

A message to the reader

Nowadays, people travel and even migrate across borders all the time. In Japan, too, foreign workers work in a variety of fields, and the number is increasing every year. With the establishment of the Specified Skilled Worker residence status, and the soon-to-be-implemented Employment for Skill Development status, it will become common for people from different countries with a variety of cultural backgrounds to live in the same community and work at the same workplace.

The Japanese-language coursebook **Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan** is a textbook to help foreign people learn basic Japanese communication skills that are needed for daily life and working in Japan. The basic meaning of the word **Irodori** is “**to color**,” but it can also mean “to change a thing’s shape or appearance and make it more beautiful or more interesting.” We chose this title with the hope that this book would help you “**color**” your everyday life in Japan and make it more fulfilling by enabling you to build language and communication skills for speaking and interacting with the people around you, such as your neighbors and coworkers.

Following Starter (A1), Elementary 1 (A2), and Elementary 2 (A2), we have created the new Pre-Intermediate (A2/B1) teaching materials.

The main features of **Irodori** are:

- Content that covers a variety of topics and situations to let you effectively acquire practical Japanese communication skills that you are actually likely to use in your daily life in Japan.
- Learning objectives of each lesson are given as Can-do statements, giving you a clear idea of what you will be able to do after studying the lesson.
- Topics and grammar points roughly follow those in the Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture, Japanese-language coursebook created by the Japan Foundation.
- Starter (A1), Elementary 1 (A2), and Elementary 2 (A2), help you gain the basic communication skills needed for daily life and working in Japan. They are also useful for learners who are preparing for the Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese (JFT-Basic).
- Pre-Intermediate (A2/B1) is for people who have already reached A2 level, but want to continue studying to further improve their communication skills. It is also meant to help develop richer communication skills as “Independent Users.”
- To make it easy for people anywhere in the world to use this textbook, we are making it available online rather than publishing it as a paper book.

Whether you are planning to come to Japan in the future and want to learn what you should be able to do before you arrive, or whether you are already living in Japan and wish to check your Japanese ability and increase the number of things you can do, we sincerely hope that this textbook will help you achieve your goals.

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