

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, 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 for foreign people to 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.

The main features of this textbook 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 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 previously published Japanese-language coursebook *Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture*, which conforms with the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education.
- Appropriate for learning from Starter-level (A1) to Elementary-level (A2) Japanese for daily life and working in Japan, and useful for learners who are preparing for the Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese (JFT-Basic).
- 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.

March, 2020

The Japan Foundation