

## Why learn Japanese?

End

- It's not required
- You won't be tested on this stuff ...
  - Well. Not until you get to Japan and want to buy something, eat something, get somewhere or greet somebody. 'Nuff said.
- We can't teach you Japanese in the time available, but will give you a start, point you at resources and turn you loose
- The more you learn, the more interesting, memorable and FUN this trip will be



1

## What'll we look at tonight?

End

- The language and culture
- The writing system
- Pronunciation
- Useful phrases
- Resources



2

## In some ways, Japanese simpler than English End

- Pronunciation and grammar very regular compared to English
- Greetings and other normal interactions tend to use limited number of stock phrases
- Fewer words in common use



3

## So why's it so difficult? End

- The cultural assumptions built into the language are different from ours and sometimes hard to get accustomed to
- The writing system



4

## Politeness levels

End

- We have them in English too, but we don't have the formalized rules that Japanese does
  - We might say "Wassup" vs "Good morning" but try to explain why or when you'd use either
- Japanese uses different verb forms and in some cases, different vocabulary
  - Tsukurikata shitte-ru?
  - Tsukurikata shitte imasu ka?
  - Tsukurikata gozonji desu ka?

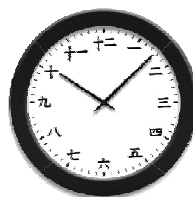


5

## How would it feel to be suddenly illiterate?

End

- You'll learn as soon as you get off the plane
  - Can't read anything - signs, instructions, vending machines ...



6

How would it feel to be suddenly illiterate?

End

- You'll learn as soon as you get off the plane
  - Can't read anything - signs, instructions, vending machines ...
  - And you can't look anything up in a dictionary. How would you look this up?



7

Four different systems in one

End

- 漢字 Kanji (Chinese characters)
- ひらがな Hiragana
- カタカナ Katakana
- Romaji (hey, you KNOW this one!)
  - That's 26 out of 30,000 ... well. It's a start.



8

## Kanji 漢字

End

- Basis of Japanese writing system
- Nouns, verb & adjective stems
- Examples:
  - 本 = hon/moto = basis or origin
  - 日 = nichi/ni sun
  - 日本 = nihon = Japan
  - 月 = tsuki = moon
  - 明るい = akarui = bright / glittering



9

## Kanji 漢字 (cont'd)

End

- Nobody knows how many there are; estimates range from 30 to 50,000
- 2000 or so for minimal literacy but
  - Kanji have two (or more) readings
  - Multiple kanji compounds have unique meanings
- You might need to know 5000 readings and several hundred compounds



10

## Kanji use will fade away?

End

- Text was written in 1977 and last revised in 1994
- Cites difficulty of using typewriters, computers, sending electronic messages
- Uhhhh ... what's a typewriter?
- Technology since then has changed all that. Any inexpensive computer can write Japanese.
- Kanji may fade away some day, but not by the time WE get there.



11

## Syllabaries: hiragana, katakana

End

- One symbol, one sound
- Hiragana: あいうえお (a i u e o)
- Katakana アイウエオ (a i u e o)



12

## Hiragana

End

- Verb/adjective endings
  - Iku 行く, ikimashita 行きました
  - Samui 寒い, samukatta 寒かった
- It looks elegant / traditional
- Gaijin who don't know any kanji
- Amaze your friends: is it Chinese or Japanese? If you see hiragana, it's Japanese.

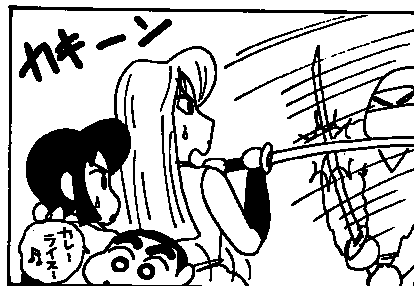


13

## Katakana are for

End

- Foreign words
  - ヘレン
  - ジェニファ
  - エレベエタア
- EMPHASIS
  - You can't manga without 'em



14

## Pronunciation

End

- All "soft" vowels
  - a, i, u, e, o = ah, ee, ooh, eh, oh
- Very slight trill/flip to "r" (something like Spanish)
  - Kore これ



15

## Phrases

End

- Subject (m) Object (m) Verb (?m)
- は (ha but pron. "wa") or が (ga) mark subject
- を (wo but pron "o") marks object
- か (ka) marks question



16



## Phrases

End

- Watashi wa hon wo yomimasu  
私は本を読みます
- Sensei wa hon wo yomimasu ka?  
先生は本を読みますか
- Watashi wa amerika-jin desu  
私はアメリカ人です
- Amerika-jin desu ka?  
アメリカ人ですか



17

## Greetings

End

- Good morning = ohayou gozaimasu (ohio go-zi-mas',  
literally "It's early")  
おはようございます
- Good day = konnichiwa (literally "as for this day")  
こんにちは
- Good evening = konbanwa (lit: "as for this evening")  
こんばんは



18

## Introductions

End

- [your name] to moshimasu. Hajimemashite. Douzo yoroshiku.  
\_\_\_\_ともします。はじめまして。どうぞよろしく。
- Kochira wa [your friend's name] desu. (introducing your friend to someone else)  
こちらは \_\_\_\_ です。



19

## Japanese names

End

- Family name first, given name second (Shibata Kanako); no middle names.
- Frequent confusion over western names - which is family/given name?
  - Family name: myoji 名字
  - Given name: namae 名前
  - JONES wa myoji desu \_\_\_\_は名字です。



20

## Thank you

End

- Formal: domou arigatou gozaimasu  
どうもありがとうございます
- Normal: domou arigatou or just arigatou  
どうもありがとう / ありがとう
- Casual: doumo  
どうも



21

## Requests

End

- Please give me XXX: XXX o kudasai  
\_\_\_を下さい / をください
- Or (point to what you want): sore o kudasai  
それを下さい
- Where is the toilet: toire wa doko desu ka?  
トイレはどこですか
- What is this? = kore wa nan desu ka?  
これはのんですか
- Are there any/do you have: XXX arimasu ka?  
\_\_\_ありますか



22

## What should I spend time on?

End

- Spoken Japanese
- Listening practice (anime, Japanese radio on the net)
- Basic kanji
  - Pye book gives a good selection, we'll teach you more as we progress
- Hiragana, Katakana in that order
  - Mitamura books make it fairly painless



23

End

## Questions?

しつもんありますか？

Shitsumon arimasu ka?



End

## Resources

Put down your pens and stop that  
frantic scribbling!

It's all on the web site.

きにしないでください  
気にしないで下さい



## Software

End

- JWPCE Word Processor - Free!
  - <http://www.physics.ucla.edu/~grosesth/jwpce.html>
- How to install Japanese in Windows XP
  - <http://www.pptfaq.com/FAQ00529.htm>



## Sites

End

- Just for fun
  - Insane machinery
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyuwPetrmaY>
  - I have a bad case of .... ah, see for yourself:
    - <http://www.collegehumor.com/video:1791484>



27

## Hiragana/Katakana charts

End

- See the handouts
  - [Syllabaries.pdf](#)

TABLE 6 HIRAGANA SYLLABARY

1. 44 Basic Hiragana	あ い う え お か き く け こ さ し す せ そ た ち つ て と な に ぬ ね の は ひ ふ へ ほ
2. 22 Dakuten and Muji-dakuten	が ぎ ぐ げ ご さ じ ず ぜ ぞ だ ぢ づ で ど ば び ぶ べ ぼ ぱ ぴ ぷ ぺ ぽ
3. 36 Yōon	や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ や ゆ よ
4. 100 Yōon's Specialized	きゃ きゅ きょ きゃ きゅ きょ しゃ しゅ しょ しゃ しゅ しょ ちゃ ちゅ ちよ ちゃ ちゅ ちよ ぢゃ ぢゅ ぢよ ぢゃ ぢゅ ぢよ ば び ぶ べ ぼ ぱ ぴ ぷ ぺ ぽ

TABLE 6 BASIC KATAKANA SYLLABARY

1. 46 Basic Katakana	ア イ ウ エ オ カ キ ク ケ コ サ シ ス セ ソ タ チ ツ テ ト ナ ニ ヌ ネ ノ ハ ヒ フ ヘ ホ
2. 22 Dakuten and Muji-dakuten	ガ ギ グ ゲ ゴ サ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ ダ ヂ ヅ デ ド バ ビ ブ ベ ボ パ ピ プ ペ ポ
3. 36 Yōon	ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ ヤ ユ ヨ
4. 100 Yōon's Specialized	キャ キョ キュ キャ キョ キュ シャ ショ シュ シャ ショ シュ チャ チュ チョ チャ チュ チョ ヂャ ヂョ ヂュ ヂャ ヂョ ヂュ バ ビ ブ ベ ボ パ ピ プ ペ ポ



28

## Language Books

End

- Japanese for Busy People (a series in various editions; each \$12 to \$20)
  - Good for learning basic Japanese, emphasis on speaking, not reading



29

## Dictionaries

End

- Webster's is smallest, lightest, but Langenscheidt's is more complete. If I could take only one to Japan, I'd grab the Webster's, but you might want to buddy up with a classmate, get one of each
- Webster's New World Compact Japanese Dictionary (\$7.50)
- Langenscheidt's Pocket Dictionary (\$11.50)



30

## Electronic dictionaries, PDA tools, etc.

End

- <http://www.bornplaydie.com/japan/dictionary/dictionary.htm>
- <http://www.japaneselanguagetools.com/>



31

## Writing

End

- Mitamura's programmed approach makes it very easy to learn hiragana/katakana.
- You can learn one or both syllabaries on the plane on the way to Japan.
  - Let's Learn Hiragana (\$10.50, Mitamura, Kodansha Int'l)
  - Let's Learn Katakana (\$11.50, Mitamura, Kodansha Int'l)
  - Everyday Japanese Characters (\$10 and up, Michael Pye, Hokuseido Press)
- Suggestion: do the exercises in a separate notebook, share the books with classmates.



32



## Language Books (for the grammargeek)

End

- A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar (\$42.50 and up) Makino and Tsutsui / The Japan Times
  - Grammar plus LOTS of real usage examples
- Everett F. Bleiler: Essential Japanese Grammar (\$7)
  - The rules and not a lot else, but it's a good (and cheap and small and light) reference

