

NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO JAPANESE VIDEO GAMES

Concise Version

Version 1.0 (May 2014)

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WHAT WILL THIS GUIDE COVER?

- Why play Video Games over watching Anime?
- What consoles do I need?
- Where to get the games or consoles?
- Recommend Games

WHY VIDEO GAMES?

- Video games has actual dialog, so you can gain new vocabulary easily
- Most games are voiced
- Easier to reenforce what you have learned in class or self-study
- Remember, video games cannot replace text books!

WHAT DO I NEED?

VIDEO GAME CONSOLE

- Don't bother with Xbox
- Playstation consoles are generally a good choice because it's region free aside from the PS1 and 2.
- While the Nintendo 3DS is region locked, it has a lot of games with Furigana (kana readings on top of Kanji)



JAPANESE TO ENGLISH ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY

- Typically referred to as ^{でんしじしょ}電子辞書
- While you can get one of these devices, a smartphone can typically serve as one too if you install a Japanese dictionary app and its more convenient. A dedicated device has better input and dictionaries.
- I recommend iPhones since it has a very good built in Japanese to English dictionary along with a lot of Japanese dictionary apps
- Tablets can also serve as a dictionary too and also be used for recording and studying vocabulary.
- Recommended Apps: Imiwa, Japanese (app), Wisdom English-Japanese Dictionary (also built into iOS 7 using the global Define function and OS X)



NOTE TAKING APP

- Used primarily to record what vocabulary you found and made flashcards for.
- While Evernote and Onenote are popular choice, I use Onenote since it has more functionality.
- Both are free.
- Of course, pen and paper will work too.



FLASH CARD PROGRAM

- Anki is highly recommended as it
 - determines what cards you need to study automatically
- Is Open Source and Free. iOS application costs money however.
- Download at <http://ankisrs.net>

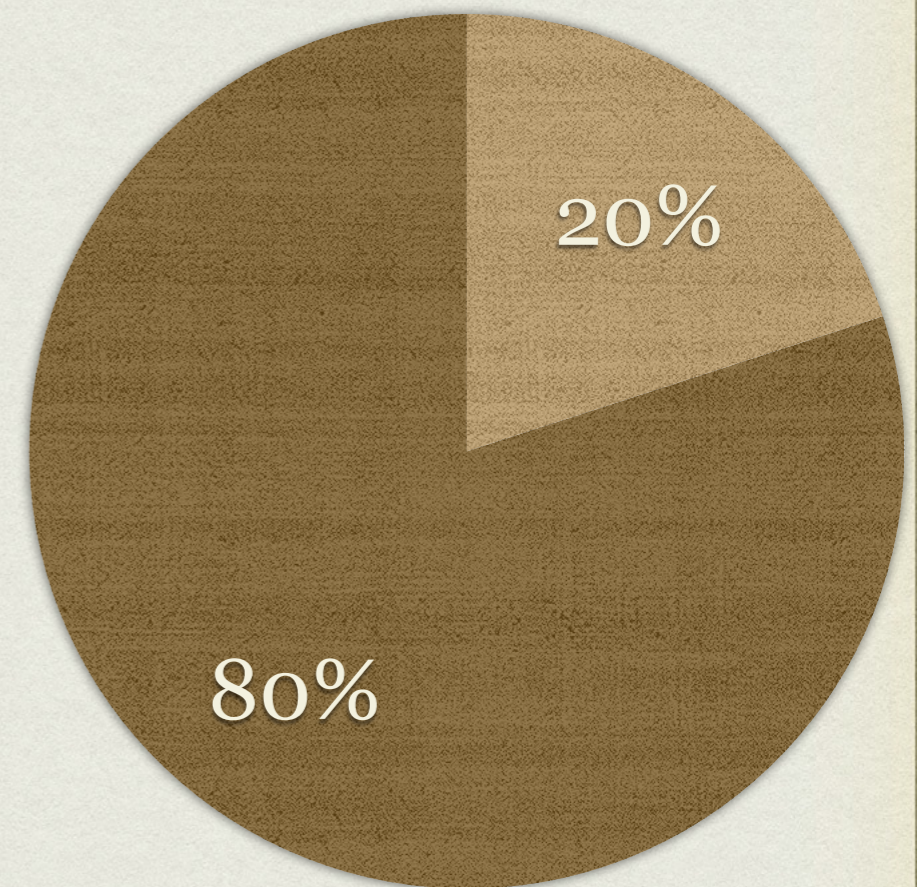
WHERE TO BUY THE GAMES?

- Here is a list of sites that you can buy games from without a middle man
 - CDJapan (Neowing) - <http://cdjapan.co.jp> (does not sell consoles)
 - Amiami - <http://amiami.com>
 - Play-asia - <http://play-asia.com>
 - Nippon-yasan - <http://nippon-yasan.com/lang-en/>
 - E-Bay and Amazon are also options, but don't buy DS games as they can be bootlegged. Also, people have mixed experiences with Play-Asia shipping, so it's probably better buying from a Japanese site.
 - Alternatively, you can choose to buy the games digitally by buying PSN/Nintendo Network cards from [Japan-Codes](#), but prepare to pay more than a physical copy due to a high markup on these cards.
 - If you are not in a hurry, SAL (Surface Air Lifted Mail) is fine. It usually takes about 2 weeks to arrive where I live. If you are buying limited editions, its recommended that you use EMS/Fedex instead.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHILE
PLAYING A VIDEO GAME?

PARETO PRINCIPLE

- This states that 80% of the causes come from 20% of the causes.
- In Language Study, 20% of the words you know will be seen 80% of the time.
- By reading, listening or playing any type of media in the Language you are studying, you will gain new vocabulary, which in turn allows you to better understand what you are reading.



COMMON TERMS

- You should memorize the following

こうげき 攻撃	attack	素早さ	speed/ quickness
ぼうぎょ 防御	defense/guard	移動する	to move
に 逃	to run	きし 騎士	knight
そうび 装備	equipment	セーブ	save
けいけん ち 経験	experience	ロード	load

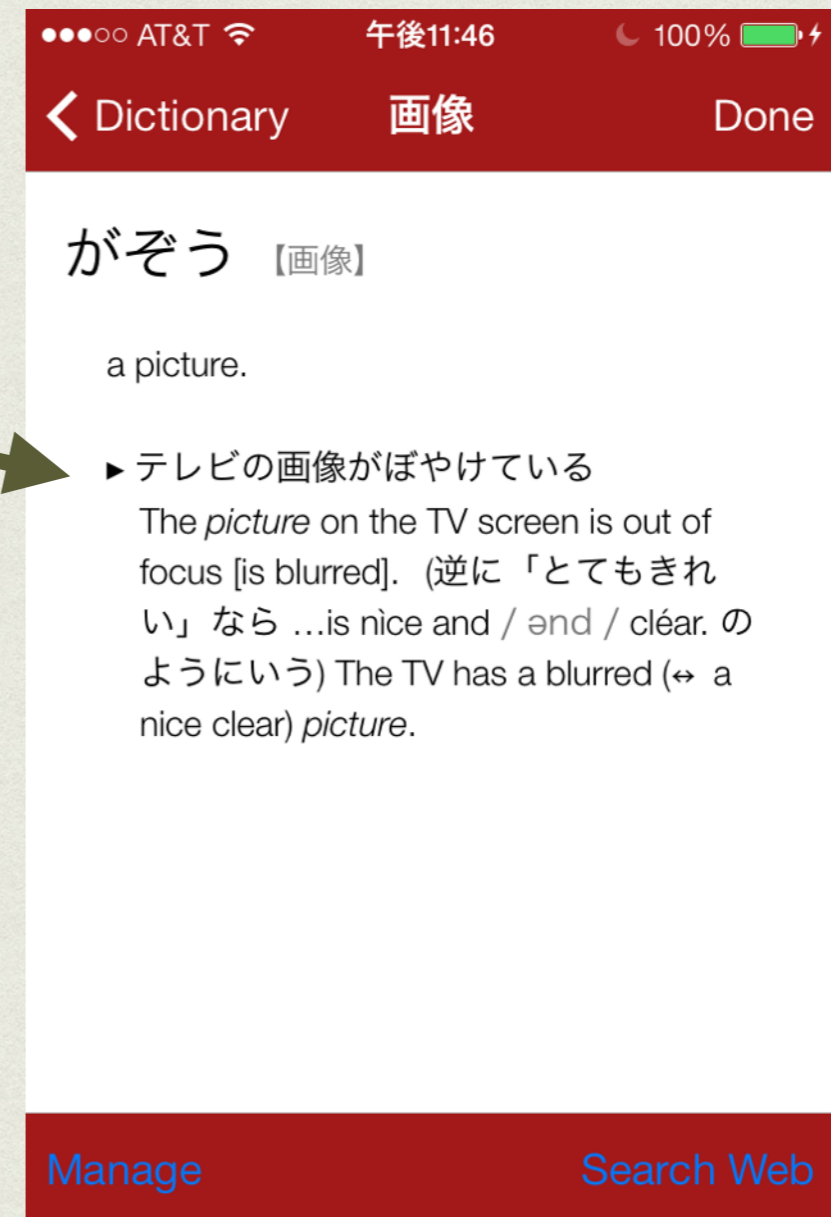
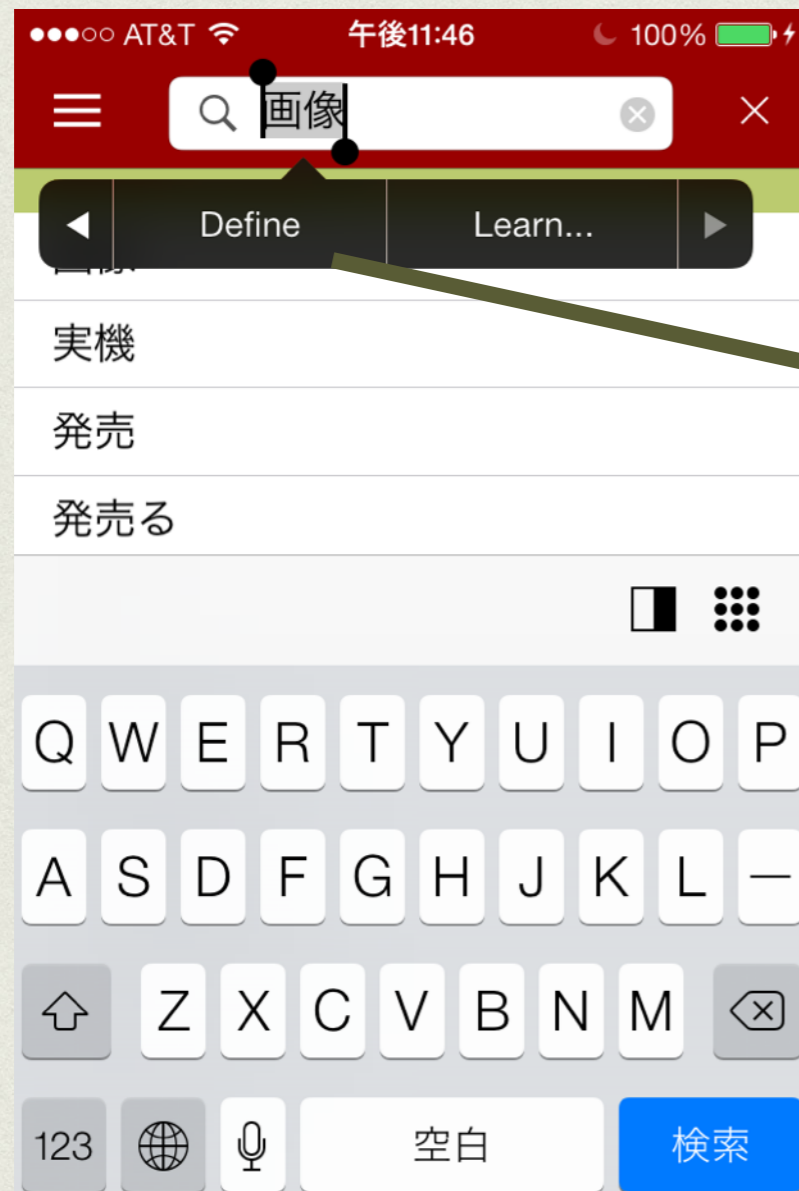
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO
WHEN YOU COME ACROSS A
WORD YOU DON'T KNOW?

1. LOOK THE WORD UP IN THE DICTIONARY

- If you don't know it, you have to look it up.
- Don't know a particular Kanji, you must use radical lookup. Radicals are parts that make up a Chinese Character. If you know part of the word, type it in and erase the extra parts.
- To use the built in define function, hold down your finger on the word you want to look up and tap "define"
- If you are on the go, add it to a list called "Add" so you can refer to it later.

USING THE DEFINE FUNCTION IN IOS

Touch the word for a few seconds, tap right and tap define.



RECORD THE WORD TO YOUR VOCABULARY LOG

- Create a log in OneNote or Evernote called Vocabulary Log
- Each day you play a game, put today's date and the game you are playing (If same, you can leave it out)
- Type in the full word from the list in the dictionary app and record it in the vocabulary log with the actual word, kana and english meaning. (Don't forget the な for な adjectives!). Then, put the word on the "done" list in the dictionary app.
- If you are using OneNote, add a task tag to the word you just recorded.
- You should check the meaning with the built in dictionary before recording. Few words might be either obscure or slang, meaning it's not worth memorizing since you won't see it often.

HOWTO: RECORDING THE WORD

●●●● AT&T 午後11:46 100%

< Dictionary 画像 Done

がぞう 【画像】

a picture.

▶ テレビの画像がぼやけている
The *picture* on the TV screen is out of focus [is blurred]. (逆に「とてもきれい」なら ...is nice and / and / clear. のようにいう) The TV has a blurred (↔ a nice clear) *picture*.

Manage Search Web

2014/05/27 Search All Notebooks

HOME INSERT VIEW

Callibri 11

Heading 1 Heading 2

To Do Important Question

Notebook1 Untitled Section vocabulary +

Sync Error Sign in to sync this notebook. Sign in Add Page

Use for every vocabulary word 2014/05/27

2014年5月27日火曜日 2:05午後

2014/05/27
画像 (がぞう) picture

Record the full word, kana and English meaning of a word.

Make sure you add the date for each day you are playing the game along with title (if changed).

Check this checkbox when you have added the word to your Game Vocabulary Deck in Anki

Make sure you put the word in the "done" list once you recorded it.

3. CREATING FLASHCARDS

- Open up Anki and create a deck called "Game Vocabulary."
- The deck should have three fields. If you don't know how to do this, just import this premade deck into Anki. Make sure the type is set to "Game"
- Add content to the corresponding fields. Actual word > Word, Kana > Kana, English Meaning > Meaning, Video Game Played > Tag

CREATING THE CARDS

The image shows a screenshot of a Japanese vocabulary application. On the left, there is a list of words organized by date. The word '転職する' (tenshokushuru) is highlighted with a red box, and its English translation 'to change one's job' is highlighted with a yellow box. On the right, a detailed card editor window is open, showing the word '転職する' in the 'Word' field, 'てんしょくする' in the 'Kana' field, and 'to change one's job' in the 'Meaning' field. Three colored arrows (red, blue, and yellow) point from the corresponding parts of the list entry to the card editor fields. The card editor also includes fields for 'Type' (set to 'game'), 'Deck' (set to 'Game/Media Vocabulary'), 'Fields...', 'Cards...', and 'Tags' (set to 'ネプテューヌ').

2014/04/27

- 改心する(かいしんする) to reform
- 検討する(けんとうする) to consider, to think about
- 風評(ふうひょう) rumor, bad reputation
- 財産(ざいさん) property, fortune
- 共有(きょうゆう) joint ownership
- 過酷な(かこくな) severe
- 違和感(いわかん) strange feeling, incongruous
- 絞る(しぼる) to squeeze, to press
- 埃(ほこり) dust
- 起動する(きどうする) to start up
- 転職する(てんしょくする) to change one's job**

2014/04/28

- 戦闘(せんとう) battle, fight
- 微小な(びしょうな) microscopic
- 周到な(しゅうとうな) careful
- 散々(さんざん) completely, quite
- 否定する(ひていする) to deny, to say no

2014/04/30

- 凝る(こる) to get stiff
- 体勢(たいせい) posture
- 積む(つむ) to pile up, to stack
- 恐ろしい(おそろしい) terrible, dreadful
- 伏せる(ふせる) to lie down
- 素肌(すはだ) bare (naked) skin/body
- くすぐる to tickle
- 画像(がそう) picture
- 機能(きのう) function
- 独り占めする(ひとりじめする) to hog, to keep (all) to oneself

2014/05/01

- いじる to touch

Can't Contact Server

Card Editor:

- Type: game
- Deck: Game/Media Vocabulary
- Fields... Cards... B I U A² Aₓ U [..]
- Word: 転職する
- Kana: てんしょくする
- Meaning: to change one's job
- Tags: ネプテューヌ
- Buttons: Help Add History Close

4. STUDY

- You should study the words you made flashcards for every day so it will stay fresh in your mind.
- If you have trouble, create another field and make a sentence using the word you have trouble with.
- After studying for awhile, you might notice that you can recognize the word off the bat. If you have to look it up again, don't be discouraged. It will take awhile to remember it.
- Additionally, write sentences using that word and have them checked on Lang-8.

WHAT GAMES DO I RECOMMEND?

- You should probably check out sites that specifically review Japanese language games or over them before buying, unless you follow a certain franchise.
- If you can get a Best Copy, I say go for it. Sure, if the games are localized, you may not have the motivation to import, but the Best Copy is usually a bit cheaper than the localized copy, unless it's out for awhile. You might get more from it from playing it in Japanese.
- Avoid Rhythm Games or games that are not text heavy. Generally, RPGs, dating sims, visual novels and adventure games are usually the best choice.