

Survival Japanese in Iwate

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Lesson	Setting	Lesson Contents	Lesson Goals	Activities and Manners	You will be able to...
1	At home	Greetings	Talking to people outside of your family Giving simple self-introductions Listening to a visitor's conversation	Make and serve tea When to take off slippers Learn manners for home	Give tea to visitors
2	In the supermarket	Shopping with Mother-in-law	Learning how to ask questions Remember the name of vegetables Learning demonstratives (this, that, etc.)	Make curry and rice	Understand food words Read supermarket fliers
3	At home	Learn from meals	Japanese back-channeling (uh-huh, hmm etc.) Talking about tomorrow's plans How to use the Japanese verb "toru"	Make miso soup Pick wild vegetables	Know the difference between seasonings Know rules for cleaning during activities
4	At home	Answering the phone	Simple phone conversations Learning indicators for "in" and "out" groups	Make tempura	Invite people to do things
5	In a department store	Speaking with clerks	Learn numbers, prices, and colors Learn more demonstratives	Go to a store by yourself Buy a present	Listen to polite language Describe likes/dislikes
6	In a bus and train station	Asking about a destination	Asking station attendants questions Understanding directions inside the train	Ride public transportation Buy tickets	Use public transit Read guide maps of places and stations
7	At the hospital	If you catch a cold	Describing symptoms and conditions What is : proof of insurance, medical questionnaire, and patient registration card?	Learn difference between a clinic and a general hospital Go to hospital reception	Visit a hospital Describe your body and illnesses Read and fill-in a medical questionnaire
8	At home	Calling an ambulance	How to handle sudden injuries	Care for a family	Deal with an emergency situation in a calm manner Call an ambulance
9	Around the neighborhood	How to take out the trash	Learning how to sort trash into appropriate categories	Take out the garbage	Read and understand a garbage sorting poster Communicate smoothly with the neighborhood
10	At home	Emergency situations	What to do if an earthquake occurs Consulting with your family	Participate in town events	Join a club at the local community center Make new friends

Character List for Dialogues and Conversations

- Main Character : Meika – A housewife from Sanmenxia, Henan Province, China. Came to Kitakami after marriage. 30 years old.
- Husband : Goro Takahashi – An employee at a manufacturing company. Oldest son of a farming family. 48 years old.
- Father-in-law : Kazuo Takahashi – A farmer born and raised in Kitakami. 73 years old.
- Mother-in-law : Hatsue Takahashi – A housewife who helps in the garden. Born in Hanamaki. 70 years old.
- Neighbor : Hiroko Sato – A member of the neighborhood association. She has six relatives through three generations, including two grandchildren. 65 years old.

Lesson 1 – Nice to meet you!

Contents – Greetings

Dialogue –

- Hiroko : Hello.
- Hatsue : Welcome! Please come in. This is my daughter-in-law, Meika.
- Meika : Hello. Nice to meet you. I'm Meika.
- Hiroko : Where are you from?
- Meika : Sanmenxia, China.
- Hiroko : Where is "Sanmenxia"?
- Hatsue : It's Kitakami's friendship city. It is about 4 hours from Beijing by plane and bullet train.
- Hiroko : Is that so? You are from that far? You came a long way, didn't you? It's nice to meet you.
- Meika : The pleasure is all mine. Please, have some tea.

Lesson 2 – In the supermarket...

Contents – Shopping with Mom

Dialogue –

- Hatsue : What will we eat tonight?
- Meika : Hmm...
- Hatsue : Should we do curry and rice?
- Meika : Yes. What will we buy?
- Hatsue : Potatoes, onions, carrots, pork, curry rue...
- Meika : Potatoes, onions...
- Hatsue : Also *fukujinzuke* and *rakkyo*...
- Meika : What are those?
- Hatsu : They are pickles.

Lesson 3 – Dinner with the family...

Contents – Gathering for dinner

Dialogue –

- Meika : What is this?
- Hatsue : It's *bakke* miso.
- Goro : It's the *fuki* I picked and brought back this morning.
- Meika : It's delicious.
- Goro : Really? Should we go pick some soon?
- Kazuo : Let's go together after we go to clean the park tomorrow morning.
- Meika : Cleaning?
- Kazuo : Pulling weeds at the park.
- Meika : Oh, I see.

Lesson 4 – Mom! Phone call!

Contents – Answering the phone

Dialogue –

10:00 AM

RING RING RING

Meika : Hello. This is the Takahashis.

Hiroko : Is Hatsue there?

Meika : Yes. Please wait a moment.

.....
Hatsue : Hiroko said she will come here at five.

Meika : Oh, really?

.....
5:00 PM

Hiroko : Good evening. These are the wild vegetables I picked this morning.
They would be delicious as tempura.

Meika : Wow! There are so many! Thank you very much. Let's eat them together.

Lesson 5 – Where's the sales counter?

Contents – Buying a present

Dialogue –

Meika : Where are neckties sold?

Information : Third floor.

Meika : The third floor? Okay, thank you very much.

.....
Third Floor

Clerk : Is this a present?

Meika : Yes. I will give it to my husband on his birthday.

Clerk : About how old is he?

Meika : In his 40s.

Clerk : What color does your husband like?

Meika : He likes green and blue.

Clerk : How is this tie?

Meika : Oh, that's nice. How much is it?

Clerk : This one is 8,000 yen. This one is 7,000 yen.

Meika : That's a little expensive.

Clerk : How is that one? That is only 3,500 yen.

Meika : Yes, I'll take that tie.

Clerk : Thank you very much. Should I put a ribbon on it?

Meika : Yes, please.

Lesson 6 – Vehicles...

Contents – Taking the train and bus from Yokokawame to Kitakami

Dialogue –

[TO KITAKAMI (BUS)]

Meika : Does this bus go to Kitakami station?

Driver : Yes, it does. Please take a number.

.....
On the bus

Driver : This is Kitakami. Thank you very much for riding today.

.....
[TO YOKOKAWAME (TRAIN)]

Announcement : The train for Yokokawame will soon depart from track number one.

Lesson 7 – I caught a cold...

Contents – Going to the hospital or clinic

Dialogue –

[AT A CLINIC]

Receptionist : What is the matter?

Meika : I have a cough.

Receptionist : Is this your first time here?

Meika : Yes.

Receptionist : Do you have proof of insurance?

Meika : Yes.

Receptionist : Please fill in this form. [POINTING] Name, address, phone number, date of birth.

Meika : Okay, I understand.

.....
[AFTER FILLING IN THE FORM]

Receptionist : Please check your temperature and wait over there.

.....
[EXAMINATION ROOM]

Doctor : What's wrong?

Meika : I have a cough.

Doctor : When did it start?

Meika : From yesterday evening.

Doctor : You have a fever. Please show me your throat. Oh, it's red. Do you feel nauseous or have diarrhea?

Meika : No.

Doctor : Please show me your stomach. Okay. Your back, too... Yeah, that's a cold.
We will give you some medicine, so please keep hydrated and get some rest.

Meika : Thank you very much.

Lesson 8 – Emergencies...

Contents – Calling an ambulance

Kazuo : Ahhhh!

Hatsue : Huh? What was that? Was that dad's voice? [GOES OUTSIDE]

.....
Meika : Oh, how terrible. Dad, this is awful.

Hatsue : Dad, are you okay? Can you move?

Kazuo : Ow owowow. My back! I can't move!

Hatsue : Quick, call the ambulance. [MEIKA CALLS]

.....
Meika : Hello?

Operator : This is 119. Is this a fire or an emergency?

Meika : I need an ambulance. Please come quickly.

Operator : What happened?

Meika : My father fell from the roof.

Operator : Is he *ishiki* (conscious)?

Meika : *Ishiki* ?

Operator : Can he speak?

Meika : Yes, he can.

Operator : Where are you?

Meika : Kitakami, Waga-cho, Yokokawame, 1-1.

Operator : What is your name?

Lesson 9 – Trash duty...

Contents – Communicate about local rules regarding separating and putting out trash

Dialogue –

Meika : Good morning.

Hiroko : Good morning.

Meika : Is this recyclable trash? Or is this non-burnable trash?

Hiroko : Hmm... That's a broken planter, right? It's plastic, so it's non-burnable.

Today is the third Friday of the month, so it's a non-burnable trash day.

Please put it in this green bag and throw it over there.

Meika : Throw it over there?

Hiroko : Oh, sorry. Throw it away over there.

Meika : Okay. Here?

Hiroko : That's right. The inside of that shed is where non-burnable trash is put.

Meika : Plastic food containers are recyclable garbage, right?

Hiroko : Yes. Put them in this yellow-green net.

Meika : Is that blue net over there where we put PET bottles?

Hiroko : Your remembered well. You really read over the book on separating trash.

Even I sometimes look at it because I don't understand.

Meika : Really? Please teach me again.

Hiroko : Well, it's eight o'clock. It's time to finish our trash duty. Good job.

Meika : You too.

Lesson 10 – Earthquake!

Contents - What to do if an earthquake occurs. Consulting with your family.

Dialogue –

Meika is eating dinner with her family, watching the news:

Today at approximately 3:30 PM, there was a relatively strong earthquake in the Tokai region. The epicenter was in the ocean about 50 kilometers south east of Omaesaki City in Shizuoka Prefecture. It was measured as a magnitude 5.4 earthquake. Intensities for all cities are as follows. There is no danger of tsunamis from this earthquake.

.....
Kazuo : There have been a lot of earthquakes recently.

Goro : Yup, yup. We need to be careful.

Meika : Are there many earthquakes in Japan?

Hatsue : It's scary because sometimes there are large earthquakes.

Meika : What should I do if there is an earthquake?

Kazuo : Hide under a desk.

Hatsue : First put out any fires. Then turn off the gas line.

Goro : Then, open up doors at the exits.

Meika : I wonder if I could really do that?

Kazuo : It will be fine if we are all at home. But, you never know when an earthquake will hit.

Hatsue : If you are by yourself and anything happens, go to the community center.

Kazuo : That's right. It's safe if we decide a place to meet if anything happens.

Basic Manners – Your Japanese teacher will explain some cultural differences in Japan.

Lesson 1

Take off (and put on) your shoes in the entryway.

Arrange your shoes neatly, side-by-side.

Do not wear slippers on *tatami* mats.

There are different slippers for the bathroom and the hallway.

Remember where guests sit. (In front of the alcove.)

Remember how to make tea. (Chinese tea especially is made differently.)

Use *-san* after a person's name. (But not your own.)

Sit properly in *tatami* rooms. (Sit with your legs folded under your body; sit on a mat.)

Remember how to use a Japanese bath. Do not get soap in the tub. First, lather and rinse outside the bath, then get in. Do not put your towel in the bath. The person after you will use the same bath water, so don't drain the tub.

Lesson 2

Bring your own reusable shopping bag when you go shopping.

Be sure to stand in the right order in line.

Lesson 3

Remember how to chime-in at the right time during conversations.

Do not go picking wild vegetables or mushrooms alone.

Lesson 4

Remember how to answer the phone properly. (Use polite language.)

When making tempura or fried foods, turn off the gas before using the phone.

Lesson 5

There is no haggling at department stores.

Lesson 6

Prepare small change when riding the bus.

When getting off a bus, press the buzzer before you need to get off.

Try not to talk on cell phones when riding public transportation.

Leave priority seats open for those who need them.

Push the button to open and close the doors on trains (local lines).

Lesson 7

Wear a mask when you have a cough.

Lesson 8

Remember the number for emergencies. (110 for police, 119 for fire and ambulance.)

Lesson 9

Remember the correct rules for separating and disposing of trash, each area is different.

Be on time and remember appointments.

Say hello to the neighbors when you see them.

Lesson 10

Beware of fires.

Remember evacuation areas.

In case of emergencies, it is important to help others. Because of this, it is important to make friends with others in your area and form a friend network.

It is helpful to have friends that speak the same language as you in case of an emergency.