

Konnichiwa – learn Japanese for free with busuu.com

Japanese speakers can make their CV shine and boost their career

Madrid, 23th of January 2012 – busuu.com, the world’s leading online community for language learning, is introducing a new free Japanese course for beginners to upper-intermediate learners. The students are able to study this beautiful and complex language in a fast and fun way. That’s because busuu.com offers 180 useful and intuitive learning units and allows direct interaction with native Japanese speakers from the busuu.com community, via video-chat.

Japanese is easier than you might think

The preconception that Japanese is a difficult language to learn is only partially correct. The effort required to learn how to speak Japanese is only marginally higher than European languages. The Japanese sounds are easy to pronounce, there are no plurals, no articles, no grammatical gender, and only two tenses: the present and the past. Japanese students who practise with natives from the busuu.com community will be able to start having conversations in no time.

Knowledge of Japanese is particularly useful in a business environment. Demonstrating an appreciation for a business associate’s language and culture certainly leaves a good impression. Learning Japanese on busuu.com will set your CV apart, help you communicate, and boost your professional career, opening new work opportunities to you!

Japanese writing systems Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji

Learning to speak Japanese is easier than learning to write it. This is because Japanese uses three different writing systems: Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. The busuu.com course teaches writing in a straightforward way with students concentrating on the syllabic alphabet Hiragana. This is the first alphabet introduced at Japanese grammar schools. In addition, they will learn Katakana, the alphabet used for borrowed and loan words. For simplicity, users will be able to see the phonetical pronunciation in Latin letters. Japanese native speakers can change their user interface into Kanji. The Kanji symbols represent ideas and concepts. In Japan, a mix of all three alphabets is used.

Free course from beginner A1 to upper-intermediate B2 The Japanese course is free and covers all levels from beginner A1 to upper-intermediate B2. It is divided into more than 180 interactive modular learning units with stimulating and contemporary exercises for vocabulary and listening/reading comprehension. Writing exercises can be sent to native speakers from the busuu.com community for correction and language learners can communicate directly with Japanese users via the busuutalk chat. Interactive tests allow users to see how well they have assimilated the topic.

Premium Memberships with grammar units and more features

From as little as 4.99€ per month the Premium Membership gives users many more exciting features to boost their language learning. Among these are: access to around 35 grammar units, podcasts, printable pdfs and recording exercises. Premium Members can also comment on videos and send their text to natives for correction. What’s more,

on finishing each level, Premium users will receive an official busuu.com certificate which demonstrates the language studied and the level reached.

New: Travel Course for Japanese and a New Year discount

In addition to the normal language course there is also a special Japanese Travel Course available, that prepares the user for their next trip to Japan. This course is free for Premium Members but can also be purchased separately for just €9.99.

busuu.com is offering a New Years discount of 15% on all its products until the 31st of January.

About busuu.com

busuu.com (<http://www.busuu.com>) is the most active language learning community with more than 6 million users from all over the world. The site provides free access to audio-visual online courses for currently eleven different languages, namely Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Polish, Turkish, Arabic, Japanese and English.

Language skills can also be directly improved together with other native speakers from the community via an integrated video-chat application and peer-to-peer text corrections. Consequently, each user of busuu.com is not only a 'student' of a foreign language, but also a 'tutor' of their own mother tongue.

The start-up was founded in Madrid in early 2008. It was an official project of UNESCO's International Year of Languages in 2008. The website has received several awards including AlwaysOn Global 250 Winner 2009, Language Label 2009 from the European Commission, CeBIT Innovation Award 2010, Red Herring European Winner 2010, and 'Best Education Startup' at The Europas TechCrunch Awards in 2011.

The name of the site comes from the Busuu language of Cameroon, which according to an ethnological study from the 80s is spoken by only 8 people.

[More information: http://www.busuu.com/press](http://www.busuu.com/press)