

【Add-ons】Tips for life in Japan

Lesson	Topic	Add-on Content	Images/URL
入門 L2 - 18	在留カード Residence Card	<p>Each foreign resident who wishes to stay in Japan for over three months, and more importantly for working in Japan, is issued a 'Residence Card' upon arrival from their respective airports where they have landed. Each person is first required to get their Landing Permission approved from the Immigration office.</p> <p>However, if you do not receive your residence card from the airport for any reason, you must submit a "Moving-in Notification" to the municipal office where you live. After that, your Residence Card will be delivered to your house by mail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa and Landing Permission • Residence card information
入門 L4 - 22	年齢を聞く Asking a person's age	<p>The Chinese Zodiac is also used to represent and understand the personality traits of the person under the birth animal. This is because each character represents a certain set of distinct traits which may or may not be overlapping with the other Zodiac signs. This may also be used to determine the compatibility between individuals.</p>	x
入門 L4 - 23	日本の海 The seas of Japan	Some beaches in Okinawa have beautiful star shaped sand!	Starry sand
入門 L5 - 29	日本の食べ物もの (刺身と寿司／天ぷら ／うどんとそば／カレー) Japanese food (Sashimi and Sushi / Tempura / Udon and Soba / Curry)	<p>Have you ever eaten sushi from any local shops in your area, not necessarily in Japan? Nowadays, many local and international variations of sushi can be found around the area we live in.</p> <p>We have California roll which is a kind of an American take on sushi, purely vegetarian sushi which will contain no non-vegetarian food items, etc.</p>	x

Lesson	Topic	Add-on Content	Images/URL
入門 L5 - 32	うな丼 Una-don (eel bowl)	Eel is called “ <i>Unagi</i> ” in Japanese, and these days because of its decreasing population, it has become a delicacy. But from many years ago, Japanese people have been eating eels during the mid-summer timing, roughly around the middle of July to August. It is believed that the high nutrient content in eels helps in increasing stamina to battle the hot and humid Japanese summer heat. Do try an <i>Una-don</i> on your next visit to Japan!	x
入門 L9 - 20	映画を見る Watching a film	Print media is so prevalent in Japan that they still use amazing quality film pamphlets to promote any of the films. This has a deep rooted history which dates back to World War II times. At that time these pamphlets were free of charge but due to scarcity of paper, they soon were distributed on a chargeable basis. These were the days when DVDs or even the internet did not exist, so reminiscing on a film only meant looking at these physical pamphlets. Thus, this pamphlet culture became a trend and it still is well received in these digital times too. The pamphlets are generally 24 pages long, and to keep them from disappearing, Japan surprisingly has annual awards for “Best Movie Pamphlet of the Year”! So, if you ever watch a film in Japan and get such a pamphlet, you can keep it as a precious life long souvenir!	Movie pamphlet (sample)
入門 L10 - 24	日本語のマンガ Japanese manga	The JFND library has Shonen jump and other such manga and novels, if anyone is interested in looking at the physical editions, please visit us!	x
入門 L11 - 25	サッカー／ラグビー Soccer / Rugby	Japan beat Germany in the FIFA (Football) World Cup 2022 which was an unexpected turn of events.	x
入門	通勤事情	押し屋 or ‘Oshiya’ which literally translates to “People pushers” is a	Oshiya illustration

Lesson	Topic	Add-on Content	Images/URL
L12 - 26	Commuting to work	<p>rare sight to witness in Japan's rush hours usually in the metropolitans like Tokyo, Osaka etc.</p> <p>Japan is known for its punctuality and even a slight delay of seconds can cause a frenzy. So, to keep up with the fixed and packed daily schedule of individuals, Japan got the idea from the New York city's train situation from over a century ago, to have people be pushed into trains before the doors close.</p> <p>This practice of "pushing people inside the trains" started due to the fact that people needed to take specific timed trains in order to not get late for their work-places.</p>	
入門 L13 - 29	交通機関の利用の仕方 Taking public transport	<p>Even though it is not mentioned, after swiping your card or getting the ticket checked you are only allowed to travel to your destination during a specific time frame. Exceeding the time limit will lead to you having to pay a penalty fee.</p> <p>So, please be careful while using public transportation.</p>	x
入門 L14 - 22	自動販売機 Vending machines	<p>Japan is known as the "自販機の大国" or "Kingdom of vending machines". Statistics show that there are about 2 million vending machines all over Japan, and that every person can have up to 23 vending machines corresponding to them!</p> <p>There are vending machines for <i>Chabacco</i> as well! What is this "Chabacco", you may wonder. Well, it is actually a play on words for the English word "tobacco" and Japanese word <i>cha-baco</i> literally meaning 'tea box'. Since, both of these are such different things yet their pronunciations being so similar in Japanese, this became a fun way of promoting Green Tea from Shizuoka, the place to get the best green tea in Japan.</p> <p><i>Chabacco</i> is sold in a box similar to that of a tobacco box but they are completely nicotine free as they only contain GREEN TEA! There are many vending machines containing <i>Chabacco</i> at different locations in Japan, so on your next visit do try to find them!</p>	x

Lesson	Topic	Add-on Content	Images/URL
初級1 L2 - 18	いけばな Ikebana	生け花(いけばな) is derived from two words 生け or いけ which means “alive or fresh” and 花 or ばな which means “flowers”. So, in literal sense, いけばな means “fresh flowers” which are actually used in the art of this Flower Arrangement.	x
初級2 L2 - 22	コミュニティ誌 Community magazines	These are free magazines distributed every week or month directly into your mailbox. So, remember to check them every once a while as they contain useful information about the latest events in the neighborhood, coupons, discounted items, etc.	Community magazines
初級2 L7 - 24	花火大会 Fireworks shows	You may hear Japanese people shouting “Tamaya!” and “Kagiya!” during fireworks displays. They actually were the names of famous Edo-era firework makers, and shouting their names is a way of appreciating them for the beautiful work they have done.	x
初級2 L15 - 19	ごみの分別 Separation of trash	The town called Kamikatsu in Tokushima prefecture has declared itself to have the aim of becoming the first Zero Waste Town. Since 2003, the town has been using rigorous steps such as having 45 different categories to dispose of waste to make this happen! The Center helps in clearly visualizing the actual cost of each garbage item to allow people to make conscious choices even before buying an item. Also, since separating even the smallest bit of threads into these categories is a very tedious task, people themselves make pre-choices when buying anything.	Garbage Collection Calendar

ORIGINAL SAMPLES OF REAL JAPANESE ITEMS

Topic	Add-on Content	Images/URL
市街図(しがいず) City Map	City maps of Japan are still relevant and provide useful information regarding the best tourist attractions, along with how to reach them.	Asakusa map
ご祝儀袋 (ごしゅうぎぶくろ) Special envelope for gifting money	These are special envelopes for gifting money to someone, especially on auspicious and happy occasions like new year, weddings, or on graduation of one's child, birth of a child etc.	Go-shūgi-bukuro
領収書(りょうしゅうしょ) Money Receipt	Don't forget to check the calculations on the money receipt after shopping. Also, some supermarkets may give some discounts or coupons with receipts, so you might be able to use them on your next visit.	Grocery receipt
おみくじ Fortune Slip	<p>If the kanji characters of <i>Omikujī</i> are observed then the literal meaning can be derived to be “messages from the Gods”, as it tells about different aspects of your future, like love life, family, career, health, etc. You can randomly get one of these from shrines and even some temples for 100 or 200 Yen each.</p> <p>There are generally 7 types of fortunes which can be drawn, ranging from 大吉 (<i>Daikichi</i>) which is “Great fortune” to 大凶 (<i>Daikyou</i>) which is “Terrible fortune”.</p> <p>If you ever get a 大凶, do not fear! You can simply tie them to a tree, generally a pine tree because pine tree is called “<i>Matsu</i>” in Japanese, and it is a homophone of the verb “to wait”. So, the bad luck will wait by the tree rather than following you home!</p>	Omikujī