

Japanese self-study resources

This list is concise for a reason. There is a lot of mediocre material out there. I've only listed resources I can personally vouch for.

- Print:
 - *Genki*: the best textbook for beginners.
 - *White Rabbit Press Japanese Graded Readers*: story books written specifically for Japanese learners. Very useful for low to intermediate level practice.
 - *Kanzen Master* (新完全マスター): for intermediate/advanced learners. Graded by JLPT level. Comes in various editions: reading comprehension, grammar, etc.
 - *Remembering the Kanji*: a controversial method of learning individual kanji divorced from phonetics and vocabulary. Seems counter-intuitive at first glance, but incredibly useful once completed.
- Digital:
 - *Anki* (or some other SRS application): open-source and incredibly extensible flash-card creation and review program. Internal algorithm ensures that student only focuses on points in need of attention, rather than what is already known.
 - *Japanese*: ambiguously-named iOS application. Very useful dictionary, complete with example sentences, stroke order animations, etc. Contains its own SRS review mechanism, but not as good as Anki.
 - *Memrise* (memrise.com): a gamified SRS platform.
 - *Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese* (guidetojapanese.org): very approachable guide to basic Japanese grammar.
 - *Japanese Grammar Database* (jgram.org): a wiki of Japanese grammar constructs, including more advanced forms. Some entries are skimpy on detail.
 - *Jisho* (jisho.org): an online dictionary. Can search in Romaji.
 - *Lang-8* (lang-8.com): a blogging platform where native speakers correct learners' entries.
 - *Kanji Koohii* (kanji.koohii.com): a companion site to *Remembering the Kanji*. Users share mnemonics for kanji.
 - *Library Genesis* (gen.lib.rus.ec): a search engine of textbooks and scholarly articles.
 - *Japanese Language Stack Exchange* (japanese.stackexchange.com): a platform for very specific Japanese questions. Useful for discerning the nuance between two seemingly-identical pieces of vocabulary.
 - *Traditional Chinese handwriting input*: under **Settings** -> **General** -> **Keyboards** -> **Keyboards** in iOS, one can select a handwritten Chinese input method, which allows for drawing kanji. Don't bother looking up stuff by radical anymore. A similar facility exists for trackpads in OS X.