



Strategies for Japanese Language Learning

Overview

Studying Japanese at LaGuardia Community College is most effective when students combine regular class attendance with structured practice outside the classroom. Tutoring, media exposure, language-learning apps, study groups, and campus cultural events all help reinforce what you learn in class. The strongest results usually come from a steady weekly routine rather than occasional last-minute studying.

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://lagccml.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://lagccml.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 helps you notice cultural references, pronunciation patterns, and everyday expressions that may not appear often in a textbook. 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 can help beginners build a habit, while Anki is particularly useful for long-term vocabulary review through spaced repetition.
- <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 study gives you regular speaking practice, accountability, and a chance to compare study methods before quizzes and exams.
- Contact tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu if you want to be connected with other Japanese Option students or current program communication spaces.

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 reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Even 15 to 30 minutes of focused daily practice can produce stronger results than a single long session once a week.

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 for the invitation link 
- Tomonori Nagano, Faculty Advisor of the Japanese Option at LaGuardia
 - Office: B-234FF 
 - Phone: 718-482-5484 
 - Email: tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu 