

# JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)


COMPLETE SYLLABUS

N5, N4, N3, N2, N1



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# COMPREHENSIVE JAPANESE SYLLABUS

## STEP-BY-STEP PREPARATION GUIDE

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is the gold standard for certifying your Japanese language ability, whether for study, work, or personal fulfillment in Japan. This guide provides a detailed, step-by-step syllabus from basic (N5) to advanced (N1) levels, aligned with the official JLPT structure, complete with essential do's and don'ts, and the importance of each level.

### PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE JLPT

The JLPT is an internationally standardized exam that measures communicative competence in Japanese through three sections: **Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar), Reading, and Listening**. It has five levels, with N5 being the easiest and N1 the most difficult. All certificates are **lifetime valid**.

#### JLPT Exam Structure at a Glance

Level	Sections & Time	Key Capabilities
N1	Language Knowledge & Reading (110 min) + Listening (60 min)	Understand Japanese used in a broad range of scenes.
N2	Language Knowledge & Reading (105 min) + Listening (50 min)	Understand Japanese used in everyday situations, and in a variety of circumstances to a certain degree.
N3	Vocabulary (30 min) + Grammar & Reading (70 min) + Listening (40 min)	Understand Japanese used in everyday situations to a certain degree.
N4	Vocabulary (25 min) + Grammar & Reading (55 min) + Listening (35 min)	Understand basic Japanese.
N5	Vocabulary (20 min) + Grammar & Reading (40 min) + Listening (30 min)	Understand some basic Japanese.

### PART 2: DETAILED JLPT SYLLABUS (N5 TO N1)

*Here is a detailed breakdown of the syllabus for each level, based on official and expert sources. This serves as your step-by-step curriculum.*

#### N5 (Basic - Beginner)

- ♦ **Importance:** The first stepping stone. Validates that you have completed basic grammar and can handle simple daily conversations. Ideal for beginners or those

who want to build a strong foundation .

- ◆ **Vocabulary:** Approximately 800-1,000 words. Basic daily life vocabulary (greetings, numbers, time, family, food, colors, simple adjectives) .
- ◆ **Kanji:** Approximately 100 characters. Simple, high-frequency kanji (e.g., 日、本、人、山、川、上、下) .
- ◆ **Grammar (~80 items):** Sentence-ending particles (か、ね、よ), basic particles (は、が、を、に、で、へ), present/past tenses, te-form for requests (~てください), plain form, and basic adjectives.
- ◆ **Reading:** Ability to read and understand typical expressions and sentences written in hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji. Short, simple passages on familiar topics .
- ◆ **Listening:** Can listen to and comprehend conversations about topics regularly encountered in daily life, spoken slowly.

#### N4 (Elementary)

- ◆ **Importance:** Proves you can handle basic Japanese for everyday life . Often the first target for those planning to live in Japan for a short period or for skilled intern candidates .
- ◆ **Vocabulary:** Approximately 1,500 words. Expanded daily vocabulary, including basic work-related terms .
- ◆ **Kanji:** Approximately 300 characters.
- ◆ **Grammar:** More complex sentence structures. Key challenges include differentiating similar particles (e.g., に vs で) and mastering verb conjugations (te-form, nai-form, ta-form, dictionary form) .
- ◆ **Reading:** Can read and understand passages on familiar daily topics written with basic vocabulary and kanji. Understand short, simple instructional writing (e.g., public notices, signs) .
- ◆ **Listening:** Can comprehend conversations on everyday topics spoken at a near-natural speed, following the main points .

#### N3 (Intermediate - The Bridge)

- ◆ **Importance:** The bridge from basic to practical Japanese. It demonstrates the ability to handle more complex situations . Suitable for those wanting to master conversational Japanese .
- ◆ **Vocabulary:** Approximately 3,000-3,500 words. Broader vocabulary, including abstract and social context words (culture, society) .
- ◆ **Kanji:** Approximately 650 characters.
- ◆ **Grammar (~120 items):** Covers a wide range of intermediate grammar. Includes complex sentence structures like clauses, honorifics (尊敬語 - sonkeigo), and humble language (謙譲語 - kenjougo) at a basic level. Key focuses are on logical

connections (causation, contrast, condition).

- ◆ **Reading:** Can read and understand written materials with specific content concerning everyday topics. Able to grasp summaries from news articles and moderately complex passages.
- ◆ **Listening:** Can comprehend coherent conversations and news reports at near-natural speed, following the storyline and key points.

## N2 (Pre-Advanced - The Gatekeeper)

- ◆ **Importance:** The most common requirement for university admission in Japan and many company job openings. It proves you can understand Japanese used in a variety of everyday and professional scenes.
- ◆ **Vocabulary:** Approximately 6,000-7,000 words. Wide range of advanced vocabulary, including professional terms and nuanced expressions.
- ◆ **Kanji:** Approximately 1,000 characters.
- ◆ **Grammar (~200 items):** Mastery of complex sentence structures for reading and listening. Focus on N2-specific grammar points (~150 key items) used in formal writing, speeches, and news. Emphasis on understanding nuances (e.g., ~ものなら、~ばかりか).
- ◆ **Reading:** Can read and comprehend clearly written articles, commentaries, and editorials on general topics. Understand complex narratives and follow logical structures.
- ◆ **Listening:** Can comprehend coherent conversations, news, and lectures at natural speed, following the detailed logic and main ideas.

## N1 (Advanced - The Mastery)

- ◆ **Importance:** The highest level. It certifies that you can understand Japanese used in a broad range of scenes, from academic research to specialized business contexts. Essential for academic research, high-level professional roles, or teaching Japanese.
- ◆ **Vocabulary:** Extensive vocabulary, including specialized, technical, and academic terms.
- ◆ **Kanji:** Approximately 2,000 characters.
- ◆ **Grammar:** All-encompassing. Requires understanding grammar in context, including complex cultural and literary expressions. Deep understanding of nuanced and formal expressions.
- ◆ **Reading:** Can read and comprehend highly complex and abstract writings, such as policy reports, academic papers, and literary works. Follow complex narratives and implicit meanings.
- ◆ **Listening:** Can comprehend lengthy and logically complex conversations, lectures, and speeches at natural speed, even with abstract and detailed content.

## PART 3: IMPORTANT DO'S & DON'TS FOR JLPT SUCCESS

*Following a syllabus is one thing; studying effectively is another. Here are crucial tips gathered from experienced students and teachers.*

### FIVE DO'S

- ◆ **Do Use Official & Structured Resources:** Use official workbooks like the "JLPT Official Practice Workbook" and trusted series like **Shin Kanzen Master**, **Nihongo So-matome**, and **Kanji Master**. These are designed to mirror the exam's difficulty and question types.
- ◆ **Do Practice with Time Pressure:** The JLPT is as much a test of speed as it is of knowledge. Practice answering questions under strict time limits. Take at least one full mock test before the exam day to build stamina and timing.
- ◆ **Do Immerse Yourself in Authentic Content:** Supplement your textbook study with real Japanese. Listen to **NHK news**, podcasts, and Japanese TV to improve listening comprehension. Read online news articles, blogs, or even Twitter posts to build reading speed and get comfortable with long passages.
- ◆ **Do Prioritize Enjoyable Learning:** You are more likely to stick with it if you enjoy the process. Watch anime or dramas, read fashion magazines, or follow Japanese social media accounts about your hobbies.
- ◆ **Do Focus on "Functional" Grammar:** Don't just memorize rules. Understand how grammar points are used in context. For N2 and above, pay special attention to grammar that expresses logic (causation, contrast, conditions) and the speaker's attitude.

### FIVE DON'TS

- ◆ **Don't Just "Learn" Kanji, "Absorb" It in Context:** Avoid memorizing Kanji readings in isolation. Learn words and phrases where the Kanji appears. For example, instead of just memorizing 生, learn 人生 (life), 学生 (student), and 生まれる (to be born).
- ◆ **Don't Ignore Your Weaknesses:** Be honest about your problem areas. If you struggle with listening to fast speech, do dedicated dictation exercises. If you confuse particles (に/で), drill them until they become automatic.
- ◆ **Don't Translate Everything:** While reading, resist the urge to translate every word into your native language. Practice reading in "chunks" and grasping the overall meaning of sentences and paragraphs. This is crucial for building speed.
- ◆ **Don't Neglect Time Management on Exam Day:** Some test centers do not have a visible clock. **Bring your own watch.** Know roughly how much time to allocate to each section so you don't run out of time at the end.
- ◆ **Don't Be Discouraged by N1/N2 Scores Alone:** While the certificate is crucial for doors to open, remember that a high score doesn't automatically equal perfect fluency,

## YOUR SYLLABUS ACTION PLAN

especially in speaking . Use it as a tool, but continue to practice real-world communication.

- ◆ **Identify Your Goal:** Why are you learning Japanese? (e.g., Work in Japan, enter a Japanese university, read manga, talk with in-laws).
- ◆ **Determine Your Target Level:** Based on your goal.
  - ◆ Living in Japan/Low-skilled work: **N4**
  - ◆ Japanese University / Most Professional Jobs: **N2**
  - ◆ Academic Research / High-Level Management: **N1**
- ◆ **Start at Your Level:** Take a practice test to see where you stand. If you are a true beginner, start from N5. If you have some knowledge, try an N4 or N3 practice test.
- ◆ **Follow the Syllabus & Do's:** Use the level-specific syllabus above as your roadmap and the Do's & Don'ts as your guide. Consistent, daily practice (even just 2 hours) is key.
- ◆ **Use Official Resources:** Always refer to the official JLPT website (<https://www.jlpt.jp/>) for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

## OUR CERTIFICATION



# OUR STAFF & FACULTY



