

## 2025 LATE SUMMER 5-WEEK CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE

These Conversational Japanese courses are structured to supplement our core curriculum Japanese Courses (Levels 1-13) of the 10-week session. 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.

**Students with some background** should refer to the [Level Guide \(Conversational Levels\)](#) or course textbooks to determine the most appropriate class.

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

These courses are designed for adults aged 18 and above.

For **tuition**, **how to register**, and more **course details**, please see further down after the course list.

### 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 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>	Thurs., 8/14 - 9/11	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Shio	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv1, Section B</b>	Tues., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:00 - 8:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Kobuchi	<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>	Tues., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Shio	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv2, Section B</b>	Thurs., 8/14 - 9/11	<b>12:00 - 2:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Yamaguchi	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv2, Section C</b>	Tues., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:00 - 8:00 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 Late Summer.

**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., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kitaura	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv3-4, Section B</b>	Mon. & Wed., 8/11 - 9/10 (no class 9/1)	<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 Late Summer.

**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., 8/11 - 9/10 (no class 9/1)	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kitaura	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **Conversation 7-9 (Conv7-9)**

For students who have **finished Level 7, 8, or 9** 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 or 9. 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 Summer.

**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>Conv7-9, Section A</b>	Tues. & Thurs., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kakutani	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **Conversation 10 (Conv10)**

Recommended for students who **have taken at least one Level 10 course** of our [Japanese Courses](#), or equivalent, **and feel confident with some of the Level 10 content/grammar**. This class will be a nice challenge for the student who is just starting the Level 10 progression, and more comfortable for those who have finished several parts of Level 10. Otherwise, Conv 7-9 may be a better conversational course for you.

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

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

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

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
<b>Conv10, Section A</b>	Mon. & Wed., 8/11 - 9/10 (no class 9/1)	<b>6:30 - 8:30 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kurahara	<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Conv10, Section B</b>	Tues. & Thurs., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>12:00 - 2:00 pm ET</b>	9 classes	Kurahara	<b>ONLINE</b>

### **Conversation 11-12 (Conv11-12)**

For students who have **finished at least one course 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 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 5-week session.

**No textbook required. Sample coming soon.**

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
<b>Conv11-12, Section A</b>	Tues., 8/12 - 9/9	<b>6:00 - 8:00 pm ET</b>	5 classes	Sakurai	<b>IN-PERSON</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, including a nonrefundable administrative fee (see cancellation policy).*

*A textbook may be required as a separate purchase dependent on your course (please see course details or textbook information below).*

**Japan Society Members:** please log in to see the member price. To learn more about Japan Society Membership, please visit the [Membership page](#).

## ***HOW TO REGISTER***

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

**Please register by Wed., August 6, if possible.** Seats may not be available after this date; please check the website for registration availability or contact the office.

New students with no previous background in Japanese should enroll in a Level 1 course (see Late Summer or Fall Japanese Level 1). Students with some background should refer to the [Level Guide \(Conversational](#)

[Levels](#)) or course textbooks to determine the most appropriate class. (The Level Guide can also be found on the [Language Center homepage](#).) 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** (including the **Zoom link** for online courses) from [language\\_inquiries@japansociety.org](mailto:language_inquiries@japansociety.org) on

**the afternoon of Thursday, August 7, 2025** (for classes beginning on Monday, August 11)

**the afternoon of Friday, August 8, 2025** (for classes beginning on Tuesday, August 12)

**the afternoon of Monday, August 11, 2025** (for classes beginning on Wednesday, August 13)

**the afternoon of Tuesday, August 12, 2025** (for classes beginning on Thursday, August 14)

Questions? Please email us at [language@japansociety.org](mailto:language@japansociety.org), or call at **(212) 715-1269** or **(212) 715-1293**.

## ***PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE***

Our classes are structured to be interactive and participatory, and you will get the most out of your classes if you can participate fully whenever possible (for online classes, by both microphone and video). 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 for online classes, missing class, etc.).

**Please follow your course schedule** as much as possible. **If you miss a class, please study any material you missed on your own** 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 session (e.g., within the same 10-week session, 5-week session, weekend intensive, etc.). 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. Due to limited availability of make-up slots, and wanting to accommodate as many student's requests as possible, please try to limit make-up class requests to **at most 3 per session (per 9-class course) / 2 per session (per 5-class course)**. If you anticipate wanting to schedule additional make-up classes, please reach out to us. More information on how to schedule a make-up class will be provided in the Welcome Email.

## ***CANCELLATION POLICY***

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations are accepted until **12 pm ET, TWO business days 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 the nonrefundable administrative fee will be refunded. Fees are

as follows: \$35 for 9-/10-class courses, \$20 for 5-class courses, and \$60 for 20-class courses.

Cancellation requests can be made either by phone or email, but they must be received by the office by the cancellation deadline. Otherwise, cancellation requests will not be fulfilled.

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 administrative fee).

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

## ***COURSE POLICIES***

While we try to provide as much consistency as possible, there may be occasions when adjustments to class schedule, instructor, or location are necessary. **The Language Center reserves the right to make these changes as needed.** (Reasons for changes may include inclement weather, emergency situations, or instructor illness.) In the case of a change, we will do our best to create an alternate means for keeping classes running, which may include switching an in-person class to online over Zoom.

**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 10-week or 5-week session, 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 session (e.g., within the same 10-week session, 5-week session, 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>	
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<p><b>C 5-6 Students:</b> Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Elementary 2 (A2) Katsudoo</p> <p>by Japan Foundation</p> <p>ISBN: 978-4-384-05756-0</p> <p>Price at Japan Society: \$27</p>		<p><b>C 7-9 Students:</b> Marugoto Japanese Language and Culture, Pre-Intermediate (A2/B1)</p> <p>by Japan Foundation</p> <p>ISBN: 978-4-384-05758-4</p> <p>Price at Japan Society: \$30</p>	
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**C 10 and C 11-12 students:** No required textbook.

## INSTRUCTORS

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

**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."

**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.

**Yoko Sakurai** holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language from Ochanomizu University in Tokyo. She brings over a decade of experience as a Japanese lecturer across NYC. Formerly as a principal lecturer at The Japan Foundation New York, she developed courses integrating Can-Do Statements.

Presently, she teaches at The City University of New York and Fordham University. She presents regularly at major language pedagogy conferences in North America. Beyond academia, she enjoys composing haiku poetry. She has received several awards at the Ito-En North America New Haiku Grand Prix.

**Atsuko Shio** has a BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Hoshi University in Tokyo. She has over 12 years of experience working in Product Management and in Sales at Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. She is a graduate of Japan Society's Teacher Training Program and has been teaching at the Language Center since September 2016.

**Yukie Yamaguchi** has a BA in Foreign Languages (specializing in English) from Bukkyo University in Kyoto and holds an instructor certification from the World Japanese Centre, Australia. She has been teaching English in Japan and the United States since 1997, most recently at Baruch College, Brooklyn College, and teaching English online.