

Why Learn Japanese?

日本語を勉強しましょう



From anime to sushi bars, karaoke to manga, bonsai to origami, Japanese culture has become part of international culture – and don't forget sudoku, sumo or karate or Miyazaki's wonderful world of *Totoro* and *Spirited Away*!

Although the writing can be challenging (there are 3 alphabets!), Japanese grammar is in many ways simpler than that of European languages. Japanese nouns have no genders or plural forms, and there are only two verb tenses, present and past. Spoken Japanese has only 5 vowel sounds and spelling is phonetically consistent, making the language relatively easy to speak.

And it is part of a fascinating culture: did you know...?

- The use of chopsticks is important and comes with its own set of rules. Never point with them, and never stick them upright in your rice. Chopsticks are only placed upright in rice when food is offered to the dead.
- The Japanese eat KFC at Christmas!
- To gesture someone to "come here," don't crook your finger – that's demeaning, and how you call a dog. Instead, motion with the palm down, all fingers hooking inward at once.
- In Japan, teachers and students come together to clean the classrooms and cafeteria.

Want to know more? Contact:

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