa
19. Mr. Yamashita and Mr. Yamakawa ...
20. (are) at Apple company.

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Lesson Twelve

1. 土よう日は 九じ半に おきます。
2. 山本せんせいは 日本ごを おしえています。
3. 少し
4. 円を 少し もっています。
5. ドルを少し下さい。
6. 少ない
7. ゆきが 少ないです。
8. アリゾナは あめが 少ないです。
9. 少々
10. 少々おまち下さい。
11. おさとうを 少々いれます。
12. 出ます
13. ひこうきは 十じに出ます。
14. パーティに出ますか。
15. 出ちょう
16. よく 出ちょうします。
17. 出します
18. ともだちに てがみを 出しました。
19. 出ます / 出します
20. 山下さんは その本を 少しよみました。

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Lesson Twelve Translations

1. On Saturday(s), (I) get up at nine thirty.
2. Prof. Yamamoto teaches Japanese language.
3. a little, small (quantity)
4. (I) have a little yen.
5. Give (me) a few dollars.
6. a little (quantity)
7. There's a little snow.
8. There's a little rain in Arizona.
9. a little
10. Wait a minute (lit. "a little bit") please (very polite).
11. (You) will put a little sugar.
12. to depart, to leave, to attend
13. The plane leaves at ten o'clock.
14. Are you going to attend the party?
15. business trip(s)
16. (I) often times make business trips.
17. to send
18. (I) sent a letter to a friend.
19. to leave / to send
20. Mr. Yamashita read that book a little.

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Lesson Thirteen

1. 出ちょうのとき 六じに うちを出ます。
2. 円とドルが少しあります。
3. 入ります
4. おふろに 入ります。
5. 入りぐち
6. えきの入りぐちは たくさんあります。
7. 田
8. 田中
9. 田中さんは ヨーロッパに 出ちょうします。
10. 山田
11. 田中さんと山田さんは エンジニアです。
12. 子ども
13. 子どもが 三人います。
14. 山川さんは 子どもが 一人います。
15. 男
16. 男の子
17. 三人男の子が います。
18. 女
19. 女の子
20. その女の子は スキーが じょうずです。

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Lesson Thirteen Translations

1. At the time of the business trip, (I) am going to leave the house at six o'clock.
2. (I) have a little yen and dollars.
3. enter
4. (I) enter (take) a bath.
5. entrance
6. There are many entrances at the station.
7. rice paddy-field
8. Tanaka
9. Mr. Tanaka takes a business trip to Europe.
10. Yamada
11. Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Yamada are engineers.
12. child(ren)
13. There are three children.
14. Mr. Yamakawa has one child.
15. male
16. boy
17. (I) have three boys.
18. female
19. girl
20. That girl is good at skiing.

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Lesson Fourteen

1. 子どもさんは なん人いますか。
2. 男の子が二人、女の子が一人います。
3. 何
4. 何ですか。
5. 何か のむもの
6. きのうち、何を かいましたか。
7. あの人は 何人ですか。
8. 時かん
9. 九時
10. 何時ですか。
11. ひまな時
12. 中がっこうの時、ピアノを しました。
13. 父
14. 父は 四十八さいです。
15. お父さん
16. 山下さんの お父さんは いしゃです。
17. 母
18. 母は かんごしです。
19. お母さん
20. 田中さんのお母さんは せんせいです。

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Lesson Fourteen Translations

1. How many children do you have?
2. (I) have two boys, one girl.
3. what
4. What is it (that)?
5. something to drink
6. What did you buy yesterday?
7. What nationality is that person?
8. time, hour
9. nine o'clock
10. What time is it?
11. free time
12. When I was in middle school, I did (played) piano.
13. (my) father
14. (My) father is forty-eight years old.
15. (somebody's) father
16. Mr. Yamashita's father is a medical doctor.
17. (your own) mother
18. (My) mother is a nurse.
19. (somebody's) mother
20. Mr. Tanaka's mother is teacher.

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Lesson Fifteen

1. 日本ごのクラスに 何人いますか。
2. ひまな時、テニスをしませんか。
3. 文
4. 文かいさん
5. 日本文か
6. 目
7. 目の いろ
8. 目が いたいです。
9. 見ます
10. 見て下さい。
11. テレビのニュースを 見ます。
12. 字
13. かん字
14. 田中さんは 字が きれいです。
15. 学
16. 大学
17. 学こう
18. 中学こう
19. 天き
20. 天きよほう

Japanese 3

Lesson Fifteen Translations

1. How many people in the Japanese class?
2. When you're free, won't you play tennis (with me)?
3. sentence(s), writing(s)
4. cultural heritage(s)
5. Japanese culture
6. eye(s)
7. eye color
8. Eye (s) is hurting (painful).
9. see, watch
10. Look at (me, it).
11. (I) watch TV news.
12. letter, character
13. Chinese characters
14. Mr. Tanaka's handwriting is beautiful.
15. to study
16. college
17. school
18. middle school
19. weather
20. weather forecast

Japanese 3

Lesson Sixteen

1. えいがを 見ませんか。
2. 父は大学で べんきょうしました。
3. 気
4. びょう気
5. 天気
6. 石
7. 石のにわ
8. この 石のにわは ゆうめいです。
9. 右
10. ぎんこうは 右にあります。
11. 左
12. 左に まがって下さい。
13. 右ですか、左ですか。
14. 食べます
15. 何を 食べましたか。
16. スパゲッティとサラダを 食べました。
17. 食じ
18. ちょう食つき
19. 食べものは おいしいです。
20. ちょう食は 何にしますか。

Japanese 3

Lesson Sixteen Translations

1. Won't you see the movie (with me?)
2. My father studied at the college.
3. spirit
4. sickness
5. weather
6. stone, rock
7. rock garden
8. This rock garden is famous.
9. right
10. The bank is on the right.
11. left
12. Turn to the left please.
13. Is it right, is it left?
14. eat
15. What did (you) eat?
16. (I) ate spaghetti and salad.
17. meal
18. breakfast included
19. The food is delicious.
20. What are you going to have for breakfast?

Japanese 3

Lesson Seventeen

1. 右は ゆうびんきょく。
2. 左は マクドナルドです。
3. 飲みます
4. 何を 飲みますか。
5. 水を 飲みましょう。
6. 飲りょう水
7. 飲食てん
8. 行きます
9. 日よう日は 学こうに行きません。
10. りょ行
11. 六月に りょ行します。
12. ぎん行に 行きます。
13. 来ます
14. 父と母は 五月に 日本に 来ます。
15. 行って来ます。
16. 来しゅう
17. 来しゅうの 火よう日は 何日ですか。
18. 来月
19. 来月は 何月ですか。
20. 来ねん 日本に行きます。

Japanese 3

Lesson Seventeen Translations

1. Right is the post office.
2. Left is McDonald's.
3. drink
4. What are you going to drink?
5. Let's drink water.
6. drinking water
7. an eating house; restaurant
8. go
9. (I) don't go to school on Sunday.
10. trip, travel
11. (I) travel in June.
12. (I)'ll go to the bank.
13. come
14. (my) Father and mother are coming to Japan in May.
15. I'm leaving.
16. next week
17. What day is next Tuesday?
18. next month
19. What month is the next month?
20. Next year (I) am going to Japan.

Japanese 3

Lesson Eighteen

1. レストランに行って、ビールを飲みました。
2. きょう ぎん行に 行きました。
3. 口
4. 口を あけて下さい。
5. 出口
6. すみません。 出口は どこですか。
7. 入口
8. かいざつ口
9. 元気
10. お元気ですか。
11. きょうは元気です。
12. 学生
13. せん生
14. 先生
15. ともだちのお父さんは 先生です。
16. 先しゅう
17. 月よう日
18. 先月
19. 五分
20. 四時三十五分

Japanese 3

Lesson Eighteen Translations

1. (I) went to the restaurant (and) drank beer.
2. Yesterday I went to the bank.
3. mouth
4. Open the mouth please.
5. exit
6. Excuse me. Where's the exit?
7. entrance
8. ticket gate
9. healthy (in good health)
10. How are you? (How is your health?)
11. Today I'm in good health.
12. student
13. teacher
14. instructor, teacher
15. Friend's father is teacher.
16. last week
17. Monday
18. last month
19. five minutes
20. 4:35

Japanese 3

Lesson Nineteen

1. 出口と入口が たくさんあります。
2. 六時十五分に あいましょう。
3. 十分
4. 五分 / 十分
5. 今
6. 今、何時ですか。
7. 今月
8. 今月は 何月ですか。
9. 今ばん、えいがを見ます。
10. 京
11. 京子
12. 東京
13. 京子さんは 今月 東京に行きます
14. 東口
15. ボストンは アメリカの東です。
16. 友だち
17. 京子さんは 友だちが たくさんいます。
18. 名まえ
19. すみません。 お名まえは？
20. 田中京子と もうします。

Japanese 3

Lesson Nineteen Translations

1. There are many exits and entrances.
2. Let's meet at 6:05.
3. ten minutes
4. five minutes / ten minutes
5. now
6. What time is it now?
7. this month
8. What month is this month?
9. Tonight, (I) am going to see the movie.
10. capital
11. Kyoko (female name)
12. Tokyo
13. Ms. Kyoko is going to Tokyo this month.
14. east exit / east entrance
15. Boston is east in America.
16. friend(s)
17. Kyoko has many friends.
18. name
19. Excuse me. (What's) your name?
20. I am called Kyoko Tanaka.

Japanese 3

Lesson Twenty

1. 今、東京えきの東口で まっています。
2. あの人の名まえは 何ですか。
3. 名前
4. 京子さんは ぎん行の前に います。
5. 三時二十分前
6. ご前
7. ご前七時十五分
8. 午前
9. 午後
10. 東京は今、午前ですか。
11. いいえ、午後です。
12. 後ろ
13. うちの後ろに スーパーがあります。
14. ジョンさんの 後ろに 先生が います。
15. 曜
16. 日曜日
17. 火曜日は 日本ごの クラスが あります。
18. 言います
19. もういちど 言って下さい。
20. 月曜日の午後に かいぎが あります。

Japanese 3

Lesson Twenty Translations

1. Now, (I) am waiting at the east exit of Tokyo Station.
2. What is that person's name?
3. name
4. Kyoko is in front of the bank.
5. twenty minutes to three
6. AM
7. 7:15 AM
8. AM
9. afternoon
10. Is it morning in Tokyo now?
11. No, it's the afternoon.
12. back, behind
13. Behind the house, there's a supermarket.
14. Behind John, there's a teacher.
15. the day of a week
16. Sunday
17. There is Japanese language class on Tuesday.
18. to say
19. Say one more time please.
20. There will be a meeting Monday afternoon.



Pimsleur[®]

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Culture Notes

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*Travelers should always check with
their nation's State Department for
current advisories on local conditions
before traveling abroad.*

Booklet Design: Maia Kennedy

Second Edition

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Notes on Japanese Culture and Communication

These are the Culture Notes for Pimsleur's *Japanese 3*. The objective of this program is to introduce you to the language and culture of Japan primarily through your ears, and only secondarily through your eyes.

This approach is based upon the fact that more than 95 percent of our lives is spent in listening and talking, and less than 5 percent in reading and writing. The most effective and productive way to begin acquiring these necessary communication skills is by actually working with the "language in use," as demonstrated by native speakers of the language being learned.

Efficiency is greatly increased when what you learn first are the most-frequently-used structures and daily life vocabulary, so that you practice with the practical tools you require every day. This carefully selected "core-language" allows the tutor on the audio to keep you focused entirely on essential language. This is self-motivating because you will begin to use it immediately and successfully.

As you learn the language, you are absorbing the culture. Language and culture are so closely intertwined that learning them separately can make you literally "culturally-deprived," that is, unable to produce appropriate and meaningful language. For

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this reason you must carefully notice the different ways the Japanese "act" in the various situations you will experience. Being sensitive to "who is doing what to whom, and why" is what you have learned to do almost unconsciously in your native tongue — you will attain this same sense of "awareness" as you gain proficiency in your new language. This implicit instruction will come from the lessons, as you learn to identify the intonation and melody of the speakers. This Audio will provide additional explicit instruction to further confirm what you have learned.

Acquiring the culture, "the map of the territory," is like acquiring the terminology of a subject: it enables you to operate as a fellow member in that society. Your success in working with native speakers of Japanese will depend upon how sensitive you become to the accumulated heritage that is Japanese.

The Weather as a Topic for Small Talk

The weather makes a nice topic for small talk that helps break the ice and makes it easy to initiate a conversation with just about any Japanese, including a complete stranger. Generally speaking, Japan has four distinct seasons, and the climatic change from one season to another is usually predictable.

While the Japanese ordinarily use the Western calendar system, they tend to follow the lunar

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calendar for traditional festivals, for rice farming, and as a guide for seasonal changes of weather. For instance, February 4th on the lunar calendar marks the beginning of spring, when in fact it is in the middle of winter. It is a good month before it actually gets warm in many parts of Japan. Psychologically, however, many people in Japan feel relieved on that day, prepared to welcome a warmer and more colorful season than the cold, damp, gray winter that they have put up with until then. From that day on, *atatakaku narimashita ne*, or, "It's gotten warmer, hasn't it," is an appropriate expression for greeting someone.

Likewise, August 7th is considered to be the beginning of fall, although it is still very hot in Japan, except in the northern regions such as Hokkaido. The Japanese exchange mid-summer postcards, inquiring how their friends are doing and wishing one another good health during the hot summer. After August 7th the card is called a "late summer greeting card," instead of "hot season inquiry card," which is the name used for the card through August 6th. In sum, the Japanese are generally keen on weather, and it makes a good topic for an initial conversation, with slight variations in temperature being noted and commented on.

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***tsuyu*: The Rainy Season**

tsuyu refers to the annual rainy season in Japan. The beginning of the rainy season varies, depending on the region. In Okinawa, where it begins earliest, you may expect to have a lot of rainy days from early May to early June. In the southernmost island of Kyushu, it starts about one month later, from early June to early July. If you go all the way up to the Tohoku region, the northernmost part of the island of Honshu, the rainy season begins in mid-June and ends a month later. The northernmost island of Hokkaido does not have a rainy season. Unlike the rainy season in Southeast Asia, where they get heavy rain every day for a set time, the Japanese *tsuyu* is characterized by many consecutive drizzly days, with occasional days of severe weather. Heavy rains sometimes cause floods and landslides, and several casualties are reported every year. Although the description of such weather sounds rather gloomy, the rain is essential to growing rice, the Japanese staple. The amount of rainfall during the *tsuyu* affects not only the farmers, but the entire national economy. The rain is welcomed, despite the gloomy feelings and the possibility of disaster it can bring. You may enjoy yourself far more, however, if you can avoid traveling to Japan during the rainy season.

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Self-Introduction, Japanese-Style

In the past, Japanese society tended to place attainment of the company goal above the individual's. This tendency, however, may often be overstressed in cross-cultural comparative analyses, as in fact it seems to be changing rapidly in today's Japanese society. The long-standing social habits are persistent, however, and you will notice that most Japanese people will announce their company or school names followed by their individual names in self-introductions.

It may be hard for you to understand what the person actually does in the company, since asking his or her title, position, or rank, is not easy. That is one of the reasons why the Japanese almost always exchange their business cards immediately upon meeting someone. The company name, the person's position, and the individual name are all written on the small piece of paper, and the Japanese feel comfortable letting the card represent them.

The business card, *meishi*, is extremely important in all business situations. It is absolutely necessary to have a stack of *meishi* at all times. Having your *meishi* made in two languages, one side in English and the other in Japanese, will be very useful. Normally, a younger or lower-ranking person will offer his card first, turned so the other person can read it immediately. After exchanging your *meishi* with someone, you need to carefully — and slowly — study the in-

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formation on the card you have been given. It is also considered good manners to leave the other person's *meishi* on the table throughout the meeting so you can always refer to the information on the card.

Taking Pictures

The Japanese typically enjoy taking pictures, as well as having theirs taken. In the U.S., you may have been asked to take their photos as they pose in groups in front of tourist spots. Do not be surprised to see groups of young people, especially females, posing with their index and middle fingers sticking up, forming "v-signs." They may not know the original meaning associated with it, but nevertheless it is a most popular pose.

The technological advancement in photography has made available a wide variety of picture-taking instruments ranging from disposable cameras and digital cameras to video cameras installed on mobile phones. The large number of Japanese who carry mobile phones are always ready to take pictures and even send them to their family and friends. Be prepared to pose in front of your Japanese friends and associates for instant photo sessions!

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Making Compliments

It is considered proper etiquette to compliment someone you know, particularly when the relationship is formal and still in an early stage of development.

You will find that the Japanese are very good at finding things to praise: the place you live, your garden, your clothes, your haircut, hairdo, and even hair color, as well as many other things that are not necessarily the outcome of your own efforts. The Japanese will often compliment you on your use of chopsticks since they believe that Westerners never eat with chopsticks. They are most likely to say how good your Japanese is even when you say only a few, fundamental words. In all cases it is both appropriate and polite to respond with a humble disclaimer.

***kokusaika*: The International Boom**

Living in an island country with no shared borders, the Japanese naturally need to look overseas for economic trade, technological enhancements, cultural exchange, etc. This growing trend accounts for the Japanese interest in *kokusaika* or "internationalization." People who have experience in foreign languages and have lived abroad are valued in many corporations.

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You will notice that there are many English conversation schools in the cities and towns. Many colleges and other educational facilities, such as community centers, also place their focus on developing English and other foreign language skills. People who actually possess appropriate skills and experiences are often rewarded and more quickly promoted within a company. Being a native speaker of English, you may be approached on the street by complete strangers who would like to test their ability to communicate in English. Such a sudden and unexpected address is not intended to be rude: the Japanese do not mean to offend you.

To Add an "o" or Not?

The Japanese often add o to the beginning of a word to make it polite, such as *onomimono* ("Drinks?") when asked by a waitress at a restaurant. Whether and when to add o is a very difficult question as there is no formal rule. Several patterns are present, however. When you ask about the person you are speaking to, especially if the person is above you in age, position, status, etc., you often add o such as *oshigoto wa nan desu ka?* ("What is your job?") You should not respond to the question by saying, *watashi no oshigoto wa ...* ("my job is ...") You might also have heard someone complimenting your Japanese by saying *nihongo ga ojozu desu ne.* ("Your Japanese is good, isn't it?") Do not respond,

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ie, mada ojozu ja arimasen ("No, not good yet.") A general rule is that you do not add *o* when referring to yourself.

Friendly People in Service Industries

People in service industries in Japan, such as department stores, restaurants, hotels, and travel agencies are generally very kind and eager to help their customers. They try to please you by smiling and speaking in polite language. They greet you by saying *irasshaimase* meaning "Welcome," or "Thank you for coming." When you stop at a gas station in a car, for instance, several attendants will come rushing to your car, saying *irasshaimase*. They will wash your windows, dispose of any rubbish in your car, offer to check the engine, etc. They even stop the traffic in the street for you to pull out without difficulty.

Sometimes American visitors to Japan mistake the professional courtesy as a personal offer of friendship. You should remember that it is generally part of the service provided and probably does not represent personal interest in you. Misreading someone's friendly façade may sometimes lead to an embarrassing situation.

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Alcoholic Beverages in Japan

Beer is one of the most popular drinks in Japan. You will find it served in virtually every restaurant, whether casual or formal; in small food stands at such places as baseball stadiums and train stations; and even in the street. There are many vending machines for beer as well. Business people often start a dinner meeting with a beer, and then shift to stronger drinks such as wine, *sake*, and whiskey. Beer plays an important role in breaking the ice.

Some restaurants favor one brand of beer over another. In each brand there are several kinds available, such as lager, draft, and dark draft. Draft beer is particularly popular in Japan.

Another interesting thing you will find is "beer gardens," usually on the roofs of buildings in large cities. They are usually open from May to October, and they attract a large number of people on their way home from work. Drinking beer with your Japanese acquaintances may help develop personal and business relationships.

English Loan Words

There are many words that were taken from English, and have been adopted in Japanese, such as *nooto* (notebook), *teeburu* (table) and *booru* pen (ballpoint pen). In conversations between business

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associates, there are likely to be a number of such words, especially if they involve computer related topics such as *konpyuuta* (computer), *nettowaku* (network), and *meeru* (mail). The words, however, are pronounced very differently. They are frequently shortened, and they often have slightly different meanings than in English. *kopii* can refer to a photocopy of a document, a copy machine, or even advertising copy. *eakon* is short for air conditioner, *apo* for appointment, *purezen* comes from presentation, and *nego* from negotiation. *naitaa* is a combination of "night" and "er" and is used for a night baseball game. Although these words originally come from English, they are often difficult for native speakers of English to understand. This is sometimes frustrating to the Japanese speakers who believe that they are using "English words" as they would be used in communication among native speakers of English.

Vacations

Traveling and camping are some of the typical ways for the Japanese to spend their leisure time. There is a major difference, however, in the way vacations are perceived in Japan and in the West. In Japan, most vacations are taken throughout the country during three "vacation periods" which coincide with three major national holidays. The first one is from the end of April to the beginning of May, which is actually a series of different national

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holidays and is known as "Golden Week." The second vacation time is in the middle of school summer vacation in mid-August and coincides with the "Obon festival," a Buddhist holiday to worship dead souls. And the last one is at the end of the year when people return to their hometowns to celebrate the beginning of a new year with their relatives. You may want to think twice about traveling to Japan at these times as it is extremely hard to make reservations for transportation or lodging then.

onsen: Hot Springs

The Japanese are very fond of bathing in hot springs. The hot water that comes out of each spring is classified by its content, varying in such qualities as the amount of iron, sulfur, and magnesium it contains, as well as the degree of transparency. You will find a number of hotels, with various other leisure facilities, established around the hot springs, which serve as tourist centers. They are advertised according to the effects that the hot springs are expected to bring. Some of them are said to be good for the treatment of neuralgia, rheumatism, and healing external wounds; some are expected to help you keep your skin youthful and moist. Many Japanese enjoy a relaxing overnight trip to a hot spring resort with their families, a group of friends, or co-workers.

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As a visitor to Japan, you need to be prepared for your first trip to a hot spring. Before you jump into the bath, you have to thoroughly wash your body outside of the bath, and only after that can you go into the swimming-pool-size bath which is shared by many other people. It is also noteworthy that some baths are outside, which Japanese people particularly enjoy. The temperature of the water is around 105° degrees Fahrenheit, considerably hotter than in America, and, as in hot tubs, one should not stay in too long. There are usually separate baths for men and for women, and the baths are generally entered unclothed.

Staying in a *ryokan*, a Japanese-style Inn

While in Japan you may want to consider staying at a traditional Japanese-style inn called a *ryokan*. While there are many Western-style hotels in the urban areas across the country, in the remote resort areas, you will find primarily *ryokan* and very few hotels.

After checking in at a *ryokan*, you will be escorted to your *tatami* (straw mat) room by a kimono-wearing woman who will carry your luggage for you. She is usually assigned to several rooms and is in charge of making the guests' stay as comfortable as it can be. In your room she will serve you a cup of tea as a welcome and give you basic information about the hotel, such as the locations of fire exits and other

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facilities. Before leaving the room, she will then ask you what time you would like to have dinner. If you wish to tip, this is the right moment to do so. You are tipping for the hospitality in advance rather than for the service already provided.

Dinner is usually delivered to your room, and it consists of a number of small dishes of fish, meat, and vegetables that are specialties in the particular area. You will be asked what you wish to drink. After dinner you may choose to take a walk, watch TV (which you will find in your room), go to a bar, or do some shopping in a souvenir store in the *ryokan*. In most *ryokan*, particularly in hot spring resort areas, there is a large public bath. You may go native and try relaxing along with other Japanese tourists. Should you decide not to use the public bath, however, you can use the one in your room.

In the evening, the "futon crew" will set up a futon (a Japanese-style mattress which is spread on the floor) in your room. Your hostess will ask you what time you wish to have your breakfast the next day. Most *ryokan* in Japan are quite hospitable, offering extended personal services to their guests, and the price for a night in a *ryokan* is either comparable to staying in a Western-style hotel or slightly higher as the service provided is more personal. The bill will typically include a one-night stay, dinner, and breakfast.

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Referring to Colleagues and Supervisors

As you know, Japanese people usually use *san* after one's name to show respect. However, there are times when this is not the case. For instance, when you speak to an outside group member, you would refer to your inside-group colleague without *san* at the end of his or her name. You may be surprised to hear someone refer to his or her superior, including even the president of the company, without *san*. This is in contrast to how you refer to your boss in the U.S. It is common for an American secretary to say, for instance, "Mr. Gordon is out of his office at the moment" or "Dr. Johnson will be here later."

Japanese often show their politeness by "humbling" not only themselves, but all those who belong to their *uchi*, or inside group. As you have learned that Japanese are concerned about politeness in their communication, it may come as a surprise at first when you hear them referring to their superiors without *san*, but it is a norm strongly adhered to. Likewise when you do business with the Japanese, you are expected not to call your supervisor "Mr. Smith" or "Ms. Johnson." You always need to place yourself and people of your own group below the person with whom you communicate in a formal setting.

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***gurai / kurai*: "Approximately"**

gurai means "about" or "approximately," and it is used in a variety of contexts. *gurai* may also be pronounced *kurai* depending on the pronunciation of the word it follows. It has been stressed a number of times that the Japanese tend to be flexible in their communication. *gurai* is another example. It can be used both in questions, such as *dono gurai kakarimasu ka?* ("How long does it take?") and in responses, such as *nijuppun gurai desu* ("It takes twenty minutes.") Rather than directly expressing a lack of commitment or an uncertainty, this indicates that the answer is probably correct, but is subject to other outside influences beyond the speaker's control. Thus, when a Japanese says, *nijuppun gurai desu*, he or she implies, "I believe that it will probably take about twenty minutes, but I could be wrong because of the traffic and other conditions. If I am wrong, I am sorry."

Feeling Unwell

Getting sick in a foreign country, where you do not have sufficient language ability to communicate about your illness effectively, can be stressful. Here are some useful words you may need to use when describing your symptoms to a doctor, pharmacist, or friends. When you have a cold, you can simply say *kaze desu*, which literally means "It is a cold." *kaze* also means a wind, and the Japanese may associate

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the typical winter disease with strong winds. *itai* means a pain or "hurts," so when you have a pain or an ache, you say *itai* after the part of your body that hurts: *atama ga itai* (head hurts — "I have a headache"), *nodo ga itai* (throat hurts — "I have a sore throat"), *onaka ga itai* (stomach hurts — "I have a stomach ache"), *ashi ga itai* (foot or leg hurts), *ha ga itai* (a tooth hurts), etc.

There are, of course, other symptoms that are more complicated and difficult to describe. When you have a fever, you say *netsu ga arimasu* ("I have a fever"). Note that in Japan the temperature is given in Centigrade, and the normal temperature of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit which translates into 37 degrees Centigrade. If you have diarrhea, you need to say *geri desu*. *benpi* means constipation. If you got sick and vomited, you would say *modoshi mashita*, which literally means "I have returned it." You do not want to have to use these expressions while in Japan, but not knowing them at all when you have to is even worse. You should try to remember the minimal expressions, and the following list of words may be useful in describing your symptoms.

memei ga shimasu: I feel dizzy.

ashikubi o nenza shimashita: I sprained my ankle.

hakike ga shimasu: I have nausea.

samuke ga shimasu: I have a chill.

seki ga demasu: I have a cough.

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yubi o yakedo shimashita: I burned my finger.

keiren shimashita: I had a cramp.

Communicating through an Interpreter

You have acquired basic expressions that you will find quite useful in daily conversation with your Japanese associates. When you attend a meeting, however, the level of competency required to attain your professional goals is quite high, and that is when you will communicate through an interpreter. Though you may be able to carry on a casual conversation in Japanese, it is advisable to use a professional interpreter in order to ensure a high level of understanding. While it may be time-consuming, and expensive at times, communicating through an interpreter can give you some advantages. The contents of communication may be officially recorded, as the interpreter remains as a neutral liaison between you and your Japanese counterparts. Make sure you learn an appropriate way to communicate through an interpreter. As the interpreter finishes translating what you have just stated, it is the other party's turn to speak and your turn to listen even if you haven't finished making your point. People who are unaccustomed to using an interpreter often forget this rule of conversation.

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***kaigi*: Meetings**

As is sometimes the case in U.S. organizations, Japanese business meetings are frequent and long. But given the Japanese people's concern for harmony, avoiding loss of face, and their indirect manner of communication, their meetings are often much longer than their U.S. counterparts. These meetings can be stressful for Americans seeking rapid resolutions to questions and problems. If you are to conduct business with the Japanese, you should be prepared for what often appears to be a waste of time and manpower. Since direct confrontation is not the Japanese way of dealing with conflict, meetings are viewed as places providing the opportunity to sense the general direction of people's ideas, rather than as places for argument and debate. The Japanese view a decision as something that emerges by itself after a long discussion, whereas Americans tend to think they "make" decisions. The Japanese say *kimaru*, which is a passive form for "decide"; they seldom say *kimeru*, the active form. You may at times be frustrated by the Japanese people's seemingly slow process toward a decision, but to succeed in business in Japan you will need to be aware of the differences.

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***kanpai*: "Dry your Cup"**

When you attend a party in Japan, small or large, formal or informal, *kanpai* (a toast) is very common. The host, the eldest person attending the party, or an honorable member designated by the host, is usually the one who proposes the toast. After a brief speech celebrating the party, the toast master will say, *kanpai*, which means "dry your cup." You are not, however, expected to finish your drink in one gulp. Instead, after sipping it, you need to put your glass on the table and clap your hands, showing your gratitude to the host, or celebrating the occasion. At a formal party it is usually after the *kanpai* that people engage in casual conversation. Japanese commonly do only one *kanpai* per party.

***tokorode*: "By the Way"**

tokorode is a word used to introduce a new topic in a conversation. Its closest English translation is "by the way." *tokorode*, however, carries a subtly different nuance than that of "by the way." Not only does it introduce a new, different, and most likely important topic, but it also implies to the listener that the new topic may be somewhat uncomfortable and displeasing. The speaker attempts to prepare the listener for this by using *tokorode*. You need to pay especially close attention to what a Japanese speaker has to say following *tokorode*, as this is yet another communication device that many Japanese

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use in their interpersonal relationships to avoid causing loss of face.

***koban*: Police Station Boxes**

Today there are police station boxes in every city and town in Japan, and they are a major factor in the world-renowned safety of Japan's streets. Besides watching over what is going on in their neighborhoods, the policemen stationed in the *koban* also serve as sources of information for people looking for addresses in the area. The police officers are usually friendly and ready to help. Those in big cities such as Tokyo and Osaka are specially trained to help foreign tourists in English.

Male and Female Patterns of Speech

Gender affects the manner of communication in any culture. However, the sex of the speaker is reflected more clearly in Japanese communication than in English. In Japanese, you can often tell whether the speaker is a man or a woman, as there are features specifically used only by either a male or a female speaker. A Japanese woman's speech is considered to be more "polite." Women tend to attach the polite "o" at the beginning of many words which men do not feel necessary. Women say *oshoyu* for soy sauce and *ogenkan* for an entrance to the house, just to name two. With the influence of the younger generation, however, the distinction

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between male and female patterns of speech is becoming less clear in Japanese society. You, as a foreign speaker of Japanese, do not need to worry so much about making gender related mistakes, and the expressions you have learned in this course are gender-free and may be used by both male and female speakers.

***donata*: Polite Forms**

We have stressed that the Japanese are concerned about showing politeness in their communication. Not only is it important to learn these polite forms, but it is also necessary to remember how to match the rest of the sentence to the level of politeness indicated by the polite forms. The plain way to ask who is going to the U.S. is *dare ga amerika e ikimasu ka?* and the polite way is *donata ga amerika e irasshaimasu ka?* It would be very awkward to mix two levels of politeness in one sentence. If you are not sufficiently confident in appropriate use of polite expressions, it is better to stay on a plain level and ask simply, *dare ga amerika e ikimasu ka?*

Traveling in Groups

You may have noted the Japanese preference for doing things in groups. This tendency is prevalent in many social contexts: education, business, politics, and recreation as well. You will notice that almost everywhere you go in Japan, people travel in groups.

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While many Americans take advantage of package group tours, the Japanese do so far more frequently when traveling abroad. They generally find it more secure and comfortable to travel with a group of friends, co-workers, alumni from the same high school, etc., especially to a place where they have never been before. Such groups tend to only make brief stops at famous spots filled with other tourists. Generally, the group members stay only at hotels where there is Japanese-speaking staff and they eat at restaurants where the food is not extremely "foreign." You may wonder to what extent, if at all, they can experience the culture through direct contact with the local people. It *is* difficult and they usually end up speaking Japanese to one another, eating Japanese food, and even reading Japanese newspapers while away from home. If you encounter such a group in the U.S., you may get a very positive response if you try out your Japanese language skills on them.

Ancient Capitals: Nara and Kyoto

Nara, which is located 25 miles east of Osaka, or some 250 miles west of Tokyo, was the capital of Japan between 710 and 784. The city still retains the atmosphere of ancient Japan. Many Buddhist temples and artifacts, including the *Daibutsu* of Nara, or Great Buddha, a 72-foot giant statue dating from the eighth century, attract many foreign and Japanese tourists. Its relatively serene atmosphere is particu-

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larly attractive during the fall when the leaves turn bright yellow and red.

Another well-known place to visit in the same region is Kyoto. It was the national capital as well as the place of residence of the Japanese imperial family for more than 1,000 years, from 794 to 1868. Kyoto is indeed the center of Japanese culture and of Buddhism in Japan. Many Buddhist temples and shrines that have been meticulously maintained over the years are easily accessible by bus or taxi. One of the most famous is *Kinkakuji*, or the Temple of the Gold Pavilion, which is literally covered with gold leaves.

Kyoto is only a little more than two hours away from Tokyo by the Shinkansen Bullet Train, and Nara is another thirty-minute ride from Kyoto. When you visit Japan, be sure to visit at least one of the ancient capitals. You will appreciate some of the national treasures as well as the Japanese people's value on antiquity.

Digital Tickets and Cards

Most train stations in Japan have installed automatic ticket checking machines. The level of technological advancement you will see in each station varies. One of the simpler automatic ticket checkers has a slot to insert your ticket. Advanced checkers now available in large cities such as Tokyo and Osaka have a small window against which you

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will gently touch your prepaid card. The most advanced machines allow you to use a mobile phone in place of a prepaid card. The phone sends a special signal, and the machine immediately checks whether you have sufficient credit. If you choose not to purchase such a multi-functional mobile phone for your relatively short stay in Japan, the most advanced ticket checking machines will still accept conventional paper tickets that you can buy at the train stations.

Commuting to Work

In large cities, such as Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, and Osaka, figuring out the best way to go to and from work is a serious matter. Riding a crowded train for two hours each way is not unusual in the metropolitan Tokyo area, since the price of land is extremely high and people are forced to live in the remote suburbs.

If you decide to commute by car, which may give you more privacy, finding a parking space in the center of a large city is both difficult and very expensive. With the heavy traffic, it may take you as much as half an hour to go just a few miles during rush hour.

A popular alternative for many people is a bicycle. Many people ride their bicycles from home to the nearby station, leave them in a bicycle parking lot

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for which they pay a monthly fee, and change to a train. The parking lot is much like "Park & Go" in the U.S. You will see some people resorting to yet another alternative: running. Both for pragmatic and health reasons, there are some people who run to and from work, carrying office clothes in backpacks and changing after they get to work.

***hanami*: Flower Viewing**

hanami means "seeing flowers." Japanese people welcome the spring every year by celebrating the blossoming of the trees, particularly the *sakura*, or cherry blossoms. They enjoy *hanami* when the cherry blossoms bloom by having parties underneath the trees in parks across the country. Since Japanese law does not prohibit drinking in public parks, the parties often include alcoholic drinks, a variety of food items, and very often karaoke. Japan stretches lengthwise from the north to the south, which means that the time when the cherry blossoms bloom varies dramatically, depending on where you are in Japan. It is one of the Meteorological Agency's prime duties to predict when the cherry trees will bloom in each part of the country, and they announce when the *sakura zensen* or "cherry front" reaches the major cities of Japan. In Okinawa, the southernmost part of the country, the flowers bloom as early as in January, and the *sakura zensen* works its way up north, reaching Hokkaido, its final destination, in the beginning of May.

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Visiting a Japanese House

When visiting a Japanese house, etiquette usually requires that you bring some small gifts, such as *okashi* (sweets), fruit, or a bottle of wine. If you ask your hosts what you could bring to the dinner, they will very likely say "nothing." Use your consideration in deciding what the best gift is: your thought will be greatly appreciated. When you present the gift, you will say it's nothing but a small thing, regardless of the value of the gift. This is another way of humbling yourself and elevating your host.

When serving dinner, a hostess will say something like, "There's not anything delicious, but please eat." Don't take this literally. Dinner will invariably be delicious, but again she is behaving according to the Japanese custom of being humble.

When entering a Japanese house, taking your shoes off is required.

***bijutsukan*: Art Museum**

In most large cities in Japan you will find quite a few art museums, and they house Japanese as well as international art. In Tokyo, for instance, you could spend an entire week just visiting various museums. Although you may find their size is quite modest, there are museums in virtually every historical

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spot across the country, exhibiting uniquely local artifacts. Some of the oldest date back to several centuries B.C. *hakubutsukan* means "museum" in general, while *bijutsukan* refers specifically to an "art museum." The *kan* at the end of these words means "building," and in general, a word that ends with *kan* usually means a building for some specific purpose. *taiikukan* is a gymnasium, *toshokan* a library, and *ryokan* a "travel house" or a Japanese-style inn.

***konde imasu*: Crowded**

Because of the limited space in Japan, you will often encounter situations where this expression is used: museums, train stations, parks, restaurants, and streets. When a street is crowded, you will say, *michi ga konde imasu*. While traffic congestion is common in big cities in the U.S., the congestion in large cities in Japan is overwhelming at times. The Japanese word for traffic congestion is *juutai*, and it literally indicates bumper-to-bumper traffic. The word "capital expressway" in Tokyo often sounds cynical, as the congestion is as long as ten miles long in morning and evening rush hours. Be prepared to spend a long time to travel even a short distance in the Tokyo metropolitan area by car, or use alternative means such as the subway.

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Recreational Activities

In addition to the nationwide vacation time, the Japanese place much value on year-round recreational activities. On weekends, many families go out camping, fishing, mountain climbing, or whatever outdoor sport is available. The number of recreational vehicles such as mini-vans, station wagons, and a variety of four-wheel drive cars has been rapidly increasing in recent years.

Tennis and golf are also very popular among a wide range of people. High schools have tennis clubs as part of their extracurricular activities, and it is one of the most popular sports among students. There is a drawback, however. The scarcity of land is a major cause of many problems. Most tennis clubs, for example, are private in that you must either join the club or be accompanied by a member. You need to make a reservation, sometimes as much as a month in advance. The same is true of golf courses. Most golf clubs have strict rules about tee-time — they're limited to "members only" on weekends. A lifetime membership in some golf courses in the Tokyo area can cost well over \$300,000, and a member still needs to pay some \$100 per round for the caddie fee, for the use of a locker, tax, etc. If you are not a member, you can still play as a visitor, but a round of golf including the greens fee, caddie fee, etc. can cost you as much as \$250. Tee time can be reserved by phone one month in advance, and whether it

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rains or shines, you'd better play. Otherwise you must pay a cancellation fee.

Japanese Names

Initially, Japanese names may seem strange to you, but once you've learned several popular names, you will note the short syllables and the similarity of the patterns and find them not as difficult to remember as they first seemed.

Popular Japanese last names include *tanaka*, *ito*, *yamada*, *suzuki*, *nakamura*, *saito*, *yoshida*, *yamamoto*, *inoue*, and *mori*. They are all made up of one or two, sometimes three, Kanji. Most of the characters used for people's names refer to things in nature. *tanaka*, for example, literally means "in a rice field." *yama* means "a mountain" and *mori* means "a forest." You can also have, *oomori* "a large forest," *nakamori* "a medium forest," and *komori* "a small forest."

Historically, there were only a few common first names, such as *taro*, for a male, and *yoko*, for a female, equivalent to John and Mary in the U.S. First names, however, have become much more varied in recent years, and a wide range of individual names now exist.

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Exchanging for *yen*

Given that Japan is a cash society, it is important that you have some *yen* immediately after your arrival. You must, for example, pay cash for your limousine bus ride from the airport to your hotel. A ride from Narita, the Tokyo International Airport, to downtown Tokyo is about 3,000 *yen* (approximately 33 U.S. dollars).

You can purchase *yen* at the major international airports in Japan: Narita (Tokyo), Kansai (Osaka), Chubu (Nagoya), Chitose (Sapporo), and Fukuoka (in the city of the same name). A bank in town, of course, is also a place where you can exchange your money. When you are pressed for time, you can do the same at the front desk of your hotel. The exchange rate at a hotel, however, may not be as good, since you are charged a service fee. There is also a limit to how much you can exchange at hotels.

Only recently have credit cards started to become acceptable in restaurants and stores. The most widely recognized international credit cards in Japan are Visa® and Mastercard®. American Express® is not as popular in Japan as Diners Club International, which is not as well known in the U.S. When you use a credit card, there is the possibility that the exchange rate will fluctuate between the time of your purchase and when you receive the bill.

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Japanese Cake

Japanese cuisine, as you know, is considerably different from American. A number of dishes have been introduced to Americans through Japanese restaurants in the U.S., such as *tempura*, *sushi*, and *sukiyaki*. You will encounter many other dishes while in Japan, however, some of which you may find are definitely acquired tastes. The small quantity of food in each serving will also be another discovery you will make. Yet another finding which may be surprising is that the Japanese aren't big on desserts. Japanese meals typically end without any desserts. Occasionally you may have some fruit, or small portions of "Japanese cake." Uniquely Japanese cakes that you would not find in the U.S. include *manju*, a bun with a bean-jam filling; *mochi*, rice cakes that come in a wide range of colors and textures; and *senbei*, or rice crackers flavored with salt, soy sauce, or sugar. You will find many Japanese enjoy these cakes with their afternoon tea as well as after dinner. If your sweet tooth gets the best of you, you can now find a wide variety of Western-style cakes, cookies, and chocolates sold at many places including bakeries and supermarkets. In recent years Western pastry has become increasingly popular and many different kinds of cakes are now readily available, although still not served in traditional restaurants or homes.

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The Japanese Numbering System

One of the most important skills in acquiring a practical competency in a foreign language is counting. You need to know how to count and to understand the numbers in conversations in numerous contexts, such as asking the price of something, making reservations, understanding where your hotel room is, giving telephone numbers, etc. Japanese numbers are not difficult to learn. Once you can count to ten, you can combine the numbers to count up to ninety-nine. The rest is also easy, as all you need after that is the words for hundred, thousand, ten thousand, and one hundred million. The first basic numbers follow. Although there are distinctive characters for each number, you will most often see them written with Arabic numerals.

	零	zero: <i>rei</i>		
一	one: <i>ichi</i>	六	six: <i>roku</i>	
二	two: <i>ni</i>	七	seven: <i>shichi</i>	
三	three: <i>san</i>	八	eight: <i>hachi</i>	
四	four: <i>yon</i>	九	nine: <i>kyu</i>	
五	five: <i>go</i>	十	ten: <i>ju</i>	

From eleven to ninety-nine, you simply combine those numbers:

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- Eleven is made by combining ten + one: *ju ichi*.
- Eighteen is ten and eight: *ju hachi*.
- Twenty is two + ten: *ni ju*.
- Thirty-six is three, ten, + six : *san ju roku*.

Here is the balance of the number words you need:

- 百 hundred: *hyaku*
- 千 thousand: *sen*
- 万 ten thousand: *man*
- 十万 one hundred thousand: *ju man* (ten ten thousand)
- 百万 one million: *hyaku man* (one hundred ten thousand)
- 億 one hundred million: *oku*

To illustrate, 1,552,983 (one million five hundred fifty-two thousand nine hundred eighty-three) is *hyaku go ju go man ni sen kyu hyaku hachi ju san*.

With longer numbers, the Japanese numbering system may appear to be complicated at first. Japanese numbers are, however, fairly simple. Once you learn these few crucial words and concepts, the rest is easy.

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Yes / No / Definitely

Suppose you are asked to go somewhere and you really want to go. You'll probably say, *ee, zehi*. This reply indicates strong affirmation to the inquiry, and is equivalent to "definitely" or "absolutely." It is always used to express the speaker's affirmation or to stress a request as in, *zehi tabete kudasai*, or "Please eat it, by all means." It is never used for negation.

In English "yes" is always positive and "no" is always negative, but in Japanese it is sometimes the opposite, depending on how the questions are formed. It is not uncommon, therefore, for Japanese people to make a mistake when using English, and vice versa. For example, suppose you ate breakfast at 10 o'clock and now it's 12 o'clock. You are asked *onaka ga suite imasen ne?* literally, "You aren't hungry are you?" (The questioner is assuming that you are not hungry.) The English response would be either, "No, I'm not," or "Yes, I am." To answer that in Japanese, however, you can either say, *hai, suite imasen* (That's right, your assumption is right, I am not hungry.) or *iie, suite imasu* (No, your assumption is wrong. I am hungry.) Since the Japanese respond to how the question is asked, negative questions are tricky for non-native speakers.

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"Fillers" in Japanese

As in any language, there is a wide variety of utterances in Japanese, "fillers," that the speaker can use in order to fill the vacuum in conversation.

In English you may say, "you know," "I mean," or "uh," to indicate to the other person that you have something to say, but are not quite ready to say it. *anoo* does not have any literal English translation, but you will hear everyone in Japan say it quite often. Another filler that you will often hear is *eeto*, which is close to "let me see." If you want to show that you are listening carefully to what another person is saying and generally agree with what she or he says, you may say *so desu ne* or, more informally, *so, so*. These expressions will come naturally as you progress in your Japanese conversational ability. They may in fact be a barometer of your accomplishment, as you begin using them instinctively in situations.

Reading, a Popular Hobby

You will find many large bookstores in suburban areas in Japan. Because it is such a homogeneous culture, in comparison to the U.S., the people share a general knowledge about social affairs. Books, as well as a variety of magazines, are an important source of this knowledge. The fear of being left out in society because of a lack of certain information may be at least part of the driving force behind the

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interest in reading. Given this social trend, once a novel by a popular or controversial writer is published, everyone wants to read it! The books will literally sell like hotcakes. The late Matsumoto Seicho, was a very popular mystery and suspense writer. His well-thought out and controversial stories have made him one of the best read Japanese authors. The "Harry Potter" series has also been translated in Japanese and it has become quite popular among a wide variety of readers in Japan.

Learning New Skills in Japan

Many Japanese arrive early in the morning and study before starting work. This is not unusual and many Japanese, young and old, do tend to have a strong motivation to learn new skills. You will find English conversation schools in virtually every town across the country. There are multitudes of schools for specific purposes, such as computers, cooking, accounting, tax laws, and estate management. Schools that specialize in traditional Japanese arts, such as the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and calligraphy are also abundant.

Due to the interest in fitness, many schools offer lessons in aerobics, swimming, yoga, and various forms of dance. Going to one of these schools not only helps people accomplish their goals, but can also be an end in itself. It is a place where you can socialize with others who share common interests.

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Some of these schools are especially popular among older adults who have retired and have not only time and money to spare, but also are looking for company. Given the increasing percentage of people who are 65 years and older in Japan, the popularity of these schools is likely to grow. If you are a foreigner residing in Japan for some time, you may find a course at one of these schools an interesting experience.

Traditional Japanese Clothing

When you are in Japan and looking for a souvenir, you might pick up a *yukata*, a cotton kimono frequently worn in the summer. The *yukata* is certainly a piece of traditional Japanese clothing, but people in Japan today do not wear it as frequently as people in former generations did. There are only a few occasions when the Japanese, especially women, routinely wear kimonos. The second Monday in January is a national holiday in Japan, celebrating all the people who turned twenty in the past year and reached the age of maturity. On this day many women go out in traditional kimonos to ceremonies, often held by the municipal government, and later to parties with their friends. The formal kimonos worn by women up to the age of twenty are called *furisode*, meaning "long hanging sleeves," which is a sign that the woman is unmarried. The sleeves are actually long enough to reach the wearer's ankles. Married women, and those who have passed the age of twenty, wear

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kimonos with regular length sleeves, which are half as long as the *furisode*. Other occasions for Japanese women to wear kimonos include New Year's Day, wedding receptions, and a midsummer festival where they go out to watch fireworks. Of course they wear *yukatas*, rather than the heavy, multi-layered kimonos, on that occasion.

Reading Japanese

When you visit a foreign country such as Japan, where the language sounds very different, and the appearance of the written language does not even remotely resemble what you are used to, you may naturally find yourself somewhat intimidated. Just imagining the difficulty you may face in learning how to read and write can be discouraging. Mastering reading and writing Japanese is indeed an extremely long and complex process, and even many native speakers have not completed the learning process.

In this course you are learning spoken Japanese, and while knowledge of the orthographic form of Japanese will be useful when visiting Japan, it is not necessary to acquire speech. In the following notes, however, some basic and important knowledge of written Japanese will be introduced. Once you understand the essentials that underlie written Japanese, you will find that beginning reading in the language is much easier and less intimidating than you may have anticipated.

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Kanji, the Chinese Characters

Kanji is the "pictorial" writing the Japanese borrowed from the Chinese. Each Kanji character represents an object or idea, and in written Japanese these objects and ideas combine in various ways to form new words and phrases. The pronunciation of each character varies depending on the context, and some Kanji have up to four or five different ways to be pronounced. One is required to be able to recognize and understand some 3,000 Kanji characters to achieve functional literacy in Japanese. It won't be necessary, however, to be able to pronounce the Kanji characters, and you will certainly not need 3,000, but it will be rather convenient to get the general meaning of a basic core of some 50 characters when you see them in such public places as airports, train stations, on street signs, and in restaurant menus. In the accompanying Book of these notes you will see a few examples that are typical of the pictorial Kanji characters.

To get you started with reading Japanese, here is the character for "up" or "on." Notice that it looks as if the whole character points upward:

上

This character pointing down means "down" or "under."

下

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When put together, these two characters form a Japanese word, meaning up and down. The word is used to indicate not only the physical upward and downward directions, but also a social relationship with a status difference.

上下

Here is another character, which means a "tree." Can you see how the image of a tree was transformed into the Kanji character?

木

And here is the character for a "mountain."

山

Many characters are made up of two or more parts: hen (or the left-hand radical) and tsukuri (or the right-hand radical). The Kanji for "tree" can serve as a hen, and it may be used to form such characters as "woods," or a "forest."

林 woods

森 forest

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Here is a more complex character combining three parts: mountain, up, and down. Put together as one word, "mountain," "up," and "down" mean a "mountain pass" or a "peak."

峠

Two Other Writing Systems

When you can recognize some 50 basic Japanese Kanji characters, the rest will be fairly easy, as you will probably be able to guess what a new character may mean just by looking at it and identifying the component parts. The first step is to get rid of your anxiety about reading Japanese; take the time to become familiar with the fundamental patterns used to make up the Japanese Kanji characters.

The Kanji system adopted from Chinese is the basic Japanese written system, but, whereas Chinese uses only pictorial characters, Japanese uses two other types of writing systems in addition to the Kanji. They are *katakana* and *hiragana*. These are two different sets of "letters" representing Japanese sounds. Each letter represents either a vowel sound or a consonant plus a vowel, for example, ka, ki, ku, ke, ko, etc. The Japanese *hiragana* and *katakana* are both lined up in the same way. The vowels go: a, i, u, e, o. The consonants k, s, t, n, h, m, y, r, w are placed before the vowels. If you remember the order of *hiragana* and *katakana* in much the same

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way you memorized how the alphabet goes from A to Z, you can make great progress in reading and writing Japanese.

There are 46 *hiragana* and *katakana* symbols, which are shown in a chart in the accompanying Book. Each block contains the transliterated phonetic representation of the character, followed by the *hiragana* and then by the *katakana* (in parentheses).

Katakana

Katakana is the writing system used for Japanese / English cognate words, i.e., for words adopted from English into Japanese. You will find it particularly useful to learn *katakana*, as you may need to read and write your name from time to time. Foreign and new words are spelled using *katakana*, so you will see "restaurant," "hotel," "golf," "gasoline," and many others in *katakana*. Some examples of these words are shown in the accompanying Book.

Here is what they look like in combination:

レストラン
restaurant

ホテル
hotel

ゴルフ
golf

ガソリン
gasoline

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Hiragana

Hiragana is the writing system comprised of letters used to represent grammatical endings and features that Chinese does not have. Unlike Kanji, in which a symbol represents a concept or an idea, in both the *hiragana* and *katakana* systems of Japanese, there is a connection between the symbol on the paper and the spoken word, and each letter is pronounced in only one way regardless of the context. Before Japanese children learn how to write the complex Kanji characters, they learn how to write *hiragana* and they use it for every word. For example, yama or "mountain" can be written in three different ways, in *kanji*, *katakana*, or *hiragana*. However, since it is not a foreign word, it would rarely, if ever, be written in *katakana*. The three examples are shown in the accompanying Book.

山

mountain
kanji

ヤマ

mountain
katakana

やま

mountain
hiragana

While it is possible to use the phonetic *hiragana* and *katakana* scripts to represent almost any Japanese word, it is usually considered more appropriate to use the *kanji* characters whenever possible, using the phonetic scripts only to represent foreign words (*katakana*) or features unique to Japanese (*hiragana*).

Japanese 3

Signs

Visitors to Japan are fortunate in that the international sign system and many English words are used in signs and directions. Restrooms, for instance, can often be identified by male / female symbols, or by the words "WC" or "Toilets." English names are also widely used alongside Japanese. Store signs are often written both in English and Japanese *katakana*. Some signs, however, are misspelled, or are the outcome of imaginative creation known as "Japanese English," which sometimes makes it difficult for English-speaking people to understand exactly what product the business is selling.

Books

Most Westerners are accustomed to reading books starting from the front and reading each line left to right, starting from the top of the page. In books and traditional writing, however, Japanese is written in columns, top to bottom, starting on the right side of a page. The books appear to open "backwards" to English speakers, as the "front" of a Japanese book is the "back" of an English text. However, in signs, menus, and books in which some English words are used, such as academic papers, Japanese is now often written from left to right.

Japanese 3

Continuing Success

Throughout *Japanese 3*, you have learned many essential elements of the Japanese language. Practicing using the expressions you have learned in the thirty units will assure you successful initial encounters with the Japanese people. We hope you will keep up with your daily practice and further build upon your vocabulary. One additional aspect of competency that you will find useful and important is your sensitivity to cross-cultural differences in values, thought patterns, space and time orientations, mannerisms, etc. You can also continue to build on your communication skills by proceeding on to *Japanese 4*.

For more information,
call 1-800-831-5497
or visit us at Pimsleur.com