



A fun new resource for studying Japanese online!

A love of anime or manga is a reason many young people become interested in learning Japanese language. Now there is an online resource perfect for these learners to power up their understanding of Japanese using the very things that appeal to them—anime and manga.

The anime-manga website has been created by the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai. The Institute hopes that by using the site, learners will increase their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

A range of content, levels and method

The site covers language not normally covered in student textbooks. The combination of text taken from manga that are popular overseas and quizzes to check your knowledge, pre-existing or acquired through the site, makes for a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment. Moreover, the site has been designed for a range of levels from beginners to advanced, and users are able to choose content and methods that they prefer at their own pace.

Understanding context and situation is key to language learning, and this site allows learners to familiarise themselves with the types of expressions typically used by **eight different characters** and **four different genres** (romance, school, ninja and samurai).

The **character expressions section** also contains audio and you are able to compare the language of a boy, a girl, a ‘scrapper’, a samurai, an old man, an upper-class lady, a butler and an Osakan, with standard Japanese. You can study single phrases, grammar and pronunciation. Challenge yourself with the *Whose line?* quiz.

An excellent feature of the anime-manga website is the ability to **switch quickly between kanji, kana and romaji**. This really helps to overcome the frustration learners often feel when there is a crucial kanji on the

page of something they’re enjoying reading. Having this ability to switch makes the site accessible to a wider range of users.

All those **onomatopoeic action and mood words** that are such a rich feature of Japanese manga are also brought to life. You are able to highlight the onomatopoeia and an explanation of how to use it is revealed. The samurai and school genre each have a *Sound Fx* quiz, so you can check that you know the word to describe the sound of an arrow hitting a tree trunk or the sound of breathing while sleeping (breathing not snoring). Japanese language is full of such words and the site offers a fun and easy way to learn and to increase your knowledge.

High school teachers might be particularly interested in the **school expressions by scene** section. This section takes you through the day in the life of a high school girl, from getting ready in the morning, through lessons and club activities, to doing homework after dinner before falling into bed. Here you can read everyday spoken Japanese and background culture notes relevant to the scenes in Japanese or English.

The **ninja kanji game** offers quite a challenge and is divided into novice and expert sections. Users are challenged to recognise meanings, give readings or find the common kanji as time is counted down. Some people might find this section a little difficult at first, but of course you can try again and again.

Why not go and explore the site for yourself? The only thing that might hold you back is your connection speed!

www.anime-manga.jp

AGNAM and EMINA: Your anime-manga guides!

To help you around the site, two guides are at your disposal. **Emina** [right] is the chief navigator who explains how to use the different parts of the site. **Agnam** [above] is apparently the guy who knows it all and can give you tips on how to best memorise Japanese. You can find out more about these characters on the website, but no prizes for figuring out the inspiration for their names!

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