



EDUFEST JUNIOR ACADEMY · BAVDHAN, PUNE

JLPT N5 Preparation Guide

Everything a beginner needs to start Japanese and prepare for the JLPT N5: the exam at a glance, hiragana and katakana charts, core grammar, starter vocabulary and kanji, and a month-by-month study plan.

日本語

New JLPT N5 batch · Starts 15 November 2026 · 3 PM – 5 PM · Online & Offline · 8–10 students
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1. The JLPT N5 at a Glance

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is the standard test of Japanese for non-native speakers. It has five levels, N1 to N5. N5 is the easiest level. N5 and N4 measure basic Japanese mainly learned in class.

Test section	Time
Language Knowledge (Vocabulary)	20 minutes
Language Knowledge (Grammar) and Reading	40 minutes
Listening	30 minutes

Timings may change and Listening can differ slightly with the length of the recordings. Check the official JLPT website for current details.

Things to know

- The JLPT measures Language Knowledge (vocabulary and grammar), Reading and Listening.
- There is no direct speaking or writing section, and answers are machine-scored.
- Scores are **scaled**, not raw, so the same ability gets the same score in an easy or a hard session.
- The exam is held twice a year, in July and December. 2026 dates: **Sunday 5 July** and **Sunday 6 December**. Registration is separate; check the official notification for each year.

Question types in N5

Vocabulary: kanji reading, orthography, contextually-defined expressions, paraphrases.

Reading: short passages, mid-size passages, information retrieval.

Grammar: selecting the grammar form, sentence composition, text grammar.

Listening: task-based comprehension, key points, verbal expressions, quick response.

What N5 expects. Reading: typical expressions and sentences written in hiragana, katakana and basic kanji. Listening: conversations about everyday and classroom topics, picking up needed information from short conversations spoken slowly.

Why take the JLPT?

N5 or higher meets the Japanese requirement for admission to Japanese language institutions that can enrol students on a Student visa. N4 or higher meets the language requirement for the Specified Skilled Worker (i) status. Rules are set by Japanese authorities and can change, so always check the Immigration Services Agency of Japan for current requirements.

2. Hiragana

Hiragana is the base of Japanese. Learn the 46 basic characters first, writing each one by hand while saying the sound.

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko
さ sa	し shi	す su	せ se	そ so
た ta	ち chi	つ tsu	て te	と to
な na	に ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の no
は ha	ひ hi	ふ fu	へ he	ほ ho
ま ma	み mi	む mu	め me	も mo
や ya		ゆ yu		よ yo
ら ra	り ri	る ru	れ re	ろ ro
わ wa		を wo		ん n

Voiced and half-voiced sounds

Add two small marks (゛) or a small circle (゜) to change the sound.

が ga	ぎ gi	ぐ gu	げ ge	ご go
ざ za	じ ji	ず zu	ぜ ze	ぞ zo
だ da	ぢ ji	づ zu	で de	ど do
ば ba	び bi	ぶ bu	べ be	ぼ bo
ぱ pa	ぴ pi	ぷ pu	ぺ pe	ぽ po

Combined sounds

きや kya · きゅ kyu · きょ kyo | しゃ sha · しゅ shu · しょ sho | ちゃ cha · ちゅ chu · ちょ cho |
 にや nya · にゅ nyu · にょ nyo
 ひや hya · ひゅ hyu · ひょ hyo | みや mya · みゅ myu · みょ myo | りや rya · りゅ ryu · りょ ryo

3. Katakana

Katakana is used mainly for foreign words and names, such as コーヒー (coffee), テレビ (television) and イン
ド (India). It uses the same sounds as hiragana.

ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ so
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no
ハ ha	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo
ヤ ya		ユ yu		ヨ yo
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro
ワ wa		ヲ wo		ン n

Tip. Look-alike pairs cause most mistakes: シ and ツ, ソ and ン. Practise them side by side. A long vowel in katakana is written with ー.

How to start: learn the 46 hiragana in 7 days, then katakana

Day 1	Vowels and the K row
Day 2	S and T rows
Day 3	N and H rows
Day 4	M, Y and R rows
Day 5	W row and ん, then review all 46
Day 6	Test yourself in random order
Day 7	Read simple words: さくら, ねこ, みず

Spend 20 to 30 minutes a day. Each day review what you learned on earlier days. Then repeat the method for katakana.

4. Core Grammar Patterns

Sentence order

Japanese puts the verb at the end. Particles mark the role of each word.

1. X は Y です (X is Y)

わたしは がくせいです。

I am a student.

2. Questions with か, and answers with はい / いいえ

あなたは せんせいですか。 — いいえ、がくせいです。

Are you a teacher? — No, I am a student.

3. の (belonging) and も (also)

わたしの ほん。 / かれも がくせいです。

My book. / He is also a student.

4. これ・それ・あれ (this, that, that over there)

これは えんぴつです。

This is a pencil.

5. を (object), に (time, destination), で (place of action), へ (direction)

わたしは パンを たべます。 / がっこうへ いきます。

I eat bread. / I go to school.

6. Polite verbs: ます, ません, ました, ませんでした

	Present	Past
Positive	たべます	たべました
Negative	たべません	たべませんでした

7. あります / います (there is) and ~ましょう (let us)

つくえの うえに ほんが あります。 / いっしょに いきましょう。

There is a book on the desk. / Let us go together.

8. Adjectives

い-adjectives end in い (たかい, high). な-adjectives need な before a noun (しずかな まち, a quiet town).

5. Starter Vocabulary

Numbers

1 いち	6 ろく
2 に	7 しち / なな
3 さん	8 はち
4 し / よん	9 きゅう / く
5 ご	10 じゅう

Greetings

おはようございます	Good morning
こんにちは	Hello / good afternoon
こんばんは	Good evening
ありがとうございます	Thank you
すみません	Excuse me / sorry
はじめまして	Nice to meet you

Days of the week

にちようび	Sunday
げつようび	Monday
かようび	Tuesday
すいようび	Wednesday
もくようび	Thursday
きんようび	Friday
どようび	Saturday

Everyday words

がっこう	school
せんせい	teacher
ともだち	friend
みず	water
たべます	eat
のみます	drink

How to learn vocabulary. Learn words by topic (greetings, family, numbers, time, food, school, directions, travel). Say each word aloud and use it in a short sentence of your own. Review old words a little every day.

6. Starter Kanji

N5 needs about 100 basic kanji. Here is a starter set of 40 with common readings (*on* and *kun* readings together). Always learn kanji inside words, not alone.

日 ni / nichi, hi day, sun	月 getsu, tsuki month, moon	火 ka, hi fire	水 sui, mizu water	木 moku, ki tree
金 kin, kane gold, money	土 do, tsuchi earth	人 jin, hito person	一 ichi one	二 ni two
三 san three	四 shi, yon four	五 go five	六 roku six	七 shichi, nana seven
八 hachi eight	九 kyuu, ku nine	十 juu ten	百 hyaku hundred	千 sen thousand
大 dai, ookii big	小 shou, chiisai small	上 ue up, above	下 shita down, below	中 naka, chuu middle, inside
山 yama mountain	川 kawa river	本 hon book, origin	学 gaku study	校 kou school
先 sen, saki previous, ahead	生 sei, nama life, birth	年 nen, toshi year	今 kon, ima now	何 nani what
名 mei, na name	食 shoku, taberu eat	飲 in, nomu drink	見 ken, miru see	行 kou, iku go

Your trainer will give you the complete N5 kanji list with example words in class.

7. Month-by-Month Study Plan

A suggested plan for a learner starting in November 2026 and aiming for the July 2027 JLPT.

Nov – Dec	Hiragana and katakana. Greetings, numbers and first sentence patterns (X は Y です).
Jan – Feb	Core grammar: particles, polite verbs, adjectives. Vocabulary by topic. Begin basic kanji.
Mar – Apr	More grammar patterns and kanji. Short reading passages. Daily listening practice.
May	Reading and information retrieval (notices, timetables). Listening drills by question type.
June	Full-length timed mock papers. Fix weak topics.
Before the exam	Light revision, rest well, check admit card and exam centre details.

A daily routine (30 to 45 minutes)

- 10 min: review kana or kanji from earlier days.
- 15 min: new grammar or vocabulary, with sentences of your own.
- 10 min: listening (short conversations, repeat after the speaker).
- 5 min: write what you learned today by hand.

Exam-day tips

- Answers are machine-scored. Mark the answer sheet carefully and completely.
- Keep to the section timings. Skip a hard question and return if time allows.
- Listening is a full section. Practise with recordings every week.

8. Learn with EduFest Junior Academy

Our beginner JLPT N5 batch starts from zero, with the writing systems, and builds up to the N5 level, including timed mock papers before the exam.

Batch	Japanese, JLPT N5, beginners welcome
Starts	15 November 2026
Timing	Afternoon, 3 PM to 5 PM
Mode	Online or offline at our Bavdhan centre
Batch size	8 to 10 students
Trainer	Sayali Mahajan (JLPT N3, 6+ years teaching, Diploma in Japanese)
Address	D-402 Dnyanmanjula, Near Acharya House, Bavdhan, Pune 411021
Contact	WhatsApp / call +91 77095 85248
Free demo	Book a free demo class at edufestjunior.in/japanese-classes-bavdhan

Read more. Free articles on JLPT levels, the exam pattern, scoring and dates at edufestjunior.in/blog/Japanese

This guide is a study aid by EduFest Junior Academy. JLPT dates, timings, fees and visa or immigration rules are set by the organisers and Japanese authorities and may change. Please confirm current details on the official JLPT website and the Immigration Services Agency of Japan website.