

Japanese 1 : にほんご 1

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Youkoso ! (Welcome) I am glad you have decided to take Japanese. It is a challenging class, but it is also fun to learn. Japanese takes a lot of time and effort to learn because Japanese is so different from English. There are three alphabets and complex grammar. Japanese may sound difficult, but it's not, if you stick with the work and stay motivated you will succeed. I hope you enjoy **Nihongo (Japanese)** this year.

In this course students are introduced to communication skills involving reading, writing, listening and speaking in Japanese, as well as developing cultural awareness of the differences between Japanese and Western Culture. Classroom activities are related to the real world and include awareness of acceptable behavior in Japanese culture.

The first years emphasis is on, comprehension and production of frequently used language, including greetings, classroom expressions, family, time, food and drink, school subjects, likes and dislikes, leisure activities, transportation, numbers, and basic grammar forms including present and past tenses, adjectives, and requests. In addition, two writing systems will be introduced, Hiragana and Katakana. Hiragana is the basic Japanese syllabary and Katakana is frequently used for foreign words and expressions.

Ganbatte kudasai! (Please try your best!)

Organization of the class:

We will practice using Japanese in class everyday, through dialogues, role-plays, and reading and writing activities. There will be quizzes, unit tests (on speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, culture, and other important skills), a comprehensive final exam, and a major project every semester. In addition homework assignments will be given weekly, which are to be completed and turned in for a grade.

Hall passes:

To be excused you need to ask in Nihongo:

Toilet	=	Toire ni itte mo ii des ka.
Locker	=	Rakka ni itte mo ii des ka.
Office	=	Ofisu ni itte mo ii des ka.

Course Goals:

By the end of the year you should be able to speak about and discuss do all of these things in Japanese

1. **Japanese writing** (Hiragana/ Katakana)
2. **Self-introduction/ Greetings and Daily Conversation**
3. **Japanese classroom** (Describe objects in the classroom and daily classroom routines.)
4. **Family** (Talk about one's family)
5. **Daily Routines** (Activities you do every day)
6. **Hobbies** (Describe likes and dislikes/ What your good at etc.)
7. **Physical Characteristics** (Describe personal characteristics and colors)
8. **Pastimes** (What you do in your free time.)

What I expect from you, my students:

- A. To be courteous and respectful to me and to each other
- B. To do your work to the best of your ability
- C. To follow all instructions carefully
- D. To practice academic honesty; to do your own work
- E. To conduct yourselves properly in the classroom
- F. To communicate, as much as you can, in Japanese.

What students should do:

- A. Attend all classes unless your absence is excused, and arrive on time. School policies on attendance and tardies will be followed strictly.
- B. Bring all materials to class-notes: paper, writing utensils, and assignments. If you are unprepared you will lose participation points.
- C. Be in your assigned seat by the time the last bell rings and remain seated unless instructed otherwise.
- D. Exhibit good manners in class at all times.
- E. Participate actively in class. Participation is 10% of your grade.
- F. Keep **ALL** your assignments in a folder, as organized as possible.

What students should **NOT** do:

- A. **Do not talk while I am presenting a lesson or if one of your classmates is speaking.** If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- B. **Do not eat, drink or chew gum in class.**
- C. **Do not write in or otherwise damage the textbooks or the room furniture.**
- D. **Do not leave class until I dismiss the class.**
- E. **Do not line up at the door to wait for the bell. Class will be dismissed when the room is clean and orderly.**
- F. **Do not use vulgar language in the classroom**

Grading procedures:

- A = 100-90.0
- B = 89.9-80.0
- C = 79.9-70.0
- D = 69.9-60.0
- F = 59.9 and below

Missing assignments, unexcused absences = 0

Tests/Quizzes/Projects: 60%	Participation: 10%	Homework: 30%
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Study tips:

- A. Study in brief, but frequent intervals.
- B. Find a partner to study with or someone you can call when you have a question regarding the subject.
- C. Review, review, review!! Every night, **REMEMBER – IF YOU DON'T USE IT....YOU LOSE IT!!!**
- D. Take notes in class; don't wait for me to tell you to take notes.
- E. Keep your notebook neat and organized so you can use it as a resource for your continuous years of studying Japanese and for review for a test or exam.

How parents can help their children study:

- A. Take an active role in your children's learning.
- B. Offer to quiz them periodically. Even if you do not know Japanese, you can give them words in English and they can say or write them in Japanese. The use of flashcards is an effective way of studying, as well.
- C. Allow them to work in a place with no TV, radio, or stereo.
- D. Encourage them to study and speak Japanese out loud alone or to a friend.
- E. Let them label items around the house with Post-it notes.
- F. Email or call me any time if you notice a problem or wish to discuss their progress.
- G. Take your children to a store that sells Japanese items and give them a chance to read the labels.

Statement of Understanding:

This must be read and signed by both student and parent(s)/guardian. This is to ensure that both student and parent(s)/guardian understand the goals of this course and our mutual responsibilities. This is the students' first assignment and needs to be turned in to me by Friday, September 9, 2016

Please keep the rest of this course information packet for reference.

I have read and understand the information outlined in the course information packet for Japanese I.

Student's signature Date Parent's signature Date

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