

# Beginner Japanese

Kumamoto JET Orientation 2022

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## About Me, About the Course

- Damon Christensen, 26 y/o, American (Tennessee)
- Came to Kumamoto August 2019
- Kumamoto City Area Leader (prefectural)
- Passed N3 last year, gearing up for N2
- Largely self-taught, only serious about JP after getting into JET (about 3 years ago)
- Have never taught this course before, but that's okay
- lol
- 40 minutes, lecture-style
- Vocabulary, phrases, kana and kanji

## About You

- A sharp-minded and inquisitive individual interested in building upon their already-established Japanese fundamentals
- Have already studied Japanese for at least six months, or equivalent
- Can read kana
- Knows at least a few everyday kanji
- Loves loosely-planned, somewhat improvised workshops led by inexperienced amateurs

## What we'll do today

Course and instructor introduction

Kana review

Common Kanji Review

Useful Workplace Expressions

Ordering Food, Checking Out

Simple Requests at Work (Nenkyu, etc.)

Some actual grammar

## KANA: THE BASICS (A Review)

- Kana (Hiragana and Katakana) are syllabaries representing the phonemes (basic sounds) of Japanese
- Hiragana can be thought of as the basic, "native" syllabary while Katakana is a bit more akin to *italics* (emphasis, foreign words, scientific names etc.)
- 47 sounds each (五十音なのに)

## ひらがな+カタカナ+基本漢字

ん	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ
n	wa	ra	ya	ma	ha	na	ta	sa	ka	a
	り	み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い		
	ri	mi	hi	ni	chi	shi	ki	i		
	る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	ら	う
	ru	yu	mu	fu	nu	tsu	su	ku	ra	u
	れ	め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え	い	え
	re	me	he	ne	te	se	ke	e	i	e
	を	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お
	wo	ro	yo	mo	ho	no	to	so	ko	o

木	水	火	月	日	千	百	十	九	八	七	六	五	四	三	二	一
女	子	人	口	耳	目	足	手	小	中	大	右	左	下	上	土	金
犬	竹	草	花	夕	氣	天	雨	空	田	森	林	川	山	年	名	男

Credit  
u/danilinky

## Common Kanji Review

- Difficult to decide these
- Seriously, use Wanikani (it's free\*)
- Time (date and clock)
- Jisho.org Kanji Lookup (stroke count is handy)
- Other should-know Kanji

\*until level three but that's still like 95 of the most useful kanji and even more vocab; it's free dude no excuses

## Other Kanji to Know

- 速度 - sokudo, Speed
- 入口/出口 - iriguchi/deguchi, Entrance/Exit
- 喫煙 - kitsuen, Smoking OK
- お酒 - osake, Alcohol
- 飲み放題 - nomihoudai, all you can drink
- 食べ放題 - tabehoudai, all you can eat
- 焼肉 - yakiniku, Roasted meat
- 代行 - daikou, Taxi service that drives your car
- 小、中、大 - shou, chuu, dai small, medium, large
- 車 - kuruma, car
- 駅 - eki, Train station
- For bathrooms, 男 is men and 女 is women

## Useful Workplace Expressions

- This assumes you have a tantousha who can speak English; thus these phrases are "extra credit".
- My most commonly used phrase:
  - 今日は代休を取らせていただけませんか?
  - *Kyou wa Daikyuu wo Torasete Itadakemassen ka?*
  - May I (humbly) be allowed to take daikyu (replacement leave) today?
    - Xさせていただけませんか?, May I be humbly allowed to X?
- Other bangers:
  - お疲れ様です
  - お先に失礼します
  - あけましておめでとうございます
  - And the big one, よろしくお願ひします

## Ordering at Restaurants, Checking Out at Supermarkets

- As you know, you can always just point and say これください。
- But we're novices here, not beginners, so let's get a bit wild.
- Need-to-know words: べつべつ (pay separate) and わりかん (pay 'Dutch')
- おかいけい (check/bill)、ちゅうもん(する) (order)
- のみもの(drink)、セット(set meal)
- You really need to know keigo to understand staff, sadly
- ふくろはどうされますか
- ふくろはごりようですか
- と - 'and'; i.e. Big Mac と fries と a large coke, いじょうです
- いじょうです
- よやくをしたいです - I'd like to make a reservation

## The actual grammar: Let's Adjective Conjunction

- This was written on the learning standards I received for prepping this course
- But like, what does that mean? No literally actually
- Conjugate adjectives to be past tense? Turn them into adverbs?
- Super easy. Watch me time travel
- きれいだ→きれいだった
- うれしい→うれしかった
- Want an adverb? Sure
- きれいだ→きれいに(いつもきれいに使っていたいてありがとうございます)
- おいしい→おいしく(おいしく食べる)

## The actual grammar: Let's Adjective Conjunction pt.2

- Actually I just checked; the standards want negative adjectives which is easy too
- おいしい→おいしくない、きれいだ→きれいじゃない
- い-adjectives delete last い and replace it with くない。
- な-adjectives delete だ and replace it with じゃない, ではない, or ではありません depending on politeness

## Verb Conjugation

- I also don't know what this means because there are so many things it *could* mean, but let's try
- If you don't know Te-form, learn Te-form.
- Te-form is the gateway drug, and casual past-tense form comes next
- Te+ください = polite request, super useful
- Te+くださいませんか? = EXTREMELY polite, humble/subservient (けんじょうご)

て/te Form @japankong

First group/う-verbs:  
Conjugating to 'te' form from plain/dictionary form

	Plain verb	How to	て/te form
す	はなす	ず→して	話して
く	かく	く→いて	書いて
ぐ	およぐ	ぐ→いで	泳いで
む	のむ	む→んで	飲んで
ぶ	あそぶ	ぶ→んで	遊んで
ぬ	しぬ	ぬ→んで	死んで
る	はしる	る→って	走って
う	かう	う→って	買って
つ	まつ	つ→って	待って

## Important and Useful Phrases 1: あまり

- あまり...ではありません(polite, cowardly)
- あまり...じゃない (casual, knows how to party)
- あまり...ではない (a nice middle ground)
- Comes from 余る, meaning 'to be in excess, to remain'
- たとえば なつとうはきらいではないけど、あまり好きではない
  - 'I don't hate natto, but I don't like it very much.'

## Important and Useful Phrases 2: から～まで

- Pretty much just 'from' ~ 'to/until'
- When is the meeting? 8時から9時まで
- Where did the typhoon hit? おおさかからなごやまで

## Important and Useful Phrases 3: AとBとどちらがXですか?

- 'Between A and B, which one is more X?'
- 日本とあなたのくにと どちらがあついですか?
  - Between Japan and your country, which is hotter?
- デッドリフトとけんすいとどつちがきんにくをきたえますか?
  - Between deadlift and pullups, which one gets you swole af?
  - It's deadlifts
  - It's always deadlifts

## Important and Useful Phrases 4: だとおもいます (I think...)

- Comes from 思う, literally 'to think'
- I use this one all the time fr
- と as quotation particle
- IF preceding word is a noun/な-adjective, adding だ before the と makes it sound more adultlike/assertive/manly
- Without だ sounds more casual/friendly/childish/feminine?
- Fullmetal Alchemistはいちばんいいアニメだとおもう
  - FMA is the best anime, I think (correct, manly)
- Cowboy Bebop もさいこうとおもうわよね
  - Cowboy Bebop is also the best (also correct, stereotypically feminine, nobody talks like this outside of manga characters)

## Feminine? Masculine? What's all this then (brief? diatribe)

- tbqh
- Japanese has a whole apparatus of gendered sentence-enders and verb usage patterns
- *And then* comes the age-difference angle, the casual-professional spectrum, and all the rest
- These blur, too - women often intentionally sound childish bc 'cute', men might speak with bravado - よね、だぜ、etc.
- Each speaker should consider how they speak and how they sound; it goes beyond personal pronoun
- What I learned making this presentation
- 'Hypercontextual' wooooo

## Important and Useful Phrases 5: Useful Adverbs and -Desire-

- Adverbs are stupid useful and might save your life.
- Good ones to know:
  - だいたい (In general) - だいたいのアメリカ人はじゅうをもつ
  - だいたい、熊本の夏はすごくあついです
  - たいてい (usually) - ぼくはたいていしごとちゅうにねる
  - すこし (a little) - すこしさむくない?
  - よく (often OR skillfully) - 私は本をよくよむよ。
  - ああ、よくできたね!

### How to want:

- What do you want? なにがほしい?
- 食べ物がほしい。I want food.

## Counters

- Tons of them BUT
- Just a few can get you by
- つ
- Day counters (-ka)
- 人
- 個
- Too damn many tbh
- Native counter system vs. Kango system
- General tangent on etymology

Counter 02 MLC

~tsu  
for almost all (up to 10)

1	一つ hitotsu	6	六つ muttsu
2	二つ futatsu	7	七つ nanatsu
3	三つ mitsu	8	八つ yatsu
4	四つ yottsu	9	九つ kokonotsu
5	五つ itsutsu	10	十とお too
		?	いくつ ikutsu

## Kanji review - いまなんじですか?

時 (ji) - hour

分 (fun/bun/pun) - minute

日 (nichi) - Day

曜日 (youbi) - Weekday (日曜日, 月曜日 etc.)

月 (gatsu) - month. 一月 is January, 二月 is Feb, etc.

年 (nen) - year.

	Hour (o'clock)	Romaji
	~時	
Question?	なんじ	nanji
1	いちじ	ichiji
2	にじ	niji
3	さんじ	sanji
4	よじ	yoji
5	ごじ	goji
6	ろくじ	rokuji
7	しちじ	shichiji
8	はちじ	hachiji
9	くじ	kuji
10	じゅうじ	juuji
11	じゅういちじ	juuichiji
12	じゅうにじ	juuniji

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## Conclusion

- My god we actually did it
- I'll send a link of this so you can have it for your notes
- Thank you for coming!
- I hope you learned a lot
- Go forth and speak, baby