

Oral Communication in Japanese for International Researchers at OU

Designed by Center for International Education and Exchange
Osaka University

1. The Purpose

Oral Communication in Japanese for International Researchers (abbreviated as **OCJ**) is particularly designed for international researchers, faculty and staff at Osaka University who wish to acquire some practical Japanese skills to make Japanese acquaintances or friends and make their lives here easier and more enjoyable. The program is intended to help them acquire basic oral Japanese skills that enable them to express themselves in Japanese and “have things done effectively” in their daily lives and in casual situations at the lab. At the same time, it aims to help them build foundation in basic Japanese in terms of structural knowledge of Japanese with which they can further continue studying Japanese.

Particular feature of OCJ is that it does not require participants to learn Japanese scripts, i.e. *hiragana* and *katakana* at the beginning of the course. Though most beginning Japanese courses require you to do so, you can learn oral Japanese skills without any help of these scripts. It is recommended that you learn these scripts after you have acquired certain oral skills in Japanese. Romanized presentation of Japanese is used in OCJ with audio materials available on web.

Another feature of OCJ is that we use English as the medium of instruction, while at the same time a lot of Japanese are used by the teacher and lots of use of Japanese by the participants are encouraged. The course intends to expand your knowledge of Japanese in a rational fashion and also familiarize you with how to mention things and speak Japanese.

*If you are interested in practicing Japanese conversation or learning Japanese scripts and *kanji*, you may join Nihongo Table held once in a week in Suita campus and Toyonaka campus. Nihongo Tables runs from May to July and November to January. Detailed information will be announced on CIEE website at http://ciee.osaka-u.ac.jp/learning_japanese/nihongotable-by-volunteers/.

*Various *hiragana* *katakana* learning tools are available on web. For example visit https://a1.marugotoweb.jp/ja/introduction.php#japan_knowledge to learn and practice *hiragana* and *katakana*.

2. The Structure

OCJ is a combination of self-study and class practice. Participants are expected to spend some time to study the coursebook with lexical and grammatical annotations and practice with the audio materials before attending the class. Class time are mostly spent for practicing and learning additional useful expressions. Also, participants are expected to write a short essay on the topic of the unit after studying each unit.

In addition to learning Japanese, different web sites that give you information and views of Japan and life of Japanese people are introduced during the class.

3. The Materials

Abbreviated Romanized version of “A New Approach to Elementary Japanese, vol 1” (Kuroshio Publisher) is used as the main material of the program. Sound files are available at the publisher’s web site.

4. The Courses

(1) OCJ 1

The purpose of OCJ 1 is:

1. to familiarize you with Japanese pronunciations using names of countries, major cities, famous scientists, and loan words (katakana-go)
2. to be able to introduce yourself and talk something about your family
3. to be able to talk about your favorite things (foods, drinks, sports, music, etc.)
4. to be able to describe everyday things and events using simple Japanese
5. to be able to describe what you did in Friday evening, the weekend, etc.
6. to be able to have simple things done in everyday situations

Class	Unit & Title	Main Lexical/Grammar Points *Knowledge of Grammar	Socializing Functions and Having Things Done *Useful Information
1 2	Unit 1 Introducing Myself	※ Introduction to the Japanese language (sound system, sentence structure, characteristics of speaking, etc.), how to say countries and major cities in Japanese sound system and intonation, identifying yourself, counting system up to 100, loan words around us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting and greeting new friends • recognizing and offering things around you *name of your institution and some others
3 4	Unit 2 Introducing My Family	family terms, schools and students/pupil, languages, professions/occupations/etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about your family *Hankyu lines and Kita-Osaka railways, different locations including Umeda, Kyoto, Kobe, Shinsaibashi, etc.
5 6	Unit 3 My Favorite Things	foods, drinks, verbs for eating, drinking, etc., sports, music, counting systems up to one million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about your favorites (foods, drinks, sports, music, etc.) • finding things at a convenience store, supermarket, etc. *credit card payment
7 8	Unit 4 My Everyday Life	meals, particles (に、で、から、まで、か), verbs for daily activities, everyday places, daily activities/events, means of transportation, saying time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about your daily life • finding your way at a train station or bus station *Hankyu Umeda station, Senri Chuo bus station *how to use trains and buses
9 10	Unit 5 Friday Night	different foods, restaurants, nearby ~ * <i>r</i> adjective and <i>na</i> adjective and their present and past forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about your experiences in the Friday evening • ordering drinks or foods at a restaurant *how things are done at a restaurant
11 12	Unit 6 Going out	things to buy, saying locations *different form of <i>r</i> adjective and <i>na</i> adjective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about your short trip in the weekend • saying sizes and color and pattern preferences about clothes *famous clothes shops in Japan and the world

In addition to learning Japanese, you are invited to visit a couple of websites at which you will know some aspects of people's life and Japanese culture.

- https://a1.marugotoweb.jp/en/life_and_culture.php
- <https://a2-2.marugotoweb.jp/en/life-and-culture/>
- <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/live/>

(2) OCJ 2

The purpose of OCJ 2 is;

1. to learn how to invite people, offer things, offer to do things, ask for help, explain dos and don'ts, give suggestions
2. to familiarize you with Japanese structures to express desire, rules and regulations, obligations and things to notice.
3. to describe your family in some detail and say whether you have a particular experience or not

	Unit & Title	Main Lexical/Grammar Points *Knowledge of Grammar	Socializing Functions and Having Things Done *Useful Information
1 2	Unit7 Invitations and Offers	functional expressions using ~ますか/~ませんか/~ましょうか/~ましょう, question words including いつ、どこ、どうして、	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inviting people • offering things or offer to do things *group belongingness and personal relationship
3 4	Unit 8 My Family	what people do in their lives, character and appearance of a person, skills and abilities *three kinds verbs and inflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talking about people around you in some detail *Japanese people's life
5 6	Unit 9 What I Want to Do	four seasons, climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressing desire to do something • expressing whether you have experienced to do a particular thing or not *seasonal activities and holidays
7 8	Unit 10 Rules and Directions	different operations of things in everyday life *~てください、~もいいです、~てはいけません	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking for help • give guidance or instructions • telling dos and don'ts *different communication tools and channels
9 10	Unit 11 Busy Day and Hard Work	life-related obligations, student's obligations, professor's job *~なければなりません and negative form of verbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressing one's obligations
11 12	Unit12 Things to Notice	weather, climate, disaster prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving suggestions *cold winter; typhoon and earthquake

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- <https://a2-2.marugotoweb.jp/en/life-and-culture/>
- <https://a2-2.marugotoweb.jp/ja/snap/>

- <https://anime-manga.jp/en/>
- <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/live/>