



Language Center

333 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017

[japansociety.org](http://japansociety.org)

## 2024 WINTER 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.

### 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
<b>Conv1, Section A</b>	Tues., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 12/31)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Date	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv1, Section B</b>	Wed., 12/11 - 1/22 (no 12/25 - 1/1)	<b>12:00 – 2:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Date	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv1, Section C</b>	Tues., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 12/31)	<b>6:00 – 8:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Kobuchi	<b>IN-PERSON</b>
<b>Conv1, Section D</b>	Tues., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 12/31)	<b>12:00 – 2:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Kitaura	<b>IN-PERSON</b>

### **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
<b>Conv2, Section A</b>	Wed., 12/11 - 1/22 (no 12/25 - 1/1)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Mori	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv2, Section B</b>	Tues., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 12/31)	<b>6:00 – 8:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Murata	<b>IN-PERSON</b>
<b>Conv2, Section C</b>	Tues., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 12/31)	<b>3:30 – 5:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Murata	<b>IN-PERSON</b>

### **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 Winter 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
<b>Conv3-4, Section A</b>	Tues. & Thurs., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 1/2)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kitaura	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv3-4, Section B</b>	Mon. & Wed., 12/9 - 1/22 (no 12/23 – 1/1, 1/20)	<b>6:00 – 8:00 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kakutani	<b>IN-PERSON</b>

### **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 Winter 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
<b>Conv5-6, Section A</b>	Mon. & Wed., 12/9 - 1/22 (no 12/23 – 1/1, 1/20)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kitaura	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **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 Winter 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
<b>Conv7-8, Section A</b>	Tues. & Thurs., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 1/2)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kakutani	<b>ONLINE</b>

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

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
<b>Conv9-10, Section A</b>	Tues. & Thurs., 12/10 - 1/21 (no 12/24 - 1/2)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kurahara	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **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
<b>Conv11-12, Section A</b>	Wed., 12/11 - 1/22 (no 12/25 - 1/1)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Aizawa	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **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
<b>Conv13, Section A</b>	Thurs., 12/12 - 1/23 (no 12/26 - 1/2)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Aizawa	<b>ONLINE</b>

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## TUITION

5-Class Courses:  
Non-members **\$200**  
Members **\$175**

9-Class Courses:  
Non-members **\$360**  
Members **\$310**

*Inclusive of fees, where applicable.*

To purchase or renew a membership, please visit the [Membership page](#) and pay online. Or, call 212-715-1270.

## HOW TO REGISTER

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

**Please register by Thurs., December 5, 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 Winter or 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](mailto:language@japansociety.org) to schedule.

Registration is accepted **online (preferred)**, by phone at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293, or in-person (please inquire for hours).

Registrants will receive a **Welcome Email** and **Zoom link** from [language\\_inquiries@japansociety.org](mailto:language_inquiries@japansociety.org) on

- the afternoon of Friday, December 6, 2024** (for classes beginning on Monday, December 9)
- the afternoon of Monday, December 9, 2024** (for classes beginning on Tuesday, December 10)
- the afternoon of Tuesday, December 10, 2024** (for classes beginning on Wednesday, December 11)
- the afternoon of Wednesday, December 11, 2024** (for classes beginning on Thursday, December 12)

For more information, please email us at [language@japansociety.org](mailto: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 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 begins.** The Language Center's business days are Monday – Friday, except for most federal holidays. 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) will be refunded. Cancellations are only accepted via phone.

Japan Society also reserves the right to cancel any course 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.

**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 in advance to arrange purchase and pick-up times if picking up before the first day of an in-person course.

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

<p><b>C 1 and C 2 Students:</b> Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Starter (A1) Katsudoo  by Japan Foundation  ISBN: 978-4-384-05752-2  Price at Japan Society: \$22</p>		<p><b>C 3-4 Students:</b> 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><b>C 5-6 Students:</b> 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><b>C 7-8 Students:</b> Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Pre-Intermediate (A2/B1)  by Japan Foundation  ISBN: 978-4-384-05758-4  Price at Japan Society: \$30 <i>(limited copies)</i></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.

**Naoko Date** holds a BA in English language from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. Since 2016, she has been teaching eMentor Japanese language and culture courses to US Air Force personnel. For the US 2020 Census translation in Japanese, she held the position of final editor and quality control.

**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.