

## iLanguage Exchange Meeting

Everyone is welcome as every person can help one another to improve their language skills.

Date : 21st Sep, Saturday

Time : 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Place : iJapanese

Cost : \$5 (includes drinks)



**End of** DATE: Saturday 21st Sep

**of** TIME: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**T** PLACE: Maedaya  
400 Bridge Rd,  
Richmond

**E** COST: \$25

**R** RSVP : Saturday, 7th Sep

**M** 3 Payment essential  
beforehand.

**Event 2013**

## Japanese Writing System

The Japanese language relies on three different alphabets – hiragana, katakana and kanji. They all differentiate from each other not only the way they look but how they are used.

During the earlier years of Japan there was no particular characters used for writing. 'Manyogana', a Chinese-based model was adopted during the Nara period (710-794) which helped formed the basics of the Japanese language writing. It took Japanese predecessors great effort to adapt the Chinese character. The basic differences between Chinese and Japanese are, for example, Chinese relies primarily on ideographic characters while Japanese words are usually phonogram.

ア	阿	イ	伊	ウ	宇
カ	加	キ	機	ク	久
サ	散	シ	之	ス	須
タ	多	チ	千	ツ	川
ナ	奈	ニ	仁	ヌ	奴
ハ	八	ヒ	比	フ	不

To create an representative symbol for every Japanese word was deemed not efficient, so a distinct Japanese writing system was developed named 'hiragana'. Hiragana was created during the Heian period (794-1192) replacing the difficult *Manyogana* system. Hiragana was formed into a simple style compared to kanji, it's shapes more rounded simplified and predominantly used by women. At the same time we had katakana just to make life more difficult or easier?

Katakana was devised to write characters more easier, which was formulated using parts of kanji. Used by men the shapes were more angular and simplified.

At present, Japanese is written with a mixture of all three.

Hiragana is used for ending of verbs and adjectives and particles. Where katakana is used for foreign words and onomatopoeia. Technically, it is possible to write a sentence by the use of only hiragana which is what Japanese children first learn at school as well as the first alphabet students would learn when they took a beginner Japanese course. However the sentence of only hiragana characters will be difficult to read and understand.

The average Japanese school child memorises 80 Kanji by the end of their 2nd grade and will master around 2,000 characters (a number found in an average newspaper) when they graduate from high school.

Most educated Japanese people can recognise about 5,000 characters. Then how do Japanese children learn kanji? No different to the rest of us. Study, memorise, more study, more memorising and patience!

波	奈	太	左	加	安
は	な	た	さ	か	あ
比	仁	知	之	機	以
ひ	に	ち	し	き	い
不	奴	川	寸	久	宇
ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う

# Students from iJapanese

## Florence Liaw san

こんにちは  
みなさん。

My name is Florence, in Japanese is  
フローレンス.

I am a masters student in RMIT University,  
studying biotechnology.

I remembered the first time I got to know  
about Japanese language was through  
watching anime. After that, I decided to  
take Japanese as one of my subjects back  
in my bachelor year. Unfortunately things  
were not gone well and I didn't continue.

Even though I had never been to Japan  
before that, Japan is just a place that is  
full of curiosity for me. Plus I have met a  
few numbers of Japanese friends;  
therefore last November I decided to join  
iJapanese to start learning Japanese  
again.



iJapanese is a lovely language school. I  
love my class, I enjoy studying with my  
classmates, I love the way how the  
teachers teach and interact with students.

At iJapanese, I get to learn Japanese in a  
fun way, we learnt how to speak  
Japanese in class, we learnt new  
vocabulary via flashcards.

Finally in July, I had a chance to go to  
Japan for the first time. I realize that I have a lot more confidence to speak and  
communicate, even though I am still in the beginner class. What I have learned at  
iJapanese is actually helping me a lot when I was in Japan. My goal is to master  
Japanese especially in speaking and probably I can go to work and stay in Japan one  
day!

## Konnichiwa from Japan

*Konnichiwa*

*I have now been living in Japan for one  
month and I am so happy to be here. The  
natural beauty of Akita is very impressive.  
And summer time in Japan is so green  
and peaceful. I love it! The students are  
beginning school this week so I will finally  
be meeting the teachers and classes I will  
be teaching with. So far, the people of  
Japan have been very welcoming and  
helpful. I am still trying to practice my  
nihongo (Japanese) and have had many  
opportunities to try putting the little I do  
know into practice.*

*Patrick*

## Let's Welcome Ayano

Hajimemashite!

My name is Ayano Kaji. I'm from the northern part of Tokyo, called Adachi-ku. People think my  
home town is not such a big city, compare to Shibuya or Shinjuku. There is not a lot to do there,  
but I think it's a lively and fun place to live because of the shopping malls, restaurants, Izakaya  
(Japanese style bar) and of course Karaoke.

I came to Melbourne in May 2012 and started to teach at iJapanese in July this year. I'm glad to  
be living in such a beautiful country and I enjoy teaching Japanese. One of the biggest reasons  
why I like Australia is its nature.

I was impressed when I saw many stars at night, and the cute possums running around. As for  
stars, I had not seen so many stars like this before. In Tokyo there are a lot of high rise buildings, which obscure the sky line and  
makes it difficult to view the night sky with the added shroud of the polluted air. Apart from this I do love my country very much!  
Japan is a historical county. There are many beautiful places to visit and I think Japanese hospitality and service is one of the best in  
the world.

I would like to see many people visit and experience many things that Japan has to offer and immerse themselves and live like we  
do. I think the more you understand the language the more you can enjoy the Japanese experience. Japanese is said to be one of  
the more difficult languages to learn but not to worry, because Noriko sensei, Kisai sensei and I are here to help you. If you have  
an interest in Japan, I am more than happy to introduce Japanese culture, not only the language.

So let's study Japanese together and have fun.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!





Patrick Polestar san  
former student



JET Program in Odate City, Akita



The Summer Festivals of Japan: Nebuta Matsuri

## Photos from Japan

### Recommended App



AnkiDroid  
Flashcards  
application for  
Android

This free app helps you to improve upon your Japanese language skills through flashcards.

Just download any of the 1000 Japanese flashcards files available online, including vocabulary for Genki textbook.

## The wonderful world of Vending Machines

Did you know that for every 23 people in Japan there is 1 vending machine available, which works out to be approximately 5.5 million vending machines in Japan alone!

Vending machines in Japan have played their part since the 50's providing an interesting array of products ranging from fresh eggs to a pair of running shoes. Everything imaginable has been place into a vending machine from hot food like noodles, burgers, hot dogs to fresh vegetables and live lobster. But for what purpose you may ask? Simple convenience and efficiency, two words that define the Japanese culture. You can find them on just about every street corner. If it's raining and you forgot your umbrella, "Not a problem" just find you're nearest umbrella vending machine.

A record number of sales via vending machines was recorded in Japan in 2007 topping the ¥7 trillion or about \$78.5 billion. A flourishing industry you may say, yet sales around the world do not even compare to Japan. So what make Japan so different? Its society, with a low petty crime rate and vandalism being almost unheard of; the security of the machines is no issue. Sadly in other countries the location of a vending machine is important and typically limited to indoors due to vandalism.



Another reason why vending machines are so successful in Japan, is the affiliation with robots. To most Japanese people vending machines are like robots, undertaking chores for the benefit of all humans. In Japanese culture robots have always been looked upon as being positive, let just look at Japanese animation and you will see characters such as Astro Boy and Doraemon, robots to help humanity in a positive way.

*By Phillip*



# Japanese Anime

I have loved anime since I was a child and grew up watching Japanese anime and reading comics. I am proud that Japanese anime is loved by the world including Australia and know that many of you are also anime-lovers, probably even watching more anime than I do. Regardless, there's no harm in sharing a list of my favorite anime with you. But note - to watch Anime properly you must watch it in Japanese !



## 幽☆遊☆白書 Yu yu hakusyo

Yusuke Urameshi suddenly finds himself dead, he has such a bad personality, that even in the Spirit World they were caught off guard that he would sacrifice himself to save another. Yusuke finds out that he was not supposed to die and has a chance for resurrection.

*"It is from the same author as Hunter×Hunter. It is a legendary anime which must be brought back to popularity as this anime is the best example of the very best of Japanese anime's basics"*



## 銀の匙〜Silver spoon Gin no Saji〜Silver spoon

Yugo Hachiken tired of his stressful life, he moves away from the city and enrolls into Oezo Agricultural High School. Not familiar with his new surroundings he tries his best to adapt to the agricultural world which he never thought he would ever live in.



*"This new anime is currently considered as one of the very popular ones in Japan. The author of this anime is the same as the author for Full Metal Alchemist"*



## 進撃の巨人〜Attack on Titan Shingekino kyojin〜Attack on Titan

Hundreds of years ago, The human race was nearly wiped out by giants. The non intelligent giants, standing several stories high devour humans.



A small number of humanity survived and took refuge behind the city walls, walls taller than the giants themselves.

Set 100 years later, no giants have been seen until one day a mega giant appears.

*"This anime is so popular in Asia now. Even though it is a little disgusting, I want to see the continuation of this anime"*



## Hunter×Hunter

Gon Freecs is abandoned at birth by his father to become an elite class of hunters with a license to go or do anything. Now 12 years old, Gon wishes to follow in his father's footsteps and become a great Hunter.



*"This anime is from one of the best anime authors. His story is very simple yet it has a deep meaning"*



*by Kisai*

