

**A JAPANESE
CONVERSATION
COURSE**

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A Japanese Conversation Course by H. Mutsu

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1894.

PREFACE.

This little work does not pretend to go beyond the scope of giving the student the mere elements of Japanese. Moreover it is only designed to give a knowledge of the *conversational* part of the language, and does not go in for its writing form, the difference between the two being much wider than in European languages. It is however hoped that the student will, by following this book with diligence and intelligence, be able to prepare himself for a deeper and higher study of the language—and to be enabled to do this without much difficulty and confusion since as many rules and technicalities as possible have been avoided. At least I trust that the following pages will serve as a stepping-stone to a more advanced Japanese grammar of which there are now several published, though I fear some of them, if complete, are not quite free from dryness and tediousness.

H. M.



DAI ICHI NICHI—THE 1st DAY.
KATA KANA*—THE ALPHABET.

イ	ロ	ハ	ニ	ホ	ヘ	ト
i	ro	ha	ni	ho	be	to
チ	リ	ヌ	ル	ワ	フ	カ
chi	ri	nu	ru	(w)o	wa	ka
ヨ	タ	レ	ソ	ツ	ネ	ナ
yo	ta	re	so	tsu	ne	na
ラ	ム	ウ	キ	ノ	オ	ク
ra	mu	u	(w)i	no	o	ku
ヤ	マ	ケ	フ	コ	エ	テ
ya	ma	ke	fu	ko	ye	te
ア	サ	キ	ユ	メ	ミ	シ
a	sa	ki	yu	me	mi	shi
エ	ヒ	モ	セ	ス	ン	
(w)e	hi	mo	se	su	n	

N.B. | is sometime used to *prolong* the pronunciation of a letter,
 e.g. ト | lantern.

∨ is used to *repeat* a letter e.g. コ ∨ mind.

EXERCISE.

Learn the above characters and write the following words:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hana (flower). | 2. Yama (mountain). |
| 3. Isu (dog). | 4. Inochi (life). |
| 5. Atama (head) | 6. Yakunin (officer). |

* This alphabet forms in itself a poem which interpreted by Mr. Basil Hall Chamberlain runs thus:—“Though their hues are gay, the blossoms flutter down, and so in this world of ours who may continue forever? Having today crossed

the mountain-fastness of existence, I have seen but a fleeting dream with which I am not intoxicated."

—:0:—

DAI NI NICHI—THE 2nd DAY.

The following letters in the alphabet can be softened or altered in pronunciation by adding two dots [*] or a small circle [°] to the letter:—

ハ ha becomes	ハ° ha	and.....	ハ pa.
ホ ho	ホ° ho	ホ po.
ヘ he	ヘ° he	ヘ pe.
ト to	ト° to		
チ chi	チ° chi		
カ ka	カ° ka		
タ ta	タ° ta		
ソ so	ソ° so		
ツ tsu	ツ° tsu		
ク ku	ク° ku		
ケ ke	ケ° ke		
フ fu	フ° fu	フ pu.
コ ko	コ° ko		
テ te	テ° te		
サ sa	サ° sa		
キ ki	キ° ki		
シ shi	シ° shi	(or zi).	
ヒ hi	ヒ° hi	ヒ pi.
セ se	セ° se		
ス su	ス° su		

EXERCISE.

Learn the above and write the following words:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Mado (window) | 2. Ringo (apple). |
| 3. Parisu (Paris) | 4. Rondon (London). |
| 5. Nagai (long) | 6. Made (to or until). |
| 7. Kane (money). | 8. Zashiki (room or drawing room). |
| 9. Fude (pen). | 10. Ginkou (bank). |

—:0:—

DAI SAN NICHI—THE 3rd DAY.

Learn the following words:—

Niwa (written <i>Niwa</i>). garden.	Hoshi star.
Mizu water.	Ike pond.
Tsuki moon.	Sekai world.
ヒト man or person.	コドモ child.
ハト pigeon.	フメ wife.
オンナ woman.	タヨリ correspondence.
ヲトコ man.	タマゴ egg.
Kireina beautiful.	Kuroi black.
Kitanai dirty.	Akai red.
Shiroi white.	Aoi blue.

EXERCISE.

A. Translate the following:—

1. キレイナニハ
2. ナガイイノチ
3. シロイハト
4. アカイハナ
5. ロンドンマデ
6. キタナイコドモ

B. Translate and write in katakana:—

1. Black mountain.
2. Long correspondence.
3. White star.
4. Beautiful woman.
5. Blue water.
6. Red Apple.

DAI SHI—THE FOURTH.

Sakana fish.	ホン book.
Mikan orange.	タリ chestnut.
Tori bird.	ヤドコ bed.
Tsukuye table.	ハナ nose.
Iza chair.	メ eye.

N. B. Singular and plural words are generally the same e.g. kuchi = mouth, or mouths.

Ookii	large.	Yasui	cheap.
Chisai	small.	Kono	this.
Takai	high, dear.	Sono }	that.
Hikai	low.	Ano }	

No (ノ) Means of

To (ト) " and when joining two words.

Sōshite (ソシテ) ,, and " " " sentences.

N. B. There are no articles such as "the" or "a."

EXERCISE.

Translate & write in katakana : -

1. A large table and a small chair.
2. A high mountain and a low house.
3. The life of man (write "man of life," man's life).
4. Dear apples and cheap oranges.
5. Beautiful birds and blue water.
6. The eyes of this child.



DAI GO—THE FIFTH.

Watakushi I.	Watakushi { -domo we. -ra
Anata thou or you.	Anata-gata you.
Ano hito he (lit. "that person").	Ano hito { -domo ... they. -ra
Ano onna .., she (lit. "that woman").	Ano onna { -domo... they (f.) -ra
Yuku to go.	Noru to ride.
Konomu to like.	Nuru to paint.
Taberu to eat.	Aru to be (is or are.

The termination *wa* may be said to usually indicate the *nominative case*.

" " *no*, (lit. "of") " " *Genitive and Possessive cases*.

" " *wo; ni; ye; de; ga* " " *Accusative, dative, Ablative cases etc.*

Examples :—

- 1) **Watakushi**-*wa* **hon**-*no* **konomu**
(I) (book) (like)