

RECOMMENDED LEARNING ORDER:

If you're a beginner, head over to this site, there you will be introduced to everything you need right now:

<https://www.tofugu.com/learn-japanese/>

Read the main topics (Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji) in this site, and take your time to understand them. Then, if you want, use the tips I give here.

TO SUMMARIZE this guide:

01. Read, Write Hiragana and Katakana.

02. Read, Write Kanji:

1-2 meanings

1 common On', 1 common Kun' readings

1-3 common compounds

When you get used to the routine, and feel like it, remember how the most common radicals (from the 214 radicals list) look, and recognize them in the Kanji.

03. Grammar - not much to say here, reading Kanji is a long game, so definitely start learning grammar right after step 01.

The order of progression is from basic sentence structure to understanding particles, verbs, adjectives, adverbs.

04. Reading - once you learned basic sentence structure and learned some vocabulary, start reading children stories, folk stories.

Then you can read Manga because of the short sentences and not too hard language.

Reading is the best way to remember the Kanji because you will see them over and over again put into real usage. Then, you will be able to choose literature like light novels, poetry etc.

YouTube and Anime are the best to hear Japanese, gradually you will start hearing and understanding more of what you have learned.

THE GUIDE WITH MORE DETAILS:

01. Learn to read and write Hiragana, then Katakana. You absolutely need them for everything else!

Please learn to read and write them properly, they are necessary for steps 02. And 03.

Also, use the internet to hear the correct pronunciation of whatever you learn to write or to read.

02. Start learning Kanji one you mastered step 01. I recommend cross-referencing these 2 books from "02 Kanji" folder:

For stroke writing order and basic meaning of the Kanji:

- Japanese Kanji & Kana - A Complete Guide to the Japanese Writing System (3rd Edition) [Digital]

This book is excellent because every new Kanji and their compounds are connected to the previous Kanji you have learned. It means that you will be able to read and write the compounds in their true form and not only their Furigana simplification, and it also means that you will see the previously learned Kanji in new words.

However, it writes the On' and Kun' readings in Romaji, so if you want readings written in Furigana, look the Kanji up in this book:

- The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary Revised and Expanded by Shigeko Miyazaki [Digital]

In this book, pdf page 1919 (Jōyō Kanji List bookmark) lists all Jōyō Kanji, so go there and hit Ctrl+F, paste the kanji you want to look up and it will be found in the list (together with its entry number).

*The On' reading will be in Katakana, the Kun' reading in Hiragana

This dictionary has bookmarks that I highly recommend you to see, so that you can understand how the material is presented: **especially Pdf Page 35 (explanatory Chart)**, Pdf Page 41 (guide to the dictionary).

Alternative methods of searching might be useful and quicker once you understand more about Kanji. This dictionary offers other methods of searching which are in the "guide to the dictionary" bookmark.

What I like about these books is that both are digital, so you can copy Kanji from one book, and search (Ctrl+F) in the other quickly. Also their quality is superb and will provide enough learning material for a long time.

(Alternative books are offered in the "02 Kanji" folder)

IMPORTANT NOTE- right now, you need to know:

1-2 meaning of a Kanji

1 common On' and 1 common Kun' reading of Kanji

and 1-3 common compounds in which those kanji appear.

For example, learning 100 Kanji, you will learn about 400 new words. But you will be able to recognize these 100 Kanji in much more words that you will learn later.

Learning more at this stage will be overkill. BUT you CAN remember a little bit each time, and slowly put on more layers of knowledge. Such method will not hinder your progress, but will allow you to learn to read actual words right from the beginning.

As you progress, you will be able to go back to the old Kanji and learn more meanings and compounds. This circular method of learning will allow you to review what you have already learned, to learn more usages of the already familiar Kanji, and easier learning of new material.

TIP: When you start, there is a lot of information to digest and a lot of things to do. But, when you start to get used to the routine, you might want to use this information to improve your visual memory of the Kanji:

Some kanji can serve as radicals, and some are built from different radicals. Being able to recognize them in more complex Kanji helps to remember and understand those complex Kanji.

There are 214 radicals that are listed according to frequency of usage:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_kanji_radicals_by_frequency

03. Learning Kanji is a long game, so meanwhile, start learning grammar. I recommend to start with GENKI books from "03 Grammar and Vocabulary" folder:

- *GENKI Textbook, Workbook I (2nd Edition)*
- *GENKI Textbook, Workbook II (2nd Edition)*
- *GENKI - An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese I, II- Answer Key (2nd Edition)*
- *GENKI CD Textbook, Workbook - I, II*

Later, you might want to use this book from "04 Reference (Grammar and Vocabulary)" folder:

- *All About Particles - A Handbook of Japanese Function Words (1st Edition)*

On YouTube, I like "Japanese Ammo with Misa"

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JapaneseAmmowithMisa>

She speaks slowly, elaborately and teaches some nuances that you might want to know later.

From there, more reference or advanced books are offered in "03 Grammar and Vocabulary, 04 Reference (Grammar and Vocabulary)" folders.

04. Once you have learned some basic sentence structures and learned some vocabulary, you may want to read children stories ("04 Children Stories" folder). Then, you can also read folktales ("Read Japanese Folktales Online" txt).



At this stage, keep expanding your knowledge of steps 02. and 03.
Choose literature that fits the current level of your understanding of Japanese. Keep using the internet for correct pronunciation of whatever you write or read.

Anime and YouTube will take care of hearing the language and you will also gradually understand more of what they are saying.

Good luck in your journey!

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