

2024 LATE SPRING 5-WEEK CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE

These Conversational Japanese courses are structured to supplement our core curriculum Japanese Courses (Levels 1-13) of the 10-week semester. Courses are conversation-intensive, with the aim of strengthening the student's ability to communicate effectively. The course materials emphasize vocabulary and grammar that are useful in everyday activities. Using the Marugoto textbooks, the priority is to practice language used in real-life situations, and grammar is taught through meaningful context rather than targeted study. At the more advanced levels, these courses utilize authentic materials to engage students in more fluid discussion and dialogue.

Students with no previous background in Japanese should complete core curriculum Level 1 before enrolling in a Conversational course. If you have previous background in Japanese and are unsure of which Conversational level is right for you, please take a look at the sample materials for each class linked in the course descriptions, or the [Level Guide \(Conversational Levels\)](#).

More course options at all levels will be offered in the [upcoming 10-week semester](#).

These courses are designed for adults aged 18 and above. However, consideration for enrollment may be given to students aged 17 or 16 on a case-by-case basis. Feel free to inquire for further information.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses are listed by increasing difficulty/level. Please note that the letter designates a different time/date, but all sections of a level cover the same material (e.g., Conv1, Section A and Conv1, Section B cover the same material).

Please note that some courses are [online via Zoom](#), and others are [in-person at Japan Society in NYC](#). All times listed are New York time (ET).

ONLINE COURSES: To participate fully, you will need access to a device with internet, microphone, and camera (such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet).

IN-PERSON COURSES: In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances, a class session may need to be conducted online or on another date. By signing up for a course, you assume this risk and understand that circumstances may change. Please see full details under "How to Register."

Conversation 1 (Conv1)

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

Elementary social/situational conversation skills will be introduced.

This course covers the **first portion of the textbook (Topics 1-6)**.

Required Textbook: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo. See [Table of Contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv1, Section A	Thurs., 4/18 - 5/16	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	5 classes	Mori	ONLINE
Conv1, Section B	Mon., 4/15 - 5/13	12:00 – 2:00 pm ET	5 classes	Kakutani	ONLINE
Conv1, Section C	Tues., 4/16 - 5/14	6:00 – 8:00 pm ET	5 classes	Kobuchi	IN-PERSON
Conv1, Section D	Wed., 4/17 - 5/15	12:00 – 2:00 pm ET	5 classes	Kakutani	IN-PERSON

Conversation 2 (Conv2)

For students who have **finished Level 2** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent.

Students will learn more social/situational conversation skills.

This course covers the **second portion of the textbook (Topics 7-9)**.

Required Textbook: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo. See [Table of Contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv2, Section A	Mon., 4/15 - 5/13	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	5 classes	Kitaura	ONLINE
Conv2, Section B	Wed., 4/17 - 5/15	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	5 classes	Kitaura	ONLINE
Conv2, Section C	Tues., 4/16 - 5/14	6:00 – 8:00 pm ET	5 classes	Murata	IN-PERSON

Conversation 3-4 (Conv3-4)

For students who have **finished Level 3 or 4** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent, **and feel confident with Level 3 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 3, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 4. If you are not confident in Level 3 patterns, Conv 2 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will focus on skills needed to survive in Japan. Frequently used expressions will be practiced in context.

The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons); the **odd lessons** of the textbook will be covered this Late Spring semester.

Required Textbook: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 1 (A2) Katsudoo. See [Table of Contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv3-4, Section A	Tues. & Thurs., 4/16 - 5/14	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	9 classes	Kitaura	ONLINE

Conv3-4, Section B	Mon. & Wed., 4/15 - 5/13	6:00 – 8:00 pm ET	9 classes	Kakutani	IN-PERSON
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Conversation 5-6 (Conv5-6)

For students who have **finished Level 5 or 6** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent, **and feel confident with Level 5 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 5, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 6. If you are not confident in Level 5 patterns, Conv 3-4 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will focus on strengthening speaking skills by having students engage in various exercises.

The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons); the **odd lessons** of the textbook will be covered this Late Spring semester.

Required Textbook: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 2 (A2) Katsudoo. See [Table of Contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv5-6, Section A	Tues. & Thurs., 4/16 - 5/14	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	9 classes	Kurahara	ONLINE

Conversation 7-8 (Conv7-8)

For students who have **finished Level 7 or 8** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent, **and feel confident with Level 7 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 7, and more comfortable for those who have finished Level 8. If you are not confident in Level 7 patterns, Conv 5-6 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will focus on activities in various situations and language structures (e.g. sentence patterns) which support communication.

The course is taught in two parts (odd lessons and even lessons); the **odd lessons** of the textbook will be covered this Late Spring semester.

Required Textbook: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Pre-Intermediate A2/B1. See [Table of Contents](#) and [Sample](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv7-8, Section A	Tues. & Thurs., 4/16 - 5/14	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	9 classes	Kakutani	ONLINE

Conversation 9-10 (Conv9-10)

For students who have **finished Level 9, or are taking or finished level 10** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent, **and feel confident with Level 9 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who has just finished Level 9, and more comfortable for those at a higher level. If you are not confident in Level 9 patterns, Conv 7-8 may be a better conversational course for you.

The course will emphasize role-playing by the students in different social and business situations. The focus will be on maintaining a conversation and learning and using situational vocabulary.

The course is taught in two parts, first and second half. The **second half** will be covered this Late Spring semester.

No textbook required. See [Sample here](#).

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv9-10, Section A	Mon. & Wed., 4/15 - 5/13	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	9 classes	Kurahara	ONLINE
Conv9-10, Section B	Tues. & Thurs., 4/16 - 5/14	12:00 – 2:00 pm ET	9 classes	Kurahara	ONLINE

Conversation 11-12 (Conv11-12)

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

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

No textbook required. Sample coming soon.

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv11-12, Section A	Tues., 4/16 - 5/14	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	5 classes	Aizawa	ONLINE
Conv11-12, Section B	Wed., 4/17 - 5/15	6:00 – 8:00 pm ET	5 classes	Aizawa	IN-PERSON

Conversation 13 (Conv13)

For students who have **finished at least one semester of Level 13** (and are conversationally fluent at that level) of our [Japanese Courses](#) or higher, **and have passed JLPT N2 or equivalent knowledge. Students should recognize at least 1,200 kanji.** If you are not sure, please contact the office to schedule a level assessment.

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

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

The course is repeatable and will cover different content every semester.

No textbook required. Sample coming soon.

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Conv13, Section A	Thurs., 4/18 - 5/16	6:30 – 8:30 pm ET	5 classes	Aizawa	ONLINE

TUITION

5-Class Courses:
Non-members **\$185**
Members **\$165**

9-Class Courses:
Non-members **\$330**
Members **\$290**

To purchase or renew a membership, please visit the [Membership page](#) and pay online. Or, call 212-715-1270 and leave a message; they will get back to you.

To enroll in two or more courses at the combined discount, please call (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293. Discount is applicable when enrolling in two or more 9-class courses within the 2024 Late Spring semester only (includes Conversational Japanese and Japanese (numbered level) Courses.)

HOW TO REGISTER

Classes fill up quickly! We recommend *registering as soon as possible* to secure your first choice.

Please register by **Thurs., April 11, if possible**. Seats may not be available after this date; please contact the office for up-to-date availability.

New students with no previous background in Japanese should enroll in a Level 1 course (see Late Spring Japanese Level 1). Students with some background should refer to the [Level Guide \(Conversational Levels\)](#) or course textbooks to determine the most appropriate class. There is no placement exam. If you are still not sure of your level, it may be possible to schedule a level assessment by phone with the Senior Director. Please email language@japansociety.org to schedule.

Registration is accepted **online (preferred)**, by phone at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293, or in-person on select days.

Registrants will receive a **Welcome Email** and **Zoom link** from language_inquiries@japansociety.org on

the afternoon of Friday, April 12, 2024 (for classes beginning on Monday, April 15)
the afternoon of Monday, April 15, 2024 (for classes beginning on Tuesday, April 16)
the afternoon of Tuesday, April 16, 2024 (for classes beginning on Wednesday, April 17)
the afternoon of Wednesday April 17, 2024 (for classes beginning on Thursday, April 18)

For more information, please email us at language@japansociety.org, or call at **(212) 715-1269** or **(212) 715-1293**.

ABOUT ONLINE COURSES:

Please follow your course schedule as much as possible. If you miss a class, please review any material you missed so that you do not fall behind in the course. Regular practice is important when learning a new language.

In addition, if you will miss a class, it may also be possible to arrange a make-up class in a different online or in-person section in the same semester. Ideally, this should be scheduled for the same

material/class as your missed class, but please note that options may be limited. When possible, please reach out to schedule these in advance as slots are first come, first served. More information on how to schedule a make-up class will be provided in the Welcome Email.

Our classes are structured to be interactive and participatory, and you will get the most out of your classes if you can participate by both microphone and video whenever possible. We hope you will participate to whatever degree that you can, even when full engagement is not possible. Please communicate with your instructor about any needs/changes to your attendance and degree of participation (mic/video use ability, missing class, etc.).

ABOUT IN-PERSON COURSES:

Japan Society strongly encourages everyone entering the building to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccines, including any boosters for which they are eligible. In-person students do not need to provide proof of vaccination and booster.

Masks, particularly respirator-style (KN95, N95, KF94, etc.), are strongly recommended but are no longer required. A mask can be provided at the Welcome Desk upon request.

Japan Society retains the right to cancel a class at its discretion due to inclement weather or other circumstances. In such circumstances the office will determine the best option for replacement class(es), which may be online or on another date. By signing up for this course, you assume this risk and understand that circumstances may change.

Please follow your course schedule as much as possible. **If you miss a class**, please review any material you missed so that you do not fall behind in the course. Regular practice is important when learning a new language.

In addition, if you will miss a class, it **may also be possible to arrange a make-up class** in a different online or in-person section in the same semester. Ideally, this should be scheduled for the same material/class as your missed class, but please note that options may be limited. When possible, please reach out to schedule these in advance as slots are first come, first served. More information on how to schedule a make-up class will be provided in the Welcome Email.

Our classes are structured to be interactive and participatory. Please communicate with your instructor about any needs/changes to your attendance and degree of participation.

PLEASE NOTE

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations are accepted until 12 pm ET on the business day before the course or workshop begins (for Shodo, until 12 pm ET on the business day before coursework begins). After this deadline, cancellations are not accepted and tuition is not refundable or transferable for any reason (including for credit). Upon cancellation, the tuition paid minus a service charge (\$20 for courses, \$5 for workshops) will be refunded. Cancellations are only accepted via phone.

Japan Society also reserves the right to cancel any course or workshop if sufficient enrollment is not obtained. In such cases, students already enrolled will receive full refunds (no service charge).

By registering for a course, you accept and agree to the above terms of the cancellation policy.

Students must be age 18 or older.

We do not record these classes, and recording of these classes is prohibited. If a student misses a class, it may be possible to arrange a make-up class in the same semester, if available. More information will be provided in the Welcome Email.





If you need to switch to a different level or section after your course has begun, it may be possible pending availability and is only possible within the same semester (e.g., within the same 10-week semester, 5-week semester, weekend intensive, etc.). Please contact the office.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Please do your best to have your textbook by the first day of the course.

The following textbooks are required. A limited supply of textbooks is available for purchase at the Language Center on select days, as well as on the first day of in-person courses. Please contact the office to arrange purchase and pick-up.

You may also purchase your book in advance from an outside vendor. Either a digital or print textbook is fine.

<p>C 1 and C 2 Students: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo by Japan Foundation ISBN: 978-4-384-05752-2 Price at Japan Society: \$22</p>		<p>C 3-4 Students: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 1 (A2) Katsudoo by Japan Foundation ISBN: 978-4-384-05754-6 Price at Japan Society: \$27</p>	
<p>C 5-6 Students: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 2 (A2) Katsudoo by Japan Foundation ISBN: 978-4-384-05756-0 Price at Japan Society: \$27</p>		<p>C 7-8 Students: Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Pre-Intermediate (A2/B1) by Japan Foundation ISBN: 978-4-384-05758-4 Not available at Japan Society.</p>	

C 9-10, C 11-12, C 13 Students: No required textbook.

INSTRUCTORS

All of the Language Center's instructors are native Japanese speakers with extensive teaching experience.

Yuko Aizawa has taught at the Sendagaya Japanese Institute in Tokyo, Japan and at the Royal Hawaiian Academy in the United States. She has been an instructor at the Language Center since 1994.

Yumiko Kakutani has a BA in French Literature from Keio University in Tokyo and is a graduate of Japan Society's Teacher Training Program. She worked for Sakura Bank in the International Planning Division and Foreign Exchange Division for 10 years. She has taught privately in the United States for a number of years (including JLPT and SAT II students). She has been teaching at number of local universities including Baruch College, City College of New York and Fordham University.

Momoyo Kitaura has a BA from Tokyo Woman's Christian University. She has been a certified Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) tester for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). She passed the Japanese Language Teaching Competency test and has over 15 years of experience working at a Japanese language school in Japan. Since 2018, she has been teaching at the Language Center. She is also a co-researcher of the National Institute of Language and Linguistics.

Mana Kobuchi grew up in Fukuoka City and began her Japanese teaching career in Tokyo. Later she moved to the United States and then the Netherlands, where she continued teaching Japanese. Along the way, she obtained an MA in TESOL from SIT (School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT) and a PhD in Linguistics from the CUNY Graduate Center. She greatly enjoys teaching Japanese, as she is fascinated by language in general and Japanese in particular.

Kazue Kurahara received her BA at Hunter College and an MA in TESOL and Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language from New York University. She teaches all levels of Japanese, various workshops, and special topics classes involving social media and pop culture. She is particularly passionate about sociolinguistics and onomatopoeia. She has taught at New York University, The New School, and Hunter College, among others. A nature admirer, she is often seen photographing trees and plants and tending to her indoor garden. She is the scriptwriter and host of Japan Society's YouTube series "Uki Uki NihonGO! + Culture."

Yumi Mori has a bachelor's degree in Law from Sophia University in Tokyo. She is a graduate of Japan Society's Teacher Training Program. She has taught privately in the United States for a number of years.

Kaori Murata received her BA in Linguistics from the University of Tsukuba and MA degree from New York University. She studied at Tisch School of Arts focusing on Cinema Studies, and Interactive Media. She studied Mandarin for 2 years in Shanghai. This experience sparked a multicultural language passion. She has experience of teaching Japanese to students of all levels.