

# 日本語を勉強しよう Let's study Japanese

There are so many different resources available to people wanting to study Japanese. This applies to those who are taking their very first steps and to those at an intermediate to advanced level.

Nothing beats regular conversations and a well structured course, but there is no doubt that the Internet has made it so much easier to get access to **authentic** texts and listening materials. It also helps you to fit in some extra Japanese study whenever you have a spare moment.

## NHK Newsweb Easy

*Learn up-to-date words and phrases as used in the media in Japan*

This is an excellent resource developed by NHK (Nippon Hoso Kyokai), Japan's public broadcaster. NHK Newsweb Easy has been designed for Japanese primary and junior high school students and foreigners living in Japan to enable such users to understand the mainstream news. It is also perfect for learners of Japanese wanting to improve their ability to read and watch news items and to acquire more sophisticated vocabulary.

Each news item being given the Newsweb-Easy treatment is presented in several ways—as video, audio and text.

A genuine NHK broadcast video is accompanied by a simplified Japanese language reading text which includes the key vocabulary for that news item. *Kanji* or Japanese characters are made accessible thanks to *furigana* (small *hiragana* script written above characters). Moreover, this simplified text has also been specially recorded and presented as an audio file. This enables the student to listen and repeat very clearly spoken language as they read the simplified news item. Depending on the student's level or aim, the next step would be to read the full text without *furigana*—a transcript of the original video—on the regular NHK News site.

Of course through this particular language study, users will also become up to date with current affairs in Japan.

Best of all, news items are added daily—currently five are added each day.

[www3.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/](http://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/)

## Yasashii Nihongo

*Yasashii Nihongo means  
Easy Japanese*

This is another NHK website, but this one is for those just starting out on their Japanese learning path.

Developed by NHK World Radio Japan, the radio programs are available as podcasts so you can access them at any time and from anywhere.

The course consists of weekly audio-dramas that use basic Japanese and have a key grammar point.

Lessons can be downloaded and the textbook can also be downloaded as a PDF from the website.

The accompanying manga/anime and the voices are rather 'cutesy' by Australian standards, but they are very much part of popular culture in Japan.

[www.nhk.or.jp/lesson/english/](http://www.nhk.or.jp/lesson/english/)

## 日本語能力試験

### The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT): twice a year in Australia in 2016

This year is the first year that the JLPT can be sat twice a year in Australia (selected cities only), in July and December. The application period closes well in advance of the tests themselves, so it is best to plan ahead.

The JLPT has been held since 1984 and it is the largest-scale test of Japanese language in the world. The test is widely considered as a benchmark to gauge the Japanese ability of non-native speakers.

The test is offered by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services. In Australia, it is organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney in cooperation with host institutions around the country. Register online.

[www.jpf.org.au/jlpt/](http://www.jpf.org.au/jlpt/)

**Kanji flashcards** Many teachers have probably already discovered the Japan Foundation Sydney's "Japanese Classroom Resources Page". It should be useful for self-study too. The site has flashcards of basic *kanji* grouped by topic and number of strokes.

[jpf-syd-classroomresources.com/](http://jpf-syd-classroomresources.com/)

**Thinking it's time to study in Japan?** The [Study in Japan website](http://www.studyjapan.go.jp) is a government website and it is a great place to start your search about where and how to study Japanese in Japan.

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