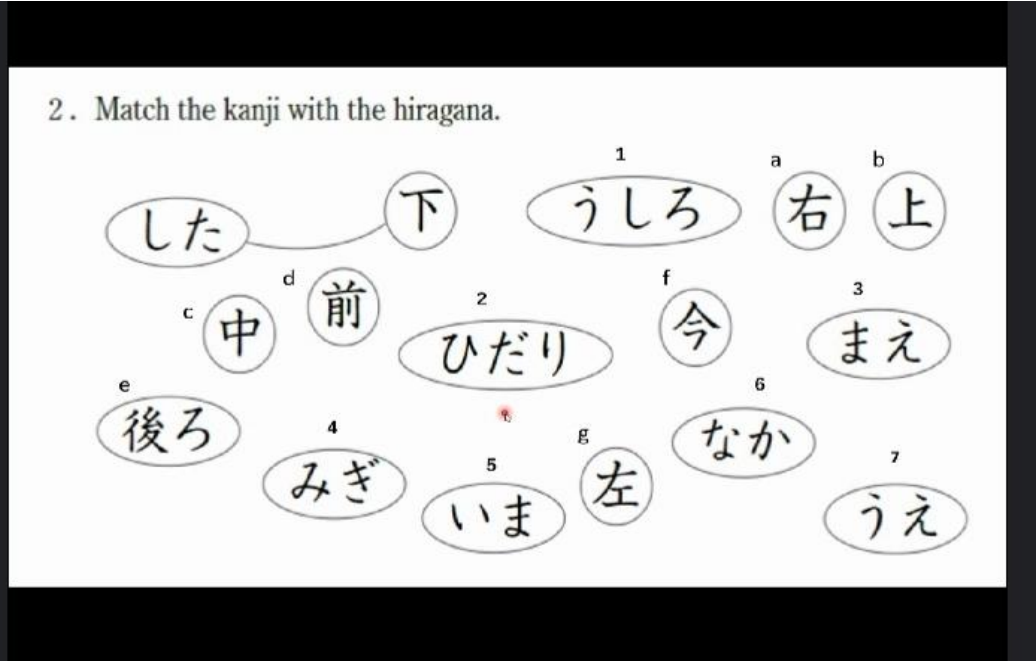


## Kanji is Interesting



Best wishes  
to all  
candidates  
appearing for  
JLPT on  
3 July 2022

Kanji has always been a nightmare for most learners of Japanese. Hence, a very thought provoking, informative and interactive Kanji session was organised virtually by NKKS on 15th May, 2022. Pampa Saha Roy sensei, a former student of Japanese at RMIC and now a teacher of Japanese at Sister Nivedita University, conducted the session in which she explained the following in a very simple and lucid manner: 1) About Kanji 2) How to learn Kanji and 3) How to remember Kanji.

She began by explaining how Hiragana and Katakana fundamentally differ from Kanji and why it is important to learn kanji and not just Hiragana and Katakana. Then she proceeded to explain how one can effectively learn kanji without much effort. She gave a number of examples and quizzes which helped participants understand what an important role stroke order plays in order to learn kanji and how easy it can be to learn the same if one follows the stroke order correctly. Emphasis was given on how one can easily memorize kanji in a short span of time. Pampa sensei did not at all emphasize on the conventional method of remembering kanji in which students practice kanji by writing over and over again until it is engraved in their brains; instead she discussed how one can take the help of pictures to remember kanji by giving numerous instances. She also explained how one can categorize specific kanjis in groups which would be of great assistance for the same. Lastly, she talked about the importance of radicals. She showed that students can make use of radicals and can easily form a meaningful kanji by combining multiple radicals.

The whole session was not only educative but was also a fun experience as well as very interactive. It also helped build confidence in students because kanji, being innumerable, has always been a hurdle to be overcome by the students. This session proved that everyone can smartly learn kanji if they follow certain methods.

~ Deepak Paswan

# Meet SOHAM PAL

Soham san has been a very enthusiastic student of Japanese language while he was in Kolkata and now continues to pursue his interest by deeply engaging in Japan-related events. We had a quick chat with him.

**Self-introduction:** Hello! I am Soham, currently a Ph.D. student at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. I am also actively involved in several organizations promoting Japan's culture, language and popular culture in India.

**Academic background:** I completed my Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) program in Computer Science from Kolkata and moved to Bangalore for higher studies. After completing an M.E. program at the Indian Institute of Science, I joined back for a Ph.D. My research focuses on the security of Machine Learning systems.

**Why did you learn the Japanese language?:** One fateful day in 2003, I watched the first episode of "Pokémon" while waiting to go to the dentist, and it changed my life ever since. Engaging with the Pokémon fandom, particularly the TV show and the video games, has introduced me to all that I pursue today, both professionally and as a hobbyist. Before I knew it, I was knee-deep in Japanese through the games that I played, the shows that I watched, the music that I listened to, and the people that I looked up to, so learning Japanese was simply the logical next step, and never the result of a conscious decision on my part.

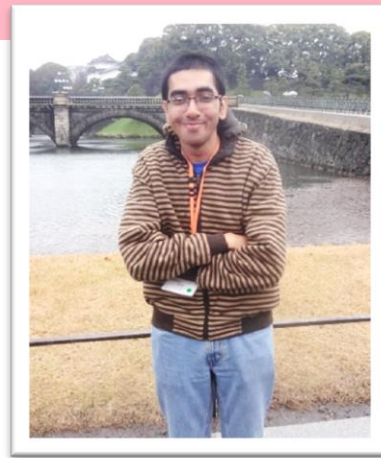
**Your experience and opinion about Japanese people:** The single word I would like to use to describe Japanese people is meticulous. Their actions are highly deliberate, organized, and driven by intent. As Indians, we tend to be a bit more wishy-washy and forced by our ever-changing environments to be adept at improvisation. There's much that we both stand to learn from each other, especially by working together!

**Experience of Japan tour:** I was lucky to have the opportunity to travel to Japan through the JENESYS program in 2018 and visit Tokyo and the city of Kuji in the Iwate prefecture. The homestay was undoubtedly the best part of my experience, where I got to experience the "omotenashi" of our host family first-hand. I published a detailed account of my experience on the Students Conference Dosokai website, so I encourage those interested to read it at: <https://studentsconferencedosokai.wordpress.com/2022/04/01/grand-escape/>

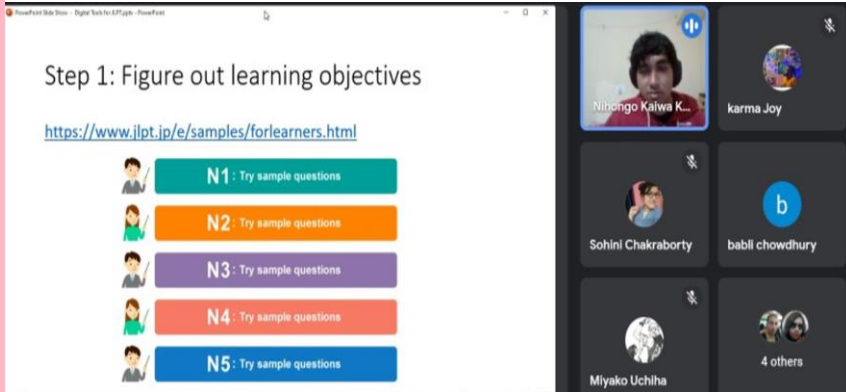
**Your Hobby:** My main hobby these days is playing video games and following recent events in the Japanese video games industry. In particular, I am into Japanese games such as the Shin Megami Tensei, Fire Emblem, and Xenoblade series.

**Your advice to Japanese language students:** Keep at it! Although my experience with Japanese learning these days is mainly passive, I notice that I pick up vocabulary and kanji without realizing. I recently completed reading my first novel in Japanese, a feat that I certainly could not dream of achieving at the end of my active years of Japanese study. Think of how much more you could achieve with an hour of deliberate, active language acquisition a day! Do as I say, not as I do – studying just a little bit of Japanese every day will pay off in spades in the long run.

**Your experience with NKKS and India-Japan students' conference:** I still remember the magical experience when I first used the Japanese language at an NKKS-organized Japanese students' gathering in 2016. While we had learned to read, write, and speak the language in the classroom, deliberate communication was something we were yet to experience until then. Over the years, NKKS presented us with numerous opportunities to explore the Japanese language and culture. Foremost of these, were the 16th & 17th India-Japan Students' Conferences (IJSC), held in Kolkata. The memories we made in a few weeks will last me forever.



# Digital Tools for JLPT Preparation & Revision



A very interesting & informative session was conducted by Soham Pal san on June 4, 2022. The programme started with a short welcome speech by him followed by self introduction of 14 participants.

First reference presented was JLPT official website where sample questions of the test were provided. One can follow the pattern, identify gaps in language knowledge and prepare accordingly. To reinforce and commit the learned kanji, vocabulary, grammar, etc. to long-term memory, he recommended Anki as the best digital flashcards tool. For Kanji learning, the Kanji Tree app was suggested which allows for kanji learning in three steps, viz. recognition, reading and writing.

For grammar, he suggested to follow Tae Kim's guide & Imabi. He shared that a video lesson on grammar "Japanese Ammo with Misa" is very helpful. For Reading & Comprehension, Tadoku.org and Sakura Tadoku Lab were suggested which contain free graded readers, 'Satori Reader' being a paid alternative. For N4 & N5, 'Nihongo Challenge' & for N3 'Shin Kanzen Master' were advised. For Listening, some of the useful and interesting websites suggested were Miku Real Japanese, Erin's Challenge, Bilingual News Podcast, 'Sekai to Watashi', etc. On the whole, the session was very enjoyable and extremely helpful.

~ Debi Das

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Students'  
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## UPCOMING PROGRAMME

24 July 2022 | 5.00 PM  
Learn Kotowaza

~ by Poonam Nand Dey

15 July 2022 | 8.30 PM  
Annual General Meeting (online)

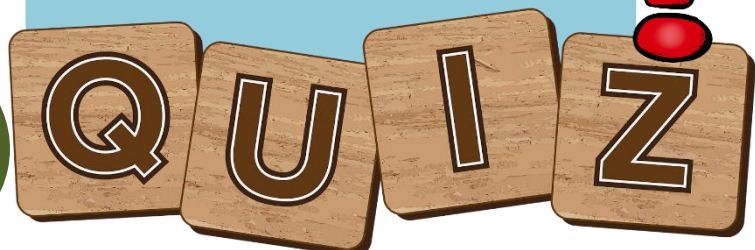
15 August 2022 | 5.00 PM  
NKK's Foundation Day Celebration

Register by  
20 July 2022  
[Click to register](#)

Link will be  
sent by email

Details will  
be emailed by  
first week of  
August 2022

Register yourself to participate in  
the 24th Nihongo Quiz. For details  
and application  
[Click here](#)





# Word Grid

~ Soham Pal

く	ゆ	も	ど	さ	よ	ぎ	じ	じ	て	ら	ぴ
め	ず	じ	に	お	お	さ	ん	や	げ	ほ	か
い	く	や	あ	を	ぬ	め	ぎ	り	だ	あ	ぴ
を	る	ば	び	た	い	い	れ	か	え	の	か
じ	く	ぼ	ず	め	ま	ち	ば	た	り	お	じ
ず	る	ろ	ま	た	ん	め	き	こ	じ	ひ	ん
た	の	ろ	ま	す	ぐ	ん	し	ろ	ん	ふ	こ
が	に	す	ま	が	ま	う	つ	ぼ	み	た	う
ぶ	ば	ま	ぶ	し	い	す	ぜ	く	ん	た	る
て	う	び	ぼ	せ	む	に	れ	ん	ぺ	び	び
ぶ	さ	く	せ	い	あ	ぶ	な	い	ん	で	べ
い	ち	お	う	た	ま	せ	も	む	も	る	れ

Find out at least ten 4 letter Japanese words present in the above grid. You can go vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

# Word Grid Solution

(May - Jun 2022)

ぞ	ぶ	そ	ま	ん	ぎ	や	ぼ	れ	ろ	ぶ	ま
ん	や	が	や	が	や	づ	ろ	う	ん	で	び
ぎ	み	ほ	で	た	ん	こ	ご	か	け	な	う
い	ず	う	よ	ん	ば	で	い	わ	か	ん	か
ち	い	う	ば	ぞ	と	の	び	お	い	れ	ぎ
と	こ	す	ち	じ	べ	う	り	ぎ	だ	ど	ゆ
そ	て	そ	く	め	ん	や	ぶ	し	ん	ふ	ほ
い	ご	ち	か	わ	か	す	へ	つ	ほ	む	ろ
じ	ぐ	め	べ	さ	る	る	び	み	け	ぶ	れ
べ	な	れ	い	ご	ぞ	ん	じ	お	か	る	て
た	え	り	う	め	ゆ	こ	ん	か	い	づ	さ
ひ	に	わ	あ	ぶ	い	ん	ろ	し	に	げ	き

# Jumbled Words

~ Sontu Debnath

1. ちみりえか (the way back)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

2. ばんでんわるす (answering machine)

○							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. ったぶんのこ (amount left over)

○	○				
---	---	--	--	--	--

4. せかは (doctor)

○	○	
---	---	--

5. るえか (frog)

	○	○
--	---	---

このことわざは  
なん  
ですか。



KOTOWAZA:

○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

# Jumbled Words Solution

(May - Jun 2022)

- 1. ななふしぎ
- 2. ころしや
- 3. びょうじょう
- 4. やじるし
- 5. おきかえる

Kotowaza: 「ななころびやおき」

Meaning: "fall seven times, stand up eighth time"

Scan the QR codes to watch the videos !

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@Kolkata Book Fair

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by Yume

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