



# Strategies for Japanese Language Learning

## Overview

Studying Japanese at LaGuardia Community College involves active participation in class, utilizing tutoring and language lab resources, and engaging with Japanese media available through the library and the Internet. Practicing with language learning apps, forming study groups, and participating in language exchange programs further enhance language skills. Setting clear goals, practicing daily, and seeking feedback are also crucial for language learning success.

## 1 Sign up for a Japanese language class and attend class regularly

- Engage actively during the Japanese class by asking questions and participating in discussions. Speaking up in class improves your confidence and helps reinforce your learning. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are an inevitable part of the learning process and help you become a successful language learner.
- <https://lagcml.github.io>

## 2 Meet with Japanese language tutors for one-on-one tutoring sessions

- Take advantage of the modern language tutoring services offered by the college. Tutors provide personalized assistance, helping you grasp difficult concepts, improve pronunciation, and practice conversation skills. Scheduling regular sessions can greatly enhance your understanding and retention of the language.
- <https://lagcml.github.io/#tutoring>

## 3 Engage with Japanese Media

- Immerse yourself in Japanese by watching films, YouTubers, anime, TV shows, and by listening to Japanese music and podcasts. This exposure helps you become exposed to cultural and social trends in Japan and become familiar with colloquial expressions and cultural references in Japanese, which will enhance your overall listening comprehension in Japanese. See the suggested list of Japanese media at the following URLs:
- <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2024/06/english-speaking-youtubers-featuring-life-in-japan/>
- <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/08/list-of-japanese-newspapers-media-in-english/>

## 4 Practice with Language Learning Apps

- Incorporate language learning apps such as Duolingo, Memrise, or Anki into your daily routine. Duolingo and Memrise are effective particularly with beginner learners and to establish a regular routine for language learning. Anki is the most famous vocabulary learning (flashcard) app for language learning and it comes with tons of really engaging practice data sets (which are all free).
- <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/06/where-to-start-learning-the-japanese-language-besides-taking-a-japanese-language-class/>

## 5 Form Study Groups

- Collaborate with your peers by forming study groups. Group studies provide a supportive environment where you can practice speaking, share resources, clarify doubts, and learn from each other's strengths. Use the program's Discord server to find your study peers.
- Contact [tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu) for a Discord invitation

## 6 Attend Cultural Events and Workshops

- Engage with the Japanese community by attending cultural festivals, workshops, and events organized by the Japan Club or other local organizations such as the Japan Society. Understanding the cultural context enriches your language learning and provides real-world applications of your skills.
- <https://t-nagano.com/projects/JapanClub/>
- <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/01/a-list-of-major-japanese-organizations-in-new-york-city/>



## 7 Set Clear Goals and Monitor Progress

- Define specific, measurable goals for your language learning journey. Whether it's mastering a set number of kanji characters each week or holding a conversation for five minutes in Japanese, setting targets keeps you motivated. Regularly assess your progress and adjust your study plan accordingly.






## 8 Practice Daily and Be Consistent

- Consistency is key in language learning. Dedicate time each day to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Even short daily sessions can significantly improve your proficiency over time.

## 9 Seek Feedback and Stay Open to Learning

- Don't hesitate to ask for feedback from your instructors and peers. Constructive criticism is valuable for improvement. Stay open-minded, be patient with yourself, and embrace mistakes as part of the learning process.

### Links

- Japanese Option webpage: <https://t-nagano.com/projects/JapaneseProgram/> 
- Japanese Option Blog: <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu> 
- Japanese Option Discord: Contact [tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu) for the invitation link 
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