



# Analysis Of Advantages And Disadvantages Of Japanese Self-Learning: A Case Of Intermediate Level

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**Citation:** Nguyen Thi Ha Chau et al., Analysis Of Advantages And Disadvantages Of Japanese Self-Learning: A Case Of Intermediate Level, *Educational Administration: Theory And Practice*, 30(4), 281-285, Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i4.1448

## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

This comprehensive study investigates the advantages and disadvantages of self-studying Japanese at the intermediate level, considering their implications for language acquisition and the overall learning experience. Self-study offers flexibility, allowing learners to choose when and where they engage in language learning, a benefit for those with busy schedules. It promotes self-management, instilling a sense of responsibility in setting goals, planning learning, and tracking progress. Not only that, it also allows for customized learning, allowing learners to tailor materials and methods to their own needs and preferences. However, self-study poses challenges, especially in maintaining motivation. Unstructured learning environments and external assessments can lead to procrastination. Furthermore, a lack of professional guidance can lead to the formation of language habits that need to be adjusted. Furthermore, self-studying Japanese at an intermediate level offers flexibility, self-management, and customized learning, but it requires intrinsic motivation and may lack professionalism in teaching. This study aims to provide insights into the factors that influence the effectiveness of self-study, drawn from academic sources, to assist learners in making informed decisions about their journey. Learn intermediate Japanese more completely.

**Keywords:** self-learning, effective, intermediate, Japanese language

## 1. Introduction

Language learning is a dynamic process that encompasses a plethora of methods and approaches, each with its own set of advantages and challenges. In recent years, self-directed language learning has gained momentum, offering learners greater autonomy and control over their educational journey. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the ability to self-learn a language is a valuable skill that empowers individuals to engage with diverse cultures and communities. Japanese, one of the important and interesting languages in the world, is attracting many learners around the planet. Japanese learners are often divided into many levels, from basic to advanced, and the intermediate level plays an important role in the process of developing communication skills and deep understanding of this language.

Intermediate-level learners of Japanese find themselves in a unique stage of their language learning journey. They have already acquired fundamental language skills but are now faced with the intricate nuances of the language. At this juncture, self-learning becomes an appealing option for those who wish to tailor their language learning experience to their personal needs, interests, and schedules. It is against this backdrop that we embark on our exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of self-learning Japanese at the intermediate level. This level requires a basic understanding of grammar and vocabulary, and the ability to communicate in basic everyday situations. However, self-studying Japanese at an intermediate level also poses a series of challenges but is worth the effort. In this essay, we will analyse in detail the benefits and challenges of self-studying Japanese at the intermediate level. We will learn about the flexibility, self-management, and self-study skills needed to succeed in achieving this goal.

## 2. Research method and object

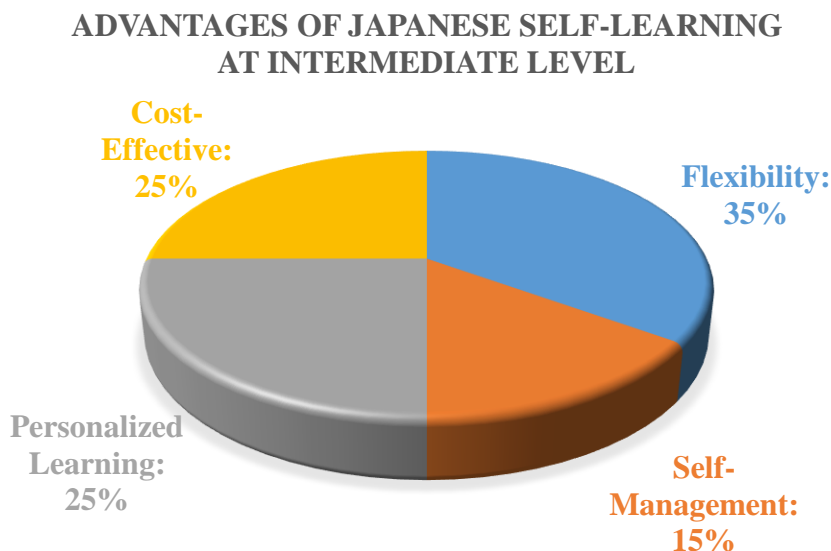
For this research study, we employ a multi-faceted methodology that combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches to ensure a comprehensive understanding of self-learning Japanese at the intermediate level in FPT School. Our research method includes the following key components:

- Surveys and Questionnaires: To gather quantitative data, we administer surveys and questionnaires to a diverse group of intermediate-level Japanese language learners engaged in self-learning. The surveys will encompass questions related to their experiences, motivation, and perceived advantages and disadvantages.
- In-Depth Interviews: To gain deeper insights into the experiences and perspectives of self-learners, we conduct in-depth interviews with a select group of participants. These interviews will allow us to explore individual narratives and delve into the nuances of self-learning, motivation challenges, and personal strategies.

The primary object of our research study is to examine the advantages and disadvantages of self-learning Japanese at the intermediate level in FPT School. We focus on individuals who have reached an intermediate level of proficiency in the Japanese language and have chosen to self-learn, outside of formal classroom settings. The primary demographic of our study consists of intermediate-level Japanese language learners who are actively engaged in self-learning, and who have chosen this path for various reasons. Through the surveys, interviews, and literature review, we aim to explore the experiences of these individuals, understanding the factors that motivate them, the challenges they face, and the strategies they employ in their self-directed learning journeys. The objective is to provide a holistic view of self-learning in the context of intermediate Japanese language acquisition, drawing upon the insights of those who have embarked on this path.

### 3. Advantages of Japanese Self-Learning at Intermediate Level:

According to survey results of FPT students at the intermediate level self-studying Japanese, it shows that the main benefit of self-study is flexibility (35%), followed by Personalized Learning (25%), Cost-Effective (25%), the remaining is Self-Management (15%).



- Flexibility: Self-learning offers flexibility in terms of study schedule and location. Intermediate self-learners have the advantage of flexibility in managing their study time and environment. Learners can adapt their learning to their personal preferences and daily routines. Unlike formal classroom settings, self-learners can choose when and where they study, allowing them to align their language learning with their daily routines, work commitments, and personal preferences.
- Self-Management: Self-learning helps individuals develop time management and self-discipline skills, cultivates essential self-management skills. Students can set their own study pace and tailor their approach to suit their needs, develop the ability to create and follow structured study schedules, fostering valuable life skills. Students need to build their own study habits and develop their self-study skills to nurture independence and self-motivation. Intermediate learners develop a strong sense of ownership over their language journey, leading to more sustained progress. Self-learning cultivates independent learning skills, which are invaluable for future language acquisition or skill development in general.
- Personalized Learning: Intermediate learners can focus on specific skills or areas that require improvement, such as conversation, writing, grammar, or vocabulary. Students can personalize their learning experience, focusing on specific language aspects, according to their individual needs and interests. This tailored approach is more challenging in a traditional classroom.
- Cost-Effective: Self-learners often spend less money compared to traditional classroom-based learning. Online resources, language apps, and free materials are readily available very diverse.

#### 4. Disadvantages of Japanese Self-Learning at Intermediate Level:

- Lack of Professional Guidance: A significant challenge for self-learners at the intermediate level is the absence of access to professional language instructors. This deficiency may hinder their ability to receive expert guidance and structured lessons.
- Limited Practical Exposure: Intermediate self-learners may experience limited opportunities for authentic Japanese communication, affecting their fluency and practical language application.
- Motivation Challenges: Maintaining motivation for self-learning at the intermediate level can be demanding, as it relies heavily on personal discipline. Self-learners may encounter periods of decreased enthusiasm, potentially impacting their progress.
- Quality of Learning Resources: The quality and consistency of self-learning resources can vary significantly. Inconsistent resources may lead to variations in the overall learning experience.
- Inconsistent Resources: The quality of self-learning resources can vary widely. Some online materials may contain errors or lack coherence, making it difficult to progress effectively.

#### 5. Optimize self-study of Japanese at the intermediate level

Setting specific learning goals, creating study habits and a reasonable plan is an important part of the process of self-learning any skill. First, students need to determine the Overall Goal for their learning. This could be related to learning Japanese at an intermediate level, studying a specific subject, or achieving a goal related to career or personal life such as what level or degree to achieve, take part in exam. The overall goal may be too large to accomplish effectively, break down the big goal into small, specific goals that are easy to measure and achieve, and set specific deadlines for each small goal. Then use the SMART goal setting method:

- S (Specific): Goals should be specific, not vague.
- M (Measurable): The goal should be measurable to know when you have achieved it.
- A (Achievable): Goals should be realistic and achievable.
- R (Relevant): The goal should be related to your overall goal.
- T (Time-bound): The goal should have a specific deadline.

Take note of your goals, write them down for clarity and reminders. Identify the specific steps you need to take to achieve your goal. Make a detailed plan and determine specific time for each step. Plan to study on a fixed schedule every day or week. This helps you know exactly when you have to study and create a habit. Determine the priority of goals. If you have multiple goals, make sure you focus on the most important one first. Track your progress and check if you've achieved your mini-goals. If necessary, adjust your plan. Finally, start taking action on your plan and track progress. Setting specific goals gives you clear guidance and shape for your learning journey. This creates specificity, measurable progress, and motivation to continue learning. Creating study habits and proper planning is important to ensure continued progress in learning Japanese or any other skill. To create study habits, students should find the time of day when they are most refreshed and focused to study. It could be early morning, noon, or evening. Start gently: Start by studying for a short period of time, such as 10-15 minutes a day, then gradually increase the study time. This helps you create a habit gently without causing too much pressure. Identify short-term goals: Set specific and measurable learning goals for each day or week. For example, you might decide to learn 20 vocabulary words a day or read 2 pages of a Japanese book a day. Using architectural timing windows: Use the architectural timing infrastructure to determine learning moments. Try to maintain the habit of studying at the same time every day so that it becomes a natural part of your day. Periodically check your progress and adjust your study plan if necessary. If you find yourself struggling, find ways to improve your study plan. Creating study habits and setting a reasonable plan requires patience and commitment. Remember that learning is a long-term process, and maintaining a study routine and plan is important to achieving your goals.

Besides, determine your specific learning goals and choose materials that match that goal. For example, if you want to improve your communication skills, focus on appropriate material for this skill. Using appropriate study materials is important to ensure effective self-study of Japanese at the intermediate level. Current sources:

- Use a textbook: Choose an intermediate-level Japanese textbook based on reviews and recommendations from other learners or teachers. The textbook provides the basics of grammar, vocabulary, and language skills.
- Online study materials: Use websites, mobile applications, and other online resources to access study materials. Examples include Duolingo, Memrise, Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese, and WaniKani.
- Teaching materials: Watch online lectures or videos on YouTube or educational websites like Coursera or edX. Many Japanese teachers and experts share knowledge and skills through videos.
- Original Japanese books: Read original Japanese books, stories, or articles to improve your ability to read and understand Japanese. Start with simple works and gradually increase difficulty.

- Use of publications and media: Watch movies, listen to music, and watch Japanese TV shows. This helps you improve your listening and speaking skills.
- Combine materials: Don't limit yourself to one learning source. Incorporate a variety of materials to develop overall language skills.

Look for reviews from others: Look for ratings and reviews of study material from other learners before deciding to use it. This helps you choose quality documents. Note that choosing the right study material may depend on your learning style, personal goals, and current level. Try out different materials to find what works best for you and make sure you keep studying consistently.

Combining self-study with Japanese communication practice is an effective way to develop language skills to achieve the best results in learning Japanese or any other skill. You can combine learning methods to optimize the learning process:

- Join a study group or class: Find study groups or community Japanese classes in your area or online. Participate in these opportunities to communicate with native speakers and fellow students, applying what you learn on your own.
- Find communication classmates: Search for classmates or study partners via websites, applications or social networks. You can practice Japanese communication through chatting, writing letters, or video calling.
- Use Japanese learning apps: There are many Japanese learning apps that provide communication exercises and connecting with other learners. Examples include Tandem, HelloTalk, or Speaky.
- Join online forums and communities: Participate in online forums and communities about Japanese. You can ask questions, discuss topics, and look for opportunities to practice communication. Combining self-study and practicing Japanese communication helps you apply knowledge practically and improve language skills quickly. Don't hesitate to join the Japanese community and find opportunities to use the language every day.
- Use audio and video materials: Listen to music, watch movies, and even watch Japanese TV shows. This helps you improve your listening and pronunciation.
- Practice communication regularly: Participate in Japanese communication activities, such as communicating with native speakers, writing letters, or participating in online forums.
- Look for work or volunteer opportunities: If you have the opportunity, consider working or participating in volunteer activities where you can interact daily with Japanese speakers.
- Participate in extracurricular courses: Consider participating in extracurricular courses or learning more about Japanese culture and history. This can help you better understand the language and build a deep connection with Japanese culture.

Combining these learning methods helps you develop overall skills and improve quickly. Learning becomes more diverse and interesting when you use a variety of resources and learning methods.

## **6. Conclusion:**

Self-learning Japanese at the intermediate level provides numerous advantages, including flexibility, self-management, customized learning, and the development of independence and self-motivation. This includes using appropriate study materials, planning properly, and maintaining regularity in studying. However, it comes with disadvantages such as the lack of professional guidance, limited practical exposure, motivation challenges, and variations in resource quality. Students at this stage can optimize their self-learning by cultivating motivation, seeking high-quality resources, and actively creating opportunities for language practice and interaction. We believe that with enough motivation, passion, and self-discipline in self-study and appropriate learning methods, students can progress in Japanese. Besides, students should combine self-study with other learning methods to achieve the best results.

This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing a comprehensive analysis of self-learning Japanese at the intermediate level. In the future, further research can focus on developing appropriate learning materials for self-study students and more detailed analysis of the Japanese self-study learning process at different levels.

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