

Mordraug's Personal Japanese Observations Diary

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Diary

You can freely share this/make copies (while keeping me attached to it/crediting me ofc).

I do update this diary when I find something new yet, so keep that in mind too. Again though, note this was meant to be for my own personal use, as such do NOT take what I say here as some absolute truth or anything, but rather an amalgamation of resources and information I found connected to Japanese that I have archived here.

WARNING: TONS, AND I MEAN TRULY TONS OF REPEATING RAMBLING BELOW!
PROCEED AT YOUR OWN CAUTION...yeah...I do quite enjoy writing / rambling (*!。 \)

Also, sorry if my editing style (colours, bolding etc.) gives you headaches, let me know if I should rather just switch to simple non-bolded text or such like I sort of did with Dolly's Transcript.

But I do so because I like to make important things visible which works for me personally.

My Discord is [Mordraug \(ID "morudoraugu"\)](#), my mail **Mordraug** or **モルドラウグ**
(click/hover on it)

Since I am careful about bots/scams, I do not accept randoms, so you should also let me know either through a message / email or join [the MoeWay Discord](#), [Yomitan](#) and [Eng-JP Learner's Exchange](#),

so I know it is someone Japanese-related.

(for feedback, questions etc. & in case some links stop working - please let me know)

I highly value feedback/tips on how to improve it, including more resources. Good luck!

You can also check “my” [Dolly's transcript](#) (originally by [Nunko](#), then passed onto me, credit to him)

Also check [Kellen's website version](#) of the transcript. It is the best version of it available online.

Though Dolly is only for the absolute beginners, I would not rely on it once you get the basics since it will likely cause misunderstandings of how real Japanese works etc., it is a fine total beginner source to quickly get the basics, but you will benefit much more from other sources/mass immersion mentioned below in the long run.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW DIRECTLY IF SOME LINKS DO NOT WORK ANYMORE!

ALSO, GIVE ME AS MANY RESOURCES AS YOU CAN IF SOME ARE MISSING

(I am like a Pokémon trainer - “Gotta catch ‘em all!”)

Make sure you read ALL the instructions for all the tools and pages carefully to ensure you get it all set up correctly and functionally. If you are unable to install something or are not sure about anything here, you can contact me and/or even better (in terms of the tools and general learning) visit the linked Discord servers and ask around there, plenty of people willing to assist you with the setups and the process of acquiring Japanese and its understanding.

An opening intro... including some crucial “truth bombs” about Japanese

This document serves to record all *my personal* observations, resources I found and all kinds of mishmash about Japanese, particularly in regards to input/immersion and

now was largely expanded to this HUGE document. There is a myriad of both free and paid resources & tools in the links below that someone might find beneficial in one way or another in their Japanese journey.

Note: Again, because this diary was being written for years, there is a TON of unnecessary rambling, needlessly complex/confusing wording and repeating of the same information. I kept it mostly intact because I do not want to disturb the original trains of thought in those segments.

KEEP IN MIND --- KEEP IN MIND

All the points, my views about stuff etc. given here are subject to change! They are not absolute!

It highly depends on my understanding of stuff, which I admit is still pretty limited!

Stuff here was written at varying times, even months to years apart, so I may feel differently about some stuff (in the future), but most of this is very usable I would say.

BUT PLEASE do not take it as some “truth” or take me as some kind of authority on anything

(I AM NOWHERE NEAR QUALIFIED FOR THAT!), it is just an amalgamation of all the stuff I found and what my personal experiences and knowledge at the time of writing was...

It is VERY LIKELY that what I say here may be bad advice or rather that it may misrepresent or misunderstand some aspects of things, so please make sure you do NOT take it as full-on truth and you do NOT follow ANYTHING I say here religiously or such! If what is in this document works for you, great, if not, change/use it to suit your needs etc. and do your own further research into the things and if so ask someone who actually has real credentials, e.g. is learnt in the matters and/or is fluent in Japanese, I try to put links when I can if I comment on something long, but still...

The main purpose of this document is to note down everything for my own, PERSONAL use, it is practically my diary in a way and nothing else, even though I hold an instructive tone throughout and do share it with others, it is simply due to the style of my writing rather than aim per se because I tend to speak like that since I got used to that kind of style while acquiring English.

Obviously, just like my notes in Dolly's transcript, even though I am sharing it with others, it still is mainly for my own personal use but written in the instructive 3rd person view instead and should be taken with a lot of salt, I am NOT a qualified linguist nor am fluent in Japanese (at least not yet).

Therefore, please take my words with a grain of salt (seriously), reason being that I am nowhere near qualified enough to be any kind of authority on anything and what I write are merely my opinions and observations + stuff I heard repeated a ton in the community.

I simply note down EVERYTHING I read (that seems logical and useful enough, usually from people who at least seem to have the skills), or notice it myself from some experience, however please keep in mind that because I am nowhere near the “good” or even “decent” level (at best being N3 in passive language so I largely suck still, not as much anymore, the decent base is there, but I still have a lot to go to reach true “上手” level).

ALL I say SHOULD be taken with a grain of salt because I am aware I am not good enough for my views to hold any real value and you should keep that in mind.

Although again... mostly I simply note down stuff others, who at least seem good, mention, so it is not like it is from my head only, but hopefully you get what I mean.

But basically, make sure you exercise caution when taking advice from strangers since I cannot guarantee that all the people truly know what they are talking about, but considering it is stuff that is pretty much almost universally agreed upon in the

Japanese-acquisition community there should be some truth to it in general terms, at least in some more general, basic terms.

Essentially, the method, resources and the tools are important and very useful and they definitely can make the crucial difference in you making faster progress, but what is more important is simply the fact you are GENUINELY interested in acquiring the language itself, and that you keep putting in the hard work & being passionate about acquiring the language long-term.

You will get there as long as you do not give up, no matter the method and there is no “best” method, different people find different things that work and do not work for them.

Of course, some can get you there faster than others, but the main factor is CONSTANT/DAILY hard work, passion, desire and NOT GIVING UP - this is in my opinion the most important aspect.

Japanese is HARD, like INCREDIBLY HARD, it takes YEARS/THOUSANDS of ACTIVE hours (even 5000+) to acquire properly (like most languages, but here it is in the extreme, it is a HUGE time investment)...especially if you are an English native who only knows English, which is why many people give up, because making/seeing noticeable progress in Japanese after N4 is MUCH harder to see than if you were learning Spanish, German or French etc., where you can understand 80-90+% with just ¼ of time invested and see very steady progress in general until upper B2 probably even including an okay-ish speaking AND writing ability on top.

Japanese on the other hand? For a LONG time you will not understand OVERALL more than 50% of stuff and even that will likely be hazy at best... HOWEVER, with every 10 hours you put it actively you will get a bit better, so it is not like you only get good magically when you reach a 3000 hour mark (that is just the typical calculation you might EXPECT to get good), you grow with each hour spent, even with just 100

hours you will be better than at 0 hours etc.

And I am not even going to include speaking and/or writing here (tho writing is not that needed).

BUT... it is NOT impossible and like any language, it CAN be successfully acquired to a fluent level (*by fluent I do not mean native, that is a whole another level, fluent does NOT equal perfect, it simply means a person is naturally able to speak and understand all general language instances without difficulty even if there are things to improve yet, native-like level is very hard to acquire*) with TONS of hard work, persistence and being daily consistent in putting in the effort & time to it. Japanese IS doable to acquire.

DISCIPLINE IS KEY. I highly recommend reading [this post](#), a concept called “No Zero Days”.

Japanese is a language like any other, it is not some Unicorn “*It is impossible to acquire to a fluent level anyway lol, so I just brag that I am learning this impossible language and that is all I care about, rather than genuinely wanting to acquire it*” language, there are things some find harder to acquire than others & it has its own unique challenges, like in any other language, but it is possible. However, obviously the time and effort required to acquire it is much bigger than most.

However, in Japanese you truly HAVE TO really love the LANGUAGE ITSELF AND ITS ACQUISITION, not just the culture etc., because the amount of people that HEAVILY underestimate the INCREDIBLY MASSIVE amount of time and ACTIVE, PAINFUL effort Japanese takes to acquire will eventually drop it & I would say they will often not get past N4/N3 even (usually it is around 2 years when they stop seeing noticeable progress and give up). You have to either be in an ABSOLUTE love with the language etc. or you need to have actual VERY strong and APPLICABLE goals for it (such as ACTUALLY living and working in Japan with active steps towards realising it).

Otherwise? After you get to N3-ish you notice that the massive, incredibly difficult

wall you were climbing until this point is actually not the end... no, no no... it is then when you realise you have just started climbing Mount Everest and are at the very bottom of it. And many people understandably cannot take this realisation, especially if they took 1 year+ working hard until then. There it shows how much you really love and care about Japanese and how practical your goals with it are, because the amount of effort needed to get “good” in it is probably not worth it for most people considering it is a language spoken in just one country with 120 million people whose population is in a rapid decline on top. Yes, it has a great cultural impact and everything, but still, is it really worth it for consuming Japanese media only when translations exist? Sure, mostly said translations do not capture the full scope of the original Japanese and/or are misleading/wrong at times, but then it is up to the individual whether putting 5000+ hours into it with LOOONG period of not feeling any progress and/or feeling like you are regressing, is really worth it and if it is not better to instead pursue something more useful like Spanish or Mandarin Chinese (if you still want Japanese-like challenge) etc. that will give you more practical returns overall in their usefulness.

I am not trying to dissuade you here and destroy your desire to give Japanese a try or keep learning it, I am simply telling you that you really need to be aware of what you are getting/have got yourself into. Simply, you need to accept that Japanese acquisition is a LIFE-LONG process.

You can get “上手” in it after 4000-ish active hours, but that is not where it ends... it never truly ends since there will always be something new, even if it largely decreases when you get fluent.

Thus, in my opinion, it is best to simply do the language for the fun of it while having clear goals. Focus on the fun mainly, since if it is fun, it will give you the results without having to worry if you are doing stuff “correctly” or if you are improving. You will improve if you keep working hard on it.

DO NOT STRESS OVER NOT MAKING PROGRESS IN JAPANESE DESPITE PUTTING IN LOTS OF TIME AND EFFORT, IT IS NOT WORTH IT. AS LONG AS YOU KEEP IT UP DAILY & YOU HAVE GENUINE FUN WITH IT DESPITE ITS HUGE CHALLENGE, YOU WILL GET THERE EVENTUALLY.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL ACQUIRE THE LANGUAGE!

Mindset is everything and it affects quite a lot of stuff in terms of really keeping up the hard work.

CREDIT TO EVERYONE I found and who was in ANY way useful in my journey.

The vast majority of info contained here comes from these resources I listed, not from me directly

(I tried to include everything, sorry if I forgot someone...)

This may serve as a **VERY LONG** rambling “introduction” into “immersing” and combining it with studying in terms of specifically Japanese via the resources and tools provided below. Though a lot of this document can be utilised for **ANY** language, including a good chunk of the tools.

Random note about Dolly I had written (not needed unless you are reading through the transcript)

This was originally started from one of my very long notes about the importance of immersion, following Lesson 34 of [CureDolly](#) (RIP) whose work I found very useful personally as a total beginner and from there expanded into this behemoth of a diary... even if I do not fundamentally agree with some of her things and ways of looking at Japanese and the more I know, the more I see that her stuff misrepresents how Japanese works in reality, at least in terms of her specific methodology it can be misleading due to being simplified. [Cure Dolly](#) is an okay-ish pure beginner grammar resource and she helped me a TON to get the grasp of the basic structure, so for that I thank her a lot. But...

Just like I say in the transcript, make sure you DO NOT take the stuff she says as some Gospel, always take it with a grain of salt, a lot of proficient Japanese learners like [Morg](#), [DonKuri](#), Seth Coonrod (from [Imabi](#)) and others expressed that her explanations and even some sentences are wrong/misleading, including asking native Japanese people who also said similar things.

(some of the terms she is using in her videos for some stuff [and her insistence on the terms] are strictly used only in her model, even though I get the intent and they work well for her model... & especially “the best way to learn is mine” approach and similar “elitist”/“secret nobody talks about” she often voices I do not personally agree with, as it has a bit of an exploitative feel, especially when she does not really teach any “secrets” really... moreover I think there is no best way, only more and less effective ways for a PARTICULAR individual learner, which Dolly also mentions and agrees with) and also I heard some of her sentences/explanations and stuff are not really correct/simplified/misleading either a bit or more seriously etc. which you can see discussed on [this MoeWay Discord thread](#) by [Morg](#) himself or [here](#), there are some other really weird rumours I heard elsewhere about her that I will not comment on and I do not want to shed negative light on her, especially considering she’s deceased from what we know, since she helped me and even others a LOT and it is why I went on to edit the whole transcript and there is still value in her work and why MoeWay recommends her. She is still a pretty good resource if you are just a beginner in Japanese, just keep in mind that her way is not some “best” way or “secret” or such and do not take her words as some ultimate truth... and you should definitely check out other grammar sources if you finish Dolly since she only covers basics (some of which I linked in the Grammar tab below).

Dolly, when asked, said it would be good to slowly start around the 20s/30s with input (somewhere in the comments under the videos in the late 10s or 20s?).

If you are doing Dolly, you should start SERIOUSLY immersing at the latest around Lesson 48 in the transcript series (*but preferably even sooner*), you should really consider starting input together with studying (*that is the best combination imo, but it is*

time-consuming) **if you have not yet, that is....** I would look into some other grammar guide at the point, you can keep doing Dolly until the end, but eventually you really should **1) do tons of reading for the grammar to stick 2) study another grammar guide that is more representative of how Japanese functions** - most are listed below.

If you are unsure, just start with a couple of minutes of active input each day, to make it a habit.

Measure how much time / energy you can spend inputting & then try to keep it at that every day, slowly increasing the time (*unless it is already 4+ hours or so I guess:D, that is a pretty good amount:D*)

Generally after you have the absolute basics, which at that point you already do, at least grammar-wise, vocab-wise it is good to first build up some basic 2000 words or so and then slowly build up from there, vocab is KEY (*grammar too, but...will be touched upon later in the document*).

For getting the basic vocabulary, there are vocabulary decks such as [Kaishi](#) (recommend this one) [Anki 2.3k](#) or [Tango N5](#) or [this 6000 Core one](#). - no point in using these ones, Kaishi is enough...

Dolly delves into immersion only from Lesson 45, so it is up to you, but I recommend starting now already

(*Lesson 34 in the guide, but even sooner if you don't mind constantly looking things up*) at least for a bit so that you can then apply the stuff from the Lesson 45 right away and will have the tools ready.

My resources (95% of them at least that is...)

Included here are A TON (literally HUNDREDS if not THOUSANDS) of resources you can choose, Japanese is one of the (if not THE) richest languages for online/offline resources & tools available.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE SITES HAVE A PLETHORA OF THEIR OWN

RESOURCES LISTED

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND GOING THROUGH STUFF AND ULTIMATELY PICKING ONE OR TWO RESOURCES AT MOST PER EACH SECTION (GRAMMAR ETC.), INCLUDING THE IMMERSION MATERIAL, DO NOT SPREAD YOURSELF TOO THIN, FOCUS ON JUST A FEW THAT WORK FOR YOU AND KEEP THE WORK THROUGH THEM. IT IS MUCH EASIER TO BE CONSISTENT THAT WAY. DO NOT GET INTO THE PERFECTIONIST MINDSET BECAUSE IT IS NOT WORTH WORRYING ABOUT THE “PERFECT” METHOD - IT WILL JUST STUNT YOUR GROWTH ULTIMATELY.

The amount of information you can access through these resources can feel
overwhelming!

So take your time! IT IS A LOOOOOOOT of info. But bloody damn good info I'd say.

Full credit to them of course, support them if possible etc. since they absolutely
deserve it!

Though keep in mind that some resources have piracy content or such. I include
basically everything I stumbled upon with the aim to record EVERYTHING useful for
Japanese acquisition, so if you mind piracy etc. ignore said content / let me know
please.

There are hundreds of legal resources available if anything.

Again just in case, most of the stuff I say below in my observations comes from these sources, they are not from me, at best I include my understanding of things AND my experiences, but do not take the stuff I say below as my original thoughts about acquisition, as that is NOT the case.

SO CREDIT GOES TO THEM, NOT TO ME.

Those near the top you definitely want to check out, but every single one of these resources is amazing and will give you a lot of very useful stuff into your Japanese journey.

Again, it is a LOT of reading though so take it slowly! But HIGHLY HIGHLY USEFUL!

Definitely study their resources pages too.

Plus they are awesome for revisiting so I suggest bookmarking them or such.

Remember that some resources are for more advanced learners, so try to pick some closer to your level.

[TheMoeWay](#) (AMAZING SITE, READ EVERYTHING THERE + [their Discord](#) is very helpful & useful, you can [support them](#) if possible. Also read and note down their [resources section](#) + on Discord [here](#) and [here](#). Plus, [check this new Resources Github page](#), authored by [DonKuri](#) that includes tons of resources from MoeWay's Discord resource-sharing channel which is updated).

[Morg Systems](#) (also AMAZING, has tons of AWESOME stuff in it, he also directly references real papers on things sometimes),

[DonKuri's Guide](#) (also has [resources](#) + [media recommendations](#)) - read all of it, awesome stuff too

[A Year To Learn Japanese](#) (by SuikaCider) - a huge 165-page document about Japanese that has a ton of useful stuff in it about acquisition, the entire process etc. etc, it delves into linguistics including pronunciation etc. + their story and tips of acquiring Japanese and many other things

PS: No need to use Genki or such as is said there, use whatever works for you, it is

just what the person used, not what you need to use. Nowadays, there are many faster/less boring alternatives.

There are MANY resources given, but more importantly practical pieces even outside of Japanese, so recommend going through it.

[Marv's Resources Page](#) (and his other pages)

[The Habit Loop](#) and [Trigger-Action Plans](#) - something that will be very useful for consistency, also [this video](#) makes some good general points about skill building and learning

[How to Learn Japanese blog](#)

[How to Learn to Read Japanese](#)

[Acquiring Japanese Efficiently document](#)

[Tofugu's Resources](#) (has TONS of legal resources, obviously the rest of Tofugu stuff is also cool),

[Kuzuri](#) (also TONS of legal resources),

[Wotaku](#) - tons of resources about all kinds of stuff (thanks for including my Diary there (づ●_●)づ)

[Kuuuube](#) - developer that makes Japanese and other useful programs, also one of Yomitan's devs

[The Ultimate Additional Japanese Resources List!](#) - lots of resources (tho might be a bit outdated)

[レフラ's Japanese Language Learning Resource List](#) - has a few unique resources

[Skye's Dungeon](#) - has tons of resources, including lots of linguistic papers etc. - RIP, it was taken down apparently due to Google's new policy of some kind (｡・ˇˊˋ｡)

[Cade's site](#) + [resources](#) (the UI is bugged for some reason, still very useful, might be somewhat outdated in tools etc.),

[Igrecl's Resources](#)

[KVLP resources](#)

[Resources for learning Japanese](#) - tons of resources (some tools are outdated since it's 2 years old)

[Starter Guide on r/Japanese Reddit](#) AND [r/Japanese Reddit Resources](#) - tons of resources

[JP Lazy Immersion Tools Setup Guide](#) - will put this here if anything

[Mornox's "Total beginner to intermediate - all resources I used and study routines" Reddit post](#)

[English-Japanese Discord Exchange Resources page](#) - tons of resources, some are outdated tho

[Yameda.me](#) - lots of resources, also neatly packed/nice UI

[This one amazing post with further links and actual resources about immersion](#) that also shows that immersion alone is not all you need, highly recommend reading through it, great stuff,

[Dogen](#) (also well-known and cool guy, his [phonetics series](#) is awesome, though it is rather for advanced learners, he also has more on his Patreon I believe), here [a download link](#) of the entire series if you want

[Xythh.github.io](#) / Pitch site - For **PLENTY** of Pitch-Accent resources, including real papers. (though in Japanese) Also, it also includes a list of patterns on Pitch Accent, which you can find [here](#).

For training Pitch, you can check [コツ / Kotsu](#) (need to sign in, just create a random account = easy)

[AJATT](#) (Wayback Machine) - someone narrated the entire AJATT on Youtube, which you can [check here](#) (full value of this depends on the person, it can be quite motivational & has generally useful advice (but keep in mind it also has some advice that is bad and was apparently proven to be bad, especially if you are not a 24/7 NEET who puts 10 hours into Japanese every day). It also is quite old already, so can be outdated quite a bit.

Keep in mind that AJATT is a VERY hardcore method so it is not for everyone and there also is a kind of elitism present, but it does have some useful advice overall, at least in terms of

the mindset building. But then again, MoeWay and almost any great guides on Japanese are inspired by AJATT in their base, including me therefore, so the influence of AJATT on Japanese learning community is undeniable),

---SOME GENERAL ADVICE---

[JJ's N3+ Japanese advice](#) (definitely recommend reading through it, it is very useful).

Hopefully the link works, if not, [check the post directly on Discord](#) (need to be on the MoeWay Discord).

JJ's Note

JJ's advice is interesting (*I would not be concerned about the 1 week backlog or the not sorting by frequency, that is JJ's preference, but there is nothing wrong with not following these, I think the frequency sort is pretty useful*), that is mainly the recommendation to only mine based on reading and test just the reading since meaning is best acquired through tons of reading. Although it should be noted that **JJ does NOT say to completely ignore meanings in Anki and I also do not recommend doing that!** You just do not grade them as much (or try to remember the dictionary entries), instead you focus on readings, but you still want to get the fuzzy feeling of the meaning down (at least knowing the area - "this has to do with economics" etc.). Anki is there to make you familiar with the word's reading and help you acquire mainly the reading so that then when you encounter the word in your "immersion" (reading, listening etc.) you can read it easily and then your brain will find it much easier to acquire the specific meanings of this word in the context since you are focusing on just the meaning then.

And I think this is true, the only way to truly effectively acquire the meaning is through immersion and seeing it over and over in multiple contexts, it is very similar to grammar, sure, grammar study and getting the gist/familiar with it/that it exists and how it roughly works is useful (that is what the meaning in Anki does), but you are not

meant to forcefully try to remember the grammar from the guides/study etc., it is not effective and you cannot really acquire grammar like this, only through constant exposure to the real language, said/written by real natives and in real contexts.

Meanings are similar in this case, when you mine, you focus on the READING so you can boost your immersion speed, the MEANING of the word is there only to familiarise yourself with what it sort of can refer to, but you will fully acquire it through lots of subsequent immersion unlike the reading (but of course, that will also help you fully internalise the reading, but unlike the meanings, typically with reading you only have to learn one because we are NOT learning the individual Kanji, we are learning WORDS which only have 1 reading e.g. 究極 has only the reading of きゅうきよく.

At worst there may be 2 readings - one for more casual use, the other for more formal use, but you usually prioritise the one most-likely in the context. This also goes for Ateji / special readings.

Now I definitely understand why because it is true that meaning is INCREDIBLY hard to remember and recall in Anki, frankly in experience I fail to actively recall/actually say the vast majority of meanings through Anki alone (even on another day) while I remember most readings quite easily after a few reps, but I noticed that the meanings I do remember are typically those I kept on looking a lot during my input reading sessions (actual native material), especially where the context was straightforward for me AND the word was mentioned A LOT throughout the sessions, so the more common and the more you see the word, the easier is to remember its meanings in context. I think using Anki for readings only (well, you still try to get the fuzzy meaning feeling) is not a bad advice, since if you know the readings of the words, your reading speed and smoothness of the reading process increases a ton and then you can just focus on the meanings through look-ups and there is the connexion to the word that you learnt the reading via Anki. It is true that trying to remember dictionary meanings of the word in Anki is useless. I need to test this more myself.

You don't necessarily have to be as strict as I am in terms of "only mining things that you can't read" (i.e. new kanji, new readings, ateji), but really think about what words would give you the most benefit. You can only do so many new anki cards per day, so it's important to pick the words that will improve how well/smoothly you're able to immerse the most. As a complete beginner, this means mining practically every single word, but as you become more advanced, my opinion is that you should mine only things you can't guess the reading of. This is because the basis of language is sounds and your brain requires the pronunciation (reading) of a word in order to start building meaning onto it. So basically, you understood what I wrote correctly but I just wanted to dive into that a little. I also wouldn't personally test meaning in anki since you'll learn that through immersion (and in a more deep and nuanced way).

As for your Anki deck, you don't have to delete it imo, just re-think your mining habits. Eventually (over the course of a few months) all of your already-reviewed anki cards will go into really long intervals and they won't show up that often especially since you've been immersing a lot and most of them are already second nature to you. If you feel like you really need the time savings (since I know that you're aiming to learn as fast as possible) then deleting it shouldn't be a problem either since you're immersing a ton and your new deck built off of new mining habits will be a much more effective deck. Do whatever feels right to you. I'll leave a post under this that I wrote a while ago about managing your backlog in case that's also a problem for you:

My personal backlog strategy as an intermediate was/would still be:

limit backlog to ~1 week worth of new cards (you can figure out your own limit)

Once your backlog reaches the limit don't mine anything unless you really want to

Don't sort based on frequency (personal preference)

Try to avoid words that are way too above your current level since it'll cause your backlog to keep growing

Don't mine words in kanji if you don't see them written out in kanji (like seeing せい and mining 所為)

In the ideal case, you're consuming media that provides a healthy amount of challenge and you are coming across words you can't read at a healthy pace, naturally keeping your backlog at a < 1 week size.

Let's say that your backlog tends to get out of hand though:

The reason I advocate for limiting your backlog size is because it'll give you an opportunity to learn words/readings through immersion while you're not mining anything new, and it allows you to be more "picky" about what you mine. Let's say that you're nearing your backlog limit and you come across a word that you couldn't read but you saw that it was somewhat common or you felt like you'd be able to remember it (maybe you feel like you should've been able to read it based on other words you already know) so you decide to pass on mining it and instead you choose to mine a word that you couldn't read but felt was cool for one reason or another. It's possible that by the time you have enough bandwidth in your backlog to mine it, you might've seen it a few times and become more confident in remembering the reading of the word so you don't need to mine it at all. Notice how this method doesn't decrease the amount of anki you're doing, it just makes sure that you're using it for the words that you have the most trouble reading, and allowing yourself to tackle the easier words without anki through immersion. Don't be afraid to not mine something, you will ALWAYS come across that word again. ALWAYS.

JJ

Screenshot of the accompanying text to the long AF screenshot from the Discord if anything... I cannot put the long screenshot here because it is too small and must be zoomed in on click.

Also this may be useful (sorry if the screens are hard to read, I cannot zoom in in Discord).

You can zoom here and it will help you see it better.

12:02 PM @傍観者 Do you then think that Anki would be useless for like Spanish or French as a native eng speaker as you seem to say that anki is only useful for learning readi...



JJ 06/07/2024 9:19 PM

I don't have any experience learning other languages so I can't speak from experience, but I know that tons of people have learned languages like english and spanish to an extremely high level with 0 anki.

Theoretically speaking, Anki's job in a non-kanji language would be to build a rough "base meaning" in your brain for that word that you can build nuance off of through immersion, but this is already possible through immersion. I'd imagine that anki would be useful in building up your core vocabulary, much like kaishi with Japanese, but beyond that I don't see as big of a benefit compared to Japanese. My impression of European languages based on what I've heard is that they tend to be a lot easier to immerse in so using anki might legitimately be a waste of time at a certain proficiency unless you're using it specifically to remember obscure words, but that opens up the conversation about the actual practicality of remembering obscure words through anki, which is iffy at best (might as well acquire more/all of the more frequent words before the obscure word and that'll make acquiring new obscure vocab a lot easier, much like how you can remember a new word in just one or two exposures in your native language).

You could even argue that testing for meanings in anki is actively detrimental past the beginner stage, that's something I'd have to think a bit more about. The problem with testing for meanings is that you're at risk of solidifying misunderstandings you have about the word, or a rare/bad use case that you might've happened to mine it in. In Japanese, if you're only testing readings and attempting to remember vague/fuzzy feelings/meaning then I don't see this as a huge problem since eventually cards will enter a very long interval (1-2+ years) and you'll have that entire interval to build more nuance onto the word. If you test for meanings though, your intervals will be shorter and the risks I said earlier are greater, and it's likely that what you end up with is a bunch of vocab you would've learned through immersion anyways + a bunch of vocab that you misunderstand or misuse because you hammered a bad use case or definition into your brain (edited)

The second Discord link posts.

8:43 @エターナルでき、ない？ @JJ Hey, I think I've run into a problem I can't solve without your advice. When I first started mining cards and using Anki seriously and consiste...

JJ USA 2024/09/16 9:34

You don't necessarily have to be as strict as I am in terms of "only mining things that you can't read" (i.e. new kanji, new readings, ateji), but really think about what words would give you the most benefit. You can only do so many new anki cards per day, so its important to **pick the words that will improve how well/smoothly you're able to immerse the most**. As a complete beginner, this means mining practically every single word, but as you become more advanced, my opinion is that you should mine only things you can't guess the reading of. This is because the basis of language is sounds and your brain requires the pronunciation (reading) of a word in order to start building meaning onto it. So basically, you understood what I wrote correctly but I just wanted to dive into that a little. I also wouldn't personally test meaning in anki since you'll learn that through immersion (and in a more deep and nuanced way).

As for your Anki deck, you dont have to delete it imo, just re-think your mining habits. Eventually (over the course of a few months) all of your already-reviewed anki cards will go into really long intervals and they won't show up that often especially since you've been immersing a lot and most of them are already second nature to you. If you feel like you really need the time savings (since I know that you're aiming to learn as fast as possible) then deleting it shouldn't be a problem either since you're immersing a ton and your new deck built off of new mining habits will be a much more effective deck. Do whatever feels right to you. I'll leave a post under this that I wrote a while ago about managing your backlog in case thats also a problem for you: [\(edited\)](#)

My personal backlog strategy as an intermediate was/would still be:

- limit backlog to ~1 week worth of new cards (you can figure out your own limit)
- Once your backlog reaches the limit don't mine anything unless you really want to
- Don't sort based on frequency (personal preference)
- Try to avoid words that are way too above your current level since it'll cause your backlog to keep growing
- Don't mine words in kanji if you don't see them written out in kanji (like seeing せい and mining 所為)

In the ideal case, you're consuming media thats provides a healthy amount of challenge and you are coming across words you can't read at a healthy pace, naturally keeping your backlog at a < 1 week size.

Let's say that your backlog tends to get out of hand though:
The reason I advocate for limiting your backlog size is because it'll give you an opportunity to learn words/readings through immersion while you're not mining anything new, and it allows you to be more "picky" about what you mine. Let's say that you're nearing your backlog limit and you come across a word that you couldn't read but you saw that it was somewhat common or you felt like you'd be able to remember it (maybe you feel like you should've been able to read it based on other words you already know) so you decide to pass on mining it and instead you choose to mine a word that you couldn't read but felt was cool for one reason or another. It's possible that by the time you have enough bandwidth in your backlog to mine it, you might've seen it a few times and become more confident in remembering the reading of the word so you don't need to mine it at all. Notice how this method doesn't decrease the amount of anki you're doing, it just makes sure that you're using it for the words that you have the most trouble reading, and allowing yourself to tackle the easier words without anki through immersion. Don't be afraid to not mine something, you will ALWAYS come across that word again. ALWAYS. [\(edited\)](#)

Again, this is just JJ's way, you do not need to follow it and even my way of the JJ method still includes testing on the meanings. There are people who disagree with it and think it is horrible (like Shoui for example - the owner of MoeWay, Shoui thinks the opposite, that it is the meaning that you should focus on in Anki, which also is viable, again, it depends on you and how well you can remember the in-context meanings), it depends on you and what you prefer. I prefer sorting by frequency and I do not care about the backlog of NEW CARDS (*you do NOT want to have a backlog of reviews of course, clear your reviews EVERY DAY*), for example.

[Jazzy's "Git Gud" tips](#) & [journey](#) (read [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#), keep it in mind when reading his journey)

That is to also say if Jazzy was fully truthful. It is always best to take these with a grain of salt.

Note about Jazzy's case that you should keep in mind

*In summary of the posts, Jazzy's case/story, while extremely impressive and motivating (or the opposite... depending on the individual), is a very rare case that requires DAILY 6+ hours of heavy 100% concentrated input, HUGE AMOUNT of constant dedication and diligence and is NOT achievable by everyone as a result, **which is okay!***

Moreover, (not sure if true) I heard that Jazzy already spoke an agglutinative language (like Japanese) beforehand (not sure which though), so if true that also likely gave him an advantage depending on how similar said language worked to Japanese. If you know a language that is similar/works similarly, it is a big help in itself, e.g. someone who speaks English and/or Spanish will find Italian / French easier than someone who does not. I can directly say so from experience - I am a native Slovak speaker so for me Polish is a pretty intuitive and easy language (pronunciation included, I LOVE Polish:D Though I am not actively fluent because I did not put enough active time to it, passively I can understand it pretty well and can consume Polish media in general, but if I wanted I would get fluent pretty fast - within 500 hours or less imho, much faster than an English native) to learn in general, compared to say an English native for whom Polish would be a hellish language to learn.

The more different to the language you know, the harder it is to learn that different language, e.g. why Japanese is SO freaking hard and takes SO long to acquire for English speakers and why English is SO freaking hard for Japanese speakers. Because they are completely different/alien languages in practically every single area. But to someone who already speaks say... Korean, Japanese will be easier because its grammar or even culture quirks etc. are pretty similar.

Do not get the false idea that what Jazzy managed is easily achievable, since it is not... do not let it give you false expectations for yourself and what you are *supposed* to be like..

*What is more, there is absolutely no guarantee that putting in the time/copying his method would amount to such results (but it still would give you awesome gains no doubt) **use***

Jazzy's experience as a pointer of what consistence, hard work, strong-will AND genuine desire CAN achieve in SPECIFIC instances, but ADAPT IT FOR YOURSELF - even with such a massive daily consumption, it would need in my calculations close to 3 years on average for an average person, with around 3000 - 4000 hours of active input but there is no denying that putting that time / dedication / consistency would yield BIG gains overall within a few months even if not to their level (though even with 2-3 hours a day would be enough for quite decent gains). But Jazzy may be a gifted individual in some ways (at least in hard-work, discipline, mindset, memory etc.) and is not entirely representative of the norm, though I think it notes the CRUCIAL importance of heavy, consistent input and their Git Gud tips are really useful),

Grammar

There are other PLENTY amazing grammar sources like:

[翌日 Yokubi](#) - **USE THIS INSTEAD OF SAKUBI, IT IS A REWRITE OF SAKUBI**

[昨日 Sakubi](#) ([There is this new page version with better UI](#), **use this one instead for Sakubi**) - Great

overall guide for basics that will get you mostly covered and prepare for input,

[Konomu は vs が particles](#) - if you are struggling with them (as most do), this offers a very in-depth guide into them, highly recommend reading through it all.

It is best to look at them [as different entities entirely](#), は being a pragmatic concept ([topic](#) also exists in English, it is just not marked and is simply what is at the beginning of a sentence, it marks OLD/KNOWN information), and が being a syntactic (grammar) concept mainly. But they do overlap due to how Japanese does not always display visible Subject (but は can also mark Direct Objects etc.), so it can be marked under は and that is where the confusion starts, but overall, if you study some basic linguistics, it is not such a big deal,

however it is true that they both have very nuanced uses and sometimes, you need to know where to use what..

[ボイロ大好き](#) - perhaps somewhat simpler and shorter Sakubi,

[Tofugu](#) - grammar hub of the most common grammar points and related stuff

[JLPTSensei](#)

[Bunpro Grammar Points](#) (should work without having to register / subscribe)

[Ichi.moe](#)

[TheJapanesePage](#) - if you are a total beginner

[Niwago](#) - also for beginners (at least at the time of adding this here, only N5 and N4 is available)

[Pomax's Introduction to Japanese](#)

[Game Gengo channel](#), mainly if you are a beginner/lower intermediate. Great content **imo**. The fellow has some useful and quality videos about Japanese for especially lower intermediate and below, explaining it through games & it could be a stepping stone to inputting games yourself. Focusing on mostly grammar (but there is also vocabulary) via comprehensible video game examples, which is also a good intro into video game-based input.

[Kaname Naito](#) - great, easy to understand grammar explanations

[Coto Japanese Academy](#) - lots of quick summary videos on grammar points by a Japanese person in full Japanese (with English subs available), explaining through practical examples

[Misa](#), I saw her mentioned quite a bit. She seems to have cool videos.

[NihonGoal](#) - channel that seems to be covering みんなの日本語 stuff

[Wes Robertson](#) - a professor of Japanese linguistics who posts grammar guides and in-depth articles on Japanese internet slang. He also makes memes in Japanese to help learn the language

[Maggiesensei](#)

[Visualizing Japanese Grammar](#) if you want videos on grammar by a native linguist (*the UI is a bit screwed up, but each lesson has a video attached*).

[TaeKim](#) - another very common source for **BASIC** grammar - though just like [Dolly](#) (*linked Kellen's copy of my and Nunko's transcript here if anything*), he also has his methodology and method (like his insistence on that Japanese has no Subject which is very arguable and rather misleading, though I heard he apparently rectified his stance on it - but in basic grammar these things do not matter too much, it is just to get you the basics but just keep in mind that is something that you may need to "unlearn" through other, more in-depth grammar sources since simplifying language like that/basing it on their own method may lead to some misunderstandings later on, but that is not an issue if you do not take their word as a gospel and use it as just a way to get the basics in which they are useful).

Furthermore, just like Dolly, I heard some of his example sentences and other stuff have mistakes in them.

See [MoeWay](#) for a few other examples, though I think I covered even more than there as of now.

More extensive grammar resources (great for reference mainly rather than study)

[IMABI](#) (*for learning, it is way too detailed and hard to study, so use mainly as a detailed reference, but it is an incredible resource, IMABI is arguably the most comprehensive online free 英語 resource on Japanese grammar available, it goes pretty deep into the linguistics of it too and even includes Classical Japanese.*

Note: With [uBlock Origin](#) (the newest Manifest 3 version of it called [uBlock Lite](#) **ALSO** has it, if anything you can install [this extension](#), it does the exact same thing), you can use the **element picker mode** (*in the extension menu it is the bottom row - above where the version is displayed - and 2nd icon from the left*) **and delete/hide the side-panel with the lessons list, which significantly lowers the scroll bar (so you do**

not get as much anxiety on how long the page text actually is since due to the sidebar the page goes on much longer than the lesson itself, plus it looks better that way, you can still use the previous/next lesson buttons at the end of the lesson or use the table of contents bar at the top)

Though especially useful if you are interested in the details of Japanese linguistics, which you do not need that much if you want to acquire just the language itself. But it has a lot of depth/work in it and you will definitely benefit from reading at least some parts of it, but again, due to the sheer detail provided, it can feel overwhelming, however it is an incredible grammar resource that can give you a ton of fully accurate information about Japanese grammar, though again, it needs you to have basic linguistic knowledge).

THESE BELOW ARE ALSO IN GRAMMAR LISTS, AMONG OTHERS (look [below this section](#))

[DoJG](#) (Dictionary of Japanese Grammar) - pretty much a grammar classic, in Anki form here, though the book apparently has more depth.

There now exists [DoJG Lite](#) - “A modern grammar reference page that can also be used as a study tracker based on the Dictionary of Japanese Grammar.” - **recommend using this one for DoJG** (or use the reference page on Gohoneko/DjtGuide below). It takes a bit to load, so will be laggy at first, use the search function for easier time.

[A Handbook of Japanese Grammar Patterns for Teachers and Learners](#) (this one is probably a bit better than the standard DoJG book & is all-in-one + it has more examples than DoJG and better editing/layout I think, though use whichever one you prefer).

[Here is an Archived online version](#) (you can download it in PDF, EPUB etc. [here on the right](#))

If anything, here is [the PDF file download page](#) for it (takes a while to load so give it time).

The default zoom is a bit too big, so the 25% will still be pretty zoomed in but if you use stuff like Adobe Acrobat, go to preferences/page display and you can set up

custom resolution and also 10% zoom which is easier for the eyes (you will need to squint your eyes a bit for the furigana).

Not sure why you cannot use 15%, that would be the best.

Not needed: There is also [A DOWNLOAD LINK](#) here for the book if you cannot get the physical book (unfortunately it is not in PDF format, could try to convert it to it so use the above link instead).

A Handbook of Japanese Grammar also has [an Anki deck](#).

Though of course, these kinds of books are best when you have them in physical form imo but it is not necessary since we have PDF and grammar lists (below) - since they are quite expensive.

Complete Grammar lists (especially for quick refresh/look-ups of grammar points)

For a complete list of grammar items you can check

[Gohoneko Grammar master reference](#) (**USE THIS GOHONEKO SITE COPY OF ITAZURANEKO UNLESS IT DOES NOT WORK** - combines 5 good grammar sources), if anything happens, [DJTguide](#) obviously has the exact same copy, since they are copies. *(again, would use DJT only for grammar and some similar stuff there, especially, DO NOT recommend interacting with their community, you can read upon my comment about them a little below this).*

[Dictionary of Japanese Grammar Main Menu](#) (there is also [an Anki deck](#) and it is probably easier to go through since in the respective sections such as [“all”](#) etc. you can scroll down below the list to see the terms explained + sentences instantly rather than having to click - though of course, it is only one grammar source, but can find the rest easily in master reference).

You can also check [Core6000 Neocities](#) (it has DoJG list and then some other tabs, like Core 2k/6k vocab etc., all those have their Anki decks too)

The point of grammar study is not to drill/memorise it (since drilling grammar...anything... is not very effective long-term, especially if not combined with mass input/output), **but to mainly just familiarise yourself with it for input AND to use it together with input/output/immersion** - combination of study & input (preferably also output later on once you can understand decently) is overall what you want.

All this will be touched upon later on in here...

For a basic breakdown (that you can also print out) of basic N5 Japanese, you can check [this](#).

Some immersion / media etc. resources

Unfortunately, [Itazuraneko](#) no longer exists... RIP!

Unfortunately, Itazuraneko no longer exists... well, there is Gohoneko, which is its copy, but without the media (most links are dead anyway).

(Itazuraneko was possibly the most extensive resource for Japanese out there with practically hundreds of thousands of free novels, Manga, visual novels, anki decks, guides, Anime etc. - even stuff you couldn't get your hands on anymore elsewhere possibly...[it got copyright striked](#) because obviously the library content was pretty much a free database of uploaded works = piracy, thus logical it would be striked down)

Though for novels, [itazuranekoyomi](#) sub-page etc. with a LOT of novels available still exists.

~~Basically, the portion of Itazuraneko still exists~~ [Itazuraneko-Extended-Ebook-Novel-Library](#):

(no longer works... only the Itazuranekoyomi still works)

For similar resources check [MoeWay Resource page](#).

Also, check this [List](#) and [page](#) of the TMW Novel Club.

For free book sharing, make sure you check out the [MoeWay Discord book-sharing thread](#). There are also VN and other channels. The majority (or at least a good chunk) of Itazuraneko books etc. are there. But it requires you to at least pass the [Student Quiz test](#) there (basic N5 vocabulary) to access, which is simple.

There is this huge 42 GB download with over 31 000 epub's on Nyaa:

[Nyaa - Japanese Learner's Anthology](#) ([searchable list can be found here](#))

(Nyaa is a great download site for stuff like Manga and Anime by the way).

Another site like Nyaa is [AniRena](#).

[X3dl](#) - MASSIVE Japanese site that has an insane amount of Japanese reading media - Manga, epub's, magazines and light novels, it even seems to have multiple copies of the JoJolion Manga which is pretty hard to find online in Japanese.

[Anna's Archive](#) - has a lot of books, Manga etc. (200 000 results if you filter by Japanese language)

just search for what you want and it has a high chance of coming up

Other download and search links.

[Lolibrary](#) (Search TMW Collection, Peepo, and Anna's at once - only for searching, no direct links)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 1](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 2](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 3](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 4](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 5](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 6](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 7](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 8](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 9](#)

[TMW eBook Collection Pt. 10](#)

[JP Z-library](#)

[2500 Volume Manga Collection \(OCR/Mokuro ready\)](#) + [additional 16 GBs of Mokuro Manga](#)

You can use [this program](#) to convert the PDFs to Mokuro format if you want to directly insert it into your Mokuro instance. You can also use this [Mokuro Downloader](#) to download the Manga from Mokuro Catalog. But there are alternate ways, you can just use Mokuro Catalog (below in its section) or look at MoeWay Discord/Resources for ways.

Also can check [BoroBoro](#) and [BoroBoro full Epub list](#). (not all download links work anymore)

For reading web novels, you might try stuff like <https://ncode.syosetu.com/>, pretty much you can just paste a Web Novel name in Japanese into search engine or the site search and it will find you a ncode page with the entire Web Novel in the results.

For generally easy news articles you can read [NHKeasier](#) or [NHKeasy](#).

[Gohoneko](#) (similar copy of Itazuraneko but without the library) and [Kenrick95](#) but they lack the library, the only really functional remnant of the library is the above-posted Itazuraneko link.

[DJTGuide](#) (another copy) has a copy of Itazuraneko that technically has all the games, Manga etc. listed as it was when Itazuraneko worked (minus their thumbnails), but it does not work anyway since it is very outdated and unmaintained, so 95+% of the links are gone, so it is just another copy you can use, Gohoneko, they all are practically identical, however the DJTGuide have the library accessible (but outside of novels on-site, the rest does not work). It is fine to use any of them for Grammar guides, but that is all I would use it for (outside of the library, which we have the Itazuraneko original still as above).

I highly do NOT recommend joining or interacting with the DJT community in ANY way. ESPECIALLY not with Tatsumoto if he is linked to it in any way or those near him.

Their community is truly not something I support, I saw [Morg](#) discuss them ([you can look it up here](#), and then can search his name and “djt” on the server search) and he said they do some real degeneracy on their Discord and 4Chan etc. as a community (lots of creeps/weirdos are there).

While I mention it later on in the [Yomitan section](#), keep away from Tatsumoto/AJATT Tools, they are stealing content COMPLETELY, impersonating real coders of Yomitan ([READ HERE](#)) and try to build some kind of weird “cult-like” community and as the real, true owners of half the tools, including Yomichan, where they faked/modified the last Yomichan dev’s message so as to portray themselves as having his permission to be the ONLY legitimate Yomichan successor or some crap like that... from what I heard and saw about them, I absolutely do NOT support any such toxic behaviour, they are actively being degenerate on 4Chan against other Japanese communities etc. they technically own DJTguide I suppose??? but I do not know what the connexion between them is exactly, but if so use Gohoneko since it is identical, minus the library which does not work anyway on DJT).

👉 All these will likely be your main reading source. You essentially have access to at least hundreds of thousands of books, Manga, VN etc. 👉

Do keep in mind that there may be quite a lot of Not Safe For Work / Explicit stuff + it is piracy.

[If it clashes with your morals, ignore it, there are PLENTY of other more legal resources!](#)

I put them here despite this because my end goal is to A) collect all the resources, B) language acquisition, so anything that aids with Japanese language acquisition I will add and mention here.

Obviously, if you can, please support the original works/authors if you really like something and it is available for purchase... such as buying it on Steam if it is there or such etc... Nowadays, Japanese media is FAR more accessible legally than it was a few years ago, so Piracy use is not “necessary” anymore to get access to a lot of stuff, but still it is simply incredibly convenient if you are a student who cannot spare too much money. However, this is why I say that IF you have the means to support the authors, PLEASE do it, do not pirate. Authors put lots of hard work into their works and it is fair to support them if it is possible. Piracy though can be useful for saving works that are no longer available officially which is why I include pirated stuff here and I do not mean to be some “herald of Justice” about it (especially when I pirated as a teenager too), since as a student I understand that you do not have the luxury to buy stuff constantly and for me, language acquisition is the main goal, so you do whatever you think works for you.

However, nowadays there are so many legal sources for Japanese input and output that you do not need to pirate anything whatsoever and get fully fluent without an issue and able to experience most major series fully legally. I merely say it is fair to support the work directly if you enjoyed it.

Again, this is only for individual learner's options, I do not support piracy in itself, but I understand that not everyone has the means to pay a lot of money for language resources, and also, some works are only available unofficially since a lot of Japanese works are unfortunately still only officially available in Japan, luckily this is slowly changing.

Japanese Media resources

Keep in mind that since those resources are native, stuff marked with low difficulty is still not purely for beginners. For example, even low numbers like the 3/10 and 4/10 difficulty rating is roughly of N3 (with even some N2 and N1 bits) level, so it is rather “intermediate” already. To be real, the N-levels I only use as a rough “pointer”, but it is true that you cannot really describe Native language with them that much. Native language utilises every N-level and beyond. N-levels are for the JLPT exam and do not cover everything. It is better to measure your progress by the amount of vocabulary you know without look-ups and general ability to go through native resources, read and understand them.

Again, native sources will generally be more difficult than resources made specifically for learners. However, since we have Yomitan and the tools as [shown below](#) you can tackle even N1 level stuff since with lots of dictionaries you can look up anything.

Anyhow, for “immersion” content and stuff, I suggest:

[Japanese Media Recommendations](#) (has multiple tabs there - tons of recommendations) + [Download for the entire Japanese novel recommendations of this list](#)

[Jiten.moe](#) - has difficulty lists for [every type of media](#), including vocabulary searching and Anki deck downloads and other cool things

[jpdb.io](#) & [Jo-Mako](#) lists (there are multiple other tabs about even different stuff)

[Morg's recommendations](#) + [Morg's Game Database](#)

[Visual Novel Difficulty List 2.0](#)

[Anime Recommendations difficulty list](#)

[GameGengo's Games for Study list](#)

[List of media that feature adult protagonists](#) (as opposed to teenagers)

[Japanese Level Up Difficulty List](#)

[Bilingual Manga](#) - bunch of OCR'd Manga, moreover, there is an option to switch to the English version in case you are COMPLETELY lost (do not rely on it too much though)

[Natively](#) might be useful too

[Comprehensible Japanese](#) - comprehensible Japanese content

[Japanese Subtitle resources](#) - list of sites that allow you to get native Japanese subs to use with programs like Asbplayer

[Volt's Japanese subtitles playlist](#) - 500+ videos of subtitled Japanese videos

[Kakuyomu](#) and [小説家になろう/Syosetu](#) (keep in mind that the site's web link is written with the other, weird romaji style - "syosetu" instead of "shousetsu") - **go-to sites for lots of web novels etc.** - you can use [Buukuru](#) to download its web novels as an epub file.

 [てんちむの広告収益用動画](#) - 13 hours worth of heavily commented travel vlogs

[MangaReader](#) - if you filter to Japanese, it has around 6000 Manga in Japanese, even big Manga like One Piece (alongside English usually so you can compare if you really cannot understand something no matter what - though would not worry about that much, learn to tolerate ambiguity, unless it stops you from having fun)

Free stuff to read that is more suited for learners

[Free Tadoku books](#) + [Tadoku PDF merged](#) + [playlist of fables](#) (most are N5)

<https://www.nhk.or.jp/school/kokugo/ohanashi/>

<https://www.nhk.or.jp/school/kokugo/classic/>

<https://jgrpg-sakura.com/>

<https://yomujp.com/>

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/index.html> - has option to turn off Furigana

<http://www17408ui.sakura.ne.jp/tatsum/project/Yomimono/Yomimono-ippai/index.html>

<https://hirogaru-nihongo.jp/en/about/>

<https://tongari-books.blogspot.com/p/blog-page.html>

<https://padlet.com/mitsumototomoya/padlet-qlhrwdr1vluagctd>

<https://tadoku.info/stories/>

For those who would like to play games you can try [this guide](#) for some simple start.

For other ways to play games, I will touch upon in the “[Other tools](#)” section below.

[Immersion Kit](#) - a really useful site where you have over 400 000 Anime sentences with audio.

[Nadeshiko](#) - also a big database of Anime sentences

Same goes for [Sentence Search](#) and [massif](#) (sentences from novels)

For a plethora of pronunciation exercises & examples, there also exists this site [Youglish](#).

Will also add [Jisho](#), [ichi.moe](#), [Lorenzi's Jisho](#) just in case. They are bilingual online dictionary sites. [Weblio](#) (and [the other Weblio](#)), [goo](#), [kokugo](#) are some monolingual ones.

Not that important since we have Yomitan, but... still can be useful.

Check [this very useful list](#) of 維持同訓の漢字の使い分け例 (List of Kanji words that act like synonyms), compiled by the Japanese government.

Some Anki-related stuff

You can check [the Anki manual](#) for more in-depth knowledge of how Anki works. Also check their official [resource list](#).

I recommend also checking the “[About Mining](#)” section of my diary that goes into the use of Anki.

First of all if you do not know, [Anki](#) is a [spaced-repetition](#) program with tons of features and an easy way to get ACQUAINTED with vocab or to STRENGTHEN the links of the vocab you encounter in immersion a lot etc., while crucial in the beginning, it should not be your main source of language consumption, just a useful

side-companion that is there to help strengthen the remembering of vocabulary (and grammar). Anki can help a lot in boosting your retention.

Anki and study is only supposed to "pin" it in our minds and the rest is done through massive input of seeing the word again and again in all kinds of different contexts and uses.

You want to only focus on the in-context meaning of the word you mine (when you start reading), you can discard the rest or just bold the meaning that best fits.

DO NOT LEARN THE MEANINGS, NOR READINGS OF EACH KANJI, IT IS POINTLESS AND YOU WILL NOT REMEMBER IT ANYWAY. FOCUS ON JUST ONE THAT IS RELEVANT.

Remember: Anki is not there to make you ACQUIRE stuff. It is there to only make you FAMILIARISE with the stuff, it is not there to TEACH you.

You actually ACQUIRE stuff when you keep encountering it in input and immersion.

HOWEVER, if you consume a TON of Japanese, Anki technically is not as necessary, since you already get spaced-repetition automatically as you read and listen to a lot of content, so if Anki proves too stressful and hard to manage for you, robbing you of energy to consume stuff, feel free not to use it, it can help a ton, but not everyone enjoys it and you will get there even without it.

I never used Anki when acquiring English and became very fluent in it by just consuming a ton (and writing / speaking ofc).

Of course, Japanese is different, but still, plenty of people got good at Japanese without ever using Anki. It all depends on what you do outside of it. Anki is especially good for noting down very uncommon words once you get good enough and you do not see them that often anymore, but you can absolutely get the results even without it, there are plenty other ways that mimic it.

You should mainly consume content outside of it, that is when Anki becomes incredibly beneficial.

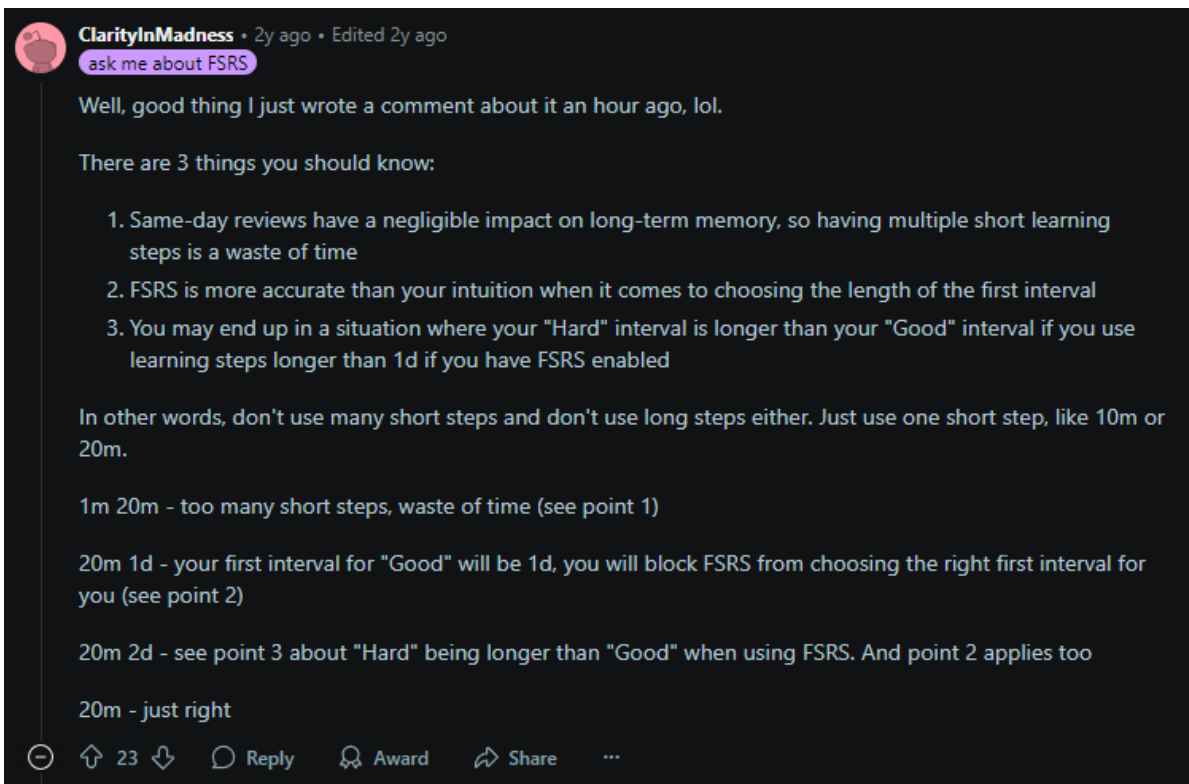
But of course, [it heavily depends on how Anki is utilised](#) and Anki can be a good help, but can get overwhelming quickly and it will hurt your retention. Read [this thread on MoeWay Discord](#), since it has its pros and cons too. There is a reason why many more advanced people tend to drop Anki eventually, since its effectiveness is limited to a particular subset of learning that becomes less and less needed over time while keeping the energy required to go through Anki every day which can become very tedious and tiring.

***As for when to do Anki**, most people do it right after waking up which has the benefit that you don't need to worry about Anki for the whole day nor will you ever forget to do it daily, plus after sleep stuff might be reinforced. This is why most recommend doing Anki ASAP.*

However that's not the only way, some do Anki right before sleep instead, haven't tested it but for me, doing Anki in the morning tires me since I'm not woken up fully yet. Though in the evening you might be a bit too tired and obviously you want to make sure you do not waste too much time on Anki then (and do not do it in complete darkness and with blue light filter). Plus there is a chance you forget to do Anki for the day because you fall asleep before realising you have not done it yet etc.

Get [FSRS \(READ THIS FOR ANKI 23.10+ VERSIONS + FSRHelperAddon](#).- FSRS IS NATIVELY PART OF NEWEST ANKI VERSIONS >= 23.10. DO NOT INSTALL IT ON THEM SINCE IT IS ALREADY INCLUDED. YOU CAN ENABLE IT IN THE ANKI SETTINGS (or deck settings).

[Tutorial here](#)



Approach the learning steps with this in mind. You can also just use the default Anki steps.

HOWEVER, YOU CAN AND SHOULD STILL INSTALL THE HELPER ADDON SINCE NOT ALL FEATURES ARE YET INCLUDED NATIVELY, JUST THE FSRS BASE IS - [explanation on it here](#).

Put the target retention to 90% (not worth going more) and try to keep at it. 85% if you cannot keep up, but would not go lower.

So this heavily depends on the individual.

Getting enough sleep and going to sleep consistently at the same time every day is key.

There is also doing Anki whenever you can for short bursts during the day, which has the benefit of not overloading the brain with 100+ cards at once but bit by bit. I do this one mostly due to being also burned out of Anki in general.

Basically, choose to do Anki when you feel it works for you best and make it a habit. If it stops working, you can try changing the time etc.

For getting the basic vocabulary in order to then start mass input/immersion, use [the Kaishi deck](#) by TheMoeWay, a new 2024 deck made specifically for providing said basics and starting input.

Also can try this [Proper Nouns](#) deck since those do not always follow the reading logic.

But if anything, there are vocabulary decks such as [Anki 2.3k](#) or [Tango N5](#) and [Tango N4](#) (no need to use other Tango decks) or [this 6000 Core one](#) (of course after the first 2000 - the first 2 decks, you can go mining instead and of course, start immersing, no need to go all 6000).

I do not really recommend these decks, just use Kaishi and then read a lot and mine on your own.

Every deck has some shortcomings, some like Tango teach some vocabulary that is not that useful for input while not giving more useful vocab, while others like 2.3k or Core do not always provide “i+1” digestible sentences as the deck progresses per se for beginners. Though Tango might not do so either, but its sentences tend to be simpler I guess...

[User-Uploaded-Anki-Decks](#) - for a huge amount of Anime etc. based Anki decks (such as of words used in said Anime).

With Anki, you should always be uncompromising, if you do not know the answer right away (within 5-10 seconds, I would try to get to 3 seconds, it makes Anki really fast and painless), then fail it (mostly). Do not look at accuracy, just put in the effort.

Granted, you want to press “Again” on NEW cards the first time you see them since FSRS counts “good” as “I know it already” which is not ideal if you do not know the fully new card yet.

When do you “know” a card? If within that period you can recall its READING & MEANING (but mainly the READING, meaning can be picked up from the context of reading a lot, and if you use Anki to learn how to remember the readings, it will be

much easier to then acquire the meanings through mass input, however you should at least have some idea of the meaning in context).

However, keep in mind that recalling meaning can be tricky, so you do not need to memorise the meanings, what you need is to be able to roughly know what the word refers to, fail on meaning only if you draw blank even on the fuzzy feeling and if you cannot get this fuzzy meaning from the example sentence. English meaning is not important, knowing what the word refers to by “feel” is often enough & this intuition is what you will need for more advanced Japanese anyway.

It may be useful to produce the answer on paper or at least say it aloud since your brain may trick you otherwise into thinking that you knew the answer once you are shown the answer, but you probably do not yet, you may have an idea/the direction, but still do not know it if you cannot produce it through speech / writing within that time frame. Granted, this wastes time, so up to you.

You know the answer IF you can almost automatically recall the answer (reading and rough meaning) right away, but it is fine if it takes a while, if you set up a speed focus add-on to reveal an answer within 5 seconds, it is easy to say if you knew it or not, if you can recall it until it reveals, then press Good, again remember that the MEANING is also important to at least have a gist of.

Otherwise, you probably do not truly know it yet if you cannot recall it within seconds. If a word is marked as a leech and you cannot remember it, do not worry, either delete it and then later on add it again through some other mined sentence or you will get it eventually through lots of consumption of Japanese. Do not bother with leeches, just delete/suspend them, you will get it through input later.

Surprisingly perhaps, the hardest to remember words are actually the Kana-only words where you only need to know the meaning. I do not know why but these words are usually much harder to remember, arguably because you cannot infer their meaning from the Kanji and in general it is much harder to associate and remember the English meaning of a Japanese word than its reading. With these Kana-only words

I would personally grade myself only on whether I can infer the gist of the meaning/the intuition of it when looking at the mined sentence. Otherwise, you simply need to read a TON and they should eventually stick.

However, some, [like JJ](#), do not bother with mining Kana words, since meanings in general, like grammar, can pretty much be intuitively acquired from simply consuming tons and tons of content and seeing them hundreds of times (although that also is the case with readings). Do not beat yourself up for not remembering all their meanings, just get ONE SINGLE meaning and be done.

Another possibility is to also add their Kanji version, even if said Kanji version is pretty much never used, pretty much all Japanese words should have a Kanji version, even if it is never used.

I probably would not mine Kana-only words anymore since they are hard to grade anyway... and you can get them to stick pretty much only through mass reading.

Also, I would not learn words just alone, but in actual context / sentences (on that waaay later), however in Anki focus on the words themselves mostly = e.g. when recalling focus on the word, the sentences are there to help you if you REALLY struggle with either the meaning or the reading.

You truly learn and acquire words during lots and lots of reading and listening in many contexts.

Anki is there to mainly help you with retention and with recalling the words while reading etc.

Anki is there to simply introduce/strengthen the already familiar vocab etc., not LEARN IT or ACQUIRE it. That cannot be done ALONE with Anki long-term, it can only be done through continuous. MASSIVE input and output (on that later). But Anki is incredibly useful for acquiring stuff faster IF used as a companion to MASS input/output.

TLDR... Anki should be only for getting to recognise / familiarise AND/OR to strengthen the already-encountered stuff in immersion / input, not to acquire. Anki

cannot be used ALONE to acquire stuff, that is not its purpose. Anki is a great SUPPORT TOOL, not the main tool.

Acquisition is done through consuming a TON of content & from active use of the language. If used together with Anki, it is mainly then that Anki becomes an incredible tool. These two get by far their biggest benefit if they are used TOGETHER in \[T]/ JOLLY COOPERATION \[T]/ not alone.

Though it is true that input/immersion is much more beneficial even if it is done alone without Anki than vice-versa. Since through mass input, you are still getting sort of an Anki-like SRS since you keep re-encountering the same things, Anki becomes very useful with stuff that is very rare to see in mass input, usually words/expressions above 70 000 frequency.

According to Morg, this is roughly what the JPDB frequency translates to in terms of rarity. Up to 70 000, the words are apparently all pretty common, so most words are good to mine. Although, if you are a beginner, it will still be more useful to focus on the first 5 000-10 000 words, but it is true they all are quite useful until that mark.

Then there are sources that are more focused on Anki and setups of tools with it, particularly the Anki Note types, which are CRUCIAL to get for an optimal Anki build (They also have their resources so check them out, some might have been mentioned already).

Anyhow, the best Anki Note Types require some effort to install, but it is definitely worth it, believe me... you also get a lot of useful Anki and Yomitan and other tools setups with it.

JP-Mining Template Note Type

It is probably better to use [Lapis](#) in 2025+, especially if you are not into ultra-detailed fumbling with Anki and all kinds of features. Lapis basically has everything JP Mining Note has but more compact, with some advantages... However, JP Mining Note still

has some cool, unique features that are not in Lapis (like the in-Anki Kanji look-up based on your mined cards which helps with remembering certain Kanji if you learnt a different word featuring that Kanji).

I recommend [jp-mining template note](#) maintained by Arbyste (*HIGHLY recommend this one, best imo*).

Originally, the template was by [Aquafina](#) (**do not use this one anymore, it is outdated and won't work**).

Video setup & other useful stuff for it [here](#) (~~it is possible it may be a bit outdated since it probably is covering the old Aquafina version, actually the description of the video was updated, so it works still or just follow Xelieu's guide or Arbyste which is the recommended way~~)

Go install it, it will take a while, but it's a highly modifiable and awesome looking note type.

I recommend going through the whole site, there are some incredibly useful scripts for it.

But some minimal PC and HTML etc. knowledge might be needed, but if you are very careful and take your time with following the instructions to the letter, you should be fine.

However, keep in mind it will take you a few hours to install properly.

You probably want to check out [DonKuri's setup](#) (**UPDATE: DonKuri now uses Lapis**), that utilises it or [Xelieu's Lazy Guide](#) (**UPDATE: Lazy Guide now uses Lapis**), which I recommend too.

Choose one of them in general or simply use and follow [Arbyste](#) above. I currently use Kuri's. Lapis is easier to install and more modern in terms of coding, so probably future-proof.

Also, check [this Discord message](#) if you are using [Yomitan](#) already (**on that soon**). If you follow any of the setups of JP Mining Note, you will pretty much also get a

Yomitan setup there right away since for the Note to work, proper Yomitan and Anki setup must be done.

And if you are getting the “/_anki/js/reviewer.js:7:112035), or any other number that you change to the one that appears, error in that template (top left corner will be in red), follow [this](#) or just ignore it, it is harmless and is the Anki vanilla issue not connected to the template.

IMPORTANT NOTE - if you want to use the JP-Mining template with Yomitan, make sure in Yomitan/Result Display settings you select “Result Grouping Mode” to “Group Term-Reading Pairs (recommend this one)” OR “Group related pairs” (may not work properly, so use Term-Reading Pairs),

if “No Grouping” is selected, Yomitan WILL NOT CREATE ANY DEFINITIONS FOR THE CARDS - took me 3 hours and a reinstall of the template to figure this big problem out, since I don’t think it is mentioned on the page (or I am blind). Well, at least this was the case with old Yomichan, but I guess it did not change with Yomitan. If by some chance you get unlucky and still have no definitions, [read this Discord thread on MoeWay](#).

Lapis Template Note

Overall, in 2025+, I recommend installing this over JP-Mining Note unless you already use JP Mining Note.

[DonKuri](#) and [Ruri](#) made a new note type called [Lapis](#) that was majorly inspired by and based on JP Mining Note, it has some interesting features that JPMN does not have, you can read about it on the page of Lapis.

Maybe look at these themes <https://github.com/ccos89/lapis-themes>

Check out this extended fork of Lapis with additional features.

<https://github.com/kiwakiwaa/lapis-extended>

Lapis is a great and modern alternative to JPMN if you find it hard to install or want JPMN with more modern coding (which may enable new features, again read the Lapis github for info).

I will stay with JPMN since I have it all fully set up with all its cool quirks and additions, but I am very intrigued to watch how Lapis' development will go!

If you need to backfill your cards to another note type, there is [Anki Yomitan Backfill](#) tool using the new Yomitan API to do so.

Senren Note Type

[Senren Note Type](#) is another cool note type based on JP-Mining Note, also recommended, it has some pretty cool features too.

Rudnan (JP Study) Note Type

[Rudnan's JP Study](#) is another cool note type you could try if anything.

Old-style Anime Cards

[AnimeCards](#) *(Great site, but I highly advise staying away from their Discord, I hope it improved but last time I heard about it and tried it, there was a lot of downright degenerate and screwed up crap on there posted by some of its members),*

[Stegatxins0's Mining Guide](#) are some other, older styles of cards, though I think JP Mining Note like Xelieu's Lazy Guide, Arbyste or Donkuri's setups use is superior nowadays since they have lots of features that you can directly modify to your liking easily / look really convenient and effective, be it JPMN is harder to install, but you can learn about how Anki and Yomitan work and can do through installing it.

Important/Crucial tools

I advise that you use another browser dedicated to Japanese though it is up to you, now it is not as much needed per se in 2024... if you do not need to play locally downloaded videos through your browser, it is not needed to download an entire new browser like these below, especially when it might be tricky for you to update them or such. But there are ways to do that as mentioned right below, but if you do not feel like doing those tricky “coding” things, a regular **Chrome, Edge, Brave, Firefox or such should be enough, especially since nowadays we have tools that should not need outright codec support or rely on downloaded videos. Overall, Brave can be tricky since it blocks and limits certain things on default due to the shield and stuff (also Yomitan’s storage space for dictionaries is limited on it, you need to create a separate linked file and move it there since Brave automatically installs to C:...in 2025..!)**

Also, for phone, use [Kiwi Browser](#) since it supports adding extensions like on PC, so you can use Yomitan etc. with it (though less easily due to the clunkiness of the phone)

Alas, Kiwi Browser was discontinued, but apparently, its code was implemented into [Microsoft Edge Canary](#), so you can try that one instead in case Kiwi Browser stops working in the future.

Use [Firefox](#), that one is better and has also extensions it seems. It did not like Edge Canary much.

--- CAN SKIP THIS ---

There’s [Marmaduke’s Chromium](#). It is UnGoogled, open-source, and it supports basically every single important codec out there while still being Google Chrome, can find the setup [here](#).

However, keep in mind that it might not work with productivity programs like ColdTurkey (it works with it, even if ColdTurkey says it does not support it, but it does not block it luckily).

Here is [the updater](#) for it if you do not have to update it manually or such and risk it screws up.

But for a safe update, all you need is to download the installer and follow the instructions on the main page (at the top), it will update and keep all your stuff intact.

For Google Store functionality, you will need to install [this](#) too.

NOTICE: MAKE SURE YOU INSTALL THE STORE FUNCTIONALITY BEFORE YOU START SERIOUSLY USING THE BROWSER. FOR SOME REASON, IT SORT OF NUKED MY BROWSER. EXTENSIONS & LOGINS BUGGED OUT AND I HAD TO REINSTALL THE ENTIRE THING.

(to be real, I was using quite outdated stuff, so... not sure what screwed up there, but hey, it made me switch from Yomichan to Yomitan at least:D)

Also, for some reason you may still have red notice **"Item currently unavailable. Please check the troubleshooting guide."** when in Chrome Web Store, but you should still be able to download stuff.

If not, the other browser with the most Codec coverage should be Microsoft Edge. Then other Chromium browsers, but those are more limited than Marmaduke's Chromium and Edge, though again, unless you download a lot of videos for input, it is not that crucial if you mostly just watch videos and Anime online sites etc. It just means that if you use stuff like Animebook or Asbplayer that can work by inserting & playing downloaded videos in the browser, it may not work for you if it needs some less common Codec for the video. [You can read about it here on Animebook github.](#) Plus, now we have MPV and scripts, so it may no longer be necessary.

--- CAN SKIP THIS ---

Yomitan

[Yomitan](#) (**GET THIS**) - it now has [an official wiki](#) and [standalone Discord](#), recommend joining. Constantly updated & developed, it has multilingual support now, Japanese has over 100 dictionaries available, it is a Behemoth there. Also, you can use [Yomitan PDF viewer](#) for PDFs. Although I would instead use [Mokuro](#) or [Bilingual Manga](#) if you can. Or simply use OCR.

The goal is to make other languages have such incredible support like Japanese does, so I hope we will get as many awesome dictionaries and support for languages as possible in the future.

I will mention that there is something called “Rikaitan” including all “AJATT Tools” on GitHub etc. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES USE IT, IT IS A SCAM THAT IS CLAIMING TO BE THE “REAL YOMITAN” OR SOME CRAP AND BY INSTALLING IT YOU ARE PUTTING YOUR DATA IN DANGER.** It stole the code of Yomichan and Yomitan, impersonating and making commits of real coders who did not make anything of the sort and is pretending to be some true, real version...the owner (Tatsumoto) even created a FAKE Yomichan parting message where he edited it so it said that his scammy Rikaitan is the true successor of Yomichan and that it belongs to him or some crap. The owner is also pretty deranged in general from what I heard and there is a risk it might be stealing your data or something screwed up. STAY AWAY from Tatsumoto and EVERYTHING connected to AJATT-Tools, he owns them too. [READ ABOUT IT HERE.](#)

[For more info look up this Discord thread on MoeWay’s Discord.](#) Also [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Also, on the [English–Japanese Language Exchange](#), [Morg discussed it](#) or [this chat thread here](#).

I will simply not support such behaviour, which is why I removed Tatsumoto's site from recommendations (used to be with the AJATT link), as they seem to be the one(s) making Rikaitan or at least they seem to be actively promoting it. From what I heard, I do not recommend his stuff.

[Yomibaba](#) (**NOT THIS** - if anything bad happens to Yomitan, though note that Yomibaba is only temporary and is depreciated in 2024+, it was just a temporary fork of Yomichan with some fixes!)

As of 2024+, Yomitan is fully stable and has multiple unique features. Definitely use Yomitan.

If you do not know, YomiCHAN was the original version and now Yomitan is its final successor.

It is possible I will sometimes out of sheer habit refer to Yomitan as YomiCHAN, just keep in mind that I mean YomiTAN in 2024+, since Yomichan was sunset in 2023 and in 2024+ is fully superseded by Yomitan.

Note: Everything that refers here to Yomichan should work on Yomitan too.

Unless you still have it installed and it works well in 2024, [Yomichan ended development](#), it now needs to be replaced / is incompatible due to new Manifest v3. Hence since Yomichan still works on Manifest v2 which ended in around June 2024, Yomichan is officially dead. RIP LEGEND!

There is no benefit in using the old YomiCHAN anymore (you cannot anymore anyway), YomiTAN is superior to it in every way.

The tool takes time to set up, but it is **BY FAR THE MOST CRUCIAL TOOL YOU WILL EVER USE. DO NOT EVEN THINK OF NOT HAVING IT, SERIOUSLY IT WILL MAKE YOUR TOUGH JAPANESE LIFE SO MUCH SIMPLER & ARGUABLY IT IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPRESSIVE TOOL AVAILABLE FOR LANGUAGE-LEARNING THAT DOES NOT (yet) EXIST OUTSIDE OF JAPANESE** (well, there are other languages supported

now, but the dictionaries are still lacking in 2024, NOWHERE close the support Japanese has, I guess you can use it for Chinese, since it has 30+ already, but yeah...in connexion with the other tools below it is a BEHEMOTH for Japanese, I hope it will be for other languages too in the future, from what I heard that is the plan of the devs).

Yomitan, as mentioned, is the MOST CRUCIAL tool in your repertoire, it makes looking stuff up incredibly straightforward and fast. Yomitan especially works also directly with Anki where you can create very detailed *(though it is best to edit them a bit to just one single definition and add more sentences if so since the more info there is, the harder it will be for it to stick, tho it really does not matter much if you focus on the words alone and especially mainly their reading and one context-accurate meaning)* and beautiful cards in just one simple click once you set it all up from the templates like the [Lapis](#) or [JP-mining template](#) - Video setup & other useful stuff for it [here](#).

Some other templates you can find above or on MoeWay etc. I believe.

Great Anki deck integration *(as per templates given above)* imo is a must.

Audio

Use [Yomitan Audio Server Entries](#).

Definitely use [Yomichan Forvo Audio Server](#) + [Local Audio Server](#) even for Yomitan.

This is CRUCIAL since it makes the audio when Anki is turned on to be instantaneous.

Unlimited Yomitan Audio

Check a setup on how to always get [the Yomitan Audio](#) for stuff you look up. Though it will cost you \$1 per month. [Check this link](#) to see it all discussed on TheMoeWay Discord.

UPDATE: It is now publicly available for free, but you need to set it up locally on your

own.

Follow these instructions carefully and it should be enough to set up if you follow them very carefully and think. Also DO NOTE that you will need to subscribe to Cloudflare with your credit card, but it will be for free, you will not be charged unless you somehow exceed the monthly limit.

HOWEVER, it is REALLY tough to install, I realised it is not worth it, and the instructions are vague about certain steps, so it is easier to just get the Patreon imho...

Can confirm that the Patreon subscription works really well and you basically get everything you look-up voiced, even the really obscure, inflected stuff. I cannot even remember when was the last time I heard the “no audio click” sound. Plus, the AI voice sounds very good and actually says the correct Pitch (at least those I looked up).

HIGHLY recommend it, absolute MUST-HAVE.

Dictionaries

If you have low RAM (16 GB and less) I would turn off Yomitan extension when you are not using it since if you use a lot of dictionaries, but it can slow down the browser (I use 90, the more you have the better since you can then look up anything and get full coverage without worry).

What you should check is MarvNC Yomitan dictionaries (drive link here, but read the Github carefully) and Kuri's Yomitan Setup.

Also check this and this for some other ones.

Marv has a very comprehensive list that will get you covered for anything.

You can find most dictionaries also on Shoui's drive (*some may be a bit outdated now. Still amazing!*),

I would use Marv mainly, since he has most of the dictionaries updated and constantly

updates them if possible, HOWEVER Shoui has more Pitch Accent dictionaries you should get for best coverage (but use this Custom CSS code in Yomitan if so).

```
/* display at most 2 pitch graphs */
```

```
li.pronunciation-group:nth-child(n+2) { display: none; }
```

Getting as many dictionaries as you can will ensure you will get universal coverage, but it may notably impact performance of your browser/PC if your PC is slower. But it should not be as bad as in the past. If so, just turn Yomitan off when not using it.

Definitely take ALL the Pitch Dictionaries from Shoui for [the Colored Pitch Accent](#) so you have almost all the words in Yomitan use neat colours.

Here is a [nyaa collection](#) that features all of the above dictionary collections.

Make sure you keep your dictionaries up to date, to do this, all you need to do is to go to Yomitan settings/Dictionaries, open up the dictionary menu and press “Check for updates” and those that get highlighted, you update by clicking on their update icon.

You can also check [aiko-tanaka](#) for grammar dictionaries.

~~Also make sure you have [the latest version of Yomichan](#), else some updated dictionaries will not want to install on older versions (export your settings before doing so, you will have to reinstall dictionaries tho).~~

The more dictionaries you install, especially special dictionaries and monolingual dictionaries, the more coverage you will have, though Jitendex and Babylon have great coverage too already, sometimes more than typical monolingual ones. I use 70 dictionaries currently (around 50 if I do not count frequency dicts) and have great coverage. But keep in mind it might make your browser slower, but I have not noticed any real issues minus Yomitan crashing when trying to export the dictionaries (you can just keep them in a folder all and have them on the Cloud in case you reinstall Yomitan).

Instead of JMdict, you could try [Jitendex](#) dictionary as your main one (JMdict as a secondary), which seems to be a bit better overall imo.

Some random tips about Yomitan settings and whatnot

USEFUL TIP: Under *Yomichan settings / Clipboard options*, tick “*Enable background clipboard text monitoring*”, this will make it so that whenever you copy any Japanese text, it automatically opens a STANDALONE Yomichan Search session with the entire copied text displayed and ready for look-ups.

It works even OUTSIDE the browser (such as copying Japanese Word documents, PDF etc.)

However, for stuff like Adobe Acrobat Reader, you first need to download a [Font Pack](#) (and have it up-to-date).

Use the CC100 dictionary for frequency sorting option in Yomitan (I think it is just for the order of look-up entries).

Also, it is great to use [AutoReorder Anki extension](#)/or [FieldReporter](#), since that will always automatically reorder your mined cards by the lowest frequency so you always learn the most common words first (which is incredibly useful). If you followed guides like Donkuri, it was mentioned [there](#).

Also, at least for AutoReorder, note this (View files in the extension menu of Anki)

Reviews

 on 2025-04-27

Useful addon. There is one issue some users will have to manually patch:

This applies to people having trouble with using logarithmic frequency or otherwise potentially decimal frequency data. The addon incorrectly assumes frequency datapoints must be integers. To fix this, go to the addon directory and edit the `__init__.py` file. On line 19, instead of returning `int(field)`, adjust it to returning `float(field)`.

IF you are using the Average frequency sort option in Yomitan (great for compactness and not having to scroll down every time because of having 20 frequency values displayed, though sometimes it puts out weird values like for 勘れる which for some reason it shows as having average 16, where the true average is somewhere in 42 000 if you use all Freq dicts like me... however, in Anki, you can create an average Frequency Sort that should make it average out correctly by going to “Configure Anki Cards” in Yomitan and

changing the FrequencySort field from {frequency-harmonic-rank} to {frequency-average-rank}. This should more accurately input the average value into Anki, at least it seems so for me. If harmonic is chosen, the created Anki card will have a frequency of 14 (yeah, it is not even what the average in Yomitan shows... bizarre), but the Average seemed to have fixed it to a more realistic average value judging 拗れる's frequency values being in 25 000+.

Also [recommend getting this neat colouriser for Yomitan entries](#).

Also recommend including this [Colored Pitch Accent](#) ([Discord link here](#)) Custom CSS code, these are the modified colours I use for it following the typical pitch accent colours typically seen for each Pitch Accent type (e.g. JP Mining Note):

Heiban/平板式 = Blue, Atamadaka/頭高型 = Red/Pink, Nakadaka/中高型 = Orange, Odaka/尾高型 = Green

I will include the code for it here for myself just in case... Btw, my background Yomitan window colour CSS (at the top under "root") with this is "--background-color: #EDE3FF;". You can modify it to whatever you feel is best, I wanted the contrast with these colours to be more "pleasing" and the Yomitan window itself to be comfy.

```
/* Colored Pitch Accent v1.2
```

```
--made by koyakiya
```

```
--inspired by ren (senren)'s code
```

```
*Do note this will highlight the word according
```

```
to the first entry in the first pitch dictionary
```

```
that you have displayed. There is no better way to do this
```

```
without modifying Yomitan's internal code (Javascript).*
```

```
*/
```

```
:root {
```

```
--amadaka-color: #F5116D;
```

```
--heiban-color: #1911FF;
```

```
--nakadaka-color: #FC4C02;
```

```
--odaka-color: #30B700;
```

```
}
```

```
/* Atamadaka highlighting for headword */
```

```
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="1"]) .headword-term *,
```

```

.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="1"]) .headword-term {
    color: var(--atamadaka-color);
    --headword-current-kanji-border-color: var(--atamadaka-color);
}

/* Atamadaka highlighting for border top on pronunciation list */
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="1"] {
    --pronunciation-annotation-color: var(--atamadaka-color);
}

/* Heiban */
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="0"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="0"]) .headword-term {
    color: var(--heiban-color);
    --headword-current-kanji-border-color: var(--heiban-color);
}

.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="0"] {
    --pronunciation-annotation-color: var(--heiban-color);
}

/* End Heiban */

/* Kifuku Section */

/* Everything will be initially colored as nakadaka if in the kifuku category */
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="2"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="2"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="3"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="3"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="4"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="4"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="5"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="5"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="6"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="6"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="7"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="7"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="8"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="8"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="9"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="9"]) .headword-term,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="10"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="10"]) .headword-term {
    color: var(--nakadaka-color);
    --headword-current-kanji-border-color: var(--nakadaka-color);
}

```

```

.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="2"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="3"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="4"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="5"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="6"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="7"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="8"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="9"],
.pronunciation[data-pitch-accent-downstep-position="10"] {
    --pronunciation-annotation-color: var(--nakadaka-color);
}

```

```
/* End nakadaka */
```

```
/* Now, we check manually if the first entry in the first pitch accent dict
is odaka 尾高 */
```

```

.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child .pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"])
.headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child .pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"])
.headword-term {
    color: var(--odaka-color) !important;
    --headword-current-kanji-border-color: var(--odaka-color) !important;
}

.pronunciation:has(.pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"]) {
    --pronunciation-annotation-color: var(--odaka-color) !important;
}

```

```
/* End kifuku */
```

```
/* Check if word only has one mora */
```

```

.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child
.pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-position="0"][data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"]) .headword-term *,
.entry:has(.pronunciation-group:first-child .pronunciation-list li:first-child
.pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-position="0"][data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"]) .headword-term {
    color: var(--atamadaka-color) !important;
    --headword-current-kanji-border-color: var(--atamadaka-color) !important;
}

.pronunciation:has(.pronunciation-mora:last-child[data-position="0"][data-pitch="high"][data-pitch-next="low"]) {
    --pronunciation-annotation-color: var(--atamadaka-color) !important;
}

```

```
/* Increase border top width to make it look nicer */
.pronunciation-mora[data-pitch=high]>.pronunciation-mora-line {
  border-top-width: 0.15em;
}
```

```
/* Colored Pitch Accent 終わり */
```

```
*****
```

This will ensure you will get almost all terms neatly coloured based on their typical pitch, as such you want to use ALL (download all of them from [Marv](#) AND [Shoui](#)) Pitch Accent dictionaries (can be useful if perhaps one of them does not cover certain words while the other one does), **however, I recommend including this Custom CSS Code into Yomitan too for compactness, limiting them only to 2, useful for those common words that would display all of them redundantly (e.g. displaying 4+ same pitch graphs for each installed pitch dictionary):**

```
/* display at most 2 pitch graphs */
li.pronunciation-group:nth-child(n+2) { display: none; }

*****
```

My Custom Yomitan CSS and settings

I will also share [all my settings for Yomitan](#) and if [solely my Custom CSS](#), you will have to import the dictionaries on your own though. Due to having 90 dictionaries, any attempt to extract them in Yomitan results in it straight up crashing.

It contains a custom Yomitan CSS utilising various cool Yomitan CSS, such as the [Glassy Yomitan](#) by Kalleo + [Reppler's 2 Grid Yomitan look](#) and their Custom CSS, among obviously [the coloured Pitch Accents](#) and [Darius' Dictionary Colorizer](#).

However I modified it/kept my own setup over it on top to what suits me personally, including my coloured Pitch Accent colours. You can play with it to suit your own needs. You can do a lot of stuff there with some basic HTML knowledge.

You must use at least 600px width in Yomitan settings for the 2 grids to work.

(Popup Position & Size, the Size setting, I recommend 700 x 700)

It looks like this. I would like to get rid of the grey tags, but not sure how without removing the other elements too, which I want to keep. I would also like to make it so that if the entry is very

short, it automatically puts another box there below it instead of stretching it to the same length as the entry on the left/right. Since some entries are extremely long and others are very short as shown below, so the short one will stretch, having lots of empty space that could be filled instead with another entry below it.

けっか

結果

DOJG中級編

日本語NET-N3文法

結果

けっか

Average 48

1. NHK けっか [0]

★ Jitindex

* noun

① result | consequence | outcome | effect

結果は気にするな。

Don't worry about the results. [1]

* adverb

② as a result of ... | as a consequence of ... | after ... | following ...

結果、雨の日は部屋の中でボール遊びをしています。

As a result, we play ball inside on rainy days. [2]

* noun suru intransitive

③ bearing fruit | fruiting

JMdict | Tatoeba [1] [2]

使い方の分かる 類語例解辞典 けっか【結果】

意味 ある動作・行為によって生じた事柄。

使い方

◦ 結果 ▽試験の結果を発表する ▽悲惨な結果を招く

補足 ◇完了した行為に対する評価が良い場合にも悪い場合にも使われる。

Mining (Mouse Lookup)

はいざんへい

敗残兵

敗残兵

はいざんへい

Average

49094

1. NHK

はいざんへい [3]

Jitendex

noun

remnants of a defeated army

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The pursued remnant of soldiers decided it was high time for a show-down one way or another.

JMdict

Tatoeba

実用日本語表現辞典

はいざんへい【敗残兵】

戦争に負けて生き残った兵士。勝負や競争において挫折した者をたとえる表現としても用いられる。

新和英

はいざんへい【敗残兵】

[ローマ字](haizanhei)

remnants of defeated troops.

名詞

NHK日本語発音アクセント新辞典

はいざんへい【敗残兵】

・[3] ハイザンヘー

Mining (Mouse Lookup)

ちんづける 考えられる かんがえられる

実用日本語表現辞典 かんがえられる【考えられる】
「考える」に「れる」が付いた言い方。「れる」はこの場合、可能、受身、自発などの意味が取られる。

かんが
考える かんがえる

①
♦ potential or passive

Average 41

1. NHK

◦ かんがえる [3]

◦ かんがえる [4]

priority form ★ Jitindex

* 1-dan transitive

① to think (about, of) | to think over | to ponder | to contemplate | to reflect (on) | to meditate (on)

あなたは家族の事を考えるべきです。
You must think of your family. [1]

② to consider | to bear in mind | to allow for | to take into consideration

人々を幸福にするのは何なのかを考えることは価値がある。
It is worthwhile considering what it is that makes people happy. [2]

使い方の分かる 類語例解辞典 かんがえる【考える】

共通する意味 物事を理解したり、感受したりするために心を働かす。

使い方

◦ 思う [ワ五] ▽その意見は正しいと思う ▽明日は雨だと思ふ ▽子供のころのことを思う ▽負けてくやしいと思ふ ▽心に思う恋人がいる

◦ 考える [ア下一] ▽人生を考える ▽数学の問題を考える ▽新しい方法を考える ▽毎日彼女のことばかり考えている

使い分け

1. 「思う」は、想像、決意、心配、希望、恋情など、主観的、感情的に心を働かす意であるのに対し、「考える」は、筋道を立て頭を働かせて客観的に判断する意。

類語対比表

	日本の将	おいし	税制問	子を…	なぜ失敗
--	------	-----	-----	-----	------

The grammar inflection is a hoverable look-up as such. The already inflected forms, if they exist in some dictionary have their own single entry like in the usual Yomitan.

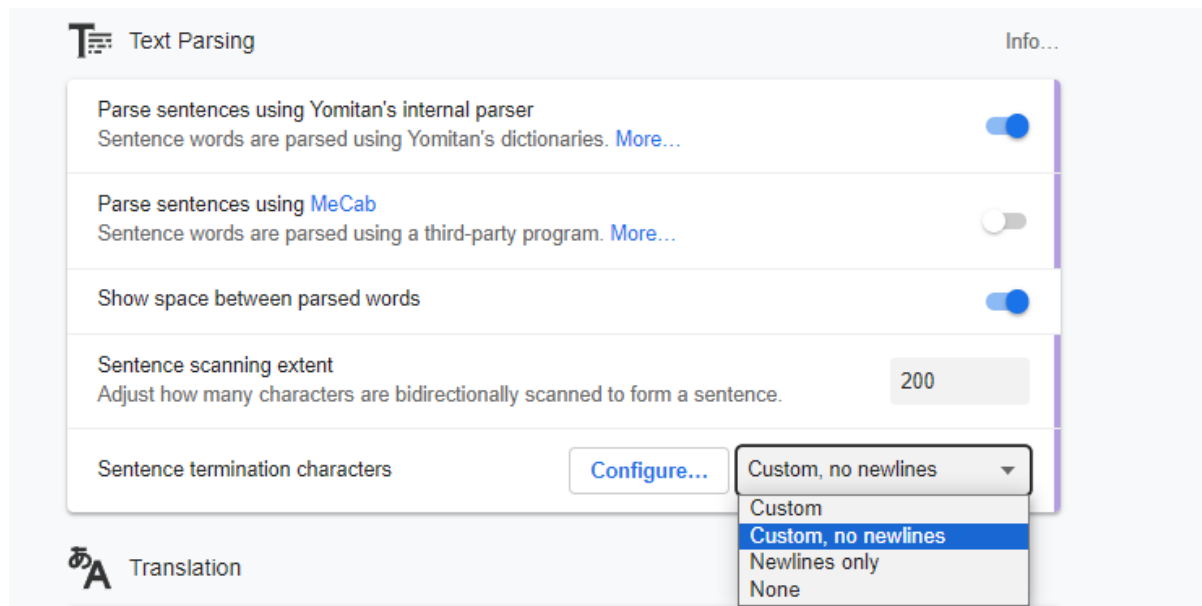
However the whole look is much easier to navigate and imho looks way better.

HIGHLY recommend this CSS setup. It makes the Yomitan experience feel more modern and comfortable.

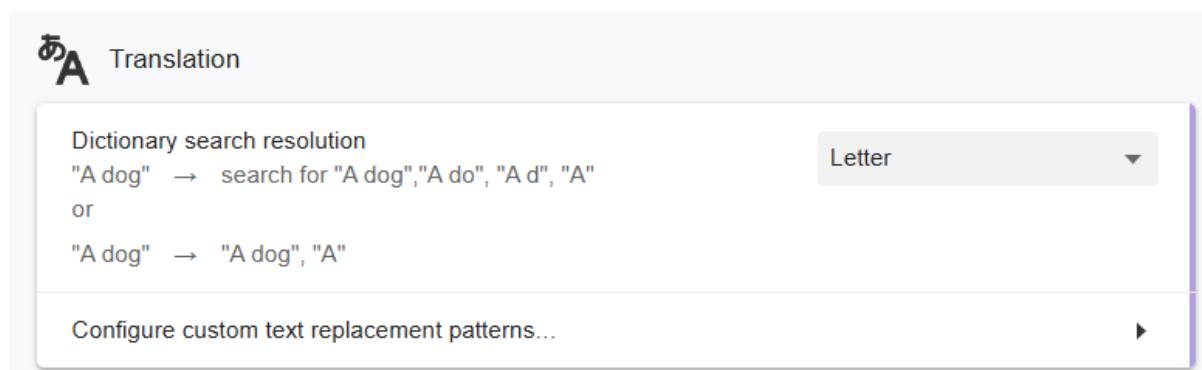
Also [recommend applying this compact Anki entries setting](#) (works also on JP Mining Note) by Kuuuube, it replicates Yomitan's Compact Glossaries setting (recommend using it since it saves space)

Also, make sure you choose this option (You need to enable the “Advanced” option in the bottom left corner of Yomitan for it to show up), else with JP Mining Note (and in mining in general), you will not get a full sentence in Vertical Manga etc. text when mining.

Also, speaking of vertical text... DO NOT TURN ON “layout-aware scanning” in the SCANNING section. Enabling it will make vertical text unscannable, only letting you scan one character you highlight, but not the rest of the word!



ALSO, make sure you DO NOT have the option “Dictionary search resolution” under the “Translation” section set to “Word”. You need to have it set on a “Letter” for Japanese. Otherwise, you will only be able to look-up a single character at a time, have it like this.



Going back to the previous bit about Vertical Manga mining... This will also mean that you might get text from the previous line if it ends with a quotation mark (horizontal text), such as for

example the title of a chapter or the previous line if it is a quote will also be added now. If you want to prevent this, go to configure and create a terminator with SPACEBAR as its “character”. Now you will not have previous lines that end with a quotation mark there (or should not). Another thing I would probably disable is the Quotation Mark entries as terminators in the Configure since in Manga for example, it can cut some sentences a bit short, not giving the stuff after the quotation. One more limitation I found is that since the typical sentence ends like a period, exclamation point or a question mark are configured to end the sentence, if a quote includes basically multiple sentences, you will only get one of the sentences into your Anki, the one you mine the word in. I have not found a way around this yet. I wonder if there is an option to manually indicate what sentence(s) you want to be included if you mine something. That would solve this, [you can do this with definitions on JP Mining Note](#) (you can choose just a specific definition/line). The only solution for this is that you will need to copy the sentence(s) you want and add them manually into the mined Anki card sentence field.

But you can make it way faster if you go to Yomitan/Anki and change the “Note Viewer Window” to “Note Editor” - again, you need “Advanced” enabled in the lower left corner of Yomitan for it to show up. This will directly open the mined card Anki editor window after you click on “View Added Note” in Yomitan look-up where you mined (after clicking on the green + add button, an open book icon will appear).

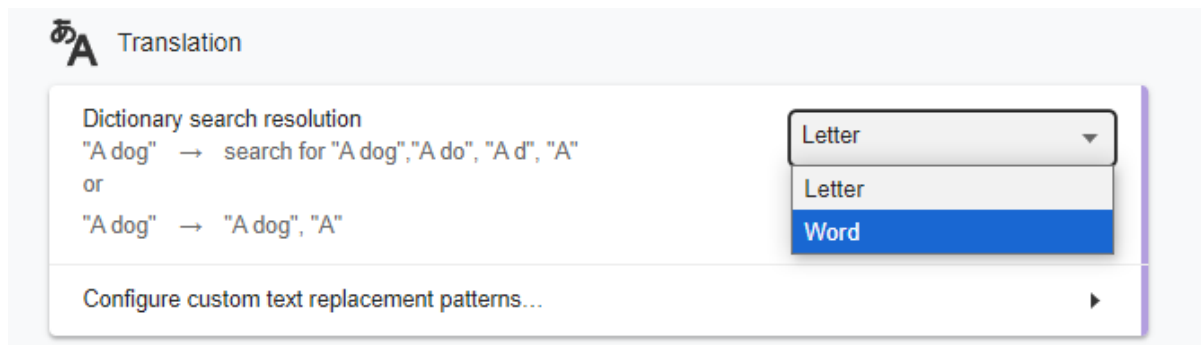
Update: Actually, [if you use JP Mining Note, there IS an option](#) to make a hotkey that enables you to add any copied text to the sentence field (either through ShareX or through Python script). Check “How-To: Running with ShareX” (or Python if you prefer) and follow the instructions, then take a look into the “Update Sentence with Clipboard” option. Well, if you use my solution of opening the Note Editor via Yomitan, this will save you roughly up to 5 seconds at best, so... not really needed, but hey, it is good to know it exists now, especially when the mined word keeps being highlighted after you copy and press the hotkey.

However, I think with ASB Player (on this soon) and stuff this actually could be pretty convenient since you don't need to open anything, just copy and press the hotkey. Be sure to run the AJT Furigana regeneration script afterwards

(if you followed the JP Mining Note setup you should know what I mean).

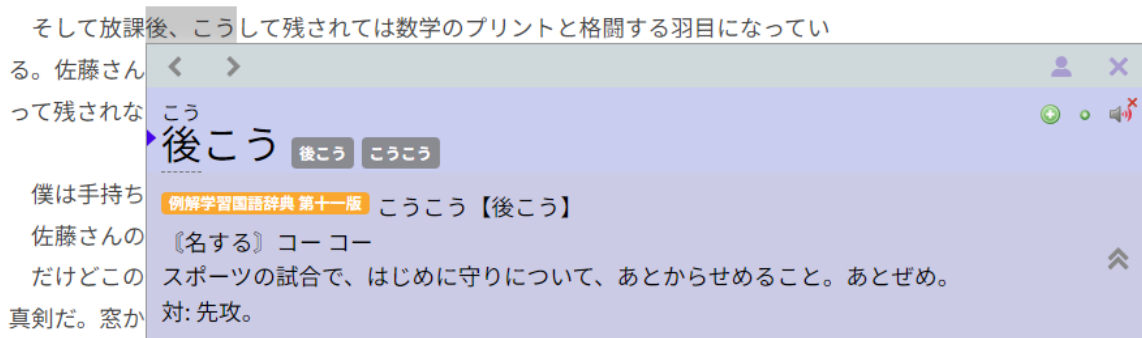
MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT USE THIS SETTING - I set it to Word and then had an hour long meltdown over why my Yomitan suddenly stopped working and was REFUSING to scan 90% of any text, only scanning some random verbs or hiragana, even after I reinstalled then entire Yomitan.

THIS WAS THE CULPRIT. But you need Advanced setting enabled for it to show up, so...



ALSO, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO “Configure custom text replacement patterns...” here and delete the

・|、|\\|.|-|\\s -> (nothing) setting, since else you will be getting the parsing of some words like this, where it will keep parsing even after a comma, thinking as if it was one word. If it's not there, you're OK.



One more thing:

Say you only want to look up one kana or Kanji or such, but Yomitan's parser keeps highlighting some full words you do not want, it is annoying having to scroll all the way down until you find what you want, and if you have “Maximum number of results” in the General settings set to low value like 10 to prevent bloat, it may not even list it at all. Luckily, there is a handy workaround for this.

Sometimes, Yomitan highlights text I don't want per se, just some random example here... say I want to look up the "と" only, but it keeps taking it as a Kansai-ben negative of 取る and other と Kanji, thinking it's "とひん", of course, I can go all the way down until I find と, but it can be a bit annoying (especially if you have low popup entry numbers to reduce bloat, it may not even show).

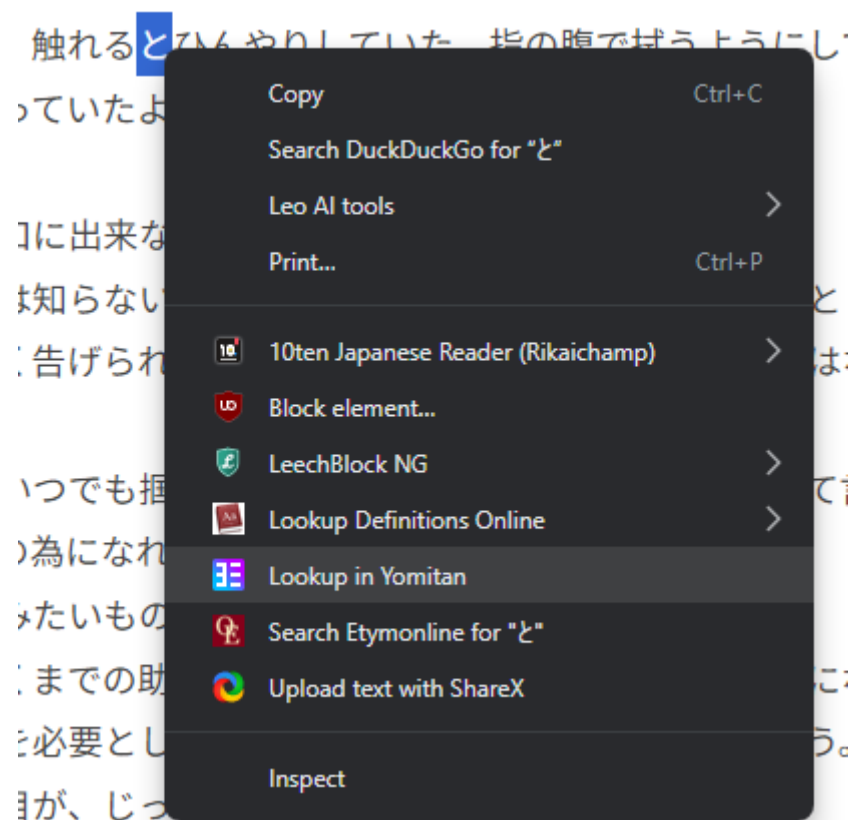
僕の手は、すぐに動いた。

彼女の頬に、触れてみた。

涙はもう既に冷たく、触れるとひんやりしていた。指の腹で拭うようにして、そ

There are two ways to get around this.

1. Highlight just the と, right-click on your mouse and in the menu click on “Lookup in Yomitan”



2. Go to the shortcuts setting in Yomitan and find “Configure standard keyboard shortcuts...”, there add a new shortcut and choose its action as “Scan selected text”, then in the Input field put a hotkey you want it to have, for example “Left Alt”, now whenever you want, you can highlight a particular section, single Kanji,

kana or what and press this hotkey you set up, it will search for just that highlighted part, just like in way 1. This is way easier and faster.



Shortcuts

Yomitan has two categories of keyboard shortcuts:

- **Standard** keyboard shortcuts are controlled by the extension, and can be added, removed, and configured to work on webpages that Yomitan functions on.
- **Native** keyboard shortcuts are controlled by the web browser, and function globally within the web browser or system-wide.

Configure standard keyboard shortcuts...



Configure native keyboard shortcuts...



Keyboard Shortcuts

11	Input:	Alt + K	☒ Enabled	
	Action:	Add kanji note		
12	Input:	Alt + E	☒ Enabled	
	Action:	Add term note		
13	Input:	Alt + R	☒ Enabled	
	Action:	Add term note (reading)		
14	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			
15	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			
16	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			
17	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			
18	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			
19	Input:		☒ Enabled	
	Action:			

Reset
Add
Close

As you can see, there are also other very handy shortcuts, some of which are set up on default.

Note if you are using [JP Mining Note](#) Anki card template:

Jitendex is for some reason marked as a monolingual dictionary by Yomitan which means it will put it into the “Extra” field instead of “Primary” field in JP Mining Note in

Anki cards, so if you want to change it to a bilingual one BEFORE ADDING IT TO YOMITAN, GO INTO ITS CONTENTS (the file you downloaded, and change the name in the file index.json so it DOES NOT include any square brackets [] (to edit you will need to unzip it and then zip it back again or just take that one file out, edit and copy it back), then follow all [here](#) and [this regex tab](#) as linked there, and add it in bilingual dict regex, BUT if the dictionary ID title as shown there in {jpmn-test-dict-type} test includes ON DEFAULT any square brackets [], it will mark EVERY dictionary as bilingual, hence why they need to be removed beforehand in the index file. If it is on top, it will be in the primary definition still, but just in case. You need to input the exact title of the index.json title. I changed it to Jitendex and hence put into the “bilingual-dict-regex” simply “Jitendex”.

Recommend also using [斎藤和英大](#) since it has bilingual sentences, idioms and contexts included, but it is also marked by Yomitan as monolingual on default, so you need to do the same as given above with Jitendex, except you do not need to change the index title.

Rikaichamp/10ten

There is also a simpler alternative to Yomichan with [Rikaichamp/10ten](#) or older [Rikaikun](#). Overall, Rikaichamp is better than Rikaikun, though they are very similar.

I will again mention that there is something called “Rikaitan” including all “AJATT Tools” on GitHub etc. **DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES USE IT, IT IS A SCAM THAT IS CLAIMING TO BE THE “REAL YOMITAN” OR SOME CRAP AND BY INSTALLING IT YOU ARE PUTTING YOUR DATA IN DANGER.** It stole the code of Yomichan and Yomitan, impersonating and making commits of real coders who did not make anything of the sort and is pretending to be some true, real version...the owner (Tatsumoto) even created a FAKE Yomichan parting message where he edited it so it said that his scammy Rikaitan is the true successor of Yomichan and that it

belongs to him or some crap. The owner is also pretty deranged in general from what I heard and there is a risk it might be stealing your data or something screwed up. **STAY AWAY** from Tatsumoto and **EVERYTHING** connected to AJATT-Tools, he owns them too. [READ ABOUT IT HERE](#).

[For more info look up this Discord thread on MoeWay's Discord](#). Also [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Also, on the [English–Japanese Language Exchange](#), [Morg discussed it](#) or [this chat thread here](#).

I will simply not support such behaviour, which is why I removed Tatsumoto's site from recommendations (used to be with the AJATT link), as they seem to be the one(s) making Rikaitan or at least they seem to be actively promoting it. From what I heard, I do not recommend his stuff.

While 10ten is not as customisable and robust as Yomichan can be if you go through some comprehensive setups (*given above like Arbyste and Donkuri's*), 10ten is much easier to install and to get going, and is good for quick bilingual look-ups. It also does not seem to have Anki integration yet, so you cannot create detailed cards as with Yomichan by clicking a single button (*once it is configured*). But it has some really cool features on default and is extremely easy to install. It also does not struggle with recognising commas, which at least my Yomitan sometimes does struggle with and also highlights the kana/Kanji both before and after the comma which is just PAINFUL...

I **HIGHLY** recommend using it together with Yomitan. 10ten (or Rikaikun) is an **AMAZING** companion to Yomitan because it is very light-weight and simple (Yomitan with lots of dictionaries and robust setup behind it tends to take a lot of performance in the browser when turned on, which is why I recommend keeping Yomitan off if you are not mining or such and just need simple look-ups).

For the mobile phone, you can try [Jidoujisho](#) which is an amazing all-in-one tool (but quite big), or if you install something like a [Kiwi browser](#), you should be able to install Yomitan onto it (old Yomichan at least works). Alas, Kiwi Browser was discontinued, but apparently, its code was implemented into [Microsoft Edge Canary](#), so you can try that one instead in case Kiwi Browser stops working in the future. Again, I did not like Canary, but you can install [Firefox](#), which apparently works nicely and I also would recommend it.

Or you can try [Satori Reader](#) (but it is paid if you want full access)

Other awesome, CRUCIAL tools you absolutely should not miss

[Check this resource list for subtitle-related things](#) (audio-visual content), most are going to be mentioned below, but good to have them listed here

HIGHLY recommend checking [Donkuri's page](#) on the setups and instruction of the main tools etc.

Memento & Asbplayer (For videos, Anime etc.)

For MPV/downloaded Anime etc. use either [Memento](#) or [MPV + scripts](#). Both have their advantages.

Memento allows you to insert a URL of a video. However, unlike Asbplayer, it is not entirely designed for robust note types like JP Mining Note or I guess Lapis?? since it only takes the first dictionary and it has its own specific Anki card terms you need to use. While you can import your Yomitan dictionaries and audio sources, it otherwise does not allow any other settings. (so you will have no colouring, will have to view all pitch accent/frequency dictionaries etc. It is only designed for very few dictionaries.

[Asbplayer](#) is an incredible tool and a must-have imo. Setup [here](#).

If you are using JP Mining Note with it, you need to check [this](#). Very important, else, Asbplayer will not be able to properly generate multiple lines of the subs (if a sentence spans multiple sub-lines. Go for the Full Solution near the end of that section and follow the links - if anything, it is [this link](#) & [this link](#). You want to regenerate furigana as shown after each new session / card.

Asbplayer requires importing downloaded subs file, which you can get for example on [Kitsunekko](#) (original does not work anymore it seems, but I linked the backup) **OR** [Jimaku](#) **(USE THIS OVER KITSUNEKKO IN GENERAL)**, you can also get [this Auto-Sub Addon](#) that automatically downloads Jimaku subs to Asbplayer when on HiAnime or any other video site (on Youtube you can try also this Auto-Sub Youtube).

I highly recommend Asbplayer since it enables you to also use Anime streaming sites that have an option to turn off the English subs (so-called soft subs) (which is great as it does not interfere with the Japanese imported subs, though you can modify their position in Asbplayer settings if not...) **and even retime subs if they are inaccurately timed** (saves a lot of disc space on PC as you do not need to download the Anime) **by simply getting Japanese subs from sites like [Jimaku](#) or [Kitsunekko](#) / [its backup](#) if anything and just moving the sub file onto the video with Asbplayer window open** (essentially it is more modernised version of [Animebook](#), minus the option to hide brackets [for the love, please add it]... Animebook can still be used and some people prefer it for some reason, even though Asbplayer has the same functionality and you can bring up the sidebar like in Animebook on it. I personally use Asbplayer.

You can also play downloaded files and subs just by moving them onto the [main page](#).

The process of using Asbplayer:

After you set up the Anki connection [turn on Anki], you load your Anime episode and insert the sub-file [that you try to time correctly if it is not via CTRL + left arrow / right arrow], just add the desired word/expression via Yomichan and then press CTRL + SHIFT + U [default bind], it will record the section the word is in automatically, add a picture, and update the Yomichan created card, OR use CTRL + SHIFT + X [default bind IF it is not overridden by

another extension], which will open Anki dialogue in Asbplayer and lets you choose how much sub-lines you want to choose etc. There is also a side-panel if anything you can access by clicking on the Asbplayer extension in your top extension bar [or by pressing `Tilde under Esc], also be sure to take a look at all its settings & controls).

You can also insert downloaded sub files to it like on Asbplayer. You can also use [Renji's Texthooker UI](#).

For Youtube, Asbplayer is also great. You may want to download subs first though if you want to use Asbplayer, else you will need stuff like ShareX and record the audio.

For generating subtitles .srt files from Youtube videos there is [ASB-Auto-Subs](#), but you will need to generate an API key on Grog. Limit seems to be a 40-minute video apparently.

Much easier alternative I have found is to use a Youtube Subs Download site like [this one](#).

You can also use [Yomine](#), for studying subtitle files, it ranks them up etc.

OUTDATED (the subs download function was removed due to copyright...)

~~Luckily, stuff like the [Youtube Dual Subs extension](#) enables this easily as you can download subs through it too. For Youtube you will mostly use the auto-generated subs if possible since most videos do not have directly made subs (they are pretty accurate actually, minus some hurdles when it cannot recognise some peculiarly spoken phrases), where you can use Yomichan and record the audio that you paste into the Anki generated card with either Asbplayer or with ShareX. (there is also a transcript in the 3 dots below the video which you can copy, but it did not work with Asb, because I guess it is not the actual SRT format even if I changed to it, but Youtube Dual Subs solves this easily).~~

Ttsu reader (for epub and ebooks)

Next, there is also [reader.ttsu](#) ([Github here](#) for info) for ebooks and larger files (such as long audiobook files with lots of subs) as Asbplayer struggles with too long (hours-long sub files) [as shown in this MoeWay thread](#).

There is also [Lumi Reader](#) ([Github here](#)) now, which is also very interesting and I recommend checking it out.

Mokuro (for Manga)

[Mokuro](#) is a program for Manga that enables you to get a scannable, in-browser Manga. It is pretty accurate and ignores furigana (in 98% of cases) which is great, so it is a great alternative while OCRs struggle with Manga and stuff due to Furigana.

I think Mokuro is built on MangaOCR, so its output will have some mistakes. However, in experience it is 95% accurate so it is still very usable.

The program itself takes time to process the Manga and requires you to have a DOWNLOADED raw Manga files/pictures for it to work. BUT...

There is a pre-processed page with lots of Manga already that you just need to let upload from the server and it will get saved for you for later!

Use the [Mokuro GitHub](#) program if anything.

Check the [Catalog of converted Mokuro Manga](#), there is quite a selection there already.

Also, this [Mokuro.moe server](#) is the raw version of the catalog if anything, but I cannot seem to be able to sign in there... anyhow, use Catalog... choosing any Manga will take you to [reader.mokuro.app](#) where you can process it and read it.

There also exists this site called [Bilingual Manga](#) - it has a bunch of OCR'd Manga too. moreover, there is an option to switch to the English version in case you are COMPLETELY lost (do not rely on it too much though, use it very sparingly and try to figure it out from look-ups only)

Overall, you want to use the [Mokuro Reader](#) and [the Catalog](#) rather than the program itself.

If the Mokuro upload gets stuck on some page, just refresh the page, it should fix itself up.

You can also use this [Mokuro Downloader](#) to download the Manga from Mokuro Catalog.

In experience it does it quite often, so you may need to do it multiple times per one Manga volume upload. But overall, it should take around 5 minutes per 200-page volume. Good thing is that it then gets saved in your Mokuro Reader so it is easy to access without going through it again.

Also, you can import multiple volumes at once if you open each of them in a new window, but I do not recommend it since it slows them all down quite a lot and if they get stuck it is hard to resume them again like that, so you better do it one by one.

Apparently, it goes faster if you have a GPU or something?? I have not noticed much of a difference with my GPU, since it is slow with just the CPU apparently, but that is just a hearsay.

Note: Sometimes, the Catalog is offline or there is too much load on the server, so in that case your upload may not work AT ALL (you can find out by it being stuck forever even with refreshing or simply trying to open Mokuro Catalog). In that case you need to wait until it works again or use the program Mokuro and a downloaded PDF of the Manga. It usually takes a few hours only to fix.

With the Mokuro online, you can read Manga through Mokuro online like that, it

automatically downloads to the [Mokuro Reader](#) you can read there, even offline and it saves for later and in Mokuro Reader you can also add your own Manga).

Moreover, at the top right there are settings and in the “Reader” option, there is an option to enable editing of the OCR’d text so you can modify the output directly in case it gets something wrong (quite rare). HOWEVER I found it does not work for me, that is it does not save itself after I switch to another page or quit... it just reverts back... shame... hopefully it will work in the future.

I found that if you change the font size to around 24 or 32, it will eliminate the huge, incorrect text boxes at least and makes the font smaller in those so you do not get flashbanged by the huge text if you mouse over it, usually made where there is onomatopoeia, but those you would ignore anyway.

You can also import the image and sentence of a bubble into Anki through Mokuro if you add it into Anki Connect config as per the instructions. But you can also do this with ShareX if you use a hotkey such as the one [Donkuri uses](#).

Note: If you are using Brave, make sure you DISABLE the shield next to the top search bar when on Mokuro because it blocks Anki Connect so you will keep getting “Failed to fetch” error if you try to use it with the Brave Shield enabled. It would be best not to use Brave for Japanese due to it limiting it...

There also exists a freely [available Mukuro Index page](#) with a lot of converted Manga into Mukuro you can use right away without installing anything. But basically, that is what Catalog uses.

You can also use this [Mokuro Collab](#) option too, apparently it is much faster in terms of processing Manga but needs some setup, but just follow the steps given there.

There exists [Mangatan](#) which apparently works well with Manga (uses Google Lens OCR), I will try it and report on it. It’s apparently superior to Mokuro, so use it if you can.

ShareX and MPV and related

[ShareX](#) is a **must-have** (also has its built-in OCR though there are better ones, there is an option to make its OCR be Google Lens, but I cannot get it work for the life of me...)

With Yomichan + Anki, you should be able to scan practically anything where for example Yomichan does not work, such as video games like Persona or even Sekiro etc. or any pictures (you can get such apps even for your phone).

ShareX has a default OCR function built-in, however it is not that good. However, there exists [Google Lens script](#) for it (again, I cannot get it to work no matter what, it gives me [an error](#)).

Refer to setups by [DonKuri](#) or such since their setup automatically adds the audio / picture to the last card which is just incredibly convenient.

MPV Player

Also I recommend getting [MPV Player](#) + [Anacreon's MPV Script](#) + [bookmark script](#) as a media player software on your PC. Can also check [this MPV Script](#) and [Kamperemu's MPV config](#).

You will need to download stuff to watch on [Nyaa](#) etc. Also, you can use this [Jimaku sub auto-downloader](#) for it.

Get this [Clipboard Inserter](#) or this [Ditto Clipboard Manager](#) or [Lap's Inserter](#) (Mozilla only) extension on your browser, turn it on and turn on the subs on MPV, then open this [texthooker page](#) and your subs should be saved there, which you can afterwards mine.

You can also use stuff like [Transparent Texthooker page overlay](#) that has Yomitan built in and can be used on top of games etc. so you do not have to switch tabs or play on windowed mode.

If you want audio, you can use ShareX. Or just use Asbplayer as above. This setup is so you do not have to pause all the time when watching on MPV.

Textractor (for Visual Novels)

In 2025, you could check out this [Chenx's Textractor](#), it is apparently a more "modernised"/maintained version of the one below. But I do not know, have not tried it myself.

Again, recommend checking [Donkuri's page](#) on [the setup of tools](#) like Textractor, Agent etc.

If you are following Donkuri's installation of Textractor and use the [Alpha Build Archive](#) that is linked there, your system and antivirus might be telling you it is a virus. It is apparently a false positive! I have not noticed anything weird myself either so it should be fine!

[Textractor](#) (especially when paired with a text hooker page such as [Renji's](#) or [MoeWay's](#) provides a quick way to copy and look up the Visual Novel text. The advantage is that it is stored on the text hooker page and you can just keep playing and then review/mine after you finish playing (if you do not care about having pictures, else you can just go with it - the right hook provides 100% accuracy basically).

Make sure you get both [Textractor Sender](#) and [Textractor Websocket](#) installed in your Textractor. Be careful that you put the x64 and x86 into the right versions of Textractor folders.

Note: Textractor Websocket files are marked by .dll, however Textractor Extensions require .xdll to be found through Textractor. Make sure you change the Websocket dll to the .xdll file type. Then it will find them.

Agent (VNs + other games)

The Agent setup is [here](#). Both this and Textractor are must have.

If Textractor does not work, for a particular Visual Novel, you can try [Agent](#).

On this [Github](#), you can find all the scripts of games available for use with Agent.

[Someone made a spreadsheet](#) that makes it easier to see which games are

Agent-compatible.

Can also check [these](#) and [these](#) (for Switch). It is just a list, you need to set Agent up outside of it.

Textractor, Agent etc. are very useful since if they hook the text properly, they copy it automatically which makes looking up and mining really fast (plus if you have a [text hooker page](#) or [Renji's text hooker page](#) (needs setup), you do not need to worry about mining right away since it gets stored automatically so you can just play and mine later.

For a text hooker page to work you need [a clipboard inserter extension](#) or [Lap Clipboard Inserter](#) installed AND enabled and the text hooker page open.

For tutorials check MoeWay, Donkuri or others... and [this](#) for Renji's.

But there is also an OCR tool like OwOCR that works on stuff texttractor does not (non-VN stuff).

If Textractor hooks properly to a Visual Novel, it is faster and easier to use since it has no delay and no chance of being wrong + you can play faster and review the text hooker page later on and mine then (IF the hook is correct, if you have the wrong hook selected, it may display wrong text).

Granted, you can now do this with OwOCR, you can make it copies the text you scan through it via a screenshot, and if you have the clipboard inserter extension and have the text hooker page open, it will work the same way.

Game Sentence Miner

Absolute must have! It also has an overlay OCR function with Yomitan implemented, both automatic and manual (and for other languages too, like Spanish).

[Game Sentence Miner](#) is currently the best available tool for games. It aims to be an Asbplayer for games. It includes OwOCR, which is an awesome and accurate OCR

tool (it uses Google Lens). However, follow [the instructions](#) carefully since it can be tricky to set up. Check the [Wiki](#) portion too.

It also includes a Furigana filter now so you do not need to worry about Furigana disrupting your OCR text scans. Now it also includes OCR and in-game reading and lots of other cool functions.

There is also [Meikidroid](#) by rtr46.

Note: There is a FAKE version (by some secha26) with a more professional description which impersonates rtr46's Meikidroid and distributes malware through its Meikidroid file copy. Be very careful! This is the FAKE, VIRUS SITE, DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES DOWNLOAD ANYTHING FROM IT (the virus copysite is [here](#) - again DO NOT DOWNLOAD ANYTHING HERE).

It is to mention so you are aware and always verify the correct github/security.

OwOCR (all picture media)

Absolute must have (with the Google Lens option). Install this one too, even if you install Game Sentence Miner.

[OwOCR](#) is an OCR software that provides Google Lens and all kinds of other OCRs and copies the output onto a text hooker page. You can find the install guide also [here](#) or just follow the GitHub and what I write below.

You can use it ANYWHERE, on ANYTHING and on ANY LANGUAGE. All picture media, PDFs etc. works, basically anything you can screenshot. If you use its Google Lens option, you will get 99% accuracy for everything. Lens can even scan Manga, however it also scans furigana, so it is limited to non-furigana Manga text. But for Manga we can use [Mokuro](#) (below).

(but since it is designed for Japanese, for languages other than Japanese, Chinese and Korean it will regard each letter as its own thing so English will have spaces between letters.)

You can also use stuff like [Transparent Texthooker page](#) overlay that has Yomitan built in and can be used on top of games etc. so you do not have to switch tabs or play on windowed mode.

For a long time, I could not install it for the life of me, but actually it was because my installed Python(s) were an absolute mess! I had to completely remove every instance and reinstall Python by downloading it from their page (do not use even the Microsoft Store one). Open Command Prompt and type "where python" to make sure it is not pointing to any instance. Then reinstall. Recommend changing the location of Python to somewhere outside of C drive. Then open Windows Powershell (as an administrator, just in case) and type in the command listed on the Owocr page:

pip install owocr

After you install it, check if it installed itself into the location of your Python/Scripts folder. If it did, go back to Powershell and install the Google Lens OCR with the command:

pip install pyjson5 requests

IN CASE GOOGLE LENS STOPS WORKING (you may need to wait until a patch tho), DO THIS:

Open Windows Powershell and type these two commands:

pip install --upgrade owocr

pip install --upgrade protobuf

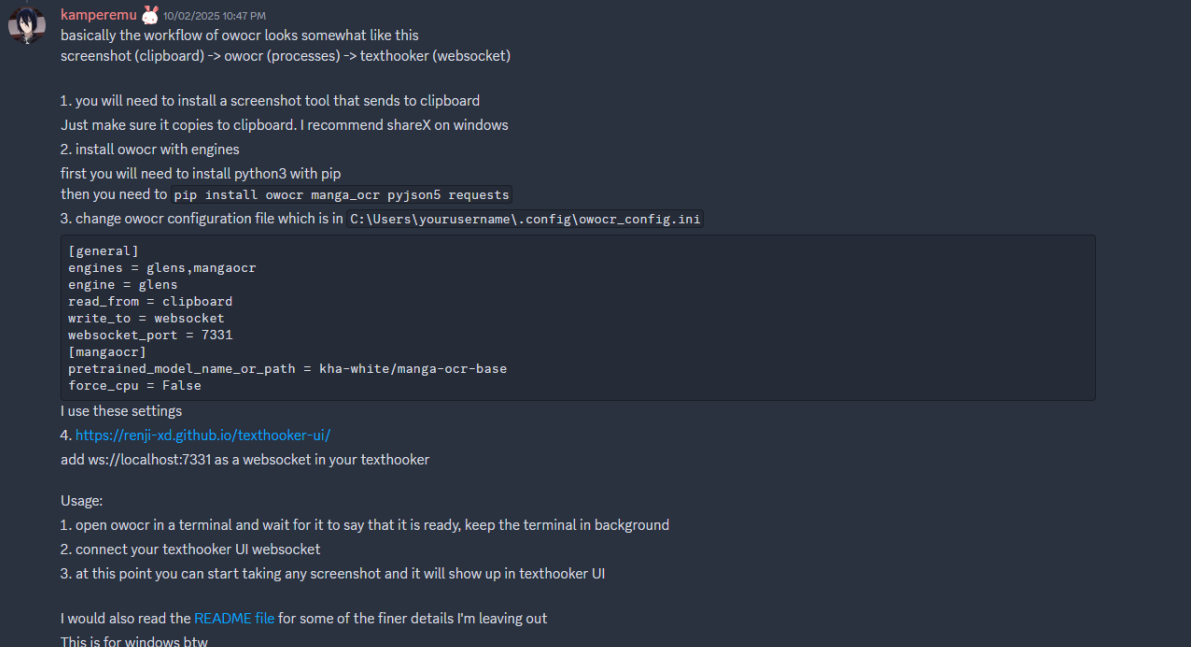
Now you need to open the “owocr.exe” file in your Python/Scripts location and if it works, it should say that Google Lens is ready. Switch to it (default key is “L”, it will tell you it switched) and then take a screenshot of a Japanese text with a text hooker activated and it should scan it (you will also see it in the cmd of OwOCR (it may show weird rectangles instead of Japanese text - right click on the TOP of the cmd where the name is -> properties -> change the font to MG Mincho or such.

If you right click anywhere else on the cmd it will terminate itself instead so it must be on the top tab.

If you want to use [Renji's Texthooker](#) + see some workflow with Owocr, [check this link](#) on MoeWay.

I will directly screenshot it here too (sorry for the tiny text, you cannot zoom in Discord...).

Note: Skip Step 2. They say to install the MangaOCR command to OwOCR, but we already have Google Lens so you can skip that one. Google Lens is superior to MangaOCR in every way. It is the best OCR right now and is basically the same as Google Vision but free (hope it stays so).



kamperemu 10/02/2025 10:47 PM
basically the workflow of owocr looks somewhat like this
screenshot (clipboard) -> owocr (processes) -> texthooker (websocket)

1. you will need to install a screenshot tool that sends to clipboard
Just make sure it copies to clipboard. I recommend shareX on windows
2. install owocr with engines
first you will need to install python3 with pip
then you need to `pip install owocr manga_ocr pyjson5 requests`
3. change owocr configuration file which is in `C:\Users\yourusername\.config\owocr_config.ini`

```
[general]
engine = glens,mangaocr
engine = glens
read_from = clipboard
write_to = websocket
websocket_port = 7331
[mangaocr]
pretrained_model_name_or_path = kha-white/manga-ocr-base
force_cpu = False
```

I use these settings

4. <https://renji-xd.github.io/texthooker-ui/>
add `ws://localhost:7331` as a websocket in your texthooker

Usage:

1. open owocr in a terminal and wait for it to say that it is ready, keep the terminal in background
2. connect your texthooker UI websocket
3. at this point you can start taking any screenshot and it will show up in texthooker UI

I would also read the [README file](#) for some of the finer details I'm leaving out
This is for windows btw

For Texthooker UI the port is 9001 (it is also the default for OwOCR). If 7331 does not work (like happens to me for some bizarre reason, use that one). `ws://localhost:9001`

YomiNinja (Abandoned)

UNFORTUNATELY ABANDONED... SKIP! DO NOT USE!

UNLESS FIXED, USE Game Sentence Miner/OwOCR above!

No point in YomiNinja now... I will leave everything about it here to serve as a demonstration of it, but suffice to say, it is now dead...

GSM now has the overlay OCR function both automatically and manually and you can choose which area will get scanned unlike Yomininja's fullscreen. Moreover, GSM also works for other languages like Spanish. GSM is superior to Yomininja in every way.

Since YomiNinja is currently in a rout (the dev apparently has not posted for months, disappearing without a trace, I hope he is okay and nothing bad has happened to him) and Lens is not working on it, use [GameSentenceMiner](#) or [OwOCR](#). They are better than Yomininja anyway (GSM).

There is also [GakuScan](#) (unfortunately only uses Vision and not Lens) or other OCR alternatives in the [Other OCR software](#) section below (or above in the mass resources).

~~[YomiNinja](#) is a must have imo, it is a really cool Open Source OCR-type software. However, since currently the Google Lens does not work on it, it is not that necessary unless you need to look up stuff in videos or on pictures (its main uses). Else, for video games, especially VNs it is generally better to use Textractor and Agent etc.~~

Tho, if you only play VNs and other non-game type stuff it might be better to use Textractor, Agent and the other software respective alternatives (MPV, Mokuro etc.) mentioned since they are somewhat simpler?? and more straightforward/less annoying to use (IF you get the right hooks etc. ofc and you play VNs that is, get subs, videos downloaded etc.).

Yomininja still has some issues and design imperfections and bugs that need work, mainly in terms of user experience, ease of use and speed and it all depends on whether Google Lens keeps working on it.

It needs setup, like Yomitan or Anki, so you need to go into the settings, import Yomitan, know what to turn on, make GoogleLens work, define OCR regions etc. (which is the biggest limitation, it is designed with OCR-ing the whole page instead of letting you choose a single region, which can make it really slow if there is too much text. Also, the auto-OCR function is still not there yet in terms of use and is confusing to use and it can be annoying. Hopefully it will all be ironed-out eventually. Yomininja has immense potential so let's hope the dev gets the feedback and keeps on improving it and making it more intuitive to use.

Naturally, Yomininja is still great for certain things (especially for stuff where you cannot use the afore-mentioned programs) and can be used well even in VNs and Manga, but it may not always be a smooth experience, really. Though again, every tool mentioned has some weak points.

[Here is a demonstration](#) in Persona 5. It essentially allows you to scan ANYTHING, so... it can be used as an ultimate tool (paired with ShareX and tools like Yomitan) for making cards in games/image media.

Though it struggles with Manga/vertical text as of 0.7.2 version, **0.8 version made significant improvements** - you can by the way make it work with a text hooker page if you enable "Copy on hover" in its settings. But you need [a clipboard inserter](#)

[extension](#) installed/enabled.

Not only can you use it on ANY game, you can use it on ANY picture-related stuff, including hard subs on Youtube videos or text in Youtube videos etc., granted you always need to pause, but the process is quite fast and easy), I had around 95% accuracy with it (Paddle OCR, Lens is even more accurate) + you can use Yomitan directly in it, or 10Ten or ANY extension that you can import. However, keep in mind it also scans English text so it can get chaotic if it is there. There may be a way around it though.

~~Awesome stuff, it is not perfect since it struggles with some similar Kana and Kanji sometimes (like it thought 二 is 三 or 了 is 又 etc. in some texts) or it for some reason freaks out and gives some random result with some portion of the text, but it very rarely gets stuff wrong, so you have a pretty reliable scanning accuracy.~~

(This was using old Github version 0.5.1)

—

YOMITAN IS DIRECTLY INCORPORATED NOW.

~~Yomitan is not directly incorporated to it yet~~ (but will be in the next update — READ BELOW), you can turn on “*copy on hover*” in Yomininja which if you have the *Clipboard* settings enabled in Yomitan, it will open the Yomitan window with the full sentence, so you can mine it. Then you just use ShareX hotkeys for picture and the audio (if you followed [DonKuri setup](#)) and you have a full card done in about 10-ish seconds. Then you just regenerate Furigana for the Mining deck at the end of the mining session.

The newest version has [Google Vision AI OCR API](#) (the best OCR available in 2024), requires you to pay for [Google’s AI subscription](#) above 1000 uses per month, but it is not that expensive (well... depends) and in that case it would be well worth it imo since I heard the Google AI is pretty much 100% accurate when scanning text.

Also check the [Billing Budget](#) to optimise it so you don’t overpay for it. No, I don’t get it either:D

There might be a way to make it a free API, but we will see... that might be against Google's TOS and stuff, so...

NOTE: Some good soul made the Patreon new build with Yomitan available online (0.8).

You [can get it here](#). The password should be:

Yzc4ZDI2NmQtNjc2Ni00ODE5LWFmYWMtNDIxYjJmNWVmNDQ4

Though of course, the dev deserves something for their incredible work, since Yomininja literally changed the game (huh...get it... okay...), so if you want you can support them and the new Patreon version will eventually arrive for free.

The newer 0.7+ versions of Yomininja include other OCR modes, including the popular MangaOCR (great for Manga mainly) and other cool features not covered here.

You can create OCR templates that scan only a portion of the screen, which in games that primarily utilise the Visual Novel window (Atlus games etc.) significantly speeds up the scanning process, Google Lens went from roughly 8-10 seconds to scan to 3-4 seconds.

After some testing, Paddle OCR (the default OCR on Yomininja) still gets stuff right like 97% of times, it doesn't like commas and interpunction etc., which Google Lens handles much better, but... Lens is not perfect either, it sometimes struggles with numbers or English since it's configured for Japanese (but much less than Paddle), with whacky graphical text like in Persona 5, Lens struggled with this:



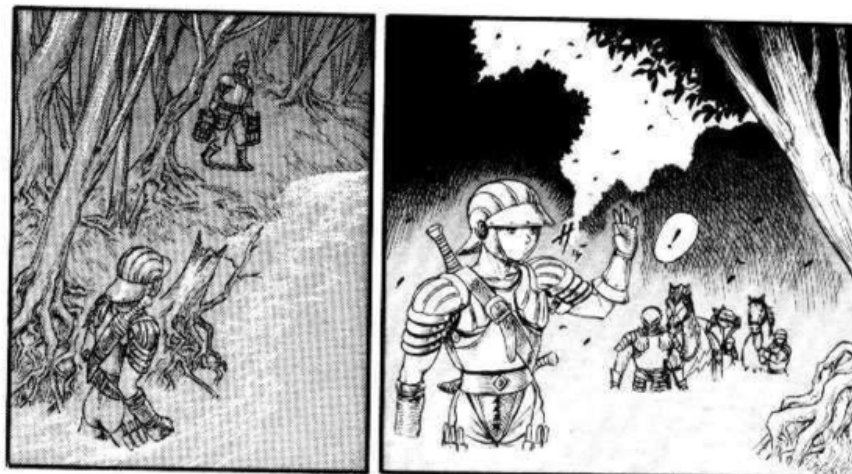
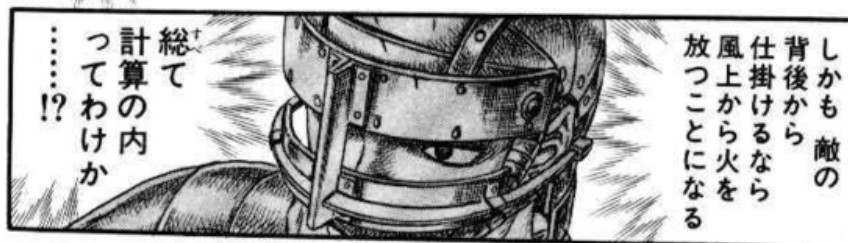


where the outputted text is too huge and I wonder how it would show that あと and ま で if it were in one box. Paddle handled this better, though it put each word in its own box which was quite chaotic (and for some reason understood 19 as 61 instead). Though putting higher numbers in its settings for the text area detection resulted in it not being able to find any suitable text, which is weird. Also I noticed that having 40 dictionaries in Yomitan might make it laggy, so try to limit them to like 20. You also want Yomininja to be always on top and possibly enable the custom cursor so you can look up stuff more easily if you have no cursor visible (so you don't have to go to a menu and from there).

And yes... in case you're wondering, Yomininja can be used on Manga too, it can be used on ANYTHING. Paddle OCR struggles quite a lot and puts everything into separate boxes which is a mess, but Google Lens is almost fully accurate minus here and there in some panels where it freaks out a bit, but usually gets it mostly right after re-scanning...

Example, it perfectly recognised this small text from Berserk (vol.04), not zoomed in on first try:

(if you compare carefully, you should notice it, sorry if it's hard to see, Google Docs + wanted it unzoomed)

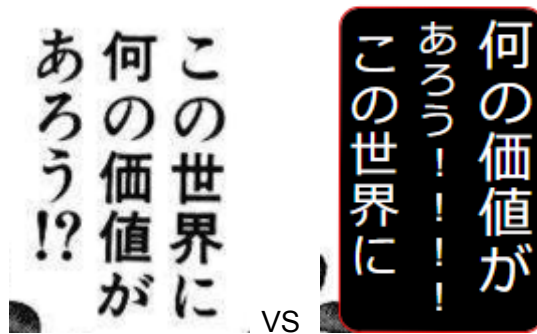




THIS BELOW WAS LARGELY FIXED IN VER. 0.8 AND 0.9 WILL APPARENTLY BE EVEN BETTER

Rarely, it either makes the scanned text/some Kanji too big, adds wrong punctuation, Kanji or it for some reason rearranges the lines to read left-right instead of right-left like Manga has it, which then does mistakes like here, putting the end in the middle on top:

(not too huge though, and it can be fixed after a few quick re-scans usually)



“Note: You can enhance your manga reading experience by using Google Lens and reducing the "size offset" of the bounding box. This option can be found under Settings > Overlay Appearance > Bounding Box.” - from Yominja github page

Lens works overall noticeably better than Paddle though takes longer to load. Paddle usually takes around 3 seconds with high accuracy settings while Lens takes like 8 seconds usually for Persona - this can be reduced to about 3 seconds by limiting the window that YomiNinja scans to only a particular section with its template option. However, for Berserk, Lens was much faster and comparable to Paddle and there it is superior to Paddle as shown. Paddle is practically never able to scan Manga like that. Btw. it always takes the text that is on screen at the moment you press the button, not after it finishes the output. (you can scan text that is no longer there therefore even if it looks weird if it's not there graphically anymore). **But obviously, it is not suited for stuff that quickly flashes different text at you like in cutscenes, since it just doesn't compute it fast enough, let alone for you to have time to look up stuff you can't pause.** Also, obviously you need to go to Settings and enable Lens for it to work. Go to Yomininja settings, scroll all the way down and there you have the respective OCRs with the description of what to do to activate them.

Haven't tried Google Vision yet since it needs more setup and possibly to pay for it, seems pretty complicated:D May try it later on and report, but their billing system is just SO CONFUSING FFS.

Yomininja is extremely usable though and I am going to be replaying Persona with it and will see. So far I played around 20 hours with it and it worked really great, Paddle OCR getting stuff wrong at times, but not too much, at worst you miss part of a sentence or a sentence here and there.

If it gets stuff wrong, you can try re-scanning it and it might get it right eventually, though I wouldn't waste too much time trying to get it right. Paddle OCR doesn't recognise some Kanji yet.

But Manga/vertical text and some wacky text like in Persona as shown, Yomininja still struggles.

For Manga, Mokuro works quite nicely, so use that (will be below this).

[I made a compilation on Yomininja's GitHub page](#) for it you can check out *(and was also targeted by a Russian hacker after uploading it - TWICE, once from a newly hacked account of someone who fell for it, just my luck:D But luckily I am not that stupid to fall for it).*

- as said, was mostly fixed in 0.8 version

NOTE: [Some Anti-Virus software](#) *(in general, single digit numbers of reports for a virus tend to point to a false-positive)* will mark Yomininja as a false-positive for having a virus, as far as I am aware, this is due to how Yomininja works as an app, being Electron-based, which some Anti-Viruses mislabel for a virus. I have been using it for quite a while now and have not noticed anything weird.

You can check [this MoeWay Discord thread](#) where it is discussed.

Also, AVG/Avast may mark Yomininja as being "infected with Win64:Malware-gen" in its "py_ocr_service.exe", this is also a false positive - see [here](#) (this is in general, AVG marks stuff made by PyInstaller as having a Trojan).

Also, [here's a VirusTotal of the Yomininja GitHub](#). Suffice to say, Yomininja should be clear.

Other OCR software

[Gakuscan](#) + [its usage guide](#).

[Google Vision AI](#) (and [GoogleLens](#), its free counterpart) is way more accurate and is the best OCR available currently, but it is tricky to use it, since it is paid and all, I may try it soon and then report, but there exists

Newest Yomininja uses them, but you still need to log in/pay for Google Vision AI. Not for Lens.

There is also [Kamui](#) (seems abandoned too??) - a new all-in-one app / site in development that seems really promising which uses Google Vision AI. But it is paid and there are similar programs/apps for free and open-source, so... that really will depend on what it brings, since why pay money if there are free ways that do similar job. Though I am really interested to see where Kamui goes.

In the setups there is also [text hooker](#), when paired with [Manga OCR](#) (*works with a default snipping tool print screen button & obviously works also on everything non-Manga related although it may not work that well on non-Manga stuff = this is an older way of OCR-ing.*

Manga OCR is still among the most accurate OCR software available for Japanese (well, Google Lens and Vision are superior to it now already... this was written way before them), but it is NOT perfect and is pretty much mostly suited only for Manga, screenshot smaller parts, but depends, sometimes it gets the Kanji wrong even on a very clear image and needs multiple attempts to get the Kanji right & makes me want to tear all my hair out... while other times it manages a longer text without issue so it is not perfect yet, but after you get used to how to get 8/10 times accurate scans, it is VERY useful)

There exists [Cloe](#), a snipping utility for Manga which uses MangaOCR.

There is also [Game2Text](#). And also there are [game scripts](#) you can download and even [Game2Text with Manga OCR already included](#) (use this one).

For pictures there is also [Yomitai](#).

You can also open *Yomichan search* (found in the Yomichan extension icon menu bar) and turn on the *clipboard monitor* in Yomichan settings / search. Obviously, **texthooker page is great for storing stuff for look-up later, so it still is VERY useful.**

Then you just need a Texttractor/YomiNinja/Manga OCR or ShareX AND Print Screen Snipping option + in Yomichan have the clipboard monitor turned on, and you can look up ANY Japanese text ANYWHERE, pictures/video footage included.

What is more, Yomichan search automatically includes Furigana above Kanji, which makes the reading process of the exported sentences much smoother. (*Text Parsing - Reading Mode - Hiragana in settings*)

Again, like I said... with Yomininja and ShareX you can also mine content outside of Asbplayer etc., [Donkuri](#) for example, made a great setup on their page (near the end, the bit about ShareX).

Other interesting tools that you should check out

[Epub-ifier](#) - very useful for when you want to convert an HTML page into an epub file.

To condense audio check [KoeMoe](#) (without subs) or [subs2cia](#) (from subs) (such as for listening on your phone to episodes you watched, but only spoken stuff so you don't waste time)

[Subplz](#) - "This tool allows you to use AI models to generate subtitles from only audio, then match the subtitles to an accurate text, like a book.", great to pair with [AudioTextSync To Ren'Py](#) (haven't tested)

For a subs-retimer if you ever need it (subs you can download for example in [Jimaku](#)) you can try this [KanjiEater auto-sub-re timer](#) or [auto-sub-retimer-easy](#), but Asbplayer has this function, though it takes a bit of playing with it to properly align it, however it actually remembers the timing for other subs, which is really neat if they are all mistimed by the same amount.

If you are using MPV, this can be useful - [mpv-subversive](#).

Or you can use [Memento](#), which also seems awesome and is more modern I guess. Have not tried it yet but it looks truly interesting.

If anything, for a Yomininja alternative you can try [Game Sentence Miner](#).

"The workflow is play game -> find word -> make anki card through yomitan/texthooker page -> press hotkey to record audio -> script automatically trims it to the last line of dialogue and sends it to anki (along with a screenshot) (sounds like a lot but it's really just two clicks). This also seems to work quite well for VNs. No more sharex shenanigans!" quote of the author

[JL](#) is another very interesting-looking tool similar to Yomitan, you can pair it with MPV.

Also [Exstatic](#) can be useful for stat enthusiasts (for VNs, needs a textractor).

You can see other tools [here](#) and [here](#) for example.

[Poricom](#) is great apparently, but they are really tricky to install and it seems I may be a bit stupid for them, since I can't get it to work lol, however for phones (mostly for Android, since that is what I use, not sure how Apple has it).

If you have Apple, you can also use [Shiori Reader](#). It seems really great.

You can find PLENTY (dozens if not hundreds) of apps in the big resource section (at their respective sites) at the beginning of the document, so I won't put too much here.

There are a LOT though, especially for Android.

[Japanese Kanji Study](#) - my favourite app for Kanji/dictionary, really a must-have imo. It has its own Kanji learning stuff (which is paid if you want to learn Kanji through reading - which you do in mass input anyway, but it's great for supporting the creator, they deserve it!), otherwise it's free.

[Jidoujisho](#) - great all-in-one tool

[Kiwi Browser](#) - open-source Chromium browser that enables to download and use extensions on phones like on PC, so you can install and use 10ten and Yomitan with it on your phone.

Alas, Kiwi Browser [was discontinued](#), but apparently, its code was implemented into [Microsoft Edge Canary](#), so you can try that one instead in case Kiwi Browser stops working in the future.

Again, I did not like Canary, but you can install [Firefox](#), which apparently works nicely and I also would recommend it.

[Yomiwa](#) - also a very useful app

[Takoboto](#) - also a dictionary etc. app, you can use it in other apps/browsers to open a window when highlighting a word, a bit like Yomitan

[Satori Reader](#) (but it is paid if you want full access)

[Iago](#) also may be useful for watching videos etc. It seems like a great companion to ASB that provides a functionality similar to 10ten and even quizzes you as you are watching/when you finish a video and tracks the words you look-up and saves them for reviewing inside the extension, among other things. However, it is still in Beta, and might be paid in the future or something?

[Animebook](#) is similar and great for consuming especially Anime-related content, **Animebook is an older version similar to Asbplayer and as shown on its page, it was superseded by Asbplayer, do not use it anymore, even the creator(s) tell you to use Asb instead. I will leave it here just in case.**

It does have a quirk here and there that could be on Asbplayer, but...

[Animelon](#) also exists, which is like a page where you can watch some free Anime in Japanese legally? You can use Asbplayer on Crunchyroll and Netflix as far as I know, so...

Tracking immersion time and blockers (for productivity)

MoeWay Discord has their [Immersion Tracker channel](#), which is very useful since it makes you be responsible and puts even reminders. The best option, simply... (if only

I wasn't shy/self-conscious for it, it would help me be responsible:'D)

There is also stuff like [ActivityWatch](#), an open-source software.

For tracking time, I personally use [Toggle Track](#), it works for simple time tracking if you care about that stuff, nothing too fancy though... *(although I wish there was a monthly record option, not just weekly, although that is because it is business/accounting-oriented I guess... and sometimes the pomodoro sound etc. does not work properly).*

There is a new site [Lingotrack](#) that seems interesting and is suited for language learning instead.

You definitely want to have some kind of Pomodoro timer to simply track time in between immersion sessions, doing them in 20-minute intervals with breaks is great but it depends on you of course.

For productivity, [Cold Turkey](#), [Freedom](#), [Stay Focusd](#) and [Leechblock](#). Obviously, there are many other extensions and programs like it so this is just something I use. They are best utilised by buying the premium version though...

For Youtube, you can use the [YTBlock extension](#), it has an option to block content based on language and it works quite well. So you can restrict it to Japanese only. Look into its settings and find the API Guide and follow it, then turn on the language filter in its settings.

Granted, these all can be "cheesed" if you try hard enough and know how, so you need some self-control, but you can make it harder for yourself by for example disabling ability to delete it from your extension settings etc. [through the Regedit/Registry Editor](#) (this can be done also with stuff like [disabling incognito mode](#), [browser profile switching](#), [guest mode](#), [history deletion](#) etc etc., you can look it up online on these links on how to do it). And naturally, if you'd really struggled with

controlling yourself, you can even [block access to Regedit](#) etc. You can even restrict the extension from being disabled and removed [as shown here](#).

Note: if you want to disable this for multiple extensions, create a new String Value in the regedit directory where you did the first, but instead of naming it “1” (since it will not let you), put any other number there, otherwise it will not work it seems, it works if you put a single number at least (so for example, I disabled it for Cold Turkey extension, named “1”, then Leech block with “0” and then Ublock Origin with “2”).

Cold Turkey can be really effective with the paid version if you do this, block access to Regedit, cmd, group policy editor etc. (but also difficult to access them back if you need them if you set up continuous block, so don't put too severe restrictions there like I did:D)

But of course, there's always a way to bypass anything, as long as you know how. It is just that the more restrictions you set up, the harder it will be/it will take longer/more effort. Especially if you know some programming or computer stuff.

THE END OF THE RESOURCES SECTION (yeah...page 75:D)

Again, most of the stuff you need can be found in the resources above with their detailed setups such as at TheMoeWay. These are just some personal picks and personal comments.

As for furigana, in the beginning it is definitely very useful as it can speed up the reading, so it has its uses. As for myself, it is a bit too distracting when in an actual text, since I focus more on just it than on its Kanji. But it is definitely useful and may save time.

=====

While there may be a few more resources mentioned below, the stuff mentioned above will cover you for absolutely EVERYTHING involving Japanese.

You can stop here, the stuff below this point is just sort of a “general” (lol) selection of tips and some personal & others’ ideas about Japanese acquisition, mainly for myself to write down.

Although I do keep the same ???“guide”??? tone during it.

But if you are crazy enough like me, you can read on of course:D

I especially value honest feedback & what to improve!

Most of it can be found in the above-mentioned resources & is probably better explained there anyway.

If you want, feel free to continue, there are some specific points made; but it is somewhat rough and contains a lot of rambling and “unnecessary filler”, haha (ノ*°▽°*)

Again, you can let me know on [Discord](#) of improvements and stuff.

I highly value feedback/tips on how to improve it, including more resources. Good luck!

An introductory reminder for the rest

The points, my views about stuff etc. given here are subject to change! They are not absolute!

It highly depends on my understanding of stuff, which I admit is still VERY limited!

Stuff here also was written at varying times, even months to years apart, so I may feel differently about some stuff (in the future), but most of this is very usable I would say. BUT do not take it as some “truth” or the like, it is just an amalgamation of all the stuff I found and what my personal experiences and knowledge at the time of writing was...

It is VERY LIKELY that what I say here may be bad advice or rather that it may misrepresent some aspects of things, so please make sure you do NOT take it as full-on truth and do NOT follow it religiously or anything, if what is in this document works for you, great, if not, change/use it to suit your needs etc. and do your own further research into the things and if so ask someone who actually has real

credentials, e.g. is learnt in the matters and/or is fluent in Japanese, I try to put links when I can if I comment on something long, but still...

Whether what is given in this document is good advice or not is largely a personal preference, if you find something beneficial here, great. If not, no problem, you can contact me and give me advice on what to improve/change (and other resources please! The more there are, the better)!

Of course, it is completely up to you whether you read this, **I am in no way some “authority”** (*I am around N3 at best, or a mishmash of different things...*) and again this is just my current perspective and what I learnt during my 2-year+ journey through Japanese.

Most of the stuff I say is from other sources (it is NOT from me alone!) who appear to be knowledgeable about this thing as given in the resources portion. The base of it I believe comes from Steven Krashen (*in particular the so-called “comprehensible input”*), a known second-language acquisition scholar.

There are many different methods and stances on language acquisition, so doing your own research is always the best.

I highly support and ENCOURAGE reading professional academic research from studied linguists and institutions, even if including such a thing is beyond the scope of this document (*as funny as that may sound, considering its length*). While the contents do discuss acquisition, it is not taken from any such source per se, only what I found on the general internet and in youtube videos etc., though that info likely and in some cases definitely comes from linguistic academic sources.

But, of course, I am aware not everything here is probably “correct” per se. So keep that in mind.

What I want to say is that take my observations as only that...observations, that might lead you to personally doing more research, testing, trial and error and towards

building/enhancing your own acquisition method. I do not provide any definitive way, only give possible options / a basic overview. I would not call this proper, pro-advice even...at best some amateurish/limited advice maybe, haha (/>/▽/</).

My skill is not anywhere near to make me qualified for such matters or being any authority on what you should or should not be doing or whatever.

Even though I may sound a bit like it sometimes. However keep in mind that is just the way I write, in this matter-of-fact, dry (& overly wordy :D), formal way. As it is the style I use most of the time.

So take the content presented as this “amalgamation” of random things that I stumbled upon elsewhere with a mention of my experience and is largely a sort of diary of mine to note them all.

It should not be taken as me being some

“You ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO THIS, ELSE... ALSO MY WAY IS THE BEST!”.

I AM NOT A TRAINED LINGUIST! (at least not yet lol...)

They are just things I stumbled upon frequently and noted here... it might be different for you.

There are plenty of other great ways that differ from those I mention.

Nor am I supportive of the “one way/the perfect way/only *my* way is the best”. (sorry Dolly, even if she did not mean it that way per se always...it did come out as that quite a bit)

There is no such thing and every resource is beneficial in some way (even textbooks are in some ways such as simple practice and hold-your-hand approach which some people like..., despite their clear limitations and “boringness”).

I am just someone who loves learning Japanese and who is extremely passionate about discussing it.

By the way, sorry for wasting your time away from Japanese with this “massive” wall of text (´_´;).

I always write like this.

KEEP IN MIND THAT I WILL LIKELY SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD REPEATEDLY THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT *(it is still mainly a personal/rough manuscript where I just sort of lay down all my thoughts throughout the last few months/years when I felt like it...so...little organised thought)*

Although at least it might really stick if some stuff is repeated as a “side-effect”, heh (*ノ▽`*)

Some basic introduction to terms

A little talk about terminology I use, just in case...

I should mention that this is how I *personally* understand it, I am not saying this is how it is exactly and this is DEFINITELY largely simplified and not fully accurate as per SLA.

Like I mentioned and will mention again, I am in no way a learned linguist or the like and am perfectly aware that I may not be fully accurate.

I am merely putting it here so that you are not confused if I use some specific “term” so that you know what I *personally* picture by it and what I want you to imagine there.

Input & output

Generally, input refers to well...inputting native-like content by *(mostly actively if possible)* consuming it and trying to understand it by any means.

Its other side is “output” which refers to again, outputting the language through active use via actively speaking and writing in said language.

Input covers the receptive skills - reading and listening. These are needed for recognition, but not necessarily production of the language.

For highly useful advice on LISTENING and improving listening comprehension, check [this MoeWay thread on Discord](#).

Output covers the productive skills - speaking and writing. These not only need recognition *(a.k.a. having them stored in one's brain)*, but to also know how to produce

the language from what they know, mostly in real time (*a.k.a. using that which is stored in the brain and actively using it to convey original messages to others or to yourself*).

Output is much harder to do because it usually requires quite a bit of input first to attain the recognition of the language. However, it is output that makes one a FUNCTIONAL user of said language, not merely input. Thus, **output is the most important ability in language acquisition.**

Production of the language also depends on the person. Some people are okay with producing even very early. In my view, I do not personally (*not saying it is wrong*) support such an idea because **I think one first needs the basis, otherwise they will be trying to produce something that is not there, or is there in such a small amount that it will make it all the more frustrating and demotivating; and without a competent language partner it can lead to cementing some bad habits/pronunciation etc. since the person is unaware of how the language works, pronounces, let alone sounds properly.**

I think this is one of the reasons why so many people keep their native accent and pronunciation way even if they reach a functional second language level. Although you can fix it later on, I do not remember if I was like it myself (when I got fluent/C1 in English at around 15, I already had a good British accent due to so much native input).

However, once you get more fluent and you try to notice what is different about your Japanese to natives, you might be able to fix those problems anyway once you really get good at using the language actively.

Since if you are good, it will be much easier to know where you need to improve, so it will be easier to focus on particular problems, in which case you should be able to largely mitigate them / eliminate them.

Of course, if one has a competent speaking partner who knows the language and is willing (*and possibly also knows how to teach it organically*), this can be largely controlled and early production can definitely be possible and is incredibly useful.

Under “production/output” I do not put simple pronunciation and writing practice (*not production*), where one rewrites something or reads aloud something etc. Although with this I believe it should be something with audio as getting to know the sounds is simply quite crucial in the beginning.

HOWEVER, if there is an opportunity to use and produce the language, it is incredibly beneficial, however I believe there should first be some passive basis built...

I should mention that by output I generally mean production from your own head = of ideas, thoughts, messages etc. = the actual, natural performance of the speaker in the said language.

Pronunciation, Shadowing & Pitch Accent

Because there is also stuff like reading aloud, shadowing (*mimicking the speaker and what they say, especially in real-time, though that is hard to do as a beginner*) etc. that are not necessarily “production” of ideas. These you may want to be doing early too with input at least, because you want to learn how to produce the sounds on your own and slowly work towards accent and fluid speaking of words of a text, so it can help with slowly increasing your speech speed. Then it will be much easier to produce the thoughts and ideas later on when you are already comfortable with voicing out the language on your own.

But of course, especially as a relative beginner, you will likely be using wrong 高低アクセント

(Pitch Accent), so be wary of that, which is why Shadowing can be useful, although for that you also need to have decent listening skills to use it to its best potential, but trying to imitate is better than randomly speaking, or worse... using English pronunciation or something...

I recommend checking out [this Dogen video](#) to get the basic idea of what Pitch Accent is and then you may practise it a bit (10 minutes) every day until you get 95%+ regularly [on this very useful page called Kotsu](#) (you need to “register” but all you need to do is to just put any name and random password, then bookmark it/leave it open) and then try to just notice the patterns while listening to Japanese. It really helps you notice the difference between the different Pitch Accent types, once you can get 95% regularly, you will have the ear trained for recognising them enough. Then you just need to shadow and try to be actively aware of which pitch accent a word uses and try to imitate it properly.

Don't worry TOO much about it, Pitch Accent takes time & it is something that can be properly utilised/corrected once you are advanced enough. Pitch Accent also is not universal and different prefectures/regional Japanese variants use a different pitch accent from the standard Tokyo Japanese, so pitch accent is very useful, but not THAT crucial, although you do want to actively know about it and try to produce it, however you do not need to “memorise” it or anything of that sort. Do not do so... just be aware of it and try to get close enough when speaking. It is no end of the world usually if you mess up the pitch accent, the Japanese will understand you from the context anyway, and if not, they will likely ask you to clarify (hopefully). Pitch Accent is, like anything, all about automatisisation, you eventually figure it out and will be able to do it by intuition.

Also, keep in mind that in casual and dialect Japanese, people will not always follow your learnt rules - e.g. you may learn word x as heiban, but elsewhere in Japan it can use odaka or something. There even are Japanese dialects that use NO pitch accent and pitch accent can also change depending on the following particle/word/environment.

Although try to aim for some “proper” Japanese pronunciation & accent (focus on the standard Tokyo one, if you get fluent, you can then flex and learn some specific dialect, which would wow the Japanese:D), since you want to speak Japanese as Japanese as it will give a much better impression/will be easier to speak Japanese for

you too, like with any language. Does not mean you need to have a “Native-like” accent or such. Do not beat yourself up.

As given above already, there exists this site [Youghlish](#) that helps with it, just insert a word. For Anime, you can try [ImmersionKit](#) from GameGengo.

Furthermore, once you get more advanced in Japanese (say N2 level), make sure you watch [Dogen's Pitch Accent & Phonetics](#) series since it is very useful, specifically for being mindful of Pitch Accent/Intonation for proper pronunciation, Dogen has some amazing videos. You will need to put some time into your Pitch Accent if you truly want to attain it, so you need to get mindful of it and what to improve/what you are missing, but that is more for when you are Advanced, so do not worry about it if you are just starting.

For highly useful advice on LISTENING and improving listening comprehension, check [this MoeWay thread on Discord](#).

Important note about output

First, my idea of “acquisition” means “Fluent in every aspect”. However, different people have different goals. If you do not need speaking, it is okay and this does not apply to you.

In language acquisition, there is something called “Silence period”, that is a period in which the learner should NOT speak and rather focus on getting the knowledge of how the language works, sounds and exists as an entity, that is to get INPUT = build an accurate mental image of the language itself. This is a concept I personally support.

I would NOT start outputting too early (but also not too late), you need TONS of listening (and even reading) experience first for it to be truly effective, trying to speak without anything being there and trying to FORCE the speaking will not be beneficial in the long run, nor will it be fun. It is like trying to understand a language by only

doing mass grammar study (in mostly one's native language on top) without consuming any native materials.

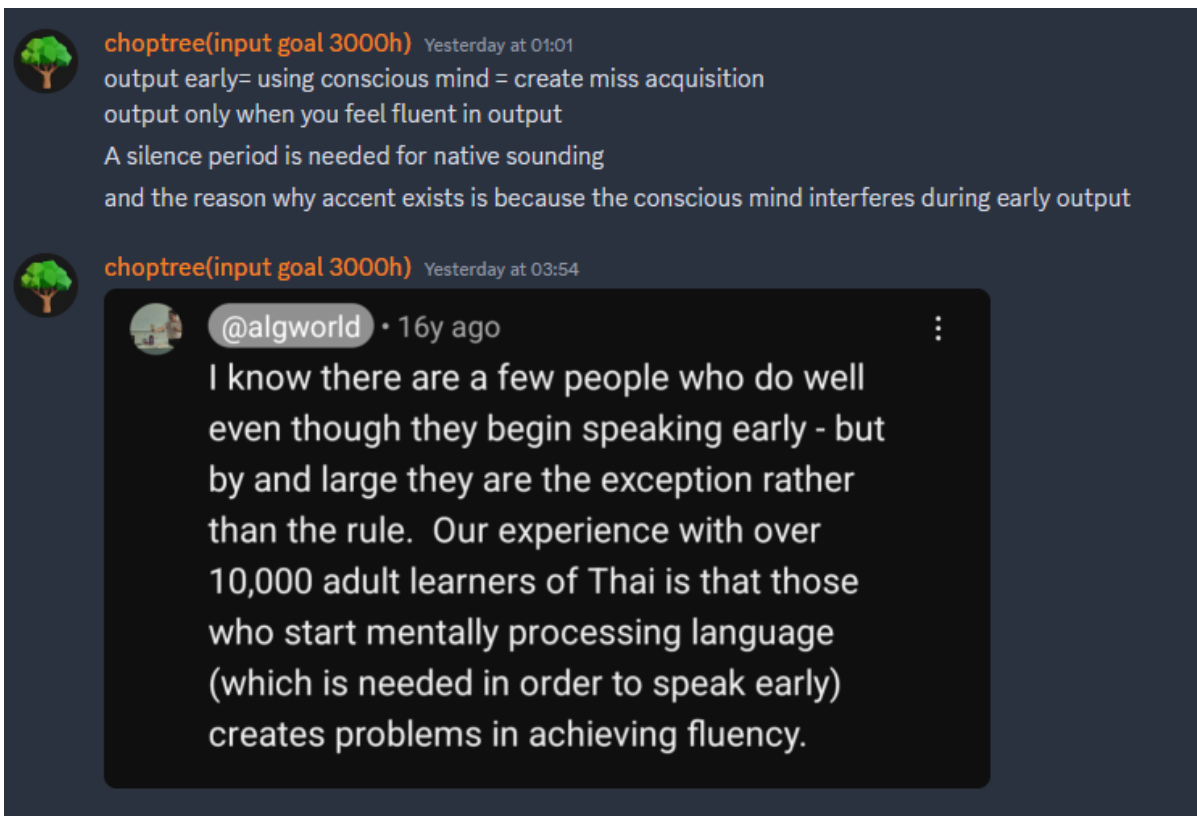
HOWEVER, keep in mind that there is nothing inherently wrong with early output, but it depends on your environment. If you have a native/fluent speaker who will correct you and help you and/or you live in Japan, then by all means, you can speak even early and it will help you, in those cases (especially the Japan one), speaking is necessary. But you still want to be very conscious about it (e.g. noticing your mistakes and how others speak); try to input as much as you can while doing it.

Basically, you do not want to do the “classroom” strategy, it is forcing it without providing any input or mental knowledge of the language and doing so in very unfun ways, it is boring and you could achieve more by consuming lots of stuff and doing it on your own, we have so many people that do not know how to speak nor really understand the language despite studying for 10+ years.

Let alone providing a low amount of actual output practice because there are too many people.

Yes, I do firmly believe that the whole school language-learning needs SERIOUS overhauling.

I do believe that it can be useful if it is 1-on-1 or involving just a few people.



Correction: I think choptree meant “output only when you feel fluent in INPUT”, however I personally think you do not need to necessary go that far, I think being decent is enough to start with Output, like N2 level in terms of comprehension, that is when you mostly can read and listen relatively easily without having to over-rely on Yomitan and other tools. When you can understand like 90%, it should be enough.

[You Should Wait To Start Speaking - Intermediate Spanish](#)

DO NOT FOLLOW! [ALG: The Most Unique Language Learning Method](#) - After it was brought up in [MoeWay Discord](#), it seems that this method, or at least how its community presents it (it feels similar to the uncomfortable impression I got from Tatsumoto) is there to sell a course and it seems to have a cult-like following that tries to sell a very questionable idea that was not researched all that much while claiming it is the best method and doing anything else will do “PERMANENT DAMAGE”, aka a common tactic by scammers and cult-like manipulators. On paper, focusing on comprehensible listening did not sound too bad to me since it is needed for building phonology as a beginner, but investing THOUSANDS of hours into that and nothing else while claiming doing anything else but following THEIR PERFECT METHOD results in permanent damage of some kind indeed sounds like a bad idea

overall with little evidence and research to back it up.

I looked up ALG and the linguist that came up with it and yeah, there really is practically no research by other linguists that tests or uses this method. You can iron-out the “bad habits” in a systematic way once you get fluent and become conscious of your shortcomings.

I found [a comment](#) thread on Reddit about it where someone said it is often misrepresented. Whatever it may be, its community seems to be selling it in a way that seems cult-like, especially when the method is under researched, extremely niche and underground overall, even if there are some ideas that may be viable in specific instances, but I would stick to other methods.

Moreover, this was further shown when another “ALG-er” hopped in to a thread on [E-J Language Exchange](#) server here (*hopefully they won't delete it*) and started saying how everyone is wrong and his method is the only correct one and doing literally anything else will do PERMANENT DAMAGE or some crap, he then was challenged to provide evidence, stats and an actual peer-reviewed research paper, all he could do was link some random ALG-pdf “paper” which held no academic value since it was not peer-reviewed nor published in any academic journal or book. He then kept going in circles while avoiding every question and argument made against his claims (*the only good thing he said was Comprehensible input is important, which everyone agrees with*) and denying to even mention his Japanese level/known languages, because he knew NONE except for English. Luckily, he got banned due to being combative and confrontational without providing anything of value.

TLDR: He was full of crap and had 0 skills, evidence AND idea of what he was talking about. If this is all that the ALG produces, I want to stay hell away from it. I will not be supporting such stuff and I recommend neither should you.

I highly recommend reading the [Learning to Output](#) article by Morg since it lists a lot of awesome info and strategies for outputting, even if you are scared to talk with people.

For ways on how to improve output, [this video](#) is quite useful. Also check [this video](#). You do not need to try too hard or force the speaking. It is why first building Input competence is important.

One thing I will also mention is that early output is not inherently bad, but it depends on whether you have a skilled tutor to correct you and guide you or not. If you do not, then outputting early is not recommended and instead you should first get good at input/understanding.

Since once you have the knowledge of what Japanese is supposed to be like and can understand it without too much issue, then outputting will be not only easier for you but also more effective and fun, especially when combined with a tutor or someone fluent/native.

But let me get this straight...unless you **(AFTER GETTING DECENT IN INPUT)** start producing the language **ACTIVELY** through speaking and writing *(not necessarily hand-writing but that can be useful too for various things, however learning how to write by hand is not that important in modern day Japan since everything is digital anyway...)*

at one point in time *(preferably once you get to a comfortable intermediate, later N2, but some wait until N1 even, but basically the sooner and more you do it AFTER getting decent at understanding Japanese content, the better - IT IS A MUST IF YOU WANT TO FULLY ACQUIRE THE LANGUAGE)*, you will never get comfortable with the language itself if you do not start speaking/producing the language itself and you will be the eternal “learner”, since at one point in time, speaking and actually producing the language become the thing **NEEDED** for the actual final acquiring of the language, the final, most important step that many learners are too afraid to take out of embarrassment and fear of being judged...but let me tell you, nobody cares about the mistakes or such things (they will not really correct you much anyway), what matters to them is the message.

(Well, of course rude, toxic arseholes exist, like in any language, but talking in general terms here...)

Or do you care if some foreigner speaks to you in broken English/your native language? I do not, I know the gist of what they are saying/what they want to say and

do not care if they used wrong grammar or what to express it... actually, I respect the fact they are trying despite it all...

(my native language is Slovak, so I hold even more of a respect for them lol:D)

What matters is the MESSAGES/IDEAS conveyed and the fluidity of the conversation, or at least trying to produce coherent speech, of course, at first you will suck, everyone does, but that is okay and you will improve with time (quite quickly even if you are already good in input) if you just keep doing it and will not be afraid to speak up! It is like any other skill, nothing magical! So do not be discouraged and JUST DO IT!

If you fail, then just do it again... and again... and again... repetition and trying is also crucial.

It is a CRUCIAL skill to acquire & it will always be painful and difficult at first, BUT IT IS ALRIGHT!

Because even if you do 3000 hours of quality input, you might understand stuff...but you will be unable to communicate, because although you do *theoretically* know how stuff works and you understand messages and everything that is conveyed to you by others; producing & putting it all into practice is a largely SEPARATE SKILL entirely and you will struggle nonetheless even then & it will need to start actively speaking A LOT to build this ability.

You will most-likely acquire it quite faster than someone who did only 500 hours etc. of input but still... **the only way to FULLY acquire a language proper, is to start actively outputting it.**

Sure, you may delay it until you have the basis, but delaying it until after “I can understand 15 000 words / 95% of what I read/listen to” might not be the best idea in the long-term. **HOWEVER, neither should you start outputting too early, since apparently, it does stunt growth in acquisition.**

There were some who did output only after understanding almost everything and they had very quick acquisition time for output, so depends on the person, if you need to speak, you will start sooner, if you mainly study Japanese for Anime and entertainment consumption, it may come later and may not be your main goal (apparently Matt vs Japan also started outputting only after he got to N1 or something if I remember correctly and he got fluent fast, sorry if not...), **just be aware that you will still have to put in the work into output no matter what if you want to ACTUALLY acquire Japanese.**

There is an “evidence” (have not looked into it too much myself) that seems to suggest that the speaking will be acquired much easier once you already have great input abilities (listening builds accent and pronunciation) and trying to force the speaking before the brain has sufficient input and understanding of the language, will stunt the growth in terms of fluent acquisition, specifically in terms of speaking.

In summary:

Output is the MOST CRUCIAL skill in language acquisition, it is what makes you ACQUIRE the language, many people never achieve this because they are afraid to start routinely doing it and since it relies on active communication with other people, it is much scarier (understandably).

But just like anything (including Input), everything sucks and is hard/scary in the beginning, but the more you do it, the easier and more comfortable it gets until you conquer said fear. Though you should first have the strong input (especially listening) base developed.

However, I can pretty assuredly predict that if one does not take the plunge at one point into outputting (generally when they are Upper Intermediate/lower Advanced - when comfortable with understanding most stuff), they will not FULLY acquire the language (in terms of full fluency). Especially output that is paired with active, intensive AND extensive input.

This is how important output is, but so is active INPUT.

Once you get this base, if you do not have anyone to practise output with, you can start by writing with people under Japanese videos, or you can try Discords (or play games with Japanese people / other Japanese learners in Japanese), there is a Discord server such as [English-Japanese Language Exchange](#) or you can try stuff like [iTalki](#) (for a small fee) or [HelloTalk](#).

Having a native Japanese person is especially great/what you should focus on mostly, at the very least someone who is Advanced/fluent in it, since someone who is not as good yet might be giving a wrong impression of how one should speak Japanese. Not that you cannot work together with another learner, it is just that you should be aware of this.

Yes, it will be scary, difficult, extremely painful and whatnot in the beginning & you will need to look up how to say stuff properly, but just like with input (and everything new), it will get better over time if you keep doing it. You WILL get better if you persevere. **It should be much easier if you already have a strong input base built (specifically in listening).**

You do not need to put 5 hours every day or anything ridiculous like that...you can do just 10 minutes a day trying to output and slowly increase over time.

Active & passive input (and semi-passive/active)

First of all, these terms are a SCALE, they are not “either/or” necessarily, since during input, your attention/energy will fluctuate where you will at times be on a scale that is more towards the active and other times more towards the passive etc. It is okay and natural, just keep doing your best and try to pay as much attention / active input as possible, but just keep in mind it is a scale.

Same goes for the so-called “intensive” and “extensive” input. These are just terms I use (and saw others use) so they are just useful pointers but the point is that you try to ACTIVELY consume the language as much as possible.

Active input means one puts effort and full attention into understanding the content, it is pretty demanding and draining for the brain, but that is what makes the brain learn and retain info. Passive input refers to simply consuming content and not being overly concentrated on it, such as when your attention is mostly focused on another task that demands you to pay attention to it or it is what watching Anime with English subs is like... we want to avoid passive input.

Now, there is fully passive input, where you basically just leave stuff playing and you pay almost no attention to it or like the aforementioned Anime with English subs.

This kind of passive input is pretty much just a filler, it will bring you almost nothing (though in the beginning it is useful for getting used to the general melody, speed, intonation etc. and to bring the mood / habit of consuming Japanese and getting the sense of the Japanese environment)

Though of course, it is better to at least passively listen than not listening at all.

However, keep in mind that everything below here is ACTIVE input. Passive input is generally useless and will not help you learn much at all. You always need to be actively engaged with the language and what you are consuming, that is how the brain acquires information and learns. It only learns when it struggles actively, so you must THINK and try to actively UNDERSTAND.

However, there is also semi-passive (or active?) input, where although you are not fully concentrated on the language, you still pay attention to it as much as you can, but it is not full attention. This is used when you are for example washing the dishes, jogging or doing any other activity that likewise requires some focus at the same time but it is not some highly-demanding activity as it still allows you to pay attention to Japanese.

This one is actually quite beneficial in the long-run if done regularly, especially since it still provides an immersion environment when you are not able to do so actively. Of

course, it is simply not as beneficial as fully active input, but it can be a great supplement to it when said active input cannot be done (*or you are tired*).

This input is mostly of the listening kind and is Extensive in nature (on that soon), and you should do it whenever you cannot do fully Active, more Intensive input.

What is especially useful is if you use the stuff you consumed through active input for your semi-passive input. Since you are already familiar with it because you put active effort into it before.

Intensive & extensive active input

Active input can be divided into sub-groups:

Intensive input

There is **intensive input** (*you try to study and think about stuff a lot, you analyse stuff in-depth, more demanding for the brain - more effective and practically needed in the beginning, but much more tiring and can become overwhelming for the brain where being TOO intense will overload it and essentially block it from receiving new information for a while, hence everything should be done in moderation, you do not want to overload your brain with too much information at once basically... so it is best to limit it to about 1 hour per session to avoid burning out with frequent breaks during it, let the brain rest a bit and if you want you can go again*). It is **focused on quality over quantity**.

Some people say you do not need to do as much Intensive input in the sense where you **OVERLY** analyse stuff because it is slow, it is demanding, you will likely still miss stuff **AND** you will not ensure **Free-Flow** of input consumption and you will not consume much in that time which may hinder your natural ability in the language since that rests on consuming the **QUANTITY** of different content. However, intensive input does not mean you have to spend 5+ minutes on a single sentence... in general, 30 seconds - 1 minute is enough and still being intensive.

Do not misunderstand, you ARE supposed to pause and look-up stuff whenever you do not understand. But in the beginning, this input is necessary at least as far as reading goes. So if you are a beginner, sacrificing speed for comprehension and being more intensive in your reading is expected (with Anime, you should use it for listening mainly rather than reading so I would not pause overly much there).

So upon encountering a sentence, you really try your hardest to piece it all together and form the meaning of the parts and of the entire sentence, you generally try to do so in full Japanese/or with just word look-ups, you TRY not to use sentences translation unless it is at the very end of the the paragraph or such at earliest (not just a sentence, but when you finish reading altogether, since if you look at a translation right away, your brain will not embrace ambiguity and will feel distrustful of your own judgement/intuition, which is not good since embracing ambiguity and own intuition is important for language acquisition) where you either got the right answer through the effort you put in, or you were unable to get the gist/meaning despite giving it a lot of effort.

HOWEVER, if you are completely lost, you can use translation, but at that point you should probably be consuming something easier since the current stuff is too difficult for your current Japanese ability/intuition.

HOWEVER, while you intensively focus on understanding everything in the sentence, you still should dedicate AT BEST 1 minute (no more than 2 minutes for sure, hell... on average you should mostly spend around 20-30 seconds on a sentence and then move on) analysing per sentence, since you will miss stuff either way. If you still can't get the message, move on, the sentence in question is too much above your level. You still want to consume at least something and not be stuck on one sentence for too long since that will needlessly tire you out while not providing exposure you need. Overall, what matters here is that you really put a lot of effort and your brain works

hard on it (but you do not waste time trying to over-analyse absolutely everything since that will tire you a lot and will still miss stuff).

Eventually, this will be very beneficial for the brain and the brain will keep working on it on its own.

It is focused on quality over quantity, like I said, so it is expected to try to put effort into understanding.

Of course again, you do not want to spend an hour on a sentence and if you cannot understand even after trying for this time, just move on, the sentence in question is above your current level, so even if you kept analysing it for an hour, you likely would not properly understand it anyway or would arrive at an incomplete conclusion / misunderstood it.

Plenty of people say that they spent so much time over-analysing stuff and then a few months later when they re-read the work they over-analysed, they realised just how MUCH they missed when they were first reading it despite over-analysing everything (a.k.a. going to an extreme form of intensive input - that one is not very beneficial as you can see since as a beginner/intermediate, you do not have the intuitive ability to get the nuances of the grammar, context and the language and will most-likely miss that stuff anyway no matter how much you over-analyse it, which is why it is best to limit the intensive input to max 1 minute of analysing and then simply moving on).

Naturally, I am not saying that translation of entire sentences and big chunks of text is wrong (in the beginning it is necessary), but simply do not over-rely on it and try to use it sparingly and slowly move towards more monolingual transition which takes time of course but is quite useful (you can translate the monolingual definitions tho).

Monolingual transition does NOT mean you give up bilingual dictionaries btw., use them still, nor does it give you that much if you switch completely to monolingual. It just means that you get comfortable with monolingual definitions, which you should

do, basically, the sooner you start trying to also understand the monolingual definitions, the better. Though do not spend too much time on them. Being able to understand monolingual definitions without much effort is INCREDIBLY useful, there are SO many expressions that cannot be properly translated and a lot of nuance etc. that you can only find in the monolingual definitions.

Anki, and quick reading work way better with bilingual definitions.

Of course, if translation of ENTIRE SENTENCES will mean that you enjoy the content and if it means you will not quit, then you can use it by all means, but again, if you over-rely on it, it might slow down your progress in terms of attaining “intuitive Japanese thought”. Or at least that is what I heard. Basically, if you put in effort TRYING to understand the Japanese without translating the sentence first, it should not matter much.

But obviously, Intensive input as a beginner is VERY demanding and cannot be sustained for a long time (requires frequent breaks), furthermore it takes time and effort to get through each sentence and so you are very slow, which means much less content consumed, since you also want to consume as much content as possible so your brain receives as much of the language as possible.

For that there exists “Extensive input”

Extensive input

One thing I need to be clear about - there is a term “Extensive Reading”, which requires comprehension to be at 98% of the text, this is clearly unreachable as a beginner or even an Intermediate unless we consume boring, dumbed-down Japanese instead of natural Japanese...

Problem is that having less than 95% comprehension means you will miss tons of detail and stuff that is crucial to fully understand the message. [Read through this.](#)

Hence I rather focus on quantity, even with lower comprehension, helping ourselves

through our tools like Yomitan. Basically, you need to understand that for a LOOOONG time you will not understand much at all and it will be very tough and will be Intensive input rather than Extensive, but the point here is that we can make it faster = less demanding in case you are tired, thus Extensive input is for especially when you do not feel for going fully Intensive.

Point is that we should focus on having fun and simply powering through even if we do not understand most of our stuff, the more we read/listen and the more we try to understand despite this, the more we will eventually understand and get closer to that desired 98% comprehension.

With **Extensive input** (*you limit thinking and analysing everything and just consume a lot, looking up stuff only briefly - look up, say the word, meaning...try to quickly connect it to the sentence and what it means...nod... move on...if you cannot guess what the sentence implies after briefly looking up stuff, then just nod and move on...*

This is obviously more effective in the more advanced stages, but still even for beginners it is much less tiring and enables you to consume more, which is great at any stage = more experience & much more interaction with the language which is crucial in the long-term).

Basically, it is focused on quantity over quality. It is *mostly* **Free-Flow**, in that it is based on *generally* not interrupting the flow of what is being consumed needlessly.

Free-Flow immersion is a very important aspect of input and output that you should definitely do whenever you do not feel like analysing stuff too much, you simply aim to consume and produce the language in a free-flowing state where you do not pause MUCH (but still paying attention). You still pause or look-up though and you do **ACTIVELY** try to understand the messages/sentences!

It is important that you try to get something out of what you consume, you do NOT want to completely disregard look-ups, since especially as a beginner, this would end up being just fully passive input = would not give you anything basically... you DO NOT want to whitenoise the stuff you consume, Extensive input is NOT that, it is still fully **ACTIVE**, it is just not focused on analysing stuff in depth like the Intensive,

focusing instead of free-flowing and faster consumption that however again is still fully active and you are trying to actively understand everything, it is just that you do not stop for long if you cannot understand something within say... 10 seconds. You try your best and then simply move on since that means the sentence pattern/grammar etc. is still not “internalised” enough for you to grasp it automatically. This can be solved by reading more (and also intensive consumption from time to time when you feel for it).

In summary, remember that extensive input is still active input in nature, being semi-active at worst. So you still try to comprehend stuff and you (try to) pay full attention or at least mostly focus on stuff, you just do not waste time trying to over-analyse too much, you look up, read the definition, nod, briefly think about what the sentence might be saying, and move on... you do it through your own quick thinking and quick look-ups, you do not dwell on stuff if you do not understand - you simply instantly move on after getting what you can from the sentence in around 10 seconds. If you cannot understand it even after quickly looking up everything you just move on afterwards (generally you want to dwell on a sentence up to 20 seconds at most, preferably 10-15 seconds).

Thus, it is best to combine and use all types of input, sometimes you use one, sometimes the other and you can switch between them when you feel like it. If you are too tired for active, intensive input then just switch for an active extensive input. If you are tired for that too, then take a break and/or turn on some semi-passive listening input, better than nothing.

A note about a concept of “narrow reading”

For more info about this, check [Morg's article about it](#).

I mention it here somewhere in this document, but it is very beneficial to:

1. read material that you find interesting and fun,

2. focus on a particular genre/author etc. for this material, to narrow your reading.

It really helps you get acquainted with the vocabulary that is used since each author and type of genre has a particular vocabulary and expressions that they use a lot. A fantasy author and genre will have particular vocabulary and expressions that they often use, which makes it easier to acquire them if you focus on reading them, you narrow your reading focus, hence the term “narrow reading”. It is easier to read the same author and genre since the more you read them, the more accustomed to it you get, which can make especially early reading easier for you and help you acquire particular frequent vocabulary faster.

Of course, eventually you definitely want to broaden your reading material, since that will be crucial, but it is not bad to limit yourself at first or do “I will read 10/x novels of Fantasy, then 10/x novels of romance, then 10/x novels of Sci-Fi, then detectives, then horror, then historical etc.”

[Listen to this segment of the professor speaking](#) about the benefit of engaging with fun content and with narrow reading instead of brute-force memorisation.

Mining & the “i+1”

The i+1 is not something you should focus on, really... Check the [JJ's note](#) too here.

Do note that I have NOT personally read through Krashen's work, only bits, so take this summary with a grain of salt, I heard it from other people, though people who seem to know it and who read it (Morg, Donkuri etc.), though it is best to read it yourself if you are interested. Again, do NOT take my writings in this diary as how things are, they are largely simplified, even with this much length.

I need to note here that the concept of i+1 here is NOT how Steven Krashen, from whom it was taken, thought about the i+1. In a way, this definition misunderstands what Krashen meant. In very simplified terms, Krashen meant i+1 to be a material that was just a bit above your current level of language ability, that means you could still understand enough, but not everything. It did NOT mean just one unknown word. It

simply means that the material provides enough room outside your current knowledge that it will help you to “level up” to the next level, but you still have enough that you can already understand, so that it is not too much above your level. You should NOT consciously pursue it or exclusively look for it, rather you will come across it by inputting material that you can get the gist of and is generally comprehensible, so a material that is not too difficult/incomprehensible, but that has enough new things that it is challenging you and can make you “level up”. However, here is the main point... Krashen’s model is THEORETICAL, it is NOT practical, because it is too vague to exactly measure what $i+1$ means for every instance and every learner. Which is why I think it was taken at its base and (mis)interpreted as meaning one unknown word/phrase/piece in a general sentence. However, another thing to note is that a lot of times, not knowing a single word in a very long and complex sentence will be HARDER than not knowing 2 or even 3 words in a simple sentence. Mining “ $i+1$ ” sentences that are the equivalent of “Tea is warm” is useless, it does not give you much to learn from, does not really show you how the word is used in a more broad context and is just a bit too basic. I would focus on more complex structures, while making sure you can understand said sentence and the context.

Hence, it is true and should be kept in mind that what I write below is not something you should follow too strictly and should take it with a grain of salt. Basically, what you should do is READ anything that genuinely INTERESTS you and you have FUN with, forget about $i+1$ or such stuff. It can help if you are too unsure of what to mine exactly, but that is all. Basically mine everything as long as you get the gist of the sentence and the context. Do not look at the text difficulty too religiously, yes you should aim for texts you generally understand without too much effort, while still having stuff that you do not understand, since that will give you most enjoyment and progress most-likely, but enjoyment beats this. If you stay hooked and really enjoy reading harder text that you need to put more effort to understand and you find texts

close to your level boring, then I would go for the harder text if it means you will keep on reading a lot.

 **ReadDr4gOn** 12/07/2024 2:54 AM
According to Stephen Krashen "The input hypothesis makes the following claim: a necessary (but not sufficient) condition to move from stage i to stage $i + 1$ is that the acquirer understand input that contains $i + 1$, where "understand" means that the acquirer is focussed on the meaning and not the form of the message."
However the main reason why I'm replying to this is to ask you to not worry too much about $i+1$ and shit like that, since it's not realistic and according even to Krashen himself not exactly the best "A third part of the input hypothesis says that input must contain $i + 1$ to be useful for language acquisition, but it need not contain only $i + 1$. It says that if the acquirer understands the input, and there is enough of it, $i + 1$ will automatically be provided. In other words, if communication is successful, $i + 1$ is provided. As we will discuss later, this implies that the best input should not even attempt to deliberately aim at $i + 1$ "

The concept of $i+1$ is a concept that get shared a lot without people really understanding what it means and frequently gets misunderstood, the only thing that $i+1$ really helps reinforce is that you shouldn't try to bite more than you can chew

 1  

 **Morg** 12/07/2024 6:26 AM
On top of what ^ said, $i+1$ is **incredibly** misunderstood. $i+1$ is not a feature of the content, it's a feature of your ability. Saying that something is " $i+1$ " is kind of a silly/pointless thing to say, but the most useful interpretation would be that by encountering that content, your language level goes from " i " to " $i+1$ ". Whatever those " i " are is impossible to measure anyway, it just means that you automatically and intuitively improve by just experiencing it
you can have a sentence that is made by only grammar points you've never studied and only uses words you've never seen before in your life, but if the context is right and everything else aligns to your brainwaves you can instantly acquire it and 100% understand it intuitively by just seeing it, and that would be an $i+1$ experience
(ofc this is very rare, but it happens)

 **Volt** 29/10/2024 9:55 PM
It just means you're going to the next step upwards.

 **識** 29/10/2024 9:55 PM
then $i+1$ is slightly meaningless
this is why it turned into a literal garbage metric
 $i+1$ becoming Refold's iT
one term you don't know in the sentence
but that's so disconnected from the reality of 'difficulty' in the language

 **Volt** 29/10/2024 9:56 PM
Are you saying that what $i+1$ has become is garbage or that the naming scheme of $i+1$ is garbage?

 **識** 29/10/2024 9:56 PM
if I write up a massively complicated sentence that has a single word you don't know it might still be harder than a sentence with two unknown words
both
Krashen's tool is theoretical
people applying it in a practical way are missing the point and I invite them to read the papers Krashen wrote
you need something more practical to gauge these things
because 'impossible to know' is not very useful
the issue is that a large portion of the community just made this concept collapse into meaninglessness

 4   

with the whole ' $i+1$ means a single new word' thing
it's kinda sad

 **Volt** 29/10/2024 9:58 PM
The thing that should be important here is that you shouldn't worry about this shit realistically.
It's a wide, abstract concept that people try to squish into a bunch of singular metrics.
All $i+1$ means is that you should immerse yourself in something just above your level of comprehension to achieve the next level up. So subtitle tutor is fine. If you can understand some bits, you're progressing.

--- Again, take $i+1$ as a pointer if you are unsure at best, otherwise do not worry about it... ---

Mining refers to taking native context sentences/phrases/words via Yomitan and putting them into Anki and studying them, adding stuff as you consume depending on what you need. Traditionally, in the Japanese community, the concept of $i+1$ was understood as choosing sentences that contain just one word you do not know,

so-called i+1 (from AJATT I think?) **where i = your current level** (aka stuff you understand/read automatically without effort) **& +1 is a sentence that contains JUST 1 new information/word/phrase you do not know**, so it is a sentence that is just slightly above your current level. You understand everything in it except for that one new word. These are the sentences you want to mine and actively look for while inputting.

For example: *The politician was found guilty of fraud and impeached.* - say that I know everything except for the word *impeached*. This is an example of the i+1 sentence according to how it typically is pushed in the Japanese community. Only one element is unknown to me.

Obviously we count on that I know at least basic grammar and understand past tense and the passive AND what is more I understand the SURROUNDING CONTEXT of this sentence.

Tho, the more unknown words there are, the harder it will **LIKELY** be to remember, hence **unless you can understand the context of the scene and the sentence**, it is not advised to mine sentences that are too much above your level and instead stick to stuff that provides YOU the most optimal gain = thus it is the most optimal case for *comprehensible input*. **HOWEVER**, as said above, this is very arguable, especially in terms of what it constitutes.

However, from above we know that it is not the sentence that i+1 refers to really, but rather that the content (irrespective of whether there is just one unknown item or not and not only limited to single sentences) is able to challenge you just enough (but not overwhelm you too much) that it enables you to level up to the next step - make you improve a little bit, so this above with a sentence/words is just how the concept was pushed in the Japanese learning community.

Just like [Cade gives here](#) though, it is *technically* not just any “as long as there is **EXACTLY** one unknown thing, it is a perfect i + 1” as AJATT implies, it can be hard to say what constitutes “knowing”, it would be best to think of it as **recalling words within**

seconds and not having any issues understanding the surrounding context of all the words AND grammar + how they are used and read... there will be sentences with more unknowns that are easier to get than those with one unknown. I feel that mass input balances this issue out in the long-term.

The problem obviously is also that if you are a beginner or such yet, finding content that can utilise your current ability to be generally comprehensible and level it up from the new bits can be quite difficult or downright impossible at times (with the “fun” more complex stuff), so you either need to get more vocab through standard decks, OR mine easier material, since there is a higher chance for finding content that enable you to i+1, if you absolutely cannot find any sentences then just keep consuming and looking up stuff and IF you note down the context of the scene and a sentence (translation can also help if available). But you must always be familiar with the context in which these sentences play out, else remembering what the other unknown word means may be tougher and may be frustrating / impact your recall in Anki. But if you focus on the word only in Anki and use the sentence as only a useful tool for meaning, it will be okay, then you can mine anything. **I would however DEFINITELY have the mined context in the Anki, which is easy to do.**

Providing an English context description (not necessarily translation) of the scene can definitely help. This works with stuff you either watch in English subs beforehand or you know. I still would try to fit the sentence into the context.

I+1 means not just one unknown piece/word, rather it means that you are comfortable with and intuitively get the message of the surrounding content of the mined word/s and can intuitively understand the message, that your ability is enough to let you A) comprehend it enough B) use the gaps you do not know (via context, logic etc.) to level up. I+1 means that the content is as such that your current ability (i) can level up from it to that level (+1).

This obviously is not something you can only do with single sentences. It is a more gradual and long-term thing where if you manage to keep consuming content you enjoy and you can generally intuitively understand or guess, you will eventually level up from it in general. The problem is that measuring what your “i” (current level) is, is very vague and difficult, let alone that it differs for everyone. That is why I say not to rely too much on i+1, but rather just focus on having fun and trying to make the content comprehensible to you and being engaged and working with it actively.

It is impossible to find a perfect i+1, just focus on consuming whatever you find FUN while attempting to understand what is communicated actively (through Yomitan, logic, experience etc.).

Another strat you can obviously do is to simply mine words and focus on just them. This should be done with lots of reading input, but that goes for any Anki strategy. This enables you to mine almost anything without having to worry about if it is i+1 or not... which you can then brute force via Anki **by using frequency sort (Marv's or JP Mining Note)** in terms of just focusing on the vocabulary; though of course, this is best done if you know the context of the sentence there, so either if you mine difficult stuff you can write the context into the Anki card in English or maybe give a translation, but this is problematic since machine translations are not that accurate lots of times - Anyway, **you really must read a TON, that is what matters.**

Another thing you should do is that you do not want to mine too obscure/uncommon stuff that you barely encounter. By this I of course mean mainly terms in a fantasy novel unique to that world...

HOWEVER, if it is useful for general stuff (normal uncommon words) DO mine them since of course they do not come up much. But if you are a beginner, you will not find as much use in them, there you want to get more common stuff first so you get it done with since that is the stuff that will make stuff comprehensible. The better you

get, the more benefits normal uncommon stuff have though. [Morg says](#) that up to 70 000 to all be frequent words (based on JPDB).

So for example, I mostly focus on mining stuff that is up to 70 000 in frequency. I do not really bother with more USUALLY, but sometimes I still mine very rare words. Basically, it will be more beneficial to mine up to... say 5000 frequency when you are a beginner who barely knows 2000 or such than mining words with more than 70 000 frequency. As a beginner you want to get down the most common words first.

A lot of times you will see even 80 000+ word frequency. The frequency dictionaries are not always fully accurate on top. But they are useful to point you. What you can also do is to simply mine words you see often (more than once in relatively short periods or words that are often repeated, unless they are Fantasy etc.).

The more you know, the more frequency you will mine/find beneficial, basically.

Note: Relying on the sentence in the front is not what we want since in that case you might be remembering just the shape of the sentence instead of trying to recall the word/s.

Since the sentence in Anki is just a pointer, we do not waste time reading it/comprehending it.

We only use it for a pointer IF we cannot recall the word's meaning.

We still mostly focus on words even with i+1 sentences, which are used in the context of a sentence(s), but yeah. This is why you must combine Anki with mass input/immersion since Anki alone will not be enough + you need to consume a lot to even have sentences to mine anyway, especially if you go the "i+1 only" route.

*Personal distinction about immersion and input (not needed)

This is just my personal note mainly. It really does not matter much in the grand scheme of things.

There is another term called “immersion” which is usually taken in language-learning communities as synonymous to input (*to be more exact, generally meant as “comprehensible input”, more on that later*), but immersion in general refers to active and intensive contact with native environment AND speakers, meaning by immersion, one would normally picture going into Japan and living there and interacting with people in Japanese - utilising both fully natural heavy input and heavy output (*generally, by immersion I understand “total/pure” immersion, that is one that is practically unassisted in general*).

It also can be understood as a fully native environment where one is exposed to the *fully* native language without any controlled level of difficulty, whereas in input / output, one can generally control how advanced they want to go by having an ability to choose the content one consumes which is not fully possible in a pure immersion environment such as being in Japan.

However, nowadays because of the Internet, one can largely simulate an “immersive” environment by choosing to nearly entirely surround themselves in the target environment by actively consuming and communicating in their target language through also spending time around and with native speakers online.

*(the focus is on the sheer quantity of **active & FLUID** use of said language, not on correction [natives will not correct you anyway] as overly doing so is detrimental as it stops the flow [NATURAL FLOW IS KEY], so there is an overlap between the two as sometimes simplifying something for the learner is needed and there are varying degrees of immersion, employed in teaching, although that one is a bit different to the one I generally mean/imagine, in its pure form - largely unassisted / purely natural language environment with no limiters = purely native speech / writing).*

In summary, input/output and immersion are very similar, but immersion essentially combines both into one fluid entity that is used fully naturally, without pausing mostly (to preserve the IMPORTANCE of natural flow) and generally requires some deeper knowledge already / another party as it means simply being exposed to the language without any real limiters.

On their own, one could say that input and output are isolated instances of getting towards fully natural immersion as they can generally be practised alone and at varying levels of difficulty and also use tools etc. that make them easier to be used.

Moreover, they also are the *skills* one utilises, whereas immersion is mainly *the environment* where these skills are naturally employed.

For our cause, it really does not matter much how it is called.

What matters is the process, intent and the method.

Alright, we can continue with the main stuff.

My Observations

Again, I want to emphasise that these things are only what I personally observed, learnt, saw and experienced, they are by no means some definite rules or points, and please take them with a grain of salt. They are subject to change.

MASS READING and LISTENING is crucial for language acquisition

Read [this](#) and [this](#). Also do read [this MoeWay Discord discussion](#). I like how Amber put it in this [answer](#) "... it boils down to "get the meanings of each of the words with Yomitan, get the meanings of the grammar points/particles with Yomitan or <https://core6000.neocities.org/dojg/> and then intuit the meaning of the sentence. It will feel like you're bashing your head against the wall (trust me, just read my intervention) but after a few thousand characters it will start to somewhat make sense, and (so I'm told) it gets easier after that."

You can also make an Excel sheet where you put the grammar entries of the stuff you struggled with + the sentence + what it means and how it works and a literal translation if so.

If a complete beginner, before you start mass reading, I seriously recommend you to first listen to any native stuff to build a phonetic base of how the language is supposed to be pronounced and how it sounds, paying attention and trying to mimic

the pronunciation, so when you are reading you are at least largely able to mimic how the language is actually supposed to be pronounced, including the general accent (we do not want a bad habit of pronouncing Japanese as a typical English/American would or pronouncing the [Mōra](#) in wrong, unnatural ways).

First, I **recommend** checking [this video](#) and [this video portion](#) from polyMATHY (a legit polyglot).

Also, check this cool "[One more sentence](#)" article.

Also check [this](#) from Yokubi and read [this from Morg](#) (INCLUDING the sub-links on the page).

It's mainly about **extensive reading and listening** (extensive input as above) but also with some "interactivity" like Shadowing etc. Intensive has its place too (but do NOT misunderstand it as OVER-analysing stuff, you do NOT want to spend more than a minute on a sentence during intensive), but most of the time, especially once you get outside of the basics, you will likely do extensive most of the time (which is also encouraged - a.k.a. not analysing that much, but trying to active understand and intuit it from the lookups/at best doing quick grammar etc. look-ups without analysing stuff needlessly, since you will likely miss the nuances anyway, so it is better to just read more instead of being stuck on some sentence and/or analysing the same stuff over and over - do not do this...).

This is how I got fluent in English myself. polyMATHY also touches on the aspect of analysing and *noticing* the language afterwards. Basically, just watch the video and try to apply it when you read.

It goes into more depth about why reading, listening and consuming language is the most crucial thing in language acquisition and why isolated grammar study or such is not that important (or effective) and what to do instead, definitely recommend checking the full first video, also the guy has some great content.

Basically, following the Morg, MoeWay and that will benefit you in the long term I think. But you simply must trust in yourself and in the process itself, not trying to be "perfect" or "perfect the process". Just ACTIVELY READ/LISTEN, CONSUME and if so

MIMIC and USE the language A TON.

Some of the stuff I say here might differ from his definitions and strategies, as there might be a bit of a difference in my approach, but his advice is definitely more professional and educated than mine, so listen to him instead.

Also [check this video](#) about language acquisition from an ex-professor who was a student of Krashen.

Also check [this video about how a professor shows how to learn languages](#).

The good point here is that we should not focus on meaning in terms of word memorisation/translation, but rather focus on pronunciation. Including also “narrow reading”, which is to limit yourself to a particular genre/author at first. Also that Input alone is not enough to acquire the language, but it is important nonetheless.

But indeed, while what I say about the importance of input here is valid, like I say above, output and producing the language and having contact with the speakers themselves is also CRUCIAL if you want to acquire the language; I just am a supporter of a more delayed output, not in the absolute beginning. But once you get to the intermediate stage where you can already understand decently (does not mean fluently, just that you do not need to rely on tools mostly - around N2 level, which is an equivalent to B1+-ish), that is when you should start with conscious output practice and production, in my opinion of what I learnt and heard.

For how to read and tackle difficult / long sentences in Japanese, make sure you [watch this video](#).

DO NOT focus or care much about your reading speed, it is NOT a sole measure of your progress. Focus on understanding the messages and being able to read words

without too much thinking (yes, having “normal” reading speed is great, but do NOT make it part of your sole existence unlike some... focusing on it is not that beneficial, instead focus on simply READING MORE)

In terms of how much you need to read, on MoeWay, people generally say roughly 15 MILLION to 20 MILLION characters is when you reduce look-ups to a relatively low level - the point where you get the 90%-ish comprehension from the get go. That might be roughly 100 normal length novels or something apparently. Recommend reading [this thread on their Discord](#).

Of course, it is not just reading, you also try to pay attention and understand what you can actively. As for listening, I do not know. Just listen as much as possible and try to catch the words and stuff you can, rewatching stuff helps a lot too, especially stuff you already watched in English and know the general plot etc. already. Listening is harder, but definitely very important, even more than reading if you aim for general language fluency.

After basics, prioritise vocabulary building instead of grammar study, while also focusing on consuming the full, NATURAL language instead

This all goes with the first advice above, what I mainly mean is to CONSUME, instead of STUDY.

I do follow the basic “ease-you-into-it” approach that says to get the very basics of grammar and vocabulary before deep-diving into native content, but... (especially in terms of Japanese)

This is said to be the 2000 vocab / basic grammar level. At that point, it is measured one can THEORETICALLY understand roughly 80 percent of a text. However, keep in mind that what is usually meant by “words” is difficult to say, what is usually meant

are word FAMILIES. I use just “words/vocab” but I rather mean “word families” since words tend to have base meaning connections. We could say those are also derivations from the base words, not sure how exactly this translates to Japanese, but it could be some basic related words, maybe some that have the same word base or combination of two words. It does not matter too much, since the point is to begin reading a ton, you will acquire enough words eventually. Having a base may ease it, but you need to read asap and as much as possible anyway.

Frankly speaking, it would be best to CONSUME from the get-go and STUDY at the same time.

With modern tools, it is much easier to get basic comprehension so you do not strictly have to start later, the sooner you will start, the better, but you need to be aware that it will be hard at first, however it will be hard even after said 2000 / basic grammar. If you study alongside this, it will be more effective in making the stuff you study stick.

First of all, I do not mean that you should sleep on grammar, or never study grammar. Getting the basic grammar down before you start consuming stuff will make stuff a bit less tough for you.

When you are a complete beginner, STUDYING the MOST BASIC grammar and vocabulary is NECESSARY. However, going into too much detail in studying will not amount to much without MASSIVE input.

I would also get familiar with some general linguistic terms as they will become useful when looking up grammar. However, as polyMATHY says, grammar should NOT be the main focus.

For grammar, the focus should be on seeing the grammar USED, rather than just EXPLAINED.

And through said usage in fully NATIVE language (books, videos, games, Manga, etc.), one should start noticing the patterns of grammar, which is why huge amounts

of consuming are necessary, to really ENCOUNTER it a ton. Then supplying it with explanations of facts should internalise it.

I also do not mean that you should stop STUDYING after you get the basics, but...

What I mean is that vocabulary (*more on what I mean by vocabulary below, not just "words"*) becomes more important than grammar from what I learnt because of the sheer amount of vocabulary needed vs grammar for general comprehension, it does not mean though that grammar / advanced grammar is not crucial. But since schools are mostly using the outdated "grammar-intensive" study for language, we tend to put over-importance on grammar study while forgetting the rest - the stuff that is FAR more useful for language acquisition. Because from schools we are taught that all that matters is GRAMMAR, and the ineffective vocabulary translation in isolation. The results of this method speak for themselves as you know... studying the language for YEARS if not DECADES & still being barely able to understand, let alone speak it.

However, there are people who think the opposite and who found it more beneficial to grind all the grammar down first since it is easier to understand a sentence if you only have to worry about vocabulary, it is harder to do with grammar since it is more "abstract"... so that is fine too.

So, IF it works for you, do what works for you the most. Just saying that there is quite enough evidence that the grammar-focused approach etc. as in school is not very effective.

This is just my current view, I will write below why I think vocabulary is more important overall.

(Dolly's series, especially the first 45 lessons or so as the ABSOLUTE basics, but you want to utilise other grammar sources after it and keep going with grammar study + massive input).

Grammar is crucial too, no doubt about it. Studying grammar also builds vocabulary in a way. Make sure you study an ample amount of grammar too over the course of your entire acquisition.

However, the focus should not be on STUDYING, but on CONSUMING the ENTIRE LANGUAGE.

The amount of grammar you need for general comprehension is quite smaller than the amount of vocabulary you need, hence why I am saying this. There are around 900 grammar points (but some have multiple uses), however for vocabulary, one should know around 20 000+ words.

What is more, once you get the basics of grammar (and vocab too), it is easier to acquire the rest of the grammar patterns from massive input (while obviously still studying grammar, that is, at least getting familiar with it) since once you know the basic grammar, the more specific and advanced nuances and terms will be much much harder to memorise, whereas noticing them through constantly seeing them used naturally in input will be more beneficial than prioritising grammar constantly and forcing all the 900+ grammar points before inputting or such...

You really cannot internalise grammar from study alone (with input-only it is similar but better), it is truly internalised from being familiar with it/looking it up and mainly from ENCOUNTERING it over and over and over in actual, massive native input.

It is not bad to read through grammar dictionaries and guides once or twice to get an idea and then refresh them if you encounter some grammar you do not understand while inputting, but do not try to brute force memorise grammar because you will not memorise them alone (same goes for vocabulary too btw.), just like isolated vocabulary study, it will be a waste. Same in a way goes for input only, without studying anything, you will not notice stuff, or if so it will take you way longer than combined with the study.

I do not agree with people who say to ignore studying grammar completely and just input.

Again, in my view, it is basically best to combine BOTH study and massive input since you make up for the disadvantages of both IF they are used alone. However, I agree

that the MAIN, most-done activity should be INPUT of the full native language, not studying.

Obviously, the point is that knowing just basic grammar does not mean you won't struggle with some specific sentences where you need to express / understand a particular grammar point, but after you get basic grammar knowledge (*common particles, tenses, word order, て-form, Passive, Causative, relative clauses, some grammar phrases like なる, かどうか etc. etc.*) the amount of the more advanced grammar you will mostly encounter while inputting / in conversation will be much smaller than the amount of vocabulary you will encounter and will need.

Specifically, however, it does not mean you will not struggle with even some basic grammar, but do not worry, it will clear up when you input a lot, recommend watching [this Matt vs Japan video](#) about it (well, Matt vs Japan is quite controversial due to some stuff and the Anacreon incident, but this video is useful, so I will leave it here)..

If you want the cheat sheet which is helpful for a basic summary of some tricky basic grammar, you can mail on the link in the video description or go into [this thread](#) on MoeWay Discord.

BECAUSE OF MODERN TOOLS, YOU CAN START WITH INPUT AT ANY TIME, BUT 2000 + BASIC GRAMMAR IS THE POINT IF YOU DO NOT FEEL FOR IT BEFOREHAND.

When you have the foundation of some basic grammar & 2000 words, you should be ready to start with input where you want to focus on mainly building vocabulary as vocabulary is more important for general understanding of content than more complex grammar, where just basic grammar is enough at first. **YOU STILL WANT TO KEEP NOTICING THE GRAMMAR PATTERNS IN INPUT THO.**

Do both, just prioritise vocabulary AFTER BASICS and infer the grammar mainly from input then.

Basic grammar is Dolly's first 50-ish lessons (Lesson 48 or so to be clear). Although

all of Dolly's transcript is mostly basic grammar... and you absolutely want to use other more robust and detailed grammars (some I listed above).

Anyway, Lesson 48 would be when you want to definitely start consuming stuff since the first 50 lessons or so are the “the key basics”, as long as you are familiar with around 2000 words.

Also, children's books ARE NOT necessarily easy for starters, they actually include quite a bit of tough stuff / unexpected difficulty (especially those that do not use Kanji and are Kana only...ugh).

What I mean by “vocabulary” and “word”?

What do I generally mean by “vocabulary” and “word”?

Well, not just “isolated words”, but rather

--chunks/units that carry some intrinsic meaning(s) and usage(s), this also includes idioms, phrases, onomatopoeia, slang, phrases within other phrases etc. etc.

--context of the sentence(s) and of the word usage

--word environment and co-text (what kind of words [and particles] are usually around a particular word and what it expresses - what places in the sentence they tend to take and how it changes their function and meaning [in Passive/Receptive it will be different to Active for example], how and with what they combine, how they are structured & what Kanji they use, how they change their meaning when used with different words),

--register (how are specific words used in DIFFERENT situations and at different levels of formality AND politeness, particularly in speech - including their intonation, body language etc. and if so what different words are substituted between different formality and politeness levels) etc. etc.

--style of the text, what kind of words are being used in a particular genre, author, level of difficulty and level of politeness and formality and how they reflect the setting and the characters (how their speech differs from someone who is part of royalty and

someone who is of lower standing or how men speak vs how women speak), how their age reflects their language style etc.

👉 Pay attention to these things when studying words and Japanese text/speech in full. 👉

Does not mean you have to over-analyse (that is not that helpful mostly since you will miss stuff anyway and it is exhausting and slow), just be mindful of it sometimes (keep in mind even this idea is extremely simplified), this is because the term vocabulary and word are not simple to define, linguistically it can even be argued that truly defining a “word” is impossible as it depends on SO MANY things and mindsets/ideas of how one imagines a word, the true scope of what “word” refers to is oftentimes extremely arbitrary and thus extremely hard to define.

But basically learn vocabulary in context of its environment, in patterns and its uses within structures of phrases and sentences, rather than learning it alone and isolated as that is not good.

For our very basic and simplified definition, a word is anything you can find in a dictionary, in Yomichan/10ten etc., especially that which Yomichan / 10ten most often analyse together when looking up stuff (since most “proper words” are made up of 2+ Kanji compounds, though not always, this is why the notion of a “word” is problematic, Kanji alone themselves are concepts rather than words but sometimes there are “words” that are expressed through just one Kanji like 私 etc. though that is very basic, but you get the idea + some stuff does not tend to use Kanji etc.), this includes even phrases and it usually carries lexical function rather than purely grammatical function (but stuff like ほど is basically vocabulary even if it is “grammar” so again, this depends on you as there is some common ground that blends together, especially in Japanese).

And then you want to learn that “word” in its environment, how it is used, with what it is used, who uses it, how do they use it, when etc. etc. NOT JUST ALONE, which can

be done only if you KEEP CONSUMING A LOT OF SENTENCES and different kinds of Japanese works.

Recommend watching [this video](#) for some useful advice.

Also watch [this video](#) from Metatron *(the guy actually speaks multiple languages really well, not necessarily fluently though, including [Latin](#) [though according to him definitely not fluently outside of preparation], French, Mandarin [again, around upper intermediate/conversational], and is largely fluent in [Japanese](#), of course, since he spent years there teaching. He also has a cool [historical channel](#)...*

Edit: Not anymore, he seems to have gone awfully reactionary political lately after a certain assassination, so not anymore...the non-political language and history content he made is/was good, such a shame...)

Simply said, focusing on vocabulary is crucial & I found out that it is more crucial in the long run.

I have made the mistake where I almost exclusively focused on grammar & (isolated) Kanji & it slowed me down incredibly & now I am stuck at around N3 level because I just don't know enough vocabulary which GREATLY limits the stuff I can consume & tires me down a lot which slows me down a ton because the amount of vocabulary in a sentence is much higher than of grammar...

It also made acquisition of Kanji much harder (since Kanji is practically vocabulary in itself).

Because 90% of the time, you will look-up NOUNS, VERBS, ADVERBS & ADJECTIVES = a.k.a. Lexical items, not functional/grammatical items.

You want to be familiar with as many word phrases / expressions as you can.

Quite a few times, those will also be grammatical expressions.

Basically, focus more on the lexical stuff, not just the grammar stuff once you get the basics.

The grammar expressions that you need to know are relatively limited in number compared to the vocabulary you need to know to understand stuff.

(On N1 Level I think, it is around 900 grammar items, while you need 10 000+ words [or rather lexical items] for general comprehension).

If you know a good amount of grammar, but don't know the words to express yourself / understand stuff others express, knowing how to use that one advanced grammatical nuance or stuff involving grammar will not be particularly useful to you in terms of communication and understanding, I would think. Because you also need lexical items that make up the majority of sentences.

Knowing a lot of vocabulary, but not knowing even the basics of grammar will instead mean that you can express stuff / concepts / ideas but cannot put it into a coherent sentence or express basic communication. It will be just "random" concepts without any structure / logic tying them.

Knowing basic grammar but having small vocabulary will mean you will have trouble expressing yourself due to lack of vocabulary mainly, rather than grammar since for basic conversation & comprehension, the amount of grammar needed is much lower than the amount of vocabulary needed.

But knowing basic grammar AND having sizable vocabulary will mean that you should be able to have a relatively normal conversation / comprehension. Sure, you might not know how to express / understand a particular deeper grammar or more complex structures/concepts, but you should be able to at least be comprehensible & can usually find a way to express a thought that is understandable even if it is not grammatically correct per se. Same goes for comprehension.

"Human able message understand even if it not fully grammar."

(Humans are able to understand a message even if it is not fully grammatical.)

But if you don't know the vocabulary needed to compose this sentence I have written or am currently writing? You cannot express it, nor understand it even if you know what tenses etc. I am using, right?

But the amount of stuff that is regularly used in the majority of sentences is not that huge as far as grammar is concerned in comparison to vocabulary, where you don't necessarily need to know the nuances / the more advanced grammar to be able to express / understand the basic function, or knowing all those grammar points that are rarely used in specific contexts won't be as useful if you are just a beginner and there the vocabulary will be more useful because since most sentences are mainly composed of vocabulary, it will be easier seeing the grammar patterns you do not know when you understand the vocabulary around it - great i+1 comprehensible input situation. The other way around you would not get i+1 input since vocabulary is more "numerous" in an average sentence. Of course, sometimes the two interconnect, but yeah.

Same goes with vocabulary of course down the line, I don't need to know what "abhor" means if I barely ever see it used as a general vocabulary word... with grammar it is a bit different of course since every expression is quite specific, but you get the idea since some grammatical expressions are used way more than others.

But basically, with small vocabulary, it will be much harder to consume stuff because knowing that the verb is in the past tense or that it is used with that one grammatical phrase will not help you much if you don't know the verb in question. *(knowing the verb 覚える will at least get you an idea of what is being expressed in 覚えた, while past tense will not tell you the message expressed, just that "a verb of some kind, whatever it means, is in past tense", of course this is basic grammar so it does not apply since you need to know this before inputting, but you get the idea hopefully...)*

Luckily we have Yomichan and stuff, but it will slow you down and overwhelm you much more looking-up 5 things every sentence than looking up a few grammar points here and there you don't know (*non-basic grammar points of course*).

Knowing expressions, phrases and words will be more useful after that point. Especially when in Japanese a lot of the “grammar expressions / points” are basically vocabulary in themselves too.

Usually, after you get around 10 000 words, you start to understand quite a lot of stuff to the point you can consume stuff quite fast since you don't need to look up everything.

Thus, I think that the number 1 goal in language acquisition should be the building of VOCABULARY instead of grammar **AFTER BASICS**.

Basically, focus on both, but prioritise VOCABULARY.

There are around 600-900 grammar expressions you will need for N1, while you need much more words/lexical items for general comprehension - especially nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives.

Thus, the main goal should be to focus on building a lot of words because it does help a lot more in understanding actual Japanese texts.

With great grammar only & small (less than 2000) vocabulary, you will not be able to consume a lot of stuff... while having just basic grammar knowledge but bigger vocabulary (the bigger the better), you will be able to understand more overall and it will be easier to input & output and you will be able to notice those specific, more advanced / nuanced grammar points much easier if you know the words around it and specifically the context since basic context is based a lot on knowing the words and the ideas expressed around it, with grammar filling in the gaps of context.

THUS to summarise, after building the absolute BASIC language foundation, focus your efforts on building vocabulary as the priority, while still also studying grammar, but less than vocabulary - mine words and/or study good decks that have context sentences (the more the better), focus on getting as many sentences in which a word is used, this goes for grammar too. Do not study vocabulary lists of words used outside of context / sentences = CONSUME A LOT OF STUFF.

Furthermore, the goal of Anki is to FAMILIARISE yourself with the words, not necessarily fully learn them & actively understand them, the point is that you get the idea of them & then you fully acquire them through a lot of active input & output. Being familiar with them beforehand / during the input will make it much easier for them to permanently stick afterwards.

Your goal should be to build a big enough vocabulary that will enable you to cut down on the look-ups, 5000-10000 words should put you in a pretty comfortable spot. Granted, you do this via consuming content & through Anki decks, not just through isolated study.

Do not focus on the translation, but on understanding what the words roughly mean and express in the context, in as many different contexts / sentences as possible.

Good basic deck with audio is [this one](#) since it includes sentences. You want these kinds of decks.

Have clear, manageable goals & do it for the FUN of it, not for the results, get into the state of FLOW

[Read this article](#) (in it are many other articles about goal-building)

Make sure you give yourself realistic, fun goals that you GENUINELY want to achieve in the SHORT term (a month or such) and then strive to achieve those goals, if you cannot, modify them so they compel you to achieve the goal by having fun while doing it. Focus on the process, not the end result. The goals themselves should be as specific and clear as possible, so go into detail, not just something vague (but no

need for some ultra breakdown of course) and then put them into small steps that you will slowly ascend one by one daily.

First, check [this document](#) (by Krashen) about “**Compelling Input**” so you get the idea of what I will mostly mean below when I say “fun”, “interesting”, or rather “compelling” etc...

Also [check this video](#) about language acquisition from an ex-professor who was a student of Krashen if you haven't yet.

If you want the entire theory of Krashen, [here is the entire book](#).

Focusing on results and brute forcing Japanese is not a good idea for the sake of it because “you have to because else you will not get good” and making Japanese “a chore you just have to get done with daily” will simply result in your burning-out, in you starting to dislike it and the process and it will steadily drain your energy and your motivation until it will completely sap it out long-term...and make you quit for good...

In general, if you lack the WILL to continue with Japanese, either quit...seriously, Japanese is not THAT useful overall and the amount of time it takes would really be better spent elsewhere, frankly, unless you 100% WANT to live in Japan, learning Japanese to a fluent level is largely a waste of time...better find something that TRULY fulfils *you*, is more useful and is fun for *you*...

Even in terms of languages, there are more useful ones to learn like Spanish, German, French...

(and much “easier”, well, no language is inherently “harder/easier”, it depends on what your native language is and what languages you know... But, for a general English native person or a European, I'd even say they would learn all 3 to a fluent level in the time it would take to fluently acquire Japanese...)

Or if you want a Japanese-like challenge, Mandarin Chinese will be much more useful overall due to the amount of speakers and it (likely?) being sought for jobs much more in the future etc... other more useful “hard” candidates than Japanese might be

Arabic and Hindi for example...

OR if you DO WANT to continue with Japanese...

DISCIPLINE IS KEY. I highly recommend reading [this post](#), a concept called “No Zero Days”.

It’s a concept that can be utilised even outside of Japanese, so read it and try to do your best!

FIND ways to have fun in it, you need to do what you **WANT** to do, what is **COMPELLING** for you, but in Japanese, and you need to make Japanese itself something that is automatically **COMPELLING** for you and you genuinely **WANT** to do.

So, read what interests you if you want to read, play what you want, watch/listen because it’s **COMPELLING** etc. just in Japanese because you **WANT**/it’s still **FUN** in Japanese exactly because it is **IN** Japanese...,

Take the process not as a slog and focusing on that it sucks and is hard and you do not understand, but INSTEAD focus on HAVING FUN despite this. If you genuinely learn to have FUN despite struggling to understand/not seeing immediate progress etc. and on top you make it a strong daily habit, you DO NOT need strong motivation - that is, you do not need motivation which is the only thing that makes you want to learn Japanese.

Because frankly? If your Japanese acquisition rests solely on motivation (be it external or internal), the moment it starts dropping (and it **WILL** believe me...), you start really disliking the process and Japanese and it will make you eventually so tired/burnt out that you will quit altogether or not make much progress, which will then make you even more demotivated in the long run...

Motivation is NOT the only thing you need and it is not the only thing that will get you there.

Instead, it is much more preferable to focus on simply having as much fun as you can with the language as you are consuming it, so overall it is better to go for stuff you

genuinely have fun with even if it is harder (tho not too hard/out of your current level preferably, but if it still is fun to you even if you have to look up and think hard about every word almost then it still will be beneficial, but quite less than consuming something easier you also have fun with).

You generally do NOT want to consume stuff where you need to look-up every word **almost** since that is going to quickly get VERY demotivating and exhausting and will likely cause you to burn-out halfway through. Especially if you are starting out and know less than 4000+ words.

The only real exception to this is when you do not mind this and you really enjoy the content.

Thus, aim to find something you enjoy AND that is as close to your level as possible, without sacrificing enjoyment too much, it may take you some time to find the proper content if you are starting out though. If you cannot find anything (as a beginner it is VERY hard to find good compelling stuff on your level), try consuming something you consumed in English/your native language and something you are already familiar with.

Positive mindset & trying to do what you are able to (even if it's bare minimum) every day is KEY!

You must GENUINELY believe that you WILL acquire Japanese!

LEARN TO TOLERATE THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

You have to convince yourself that Japanese is part of your core identity and you need to regard it as such. This should help you to really get going and keep going most of all, since you will eventually regard Japanese as something automatic and simply part of yourself by default.

HOWEVER, make sure you DO NOT take it so seriously that if you get to the point (around N3) where you stop making noticeable progress and even start feeling as if

you are regressing, that you will start feeling as if you “should” know more so as to meet the expectations of your “Japanese identity” or the like. It is expected that the progress will stop being noticeable then.

Of course, by “Japanese identity” I do not mean being an obnoxious, cringe weeaboo Japanophile and considering yourself to be like a Japanese native or any such kind of cringy crap.

What I mean is that you attain a mindset where you take Japanese not as something that is foreign in a way as to block you from interacting with it and being fixated on being stressed when you do not know something etc., simply instead you regard it as if it were English with extra steps of having to put effort in understanding it, but not stressing if you do not understand etc. and just consuming what you find fun for the sake of having fun mostly even if it is hard to understand.

Basically, regarding Japanese as something that is part of your daily routine/life on default without really having to “force” yourself to go consuming it, which is easier if it is a habit and it is fun.

As long as you keep doing what you were doing, putting in that hard work, you WILL improve!

You need to achieve the state of “FLOW”, where you get so engrossed in something that you forget that it’s “difficult” or that time passes. This is best done when you are at the exact level you should be on, not too easy, not too difficult, objectively-speaking. Too easy = BORING and will not give you too much... Too difficult = STRESSFUL/OVERWHELMING, also will not give you much. The meaningful CHALLENGE is when you do not feel bored, nor stressed/overwhelmed.

This requires you to know your abilities and your goals that you want to

achieve.

(short-term and long-term) and you must be consistently working towards them each day. You must be iron-focused on Japanese and your immersion / input...

So to speak... grind... but grind meaningfully = through fun and being engrossed.

Even if your strategy falls, if you keep your mind steadfast on chasing your goal, you can use it as another challenge that will get you towards it, just keep going.

Improvise, adapt and overcome through focused effort and consistency.

The point is that you should simply take Japanese to have “challenging fun” instead of being frustrated you do not understand it and instead you should try having as much GENUINE fun with the content / Japanese you are consuming as possible and not really care about the fact you do not understand or that it takes so much effort to try to understand, instead try focusing on finding to have as much fun while doing it, it is simply necessary you will have to struggle for a long time before you start seeing the results, so focusing instead on how to make it as much fun as possible (even if it is hard to have fun sometimes) instead on doing it for the results and for “getting good” since the biggest motivation is actually the fact that you have fun doing something and that it compels you to come back and you find it enjoyable/genuinely important to you. Focusing on results and doing it for that only and consuming content just as a “means to an end”, will simply not motivate you long-term. Finding ways to make Japanese fun, engaging and attaining the positive mindset about it and embracing the difficulty as fun in itself while not really caring that you struggle and that it is challenging will keep you motivated once you really convince your brain that you are simply doing it because it is fun, not because there are some results in order to be good at it,

else you will be bad or such, stuff like that puts pressure on you, but will not keep you motivate once it becomes a chore and you will start forcing it because you stop aiming for simply having fun and to keep things fresh. If you strive for having fun, then you should also strive for keeping things fresh and the moment you start being bored/frustrated with something, you take a break or you simply switch again for something different that at least a bit replenishes that fun factor.

Furthermore, if you are starting out, YOU WILL NOT UNDERSTAND A TON OF STUFF in your input. That is OKAY. It will get better the more you consume. LEARN TO TOLERATE AMBIGUITY AND THAT YOU SIMPLY DO NOT / CANNOT UNDERSTAND ALL THE MESSAGES EXPRESSED.

I know it sucks when you try hard and still can barely get the basic gist of stuff and even then you often misunderstand it... but it is CRUCIAL you learn to tolerate this massive roadblock and will keep on consuming stuff and trying hard while not minding that you do not understand.

Again, IT WILL IMPROVE IF YOU KEEP IT UP. It may take months to notice, but it will! Of course, this is why it is best not to consume too hard stuff but try to go for stuff where you understand at least something without having to look everything up since you still aim to make this stuff as comprehensible to you as possible while trying to find and build up to that i+1.

You should strive to find stuff that makes you so interested and having fun that you do not care if it is in Japanese and that you do not understand all of it. Preferably, like Krashen says, it should be as comprehensible (on your level) as possible, but let's be real here, if you are just starting out with input, your level will not be where most of the truly interesting stuff is (at least for me that is the case). Although there are easy works that are at least similar in genre or stuff you like if you search enough like in the lists shown above in the resources. Little kid shows or books are not that great for early consumption since they are just boring

and they are often a trap where they actually use quite “complex” stuff that Japanese native kids know by default but you do not.

It is crucial you simply accept ambiguity and use it as a way to improve very slowly and steadily as you keep consuming the content. In the beginning it is very difficult, since you not only know little to understand, but the content on that level is usually pretty boring, so what you can do is to dedicate some of your input time into both simple content that is more on your level and also content that you genuinely have great fun with that will likely be harder (still, I would try to pick something not too hard, but this depends on you and how much you mind the fact you have to look up stuff and do not understand).

If you like watching your favourite show... or playing a particular Visual Novel you like or a game and you have fun while doing it even while having to pause more and look up stuff, then by all means go for it even if you are not on that level yet. This can get especially useful if you know the content beforehand, so for example you can rewatch your favourite Anime in Japanese that you already know and get what they are saying in the scenes (like JoJo etc. for me). Keep in mind that Anime will not give you as much reading exposure as a novel (obviously), in the beginning you may be spending 1+ hour on one Anime episode likely **(overall it is best NOT to spend so much time on an Anime episode, it is best to use Anime and video media as listening input mainly with subs either there or not, so at least the first time you really should not pause and let it play in natural flow and ONLY afterwards you can go through it again and look up stuff, I recommend of just some key scenes for you, rather than every sentence, do not over analyze stuff too much since you will just waste time mostly)**, which when compared to a novel instead, a novel / Visual Novel would yield more gains in terms of reading than watching Anime simply due to the more amount of text that you would likely cover in one hour.

Visual Novels are amazing for this reason since they are the in-between Anime & a novel. Best of both worlds in a way, if a bit more static and limited in the “Anime” department usually.

They have the text of a novel, yet are a bit like an Anime or Manga, though limited in the visuals.

The good thing about novels, Manga or VNs is that you can go at your own pace while Anime has its own pace and pausing constantly really disrupts the intended flow of it and makes it annoying if you overpause.

But watching Anime is definitely great and more fun and also gives you some listening practice. Although you do not want to only watch Anime, you want to consume more natural media like News, Podcasts, Youtube etc. because Anime Japanese is somewhat “artificial” and may according to some produce unnatural speech down the line if it is the only thing consumed, but that can be corrected, however still it is always best to mix different kinds of media. There is nothing bad about Anime, just that you should find other kinds of Japanese media that are more akin to a “natural daily talk” too. Basically do not stick to just one media. Of course this is long-term, does not mean you suddenly have to switch 10 different media formats every day...

Of course, again, you still want to also consume stuff that is suited for your level and is comprehensible, but the point is that you absolutely do not need to limit yourself to that boring stuff, branch out as much as you can while also keeping some simpler stuff that you consume alongside it a lot too *(preferably long series are great for that since they are by the same author so you will get used to their style, while it also being close to your level, but it may take some time to find the proper one).*

[The Tadoku method](#) of consuming lots of reading, starting from easy stuff and gradually increasing the difficulty, is something you might want to check out. But the more you read, the easier AND faster it will be, so you will slowly start reading more and more text in the same amount of time. If you get advanced, you can check [these useful tips](#) for further improving your speed (though it is for advanced readers).

Another thing I will mention that seems to be working for me in terms of keeping up that input time relatively consistently is to constantly switch to different kinds of content the moment you start getting tired or bored of it/it becomes frustrating or you start forcing through it instead of at least trying to have fun. Switch or take a short break (after which you still might want to consume something fresh) and come back to it later when you feel like it again (I keep multiple tabs open at all times so I can easily return to it later).

Since in the beginning you are relying more on Intensive Input, you will get tired fast, so I suggest taking 20 minutes per session and then a 10 minute break, then I switch content (from reading to listening or some different medium basically to make it more fresh). If you get tired/frustrated, you can switch to Extensive Input for the time being and just consume while looking stuff up from time to time.

I would put 1/3 of your Input time into reading and 2/3 into listening as a BEGINNER, when you get more advanced/upper intermediate switch the ratio and obviously then you definitely want to start Output and steadily increase it.

So around a 70/30 ratio of listening/reading and then switching them once you get comfortable. I changed my stance on listening. It might be useful to practise it in the beginning more, since it's less demanding than reading for a beginner, I would say. From some discussions on MoeWay Discord, listening seems to have its benefits when done like this too.

Comprehension, basic process and general tips

The bad news is that for the most effective language acquisition, you need 98% comprehension of the text/audio. Having even 90% means you will miss tons of crucial details, the problem is that to get just from 90% to 98% comprehension, you would need to know THOUSANDS more words.

Also, in general, it is not words themselves that block you and slow you down, it is grammar (because words we can easily look up with Yomitan, but connecting them to the grammar patterns and the meanings of a sentence and in context is the tough part).

Alas, the “only” way to improve comprehension and your internalise your grammar knowledge and pattern recognition is to simply consume A TON of Japanese text ACTIVELY.

(you still study grammar though! Only to familiarise yourself with it for input/to refresh stuff after a while if so, but still)... grammar is crucial for comprehension, but it also can fully be acquired by consuming, not by studying it only. You cannot really acquire the automatic comprehension of sentence structures and grammar by only studying it. Yes, you may be able to fully breakdown the individual structure and grammar/sentence portions, but that is just one step, it will not mean you can connect it all together and intuitively understand what it is all saying together. This can be done only with tons and tons of experience, seeing all these patterns and words etc. used in real context and in real Japanese (books, novels, conversations etc. etc.).

Even if you theoretically need just said 2000 words for 80% base comprehension, 80% is quite low for actual understanding, this is why we MUST read and listen (but especially read) a ton.

You can check [this paper](#) about it. And [this too](#).

Each roughly 1000 words being 1 percent and it eventually grows with each percentage.

[Here is a comparison how 98%, 95% and 80% percent feels like in English.](#)

In Japanese, this means we simply cannot expect to reach high comprehension levels as beginners and/or intermediates, you will need a huge amount of time reading/listening to get there.

But we need to start, so eventually if you TOLERATE THE AMBIGUITY and try to make best out of everything even if we do not understand it much at all.

This is why it is best on focusing on fun, but also picking easier reading/listening material.

For how to read and tackle difficult / long sentences in Japanese, make sure you [watch this video](#).

Again, check [this post](#) for a much better explanation of what I mention here.

Obviously [MoeWay](#) etc. outlined above in the resources portion, which you should have gone through already. For some reading tips etc. you can also check [this blog](#).

ALSO - make sure what you consume is at least generally comprehensible OR if not find something easier that is at least closer to it, so you are engaged and not just staring at the screen, so the brain works hard but not to the point it becomes a chore (*which is pretty exhausting I know, but important*).

Else, [stuff like this](#) happens. Recommend checking [this comment](#) there.

[Check this video by Krashen](#) on Comprehensible Input. **If you don't make at least half your input/immersion time comprehensible with focus on understanding MESSAGES, or at least TRY to make it as comprehensible as you can without overly relying on machine translation** (*and you actively interact with it trying to understand it*), **consuming huge amounts of native Japanese will get you basically nowhere**, because if it is incomprehensible to you as a learner, it gives you nothing as it is like a massive blank wall for the brain, you will ultimately get almost nothing out of it no matter how much time you spend at it. Practically everything the brain receives gets almost instantly catapulted back since there is no incentive to understand the information that is broadcasted into the brain... (*which is also what happens if you instantly translate something you do not understand or you give up too soon*)

This can also happen if the brain gets overloaded with information, it simply stops receiving any more for that moment. Which is why breaks/sleep are incredibly important.

Does not mean you need 80% comprehension from the get-go, because as a beginner you simply will not get that except maybe for the most boring kid books (which are of course not FUN = NO NO).

This is why we have Yomichan and all those tools, dictionaries etc.! Since they make this content at least PARTIALLY comprehensible and they prompt us to work with said partial comprehensible info we get from them and make the brain work for the rest of the puzzle so it learns. If the brain cannot decode the full answer DESPITE TRYING HARD, it will learn something EVEN then and EVEN when it will receive the correct answer afterwards, no matter if you thought of a wrong answer while TRYING HARD or not.

By comprehension is not necessarily meant the raw knowledge and understanding from the get-go and all of it, but it means making content comprehensible despite not understanding it fully on its own; it means understanding the gist, following what is sort of happening *(things such as dictionaries, context, visual/auditory cues, logic etc. are there for this. As for translations, I would definitely avoid machine translators and rather look at some natural sentences/official translations, stuff like [Weblio](#), [Jisho](#), [Tatoeba](#) - there are dictionaries in Yomitan that have a selection of them, like NEW 斎藤和英大辞典 and trying to grasp what the piece you do not know USUALLY expresses, although I would avoid focusing on the translation too much, but if you are at your wits' end, you can look it up of course, but some are translated differently to what the definition in English says, because it is a natural English translation rather than what Japanese actually expresses = hence not ACTUAL Japanese but English!).*

I should mention that I mean the full sentence, machine-generated translations since those are the most likely to give the wrong answer. You need some translation at first hence why we start with English dictionaries for Yomichan and such because there you need it for the words and it is completely expected and normal, but basically you should limit the machine translation of chunks.

Not that it is inherently bad, nowadays they are getting better and better due to AI, but...

AI apparently can dissect the sentence in translation quite well already, but do not use it for explanations of grammar and stuff as seen [here in the Japanese-English Exchange Discord server](#).

As far as English subs go, if you are a beginner you can use them if you use them only for passive assertion of if you understand what is said and do not solely rely on them, but I would personally try to make the shift into Japanese subs asap and using Yomitan etc. for look-ups. But I recommend reading [this MoeWay thread](#) about this, as it has lots of experiences from multiple advanced learners and even some research papers are shared.

You may want to start with something that has pictures etc. to give you more context because as a beginner with just the basics, you will probably not grasp just written context. Hence why Manga is mostly a great beginner resource *(unless you start with Berserk or such of course, then likely not...lol)*

At first, you will go pretty slowly and will need to look up lots of things and think about them hard, so it will be quite intense for the brain, but in the long-term this seems to be beneficial and it should get better and faster the more you do it.

Of course, you do not need to look at everything nor is it advisable to all the time do nothing but hard thinking and analysing everything, because that is incredibly tiring and SLOW so do not do that all the time, so you can limit it to say... every 10 sentences *(generally just quickly look up a reading/meaning, nod, and go on)*.

Because it is more beneficial if you consume a lot of content than over-analysing a smaller amount of content, because it is almost guaranteed that you will still miss A LOT of nuance and details even through deep analysis, so it is needlessly tiring and slows you down if overdone and active extensive exposure *(so you actually look up stuff*

still, but just acknowledge it and move on) **is more fun and beneficial in the long run, even if intensive input/study is also very beneficial in the beginning.**

Again, [The Tadoku method](#) of consuming lots of reading, starting from easy stuff and gradually increasing the difficulty, is something you might want to check out.

But do not speed-run it and half-ass it either since if you focus on trying to go too fast, you will miss stuff and your comprehension and attention lowers, which is not good. You need to remain concentrated. Once concentration starts failing, take a break of around 5/10 minutes.

To summarise, looking up everything and being extremely intensive all the time is VERY tiring, so do it in moderation only and otherwise just consume a lot with moderate thinking and look-ups, trying to understand/listen, but not dwelling on it and trying too hard to analyse, again - in moderation. You do not want to OVER-analyse stuff, spend just like 30 seconds - 1 minute on stuff.

Use the [Pomodoro](#) method of concentrating for 20/25 minutes & then taking a break. It really does help.

Generally, more consumed = better, rather than focusing on more analysing and in-depth, because Yomichan etc. will not give you everything and a lot of stuff can only be noticed if you have a lot of experience to see the patterns and nuances. While it is true that in the beginning, intensive learning is more beneficial, you do not want to burn out.

(just try to get a gist, it is completely alright be confused/unable to express what it means exactly even if you know all the parts, but if you keep trying to actively understand stuff, it will eventually click).

This is very important, of course this above applies IF you are tired already, if you are not tired, then you can keep doing intensive, but it depends on who you ask.

How much comprehension should you have?

How much comprehension depends on the person, in general, some require 90%+ comprehensibility, Krashen's model proposes 95-98% comprehension (which is extremely high) and yes, this is tested as the most effective percentage for acquisition, which however is very hard to achieve if you are still a relative beginner, which is why it is advised to first get some basics and the use of tools and resources is simply crucial as without them, in Japanese, you will simply NOT achieve high comprehension... but you can make a bit of a leeway, just don't go for something completely incomprehensible that you will just consume, as that is useless, though again, if you keep putting effort into TRYING TO UNDERSTAND and consuming, your comprehension will improve - if you start with a novel, at first you might not understand much at all and yes... according to Krashen, that would be largely pointless, but it is necessary that you will start consuming *something* (not fully incomprehensible). YOU ALWAYS NEED TO PUT ACTIVE EFFORT INTO IT. The problem with Krashen's model to some may be that what to do if you are a beginner, there is not much 95%+ or such material out there to consume for you then. In my opinion, this is solved in Japanese through our tools like Yomitan, since if you put enough effort and you keep doing it a lot, you will make the content comprehensible, especially if you then review the translated (officially hopefully) version and compare your understanding. However, in the beginning, you will need a TON of tolerance for ambiguity. Knowing what parts of stuff means does not mean you understand exactly what they are saying. However, in my opinion, it should be viewed more in the sense of understanding MESSAGES / IDEAS expressed, if you can understand the general idea that is being expressed = GREAT, keep it up.

A lot of people in Japanese started without understanding much at all, but they built up as they kept on consuming similar stuff. It is like a puzzle, you first fill the easy parts, then the corner, then the hard parts get more obvious and easier to fill in.

So you do not want to pick stuff that is so over your level that you have to literally look up every single word as that is very tiring and unfun. Plus your brain gets overloaded quickly.

That is why it is probably best to limit look-ups to either very fast look-ups without pausing too much or simply looking up only some words. However, having more intensive sessions can be useful too, it is just that you simply will not be able to sustain them for too long, so I instead propose to simply have as much fun as possible.

Then it depends on how much of a “tolerance to ambiguity” you have yourself. Remember again, you do not aim to understand 100%, you aim to get the general gist of the content. If you can get it through logic, context, visuals or your knowledge (such as of a work you have already checked out in English), you can consume even relatively harder stuff, but it is always best to start with something easier BUT still interesting to you. Such as a slice of life or something. Although, if you are really passionate about something that is harder, by all means go for it, as long as it motivates you and you have fun, even if it takes way more work to understand, it is great.

Again, what matters is that you have FUN. If you have FUN, difficulty is easier to manage and does not become frustrating = you might make more progress since you consume harder content. Arguably, the “best” thing is when you are challenged (but still understanding something), yet at the same time you have fun nonetheless and you do not care that you are met with challenging content, since that is when you make progress. If you understand everything, you do not improve.

What you do not want to do is to consume just stuff you are comfortable with, the brain learns when it encounters something new and “unpleasant”, so going a bit out of the comfort zone is always a good practice, but probably not too extreme, since it

then becomes incomprehensible and much less useful, where the brain simply shuts down from the overload. Having great fun though can greatly reduce this overload, hence why I say to consume stuff you find very fun (and best if it is not TOO above your current level).

Although tools definitely help with this and can make even hard stuff quite “comprehensible”, but then again, you might be getting to the territory of looking up everything, which as I said above is probably not something you want to be doing. Else you will need to simply tolerate that you might not understand the majority of said hard content at the time. It definitely will improve in a month or so if you keep doing it, but that depends on you. If you enjoy it despite all this and you can consume such content consistently without burning out then awesome, it will be pretty beneficial in the long term.

HOWEVER, in the beginning it is advised to go through something very easy so you get the habit of it.

Keep in mind that even though it might be considered “very easy”, if you struggle with it that is totally OKAY. We all have to start somewhere and work our way up. You will improve with time.

Especially as one gets better in the language, their perception of “very easy” shifts to the point they might forget that even their “very easy” stuff is not going to be “very easy” for someone new to consuming the content/beginner. I for example notice this with English, where I forgot how hard it was when I was at A1-A2 level etc. and think that anything below Upper B2/Lower C1 is “easy”.

If you are clearly not ready, either find something very simple (*small children stuff actually may not be that easy due to the fact it tends to use a lot of language aimed for a native child who is familiar with it through arguably years of immersion from home - so it uses lots of very slangy/child-based language - this of course depends on the work...*) and try to make said easy stuff as comprehensible as possible as mentioned above.

Further, just keep studying vocab and some grammar expressions and try later at some reads that caused you trouble (*returning to previously read stuff later is a good way to measure progress*).

While it is important to expand your horizon to different kinds of sources / readings and types of writing, it is good to stick to one author/type of literature for quite some time, especially as a beginner. As explained [here](#).

Combining both active input and studying is an optimal way of acquisition.

Look at the beginning of the document to [the Grammar section](#) (quick link) for grammar stuff.

There is also a [good basic Vocab deck](#) you can check out... **again though, Kaishi is all that is needed and the rest is best done through mining on your own and lots of input.**

Basically, go for something that includes multiple sentence cards where the grammar/word is used - this helped me tremendously to see the patterns of grammar as they are used in the sentences, which you will not notice with just one sentence (as to why huge exposure is beneficial and why some people never even need to study grammar if they consume a ton and notice the patterns). [Jisho sentence examples](#) are also pretty useful for this if you check what the expression should imply and try to find it in the sentences.

Anyway, it made me realise the importance of multiple sentences / layered exposure to individual grammar / vocab (*preferably in chunks at once and not just one per day or so...*).

Even a difficult point gets much easier to grasp once you see the pattern in which it is used (*and if it can be used with nouns, adj. nouns, adjectives or verbs and how = what is its syntactic environment*).

HOWEVER, keep in mind that the most optimal way is to keep inputting, you will acquire the grammar and vocab mainly through constant, active INPUT, not merely by studying them.

A note about sentence translations *this was already mentioned mostly above...

First of all, I will mention that there is nothing inherently wrong about translating stuff. Translations can be a very helpful, sometimes quite a crucial tool for achieving comprehension.

(which is why it is advised to not stray to too difficult content where one does not get anything)

Again...using and relying on translations is COMPLETELY OKAY, in the beginning even NEEDED.

But also... do not SOLELY rely on translation as a way to tell how the language works, because what translation mostly tells you how ENGLISH works, not the target language.

Specifically, unless it is an official source (=not machine-translated), do not rely on sentence translations. *(certainly not a machine one)*

Instead, **aim for understanding Japanese as Japanese.**

Translation is a generally unrelated/different set of skills from acquisition of a language.

Even though SENTENCE translations are very helpful in the beginning, if overused too much, they are generally a trap for the brain and it WILL slow down your progress because if you instantly go for a translation when you hit a wall / when you do not understand, you will not develop the intuition ability for parsing meaning through logic, context and thinking in Japanese and what is more you will not develop TOLERANCE TO AMBIGUITY (so you give up easily), which is a CRUCIAL skill to have, instead you feed the brain with English and teaching it that when it is met with Japanese above its level, it should not really try and opt out for English instead.

You want to always TRY to understand first, DO NOT INSTANTLY GO FOR THE TRANSLATION.

You need to learn to embrace ambiguity and the fact that you do not understand everything.

I would not even do it to double check instantly even after you put in the effort, but I would do it after you finish your session if you want, but note what you misunderstood and learn from it.

If you over-rely on sentence translation, it will slow you down quite a bit since you will be distrustful of your intuition and developing Japanese intuition of parsing meaning from ambiguity.

If you are consuming something you cannot at least get a gist out of without using a sentence translation, that content is a bit too much above your current level. Find something easier.

If you still have fun with it despite not understanding a lot of stuff, you probably do not need to rely on sentence translation anyway.

Because translations make the brain think / focus on the translation that was just handed to it on a silver plate, a.k.a. that which the brain is comfortable with (as when you watch English-subbed Anime).

Upon over-relying on them, the brain will crave for getting the “instant gratification” from the translations instead of focusing on the language and putting in effort to try to decode Japanese.

At least that is my experience, where if I have the English translation available easily, my brain MIGHT stop trying and will instead just wait till I solve the need to think hard by looking up the translation instead and not having to strain much as a reason, since it is much easier.

However like I mentioned above, as far as English subs go, if you are a beginner you can use them if you use them only for passive assertion of whether you understand what is said and do not solely rely on them or focus on them, focus on the spoken Japanese - on the audio, not English.

But I would personally try to make the shift into Japanese subs asap and using Yomitan etc. for look-ups. Granted, if you find it too unenjoyable, you can watch it with the English subs afterwards / or beforehand. The acquisition happens during

Japanese subs, raw audio etc., not during English subs, since you mostly focus on English then, which you already know, hence why it is easy to do.

Acquisition is not easy, it is oftentimes (especially as a beginner) painful, but because of this it works and will make you acquire the language IF you persevere through this pain and put in effort.

But I recommend reading [this MoeWay thread](#) about this, as it has lots of experiences from multiple advanced learners in regards to English-subbed Anime etc.

Make sure you also remember that, in 95%? of cases, an English translation, especially one that is not official, will not give you exactly what the original Japanese actually means/expresses. At best it will give you a good estimate and what sounds natural IN ENGLISH, at worst it will completely misunderstand the Japanese and give you something inaccurate. (machine translators tend to either leave out chunks, or substitute with their own logic parts of sentences that feature something they have trouble translating. Especially slang etc., or since they lack context they will misinterpret the sentence/text)

HOWEVER! If you are at your wits' end to even make it comprehensible, you can of course use translation, such as for example after you put the effort into what Japanese wants to say, but are unable to (a completely normal thing, do not be afraid) and then mark what you missed and compare.

But again...keep in mind you will only get an estimate at best usually, so try to then apply Japanese onto the information you get.

Though I would personally just skip it, since the sentence is way above your level now, which is okay. You will not waste time needlessly.

Apparently, [ChatGPT](#) is still not good for translations (it is decent from what I can tell in my limited knowledge and experience) and natural Japanese as discussed [here](#) by Morg. Though, nowadays, AI apparently can dissect the sentence in translation quite well already, but do not use it for explanations of grammar and stuff as seen [here in the Japanese-English Exchange Discord server](#).

Although there exists [AlChan](#), which you can use to ask if you understood something correctly or not (even in English)

The DeepL translator is usually “quite good” for a machine translator, but for Japanese it is still very flawed and not so good actually.... Google Translate might handle multiple sentences better. I realised DeepL is literally making stuff up when you have it translate multiple sentences at once.

Both of them are NOT very ideal for Japanese though, I would say.

Frankly, if you are to use translation, use ChatGPT, but seriously, use it ONLY for simple translation, from Morg and Kuri and others, AI still hallucinates in explanations and may give wrong explanations while acting as if they were factually correct. Also, do NOT use translators and AI to produce Japanese text for you. AI may be decent if it grasps the context potentially, but I seriously would not trust it enough, especially if you are not able to say what natural Japanese looks like. You can theoretically practise your output with it, but do not let it correct you, instead search yourself or put it on MoeWay or Language Exchange Discord to see what mistakes you made.

Absolutely make sure, you DO NOT have it translate multiple sentences at once, it will give you wrong results, seemingly random even... do it sentence by sentence. It also gets gender wrong.

(although a lot of times it will not give you a literal translation that Google Translate does, but some kind of rough adaptation which can actually be worse in some ways - I noticed this especially when translating longer paragraphs - the translation had some really weird and inaccurate sections there... The good thing is that you can choose and change certain translation words/parts it produces to something closer...), so you can use that one, but keep in mind that even that is not perfect and use it only as a last resort.

But of course, like I say, it is best that you do not use machine translators because if overused / becoming dependent on them, will give you bad habits that will stun your progress.

I think it is quite obvious, but do not use these translators for Japanese production *(although maybe the AI might work...have not tried it myself, but from what I saw, I can see some benefit in it).*

But it should only be the last resort when you simply cannot get the basic gist of the sentence.

Despite being pretty decent overall as far as machines go, they are still nowhere near capable of providing error-free, natural results. So being a tad bit careful with them is probably still better.

What also helps is to copy/rewrite the sentence and exchange the vocabulary for English but leaving the particles in place. Afterwards, reread it again in Japanese and try to connect the meaning again. What may also help is to focus on the nouns in the sentence.

At first, it will be pretty difficult grasping the context and all, but you will SLOOOWLY start getting better at it. So just keep it up!

One of the hardest aspects of Japanese [is understanding what entire sentences imply](#). What you need to do is to simply actively consume Japanese, while trying to be as comprehensible as possible - that is, getting the gist out of it, not everything. You are not supposed to be perfect!

Mistakes & Forgetting are OKAY

One note about making mistakes and forgetting that I will also mention here - **mistakes are completely natural and necessary as they provide you with feedback on what may still be a bit problematic for you.** There is no “only one correct way” of language speaking like textbooks say, so sometimes even “mistakes” are not necessarily wrong in themselves and they should not be viewed as something bad, they are actually incredibly useful. But it depends heavily on certain things, such as that they are

noticed and corrected.

Forgetting is also fine and necessary as each time we forget, we remember it better the next time we revise something AS LONG as we put enough effort into recalling it and into connecting it with as many senses as we can. Which is how programs like Anki and natural input work.

Basically speaking, with Anki if you do not know the answer (READING and fuzzy meaning) within 3-5 seconds, you should press Again, if you do not know and guess correctly, you can press Good. Use only Again and Good, there are addons for that too. Although it is effective if you dwell on the answer a bit and think hard about it, this is hard to do with 100+ cards since it will take too long, so what you can do instead is write it down with a pen and pronounce it as fast as you can, which should help to retain it, and then move on. If you cannot think of it within 10 seconds (although preferably within 3 seconds), you still do not know it.

Overall, the memory is strengthened when we put effort into recalling something (Active Recall), no matter if it is right or wrong, as long as you right afterwards view the correct answer, and the more senses you connect to recalling and then to the correct answer, the more it gets strengthened.

Do not strive to be perfect - forgetting and mistakes are completely natural and okay, so is being corrected (*although over-correction may not be beneficial in terms of communication, one should focus on keeping the flow going instead*). You are sure to forget some stuff over and over, even 20+ times sometimes. That is okay.

Say it with me “It is okay not to be perfect to be good at a language”. There are some people who are hard believers in perfection and “*you either study incredibly hard for 8 hours or you will never be good and mistakes are intolerable*” types...

In my opinion, those are just incredibly harmful mindsets to have in language acquisition, because let me tell you, nobody is perfect. Not even the native speakers.

They also make mistakes sometimes...I for sure do in my native language and even in English in which I am very fluent/proficient, even if I do not realise sometimes...

Insisting on never making mistakes will lead to deep paranoia and self-loathing, which will create a very bad outlook about production of said language because you focus on being perfect (*pretty much an impossible thing, you can be "almost-perfect" perhaps if you are incredibly good*) **instead of focusing on communicating ideas with others = the primal function of languages.**

Let me tell you, nobody cares if you make mistakes because those are completely natural, at worst you will cause a misunderstanding, which can be problematic depending on where, but it is not the end of the world, especially if it is noticed.

What people care about is the fluidity of the message you are trying to convey to them; no matter the mistakes you make (*unless it is something that completely changes the meaning, but even then natives can connect the dots if they have the sufficient context, so it is not as big of a deal as may appear*).

If you cannot communicate the ideas, then the problem arises = NO COMMUNICATION POSSIBLE.

Which is why I advocate for vocab more than for grammar. With broken/limited grammar but good vocab you can at least communicate, vice versa? Not so much.

Again, MISTAKES ARE OKAY AND GOOD FOR THE GROWTH IN A LANGUAGE (*if tries to improve slowly after noticing them*).

Next - Don't be discouraged and keep going, it will stick on its own eventually if you keep the pressure up and you constantly expose yourself to those things you keep forgetting (*so-called leeches*).

It is going to be very difficult at first, but just keep reading and listening and it gets better the more you do it. Just don't do it because you have to, but because it is fun!

If you feel like you are burning out - take a break, do sports, eat a healthy diet, freshen it up, lower the time spent, relax etc... it is not a race. It is completely okay, and burnout will probably happen multiple times throughout your journey. When it happens, remind yourself how far you have come, how much effort you put in, reassess your goals BUT after a break come back. In my experience, not to get out of the flow entirely, I lower the load/time spent on Japanese, but still do it daily.

Remember to take regular breaks, say every 45 minutes, and walk for a bit, drink water etc.

Also, be sure to sleep regularly for 7-8 hours, always waking up at the same time (even if you go to sleep late, yeah you will feel bad, but it is important you remain consistent in your waking time).

About Kanji

First of all, say it with me... "Kanji are one of my best friends".

Truly, the more one reads Japanese, the quicker they realise just how incredibly **CRUCIAL** Kanji is in regards to comprehension and fluidity of the reading (*if you can read them... "No shit!" ...I know...*).

I can absolutely guarantee you, if you saw Ro-maji and/or Kana-only Japanese text after reading natural Japanese text for a bit, you would quickly realise what I mean. Spaces do NOT help whatsoever there btw.

If I see Ro-maji / Kana-only somewhere, I get an INSTANT brain-aneurysm from looking at it, yep, hate it!

It makes understanding Japanese text WAAAY harder / confusing than if Kanji was there, I am not joking.

Yes, there are a lot I know, and they have multiple readings and are similar, but they have a lot of benefits in them too. What is more, with correct strategies and in connexion with proper

input they are very manageable...and even...fun (*yeah, yeah, a controversial statement right there*).

This is why we have Yomitan! With Yomitan, you instantly reduce all the headaches they bear!

Not only does Kanji tidy up everything nicely into simple readable chunks, it also instantly tells you the meaning of the text without even having to process how it is read, which makes it MUCH faster once you recognise the shapes of the Kanji words, which you will if you read a lot.

Kanji is a bit similar to how speed readers read English etc., except Kanji are more “pictures” than letters like in English, though in a way, speed readers probably also view English words similarly since they mostly focus on just simple shapes of the whole mass instead of individual letters.

You may also want to check [this](#). And [this](#) for some tips.

Also check [this very useful list](#) of 維持同訓の漢字の使い分け例 (List of Kanji words that act like synonyms), compiled by the Japanese government. Can be useful if you need to notice the difference in their use and it has lots of really interesting info on their use.

The more things, contexts etc. you can connect to the Kanji and its compounds, the better.

You could also do stuff like the [Kanken deck](#), and [Kanken resources](#) and [Kanken Kanji Test: learning materials on Internet](#), which exactly provides the context-based Kanji method, although it is for advanced learners/natives and is suited mainly for truly *acquiring* Kanji instead of focusing on single meaning like RTK, Wanikani etc. Kanken is about learning how to properly write, read, recognise and use Kanji, so its Advanced levels are really hardcore (and Level 1/highest level is absolutely insane).

But it will make you truly acquire Kanji effectively. Though again, Kanken is suited for those

who already know/recognise lots of words/Kanji, so if you are a beginner/intermediate, it might be a bit too much outside of the first levels. Though I do not know, since I did not try it. But it does indeed seem to be one of the most effective ways to truly acquire Kanji in full without memorising readings / meanings.

If you want to practise writing Kanji afterwards and learn how to write them (or do it with Kanken), there is [GenkiYoshi](#) that can be of some use perhaps.

Speaking of RTK, Wanikani etc., they can be useful (although the meanings alone are not that useful overall, but can help) provided you combine them with a lot of input & studying of full words and phrases, do not waste time learning every meaning and reading of a Kanji tho.

I however think that Wanikani and such services are not useful in terms of paying for them. There are Anki decks of them, but frankly, I would simply just read a ton, mine and learn vocab that way.

However, RTK, Wanikani etc. are oftentimes misunderstood. RTK especially is useful once you already ACQUIRED Japanese and you for example want to learn to write Kanji. In experience, going through RTK as a beginner will not bring you much IF you do not constantly enhance it with mass input/reading. I made a mistake that I stopped RTK after burning out (I knew how to recall and write around 1000 Kanji), though I did not know how to read them - RTK is suited for those who know Japanese and who know how the Kanji are used in words already - hence for Advanced learners.

Do not get me wrong, studying Kanji in isolation is not useless, but it depends heavily on your skill in Japanese. Those who are more advanced will get quite a lot of benefit from isolated Kanji study, while beginners will probably not get much out of it.

I recommend checking [this video](#) if you do not feel like using Anki for Kanji and vocabulary.

Dolly also has [a blog](#) about Kanji and how to go about them together with input.

Learn entire words/phrases IN CONTEXT instead.

Take them as parts that form vocabulary, you attain them over time and they help you build said vocabulary. You are not supposed to acquire those 2300 / 3000 Kanji right away, but over time as you learn more vocabulary, together with it you also want to learn the Kanji.

In retrospect, I did not find much in doing stuff like Heisig or Wanikani, really. Heisig is actually mainly suited for people who already are relatively fluent in Japanese and want to learn how to write and remember the strokes and writing of Kanji from memory, then Heisig is very good.

After learning Kana, I spent pretty much...a good year...focusing basically only on Kanji. For 6 months I did Heisig I was able to write around 1000 Kanji from memory, it helped especially with stroke order, but of course I forgot most of them after a while since you'd have to keep using them.

And I did not learn anything about the readings of them, and especially nothing in terms of their use, however I actually was able to comprehend words and parts of Japanese (even Chinese partly) just from knowing the rough meanings and shapes of the Kanji from this since quite a lot of words are pretty logical to guess based on which Kanji they use, but it is not reliable for most.

(I actually did production - recalling the Kanji from the English keyword, for some reason :D. Got to 1250 Kanji and then utterly burned out, doing PRODUCTION was much harder, so that might be the reason:D Though it was probably more effective if I kept it up...

I was surprised that I was able to keep hitting 90+% mostly until around 1000. The power of Mnemonics).

Then I did Wanikani *(got to around level 16 or so, reset a couple of times and burned out again...).* Although to be real, they are useful in their own right, but it depends on the fact that you don't burn out from them. Doing RTK I learnt how stroke order works, even if I forgot

how to write most of them because I stopped doing it when I burned out of it. For Wanikani you have Anki decks, you don't need to pay unless you want to support them or such.

But, it can have its benefits IF it is only a bonus, not the main study thing, that is if you input / output a lot, it can be useful...I made the mistake that I took it as the main study method without combining it.

And around 1 year in I read through Tae Kim's grammar guide, forgot a lot of that too, then found Dolly and started doing input (and editing heh).

The point I am making? Even though I basically spent around a year studying Kanji INTENSELY.

I must say that I forgot the majority of those I did not encounter elsewhere.

Why?

Because I did not really input, and if so, NOWHERE NEAR enough...

The stuff you do not frequently encounter, you simply forget. This is why mass-reading & listening is so crucial, same goes for also using the language afterwards.

Of course, studying Kanji does have its benefits & it is not a waste per se (*unless you try to force rote-memorise every reading or meaning... don't do that...*), but what should be remembered is that:

You are not actually acquiring Kanji there, you are just getting familiar with them.

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Kanji are like vocabulary, and just like vocabulary, they take time to build. You do not learn 15 000 German words at once...you acquire them over the months / years as you go on... Japanese is the same in this regard, except that Kanji give this Japanese vocabulary a particular form / look.

This I think is how one might want to look at Kanji. Rushing it down in isolation will not give you much benefit, you will forget most of it & if you strive to learn every reading & meaning, you will burn-out on top.. It is just like rushing isolated German vocabulary (with focus on translation) will be generally useless.

Learn vocabulary in MULTIPLE CONTEXTS that you try to understand.

Thus, go for Kanji WORDS IN CONTEXT OF MEANINGFUL SENTENCES.

The first time I seriously started something else was when I found Dolly and actually asked for permission to edit the transcript. Which was during last August, more than a year into Japanese.

What I would recommend is to also study VOCAB (*via mining or a deck like [this one](#)*) and combine that with mass input. Mnemonics are also a pretty powerful tool to help Kanji & vocab stick if you make them correctly with good associations that reflect their actual meaning / reading in the context.

Through vocab, you will also eventually acquire Kanji (*especially once you see lots of compounds with the same Kanji & then you compare them*).

Although, keep in mind this is a continuous process that does not happen overnight.

In terms of mining, like I probably said already, you want to mine only words and sentences that contain the Kanji you know OR i+1 sentences where only one word is alien.

If there are multiple Kanji words you will not know, it will be hard to remember, so I do not recommend mining those - just one, two at best... alien-word ones...

In summary:

Focus on vocabulary and Kanji in compounds as WORDS, not just individually, that way you do not have to worry about Kunyomi vs Onyomi readings and when to use which.

(while the rules are consistent generally, there are plenty of exceptions where a compound uses the Kunyomi instead of an On'yomi as in 青空 - "aozora").

So aim for remembering the words, not just the individual Kanji readings, as going for the readings is quite pointless, you will forget them, actually knowing more Kanji will

make it harder to remember them on their own since it *(at least for me)* starts to somewhat mix, especially on those you have not seen for some time, so learning actual vocab is much better and easier since if you read a lot, you start remembering “shapes” of words composed of certain Kanji, which helps with retention.

This is best achieved through a combination of Vocab study and reading of native resources.

Writing is not needed nowadays much, except for knowing proper stroke order rules of Radicals *(although it can help writing the Kanji by hand or in the deck, some All-in-one decks do have it, as it may help them stick more, but no need to overdo it too much, use it as a supplement. Anki should not be the main study method - natural input etc. should serve that function.*

What matters most is an intensive and extensive consumption of native Japanese content that is comprehensible. But this is best done together with studying. Do not forget to rest too, since the brain needs it, especially after a relatively intensive study/input/output session. You really do not want to burn out. At first, you will probably be able to do less of it at once, because the brain’s “muscles” are not used to such Japanese interaction. It should slowly improve as you do it more.

About mining (stuff I mostly mentioned already in some capacity)

For the Mining process, I found [this video](#) quite useful.

Please do note what I said about the i+1 concept in the [Mining & the i+1](#) section.

THIS SECTION MAY GO THROUGH A REWRITE EVENTUALLY, IN SHORT, I AM CURRENTLY TESTING [THE JJ STRATEGY](#) OF JUST MINING ANYTHING YOU DO NOT KNOW THE READING OF (after roughly 3

seconds of thinking hard, still good to get the fuzzy feeling of the meaning but it is not the focus of Anki) AND IN ANKI YOU MOSTLY TEST THE READINGS AND YOU DO NOT FAIL ON MEANINGS UNLESS YOU DRAW A BLANK AND HAVE NO IDEA OF THE MEANING, then fail...

But it is also that I no longer take Anki accuracy seriously *(As long as it is 60+% I am fine with it...)* as it is there to just make me recognise the stuff, not acquire it - that is afterall done through natural input AND output.

But obviously, doing multiple decks at once will mean you will have to put more time into Anki...

I DON'T RECOMMEND DOING MULTIPLE ANKI DECKS AT ONCE *(except for reviewing which is not that bad if you are fast about it).* **YOU WILL GET OVERWHELMED.**

You also want to mine the so-called i+1 sentences, and want to have a hybrid of sentence and word *(since sentence only cards are very slow to go through and that is wasting time on Anki although it is beneficial in checking Jisho or some other sites on as many sentences where the word is used).*

That means you generally want to mine only stuff where you know everything but one word/expression. If there are more things you do not know, you do not mine that and go on.

If you cannot find such a sentence, then that sentence is (depending on how many words you understand) a bit too above your current level. You do not want to go into content that is too much above your level because then you will not be able to use it for improvement much because you will be overwhelmed. Which is why it is best when you have just one word you do not know, since it is much easier to understand if you know the rest of the sentence & context, which in turn will make it much easier to remember said unknown word afterwards.

Yes, at first, when you are just starting out & have just the very basics, finding i+1 content with just one unknown word will likely be almost unlikely, except for a sentence here and there. However, if you keep inputting simple, easy content AND studying alongside it, it will improve to where you will eventually be able to get those i+1 in that simpler content. From there you can then keep slowly going for harder and harder content. However, it is not entirely true that if there is more than one word, then you cannot mine it... you can, but will need to put more effort into remembering it depending on how many words are unknown since context helps a lot to remember words. You can mine them all individually & if you keep reviewing (& likely failing a couple of times), you will learn to recognise them eventually. It is ALL about understanding the context. If you can understand the basic context (at first it will be through the visual cues or through translation), then it is possible to mine more difficult sentences even **AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THE CONTEXT (context is KEY)**, just remember it will be tougher than i+1 sentences.

Although what you can do, is to mine Anime or stuff you know very well & where you understand the context almost automatically because you rewatched it so much or are simply very familiar with the work. There, you do not necessarily have to follow the i+1 rule because you know what the character is saying in that particular scene even if in Japanese you do not know the words.

As long as you can guess what each part of the sentence roughly implies, mining them is easier.

I for one have this with JoJo, where inputting it & mining it is easier, even if it is not a beginner-level work per se, because I am very familiar with it & with what the characters say/imply in particular scenes.

Some notes about Anki

You also generally do not want to create too huge backlogs of mining reviews, so always do all your **REVIEWS** for the day even if you won't study any new cards...

By this of course I do not mean creating backlogs of NEW words, those you can have/mine 10 000 no problem... **I mean the reviews, since the more reviews you have, the more it will take to get through them for the day, hence you probably want to keep the NEW card limit for the day at around 10-15 only. I now recommend to mine every word you cannot read, especially those with new Kanji, so you can mine even 100+ cards at first during your reading session per day. It is okay.**

(if you create big backlogs of mining reviews, it will start bloating and you will be wasting time on Anki too much and also probably be overloaded and will burn-out from Anki, as happened to me repeatedly) .

In my opinion, you at most want to spend 1 hour on Anki, preferably close to 30 minutes (preferably around 5 seconds and less on a card question at most, try to get to 3 seconds...). With 3 seconds per card question and about 5 seconds per card answer checking, you can do around 1 200 cards in an hour (or 200 cards in 10 minutes)..

Don't half-ass Anki either though... but don't go 1+ hour on it like [here on this Discord thread on MoeWay](#) (highly recommend reading through it all since it has lots of good info)

It is not worth spending too much time on Anki and wasting time reading all the sentences and cards, listening to audio etc. because that is much better done during actual reading input.

You want to focus on recalling WORDS without looking at the sentence. If you look at the sentence before recalling the word alone on the top you risk that you will memorise the sentence and automatically know what the word means in the sentence instead of actually knowing the word and will struggle recalling it in other sentences since you will not actually know it.

However, getting the meaning from the sentence is okay since we mainly care for the reading in Anki. Meaning we get from the word being used in a TON of DIFFERENT sentences in immersion.

If you cannot think of the word READING itself in 5 seconds - you should press Again, since it means you still do not know it as knowing it means you can basically instantly

recall it, that is how we know the language. With MEANINGS you also want to have some vague idea at least on what it could be referring to in the sentence you mined. Does not mean you should be completely oblivious to the meaning, you always want to recall the gist of the meaning (one of them, in-context) and afterwards check the meaning and what it means (you can bold the proper meaning in the context in Anki). (ONLY USE Again or Good buttons, do NOT use the other ones).

HOWEVER, if you notice this (e.g. constant, high difficulty/90% etc.), then you need to rebalance your FSRS and probably use some "Hard" too. Else [this will happen](#), highly recommend reading.

But do note that you want to only learn/review (e.g. have a fuzzy feeling on) ONE meaning, no need to know all of them. Also, what really matters the most is that you know the reading, for meaning you just need the gist. You learn the meanings through mass reading and listening to Japanese content anyway... well, you also learn the readings that way, but I think it is better to know the readings first, since then you read faster and you need to look up and focus only on the meaning since you only need one or two readings of the entire WORD.

Doing word cards instead of sentence cards is harder, sentence cards are easier BUT with sentence cards you rather associate the word with that particular sentence which means you will likely remember the word less than if you learnt it as a standalone word, hence why it is harder.

However, like I mentioned, physically writing the answer down (English translation) and pronouncing it will make it stick more afterwards, the more senses are connected the better but keep in mind that will make it slower, but may be worth doing with cards that are hard to remember. But this is not necessary because we are focusing on the readings, not the meanings, so not really needed. But writing down the Kana answer of the reading might be useful, but time consuming, you would also learn how to write them.

The point is that you do Anki, and then you keep inputting a lot of Japanese where

you repeatedly encounter the words that you reviewed and mined in your Anki - that's how they will stick, not by Anki alone.

There are addons that force you to be fast like [Speed Focus Mode](#). Of course, it is beneficial dwelling on the answer and really putting effort into recalling it, which you also want to do in a way, but spending too much time on Anki for that reason will in experience lead to burnout eventually. Well, at least for me it was like that. Though of course, you need to balance it with trying to connect the other senses to this fast recall (and then to the correct answer) at least.

Using silent voice in your head only for the answer can trick you into believing you knew the answer once you view it, even though you did not, since you just had this foggy shape of it in the head during the active recall, so you did not truly know it which means that rating it good will push it further which will eventually result in it becoming a leech, since it will keep resetting when you forget it after a month or more...

If you struggle with leeches (cards you cannot remember), just delete them outright OR fully reset them ONCE (when you leech them again, delete), you will mine them again eventually and then they may stick better.

If you have not yet... You should check [FSRS4Anki](#) & [FSRSHelperAddon](#).- **FSRS IS NATIVELY PART OF NEWEST ANKI VERSIONS >= 23.10. DO NOT INSTALL IT ON THEM SINCE IT IS ALREADY INCLUDED. YOU CAN ENABLE IT IN THE ANKI SETTINGS (or deck settings).**

[Tutorial here](#)

HOWEVER, YOU CAN AND SHOULD STILL INSTALL THE HELPER ADDON SINCE NOT ALL FEATURES ARE YET INCLUDED NATIVELY, JUST THE FSRS BASE IS - [explanation on it here](#).

I used to spend up to two hours daily on Anki, and let me tell you...I burned out eventually.

If Anki is becoming overwhelming, just do reviews until it subsides a bit.

Some other mishmash, some of which I mentioned already

After some time when you already feel relatively comfortable inputting, (*generally when you are on your way to the N2 level since then you already know quite a lot passively*) **also start slowly producing/outputting the language** (*spoken/written communication*).

The great thing about outputting is that you are actually also inputting, because if it is a communication with someone, in writing you are reading their texts and in speaking you are listening to them, which also trains your receptive language ability.

[Dolly says](#), you could actually output via writing as that is much easier than speaking, but still it is an output.

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Just start doing it, don't give up and keep going, and you'll eventually get there either way; faster if you keep on updating your overall strategy, goals and habits alongside it and noting mistakes.

Again, **CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY**, better do something 30 minutes every day than 3 hours once a week.

However, you need to keep in mind one important thing - Japanese requires a MASSIVE amount of active time/effort if you want to reach a high level of competency. In general, you might want to actively spend AT LEAST 100 hours on Japanese per 30 days if you want to get competent fast. (*based upon my calculations, it would take 30 months to reach the 3000 hour mark*).

It is calculated per an English native, that one needs around 3000 hours of active time in the language, or around that number, [some studies/sources generally list roughly 2200 hours](#).

(+speaking/producing from some point during that) to get decent at Japanese. Of course, this is just a rough time amount that does not translate to everyone and some need less (like Jazzy), while others need much more, which is COMPLETELY OKAY, IT IS NOT A RACE!

Naturally, this does not mean that once you hit 3000 hours of input you suddenly will be able to fluently understand Japanese once that *shiny 3000* appears... again, it is a median value for the average speaker, for some it will take less, for others more... but after 3000 hours of quality input (especially combined with output too), you should expect your understanding of Japanese to be pretty decent already.

Fluency is a whole other level that most-likely requires a huge amount of active output with native speakers especially, so preferably by living directly in Japan. Also fluency ≠ native-like ability.

But it also depends on your goals in the language and what works for you. So be free to modify your strategy to your needs & change it up once something does not work that well anymore.

If your goal is not to speak and just understand so you can consume stuff, it will likely take less time to get decent. Same would be if you only wanted to speak/listen in the language instead of knowing how to read and consume it.

That means (for the fastest results that are still not TOO extreme depending on the individual) it is good to actively spend roughly 3 hours 20 minutes every day on Japanese

(I recommend measuring it and writing it down each day in 30 day intervals).

HOWEVER, do not push yourself just to get the hours in, do it as much as you want/are able to and do it BECAUSE YOU WANT TO / ENJOY THE PROCESS, DO NOT DO IT FOR THE TIME / RESULTS!

If you do not have time OR energy because of school or work or whatever, it is COMPLETELY okay not to reach such time. Prioritise the important stuff, not just Japanese. You will not magically forget all things because you do not reach your hours in Japanese for a few days...rest might actually help you instead.

This is the time to reach daily IF you A) can do so comfortably, B) have actual free time to do so, C) genuinely want to use it for Japanese and improve as much as you

can, D) want to somewhat see results faster and get there faster.

Otherwise, it is doable to get to a high level in Japanese even with 2 hours (would try to get at least this much), but it will take longer. However, unless you do like 6+ or even 10+ hours everyday, it will take you years anyhow, so... IT IS NOT A RACE.

That is, if you are tired, make sure you DO NOT push yourself too much, since you will overload yourself and it may make the brain remember much less because the brain is a muscle that also needs rest after intense exertion, like regular muscles after training. Overstraining the brain is bad.

Moreover, from experience I know that you will simply burn out and that is WAY worse than not putting in some x amount of time. Less is better if it means you can maintain it consistently.

Again, IT IS FULLY OKAY TO HAVE BREAKS AND EVEN FREE DAYS TO LET THE BRAIN REST.

You do not want to burn-out. GO BY YOUR OWN PACE. THIS IS NOT A RACE, IT IS A MARATHON.

Though, for quite some time recently I was spending less time (*roughly an hour or two max since I was rather mentally tired*) and I did not feel like improving anywhere near as much as when I was doing 4+ hours daily (*a.k.a. "People die when they are killed..." / "The Archer class really is made up of archers"*). However, I attribute this mainly to the burnout and not as much to the time itself.

If you use the time effectively (e.g. you read as much as possible, listen a lot and even speak later on) then it is good even if it is just 2 hours daily. What matters is that you do it DAILY for 2 hours.

Some people go 6+ hours (*even 10+ which is insane*), which is how they can get to N1 in a year or something, but even I cannot do such hours personally, at best only during summer I could consistently get around the 5-6 hour mark (*In Summer 2023 I was doing an average of 5 hours a day*).

And I am fine with it, even if there are days I can barely put 20 minutes in, since one should not race needlessly if they cannot do so naturally since that leads to burn-out, nor should one compare with others. Just keep going...the marathon...right? ($0 \geq \nabla^\circ$)o

The more time you pour in, the faster your progress should be **if it is effectively spent**, **HOWEVER do not overwork yourself and prioritise it over some more important stuff, so you do not burn out.** it is better to lower new Anki cards to 0 for a week and do just the reviews quickly than to desperately push for keeping up with the routine - it is not a race, it is a journey, an experience. **At one point, there start diminishing returns, so whereas spending 5 hours a day in the beginning would be pretty beneficial, but say at an intermediate level, spending just 2 hours would equal spending 5 hours as a beginner. Any more would still be massively beneficial though.**

The same applies for output - speaking and writing. It is a skill that takes time to build, input experience helps with that, but there are no "Magical/Secret ways". It will be hard in the beginning and you only learn it well by simply doing it. Yes, there are ways/tools to make it easier and more effective (*as I suggested above*), **but all-in-all one just needs to actively do it and work hard if they want to so-to-speak "Git Gud" at it. Practice, practice, practice**, as they say.

Including some "boring" studying, of course... especially in the beginning this is important...

While the role of reading is often emphasised, the importance of raw, active listening is not...

so make sure you also actively listen to a TON of Japanese (*subbed Japanese is more of a reading thing, since you mainly focus on the subs & not on the sounds as much as with raw*), **because usually it is the raw listening comprehension that is harder to attain than the reading one. It will be felt later on if you sleep on it too much and will have an imbalance.**

Moreso, it is important for understanding spoken conversation & having such a conversation

with someone. This is why listening may be a harder skill to attain than reading (or at least may feel scarier).

Listening is not as effective for attaining vocabulary as reading is, which is much more effective in this regard, but listening is great for raw comprehension of the spoken language, which is a key skill to have.

Like mentioned above, in case you do not know where to start with reading etc., [Jo Mako's List](#), [jpdb](#) or [Japanese Media Recommendations](#) difficulty lists or what Dolly suggests in her immersion series or other sites listed up in those links. But basically, pick whatever interests you, but try going for something simpler at first.

As for listening, Youtube videos, raw Anime, films, drama, podcasts etc. are good sources.

What you can do is to first watch something subbed & then watch it raw at least once & try to see what you understand... Then use an audio-sub extractor (*MoeWay has links for them for example*) to make an audio file of all the spoken phrases that you can then listen to again.

Because you will struggle at first and it will be hard/unpleasant either way, whether you first study 10 000 Anki cards or just 2 000 because even if you know 10 000 words, you will open up your first novel and there will still be a myriad of unknown words you do not know because you do not know the author's style/vocabulary use (*generally for speaking you actually only need around 2 000 words to be able to express most of the general things, what is hard is to subconsciously and actively know how to use them, which can only be achieved through practice and experience of doing it over and over*).

It being hard is good for the brain in the long term though.

Same goes if you want to get good at speaking and writing (*production*) in the language, the only way really is to JUST DO IT. Yes, it will suck at first, but you will get better the more you do it.

Generally, the sooner the better (*mass input first, then mass output + continuing input*), BUT for output it is mostly recommended to do it after one achieves some basics/lower intermediate level or the like in the language because trying to output something that is not there only leads to frustration and may actually solidify some really detrimental habits and mistakes. But even that may depend on people. It may be good to get the basics first so that you at least have an idea about how the language works, how it sounds like & which words tend to be used where.

You need to put the time in, of course. Just remember to do what interests you, but start light (*does not mean little children stuff as that is BOOORING*). **But also, reading Berserk may not be the best idea when you are barely N5. HOWEVER, if you are really into it and love it and it is great fun even if you have to slog through it, by all means go for it, try to make everything fun for you, that will keep you motivated. Although what you could try is to get both the Japanese version of a Manga and an English version and first read/look up with Yomichan etc. and think about the Japanese one and then confirm/correct by looking up the English version, however do note that what English says is going to be at least somewhat (or a lot) different to what Japanese actually implies.**

(but you first want to put effort into trying to understand Japanese as Japanese; and use the translation only as a way to confirm if you got the gist or when you are at your wits' end).

Rewatching / rereading stuff multiple times also helps a TON if you can do it since you always notice something new. IT IS A HIGHLY BENEFICIAL HABIT TO HAVE.

There is this video of a guy [watching a JoJo episode 50 times](#) and it brings up why it is great. Although this is a huge overkill & will not be as beneficial as watching 10 episodes 5 times since unless your Japanese is great enough already, you will miss a LOT of stuff anyway.

Keep in mind that you DO NOT want to keep consuming the same book, episode or volume...

It is CRUCIAL you consume AS MUCH DIFFERENT MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT OVER-ANALYSE THE SAME STUFF, instead just consume anything & everything you can.

BY THIS HOWEVER I DO NOT MEAN THAT YOU CANNOT / SHOULD NOT READ WORKS OF THE SAME AUTHOR OR WATCH THE SAME SERIES...

I MERELY POINT TO NOT OVER-FOCUS ON ONE SINGLE EPISODE OR CHAPTER (or short novel/Anime) ETC. SINCE THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH YOU CAN GET OUT OF THAT AS A "BEGINNER" SINCE YOU WILL MISS STUFF EITHER WAY EVEN IF YOU READ THE SENTENCE 100 TIMES BECAUSE SOME NUANCES / UNDERSTANDING YOU WON'T HAVE YET FOR THE BRAIN TO REALISE IT & USE IT.

Actually, if you are a beginner in input / immersion, reading a very similar genre / author / style of writing will yield more beneficial results in that it will ease you into it and will help you acquire a particular vocabulary since those works will use similar types of vocabulary and expressions, especially if it is from the same author since you start noticing / getting used to that author's style.

Just do not over analyse the same chapter or such basically speaking since too much is a waste...

(I personally generally cannot "stand" (heh) rewatching / rereading something I watched / read very recently because I know what happens and it is fresh, so it gets boring to me. If you can do it, there are big benefits in consuming the same stuff a couple of times in a short period. Or you can do it say, after a month or so, that is also a good way to see that you have improved, believe me, even if it may not seem like it, you are improving if you work hard, but you just do not realise it, brain usually just clicks on its own once it connects the dots subconsciously and this may take some time / error...

I am trying a way of watching multiple (say 5+, possibly even more episodes) first in audio-only, then with Jap subs & look-ups and then in English to get the missing context. But even that is a bit too tiresome.

So maybe it is best to have days where you flip a coin if you want to read or if you want to

listen & focus on that purely during the day. Both are important, so you can do one & then the other the next day.

Then just putting them into MP3 for listening.

Before these moments, you may actually get an impression you are getting worse despite doing the work, but actually that is just temporary as the brain is rearranging stuff subconsciously.

In my experience, you then suddenly improve after a while seemingly out of nowhere.)

Passive input/passive "immersion" is not very beneficial until quite advanced stages but if you have no time for actively engaging with the language, it can still really help if one does not have time or energy to go through a normal, active one.

DON'T GIVE UP, "SKELETON". DON'T YOU DARE GO HOLLOW!

KEEP ON GOING, KEEP FIGHTING! YOU SHALL PREVAIL IN THE END!

Try to make it as fun as possible, but sometimes it may not be, so do not be discouraged.

If Japanese however starts feeling like a chore, then you may want to change your strategy and goals a bit to freshen it up.

It is important you have a good specific goal in mind you want to achieve in the language and you update it to your present situation and so that you keep your motivation and habit going.

When the motivation starts to wane, find a way to refresh it so that you keep going.

CONSISTENCY is key. NO MATTER WHAT, MAKE SURE YOU DO AT LEAST THE BARE MINIMUM EVERY DAY, of input especially.

Even more repeated ramblings to *possibly* keep in mind (◡ ◡ *)

Like I said, it is also important that you already have some basic foundation in the language for input/immersion. Brain learns from something it needs to actively try to decode, it does it subconsciously.

I will again repeat that not understanding everything on your own is completely normal (so is skipping is okay if it is too boring etc.), the point of input is not to understand everything, but to be exposed to the natural language via natural means that make the brain really think, but still have cues that help make it generally comprehensible (eg. visuals, sounds, context).

This means to also be able to make methodical guesses about stuff you are consuming. You will be guessing a lot, prepare for that. But that is good as it makes you think about the stuff and the more you do it and combine with the other stuff, it should eventually start sticking.

The brain remembers when it struggles and must work on problems actively before getting an answer, which is why active recall is said to be a good memorisation method.

Point is that you understand the general gist of it and context, as trying to make something out when you have no clue whatsoever will not be that beneficial alone. Especially in the beginning, so if you are completely at a wit's end, look for something easier/skip, or at least try making it as comprehensible as possible in any way you choose, but try to connect the dots yourself from what you can infer before going for an answer.

If you are tired or do something else, just go passive, but here and there look up stuff and try to understand it or try to sort of pay attention when listening to stuff.

DO NOT EVER FEEL OVERLY DISCOURAGED AND JUST KEEP IT UP, TRUST IN THE PROCESS, modifying it to fit your changing circumstances.

(indeed, there will be days when things are just tough, without mood or motivation, but keep it up anyway)

Remember, the journey matters, not the end goal. In truth, Japanese learning (as for any language actually) never really stops, it just lessens and gets more automatic the better you get at it.

Again, this is just what I *personally* found useful. **There isn't some single "correct/best" way/method. The point is to just do it after getting the basics and not be one of those that keep eternally reviewing the grammar and learning "10 000 words" first in Anki, being afraid of "Not understanding anything and not being ready...yet" and not taking a plunge into the natural language. That is a useless strategy alone without the other, just like not knowing anything and just staring at the screen and being frustrated is also useless if you make no effort to understand the language & its parts.**

Learning/studying and input do work together, and are best useful as pairs.

"Thank Ye Eldritch Gods, for this nightmare is coming to an end..."

PS: Do pardon this TED talk of mine.

Just wanted to help those who are afraid of taking the plunge *(and also note it for myself)*.

HUGE respect if you read through all my ramblings, that already is something. Heh.

If some stuff seems repetitive and I feel like a broken record and it goes on for way longer than it needs to... I know I ramble on and on about the same stuff, but I do so to make absolutely sure I do not forget to mention anything, even if I have already possibly mentioned it...

The base of this was written relatively quickly and sloppily expanded over the months and years when a new thought entered my mind / I saw it somewhere...

Again, I simply tend to write like this and also repetition is also important, so... a little bit of practice for what awaits you during massive input <(〰〰)>

Anyhow, **best of luck and strength to you, Champions, not just in Japanese** (ノノノ)ノ*:°

✧

ONWARD!

Mordraug