

SAMPLE

Introductory Japanese

にゅうもん

Vocabulary List

ごい リスト



nihongo-pro.com

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Welcome to Nihongo-Pro

This textbook gives the Japanese vocabulary covered in Nihongo-Pro's Introductory Japanese group lessons. These 16 lessons will introduce you to about 400 words used in everyday Japanese and give you a solid foundation for continuing your Japanese study in our Basic Japanese 1 classes.

Our introductory lessons start from zero, so no previous knowledge of Japanese is required or expected. Following the 16 vocabulary lists, you'll find charts to help you learn to read hiragana and katakana, as well as guidelines for counting in Japanese and reading dates in Japanese.

Introductory lessons are taught twice a week, so you can complete the entire Introductory Japanese course in just eight weeks. Nihongo-Pro's Introductory Japanese classes are based on *practical* Japanese you can readily use—words and concepts used in everyday life.

Make no mistake—knowledge of just a little Japanese goes a long way in Japan. Armed with this introductory Japanese vocabulary, you can greet and introduce yourself to strangers, ask for help, and more. Your Japanese friends will greatly appreciate your interest in their language; plus, after you finish a carefully prepared Japanese meal, thanking your host with “Gochisoosama deshita” is sure to be returned with a welcoming smile.

The curriculum on which this book is based, including the vocabulary lists and kana tables, was developed by Nihongo-Pro teacher Michiko Lilly; Fusayo Nagatomi and Yasuyo Sei, also Nihongo-Pro teachers, reviewed the content. I am indebted to our entire teaching staff for their tireless work to bring excellence in online Japanese instruction to students throughout the world.

Please try our Introductory Japanese group lessons. Along with the entire Nihongo-Pro teaching staff, I hope you benefit from our classes as much as we enjoy bringing them to you.

Steve Cooper
June 2014

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Japanese Pronunciation

Japanese has just five vowels: a, i, u, e, o. They are pronounced short and clear, as follows:

- a “ah” (but keep it short); like the “a” in *father*
- i “ee” (but keep it short); like the “ee” in *bee* or *fee*
- u like the “oo” in *moon*, but shorter
- e similar to a short e sound, like *get* or *met*—just remember to keep it short!
- o similar to a long o sound, like *sole*, but shorter in duration

Each syllable in Japanese ends in a vowel (a, i, u, e, o), except for one: N. N is pronounced similar to “-ng” as in *king*, but with a little less “g” than in English. N is a full-fledged syllable in Japanese, so be sure not to shorten its pronunciation.

Each of the five vowel sounds can be lengthened as well. Keep the regular vowels short, and make sure to pronounce the lengthened vowels longer.

There is also a “mini-stop” in some Japanese words. In Romaji, it shows up as a double consonant (such as “kk”, “ss”, or “tt”); in hiragana, it is written as a small つ (*tsu*). Stop very briefly when you encounter this sound, and then continue.

Japanese Word	Pronounce like this...	NOT like this...
<i>koNnichiwa</i> (“Good afternoon”) こんにちは	ko-N-ni-chi-wa	✗ ko-ni-chi-wa
<i>seNeN</i> (“1,000 yen”) せんえん	se-N-e-N	✗ se-nen
<i>gakkoo</i> (“school”) がっこう	ga-(stop)-ko-o	✗ ga-ko
<i>kippu</i> (“ticket”) きっぷ	ki-(stop)-pu	✗ ki-pu
<i>kaishaiN</i> (“company employee”) かいしゃいん	ka-i-sha-i-N	✗ kai-shain

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Introductory Lesson 3

Vocabulary	Romaji	Meaning
そら	<i>sora</i>	sky
うみ	<i>umi</i>	sea, ocean
とり	<i>tori</i>	bird
やま	<i>yama</i>	mountain
き	<i>ki</i>	tree
いえ	<i>ie</i>	house
にわ	<i>niwa</i>	garden
いけ	<i>ike</i>	pond
ねこ	<i>neko</i>	cat
いぬ	<i>inu</i>	dog
おんな	<i>onna</i>	woman
おとこ	<i>otoko</i>	man
かお	<i>kao</i>	face
め	<i>me</i>	eyes
くち	<i>kuchi</i>	mouth
みみ	<i>mimi</i>	ears
はな	<i>hana</i>	nose
あたま	<i>atama</i>	head
むね	<i>mune</i>	chest
おなか	<i>onaka</i>	stomach
せなか	<i>senaka</i>	back
て	<i>te</i>	hand
あし	<i>ashi</i>	leg, foot

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Vocabulary (Romaji)

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