



**The Ultimate  
Guide to  
Free  
Japanese  
Study  
Apps**

**bff tokyo**

**JAPAN SWITCH**

You might have wondered: where and how should I start learning Japanese and what apps would ease my pain teaching myself? While there are tons of "free" Japanese study apps in the market, not all of them are the most effective tools for self-teaching. And even if you find an app that works for you, it might not be as "free" as it promotes itself and can even cost you hundreds of bucks to get the full version.

But...wait a second! We have researched online and found all kinds of free Japanese study apps for you! No need to worry that you will learn nothing after spending hundreds of bucks on an app. Just read our article and download the apps you need to start your wonderful journey of learning Japanese!

If you are looking for other Japanese learning resources in addition to apps, take a look at our guide to [learn Japanese online for free](#) to get blogs, YouTube videos, free online textbooks, etc. Also check out our series of guides to [self-study Japanese](#) and get tips for learning kanji, vocabulary, speaking, reading, and more.

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# Free Japanese Dictionary Apps

## Shirabe Jisho

Platform: [App Store](#)

Good for: someone who needs a dictionary app that can search by romaji and kana

Price: Free; NO in-app purchases and you can use the full function of the app for free!

Key Features:

- Search by kanji radicals (for example 日 and 月 will find 明)
- Search by kanji, kana and romaji - "じしょ", "じ sho" and "jisho" will give the same search results
- Character input by kanji and kana handwriting recognition. Recognition algorithm can handle wrong stroke order and small mistakes.

## Vidalingua

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to learn their target language with a focus on conversations and natural expressions

Price: Most of the language apps are free including Japanese.

Key Features:

- Different dictionaries for multiple languages including Japanese, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, and Hindi
- Focuses on conversations and real-life situations and provides ample examples of everyday expressions
- Accurate and natural translation are lifesavers when traveling abroad

## Minna - Japanese Dictionary

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: beginner who needs a dictionary with trusted content and flexible ways of searching

Price: Free for N5 vocabulary (875 words); you need to pay for more translations from N4 onwards

Key Features:

- Supports searching in Japanese (Romaji, Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji), or meanings (English, Thai)
- Supports switching between *masu* form and dictionary form
- Vocabulary from Minna no Nihongo
- Customizable flashcards of vocabulary
- Offline

## Free Japanese Kanji Apps

漢字検定・漢検漢字トレーニング (Kanji test/Kanji test Kanji training)

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to learn kanji from various levels or is preparing for the Japan Kanji Aptitude Test

Price: Free; NO in-app purchases and you can use the full function of the app for free!

Key Features:

- Kanji for the Japan Kanji Aptitude Test
- 12 levels covering kanji from elementary school to workplace
- Stroke order and the meaning of kanji available
- You can learn four-letter idioms, antonyms, homophones of the kanji

小学生手書き漢字ドリル 1026 (Elementary School Handwritten Kanji Drill 1026)

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who is new to kanji and wants to practice writing kanji with fun and ease

Price: Free for all functions; you can also make in-app purchases to remove ads

Key Features:

- Learn all the 1,026 kanji you will learn during the six years of elementary school
- Learn writing kanji like an elementary school student with fun and ease
- Learn new kanji in context with the sample sentence on top of the grid

## Mainichi Kanji

Platform: [App Store](#), [Website](#)

Good for: intermediate to advanced learner who is preparing for the Japan Kanji Aptitude Test and/or wants to learn different forms of kanji (synonyms, homophones, etc.)

Price: Completely free with NO in-app purchases

Key Features:

- 15 new practice questions that are updated every day and have similar patterns and styles as the Kanji Kentei
- Various types of practice questions with different focuses on 読み (yomi)、送りかな (okurigana)、対義語 (antonym)、同訓異字 (homophone)、四字熟語 (4-character idiom)、熟語の構成 (structure of idiom)

Want more resources and tips for learning kanji? Check out our [ultimate guide to learning Japanese kanji](#) which provides all you need to know about kanji!

## Free Japanese Grammar Apps

### Bunpo

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to learn grammar with detailed notes and practice questions but does not like heavy lessons

Price: Free for most parts; you can subscribe or buy a lifetime pass to get all the lessons for \$30

Key Features:

- Small chunks at a time; take 15-minutes on your way back home and learn 1 new grammar
- Explanations are detailed but simple and everyone can follow along.
- Grammar notes and lessons from alphabet to JLPT to business level
- 1700 example sentences and 8000 Japanese grammar quiz questions; natural audios for each example
- Can be used offline

## Human Japanese (Lite & Intermediate Lite)

Platform:

Lite: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Int. Lite: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to learn grammar from zero

Price: The Lite and Intermediate Lite version are completely free; you can also pay \$9.99 to get the beginner and intermediate versions for the full lessons.

Key Features:

- Starts at the very basics and explains in a simplistic, step-by-step way
- Explains grammar in context; teaches the background and history
- Provides photos and cultural notes connecting to real life in Japan
- Review quiz at the end of each chapter to reinforce your understanding of key concepts

## Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese

Platform: [App Store](#), Google Play Store, [Website](#)

Price: Free

Good for: someone who wants to learn Japanese grammar comprehensively

Key Features:

- The most comprehensive guide to Japanese grammar, covering EVERY topic you need to know to master grammar
- Teaches grammar that is completely different from textbooks and focuses on pure natural Japanese

If you are looking for other free Japanese study apps and helpful resources, we have created a comprehensive list of guides on learning Japanese on our BFF Tokyo website. Take a look at our [Japanese learning guides](#) that you will not be able to find elsewhere!

## Free Japanese Vocabulary Apps

### Anki

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who prefers flashcard style of learning; someone who wants to build their own decks of vocabulary

Price: Android version is free; iOS users need to pay \$24.99 to get the app.

Key Features:

- Repeats flashcards AT THE RIGHT TIME so that vocab does not fade away from your memory
- You can add audio, photos, and even videos into your flashcards
- Plenty of downloadable good decks made by other learners
- Customize your own flashcards decks based on your needs

### Goiryoku Shindan (Vocabulary Skill Check)

Platform: [App Store](#), [Website](#)

Good for: someone who wants to practice and learn vocabulary through practice questions and test

Price: Free

Key Features:

- Good if you want to diagnose your vocabulary level with a quiz sense
- A wide range of problem levels from 6th grade (about the upper grades of elementary school) to 1st grade (from the middle grades of high school to the general public)
- Test yourself under 15-minute time limit or unlimited time mode based on your preference

## Learn Japanese Words Free

Platform: [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to learn vocabulary for travel, business, dating, study, and school

Price: 100% Free

Key Features:

- Vocabulary lists exactly for your language level (most frequently used words, dating phrases, business, travel phrases, etc.)
- High level of flexibility:
  - You can customize the number of repetitions, speed of learning, preferred quiz mode, etc.
- Use it as a podcast on the road with the listen-only mode
- Create your own vocabulary list

Still confused about where to start? Read our article on [learning Japanese vocabulary](#) in which we will guide you through learning vocab step by step and find the best way for you to learn Japanese vocabulary.

## Free Japanese Reading Apps

Japanese Reading (Reading Japanese)

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)



Good for: intermediate Japanese learner who wants to practice reading skills by reading real-life news and other types of articles

Price: 100% Free

Key Features:

- Easy-to-read articles by native Japanese
- Furigana for all kanji
- Built-in dictionary with a simple click; no more switching apps
- Simple and clean UI design which is readable and not distracting to eyes

## Easy Japanese

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to improve reading, listening, and speaking skills through reading news articles

Price: There is a premium option to remove the ads, but you do not have to do so; the free version provides all functions you need!

Key Features:

- News articles with different levels of difficulty
  - Each article has native audio and furigana on top on each kanji to help you understand the text
  - Listen to these articles as many times as you want! You can also listen to the article line by line and read it out along with the audio.
- You can translate the article sentence by sentence

## Shonen Jump+

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: manga lovers who want to practice reading skills by reading manga

Price: Find tons of free manga and parts of the long-ish manga like *Bleach*, *One Piece*, etc. under “*今だけ無料*” (read now for free only) section

Key Features:

- The official manga app for Weekly Shonen Jump

- Heaven for manga lovers; includes legendary masterpieces like *One Piece*, *Naruto*, *Bleach*, etc. and new rising series like *Haikyuu!!*, *Demon Slayer*, etc.
- You can improve your reading skills with fun and ease by reading your favorite manga!

If the above apps are still not enough for you, we've also created a [guide to improve Japanese reading](#) where we share additional free Japanese study apps and resources for reading based on JLPT levels. Also, do not miss out the useful tips we came up with to help you learn Japanese in an enjoyable and efficient way.

## Free Japanese Pronunciation Apps

### Learn Japanese Pod

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to improve their Japanese listening and pronunciation through podcasts

Price: 100% Free

Key Features:

- A podcast app that covers lots of fun dialogues about Japanese life and culture
- Introduces words and expressions useful for daily life; other topics include Japanese culture, food, travel tips, etc.
- Designed to help learners speak authentic and natural Japanese that is used by native speakers
- Also includes detailed grammar and vocab notes from the podcasts

### PORO - Learn Japanese

Platform: [App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to improve their speaking style, pronunciation, intonation, and listening skills

Price: You can use the app for free with ads, or you can pay to remove the ads

Key Features:

- Includes 750+ daily dialogues and lessons that cover lots of practical situations (greeting, small talks, business talk, shopping, etc.)
- Transcript and translation for learners to follow
- You can listen to the conversation of native speakers and imitate their intonation and speaking style
- You can adjust the listening speed from fast to slow

## Loecsen

Platform: [Google Play Store](#)

Good for: someone who wants to improve their pronunciation and learn practical expressions that can be used in daily life

Price: Completely free-of-charge

Key Features:

- Covers a wide range of practical dialogues
- Each dialogue has 2 versions: the formal expression and a more familiar expression
- Recorded audio from native speakers for you to learn the natural intonation and pronunciation
- You can slow the audio down to pick up a specific word; you can also record your voice and check if the computer can recognize it

Looking for more free Japanese study apps, resources, and study methods?

Do not miss out our [guides on learning Japanese based on your Japanese level](#). We have created a series of Japanese learning guides for beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. No matter what level you are at, you can always find the right guide for you on our [BFF Tokyo website](#).