

Conversational Japanese Courses

Level Guide

Last updated March 4, 2024

(Before finding your level, would you like advice about what class/progression is best for you? [See here.](#))

Links below will take you to each level in order of increasing experience. **Please read the grammar points at that level to see if they are familiar to you.** Note that the categories “Beginner,” “Intermediate,” and “Advanced” below are approximations.

These Conversational Japanese classes are offered in the 5-week semesters between every core-curriculum 10-week semester (Levels 1-13). They are structured to supplement and reinforce coursework from the numbered levels, and therefore the prerequisites refer to what level you have *finished*. New students are also welcome to join, even if you have not taken classes at Japan Society before. These courses are offered during the 5-week semesters, approximately: mid-April to mid-May, early August to mid September, and early December to late January.

Each of the [blue links](#) below are clickable; please click once, and then click the pop-up link to use the link.

[Beginner Levels](#)

[Conversation 1 \(Conv1\)](#)

[Conversation 2 \(Conv2\)](#)

[Conversation 3-4 \(Conv3-4\)](#)

[Intermediate Levels](#)

[Conversation 5-6 \(Conv5-6\)](#)

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[High Intermediate & Advanced Levels](#)

[Conversation 11-12 \(Conv11-12\)](#)

[Conversation 13 \(Conv13\)](#)

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Beginner Levels

Conversation 1 (Conv1)

For students who have **finished Level 1** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent; most importantly, students must understand how to use the particles *wa*, *o*, *de*, *ni*, and *e*, and be able to make sentences such as, “I eat a sandwich at a restaurant at 1 o’clock.” For a full list of grammar patterns covered in Level 1, see [Level Guide \(Numbered Levels\)](#). Recognition of hiragana is also expected.

Elementary social/situational conversation skills will be introduced. This course covers the first portion of the *Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo* textbook (Topics 1-6). See [Table of contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Conversation 2 (Conv2)

For students who have **finished Level 2** of our Japanese Courses (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)), or equivalent.

Students will learn more social/situational conversation skills. This course covers the second portion of the *Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo* textbook (Topics 7-9). See [Table of contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Conversation 3-4 (Conv3-4)

is for students who have **finished Level 3 or 4** of our Japanese Courses (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)), or equivalent, **and feel confident with Level 3 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 3, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 4. (If you are not confident in Level 3 patterns, Conv2 may be a better conversational course for you.)

The course will focus on skills needed to survive in Japan. Frequently used expressions will be practiced in context. The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons) of the *Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 1 (A2) Katsudoo* textbook. See [Table of contents](#) and [Sample](#).

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Intermediate Levels

Conversation 5-6 (Conv5-6)

is for students who have **finished Level 5 or 6** of our Japanese Courses (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)), or equivalent, and **feel confident with Level 5 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 5, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 6. If you are not confident in Level 5 patterns, Conv3-4 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will focus on strengthening speaking skills by having students engage in various exercises. The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons) of the *Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 2 (A2) Katsudoo* textbook. See [Table of contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Conversation 7-9 (Conv7-9)

is for students who have **finished Level 7, 8, or 9** of our Japanese Courses (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)), or equivalent, and **feel confident with Level 7 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 7, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 8 or 9. If you are not confident in Level 7 patterns, Conv5-6 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will focus on activities in various situations and language structures (e.g. sentence patterns) which support communication. The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons) of the *Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Pre-Intermediate A2/B1* textbook. See [Table of contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Conversation 10 (Conv10)

is for students who **have taken at least one Level 10 course** of our Japanese Courses (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)), or equivalent, and **feel confident with some of the Level 10 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who is just starting the Level 10

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progression, and more comfortable for those who have finished several parts of Level 10. Otherwise, Conv7-9 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will emphasize role-playing by the students in different social and business situations. The focus will be on maintaining a conversation and learning and using situational vocabulary. The course is taught in two parts, first and second half.

See [Sample here](#).

High Intermediate & Advanced Levels

Conversation 11-12 (Conv11-12)

is for students who have **finished at least one semester of Level 11** (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)) and are conversationally fluent at that level of our Japanese Courses or higher. If you are not confident in Level 11, C 9-10 may be a better conversational course for you.

Students will study and discuss various Japanese cultural topics, including social media. New vocabulary and expressions will be introduced. The course is repeatable and will cover different content every semester.

Conversation 13 (Conv13)

is for students at Level 12 (see the Levels 1-13 [Japanese Level Guide](#)) or equivalent, and have passed JLPT N2 or equivalent knowledge. Students should recognize at least 1,200 kanji.

実際の日本の番組をみながら、実用的な慣用句、表現、生きた日本語の習得を目指す最上級者向けコースです。

さすが上級者！と言われるような洗練されたカッコいい日本語を会話で使いこなしてみませんか。

Still have questions? Unsure about your level?

Please call the Language Center office at 212-715-1269 or 212-715-1293, or email language@japansociety.org. We are happy to answer questions about levels/courses and provide suggestions based on your language learning goals.

It may also be possible to arrange a level assessment with the Senior Director, Kamimura sensei. Level assessment appointments are typically on Wednesday afternoons (Eastern Time), but other times may be available. Please contact the Language Center office to arrange.

We hope to see you in a class soon!

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