# Japanese Language Learning Resources

#### Lecture & Group Discussion

Cloé Ferrante, French CIR at the Gifu Prefectural Office SDC2 February 22, 2023 11:00 – 11:50



## Bonjour 🗱



♀ Cloé Ferrante
♀ French CIR, Gifu City Prefectural Office (2021~)

Bachelors in Japanese Studies
 Masters in Sciences of Education

Former instructional designer at the medical institute of a French university

Passed JLPT N1 in July 2022

## My Japanese learning journey (summed up)

- Spent childhood watching anime and playing games with Japanese audio
- Did not learn kanji or sit down at a desk to study
- Arrived at university with a full conversational Japanese abiliy but unable to read hiragana
  - (causing my teachers to wonder if I was either very smart or very dumb)
    - (yes my grammar teacher actually asked that question to my face)
- Decided to 'actually start studying' around 2015



## Watching Naruto all day

What I thought was

VS

## Actually studying

#### **Exposure Based Learning**

Aka consuming media in your target language, wether it be books, movies, music, comics, etc... and 'absorbing' knowledge

## **Objective Based Learning**

Aka following learning objectives, for example by going through chapters of a manual like Genki or Minna no Nihongo, or taking a language course

## Learning via exposure

- What I was actually doing by watching and listening to Japanese media during my childhood.
- Very effective to acquire **passive skills**, which are **listening** and **reading**.
- Ideally, you would pick something that is just slightly over your level, so that your brain can deduce meaning from what you already know.
  - This is called **comprehensible input**.



## **Sentence Mining**

- While you're immersing, you will pick out words and sentences from the content that you do not understand.
- You then make flashcards with those words and sentences to review later.
- This makes it easier for your brain to memorize content, because you learn in context.



#### Sentence Mining Example

#### Flashcard - Front

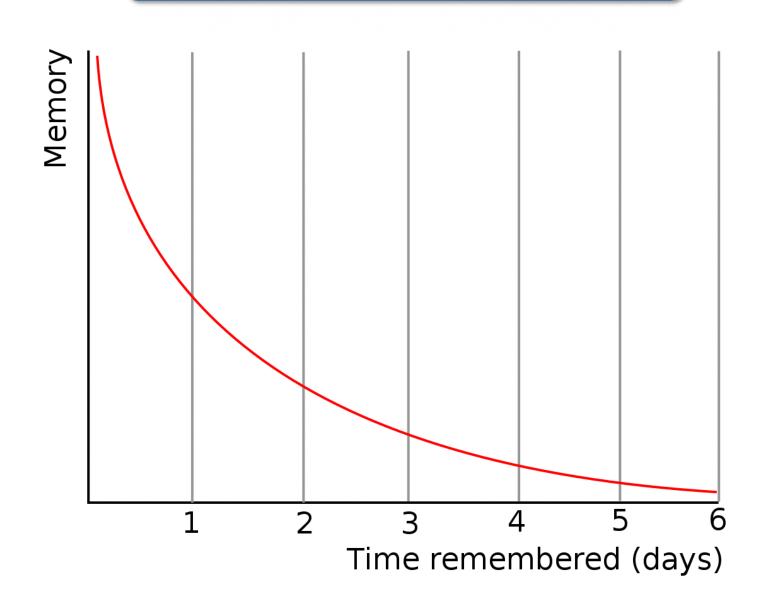
#### ほう… 向かってくるのか。

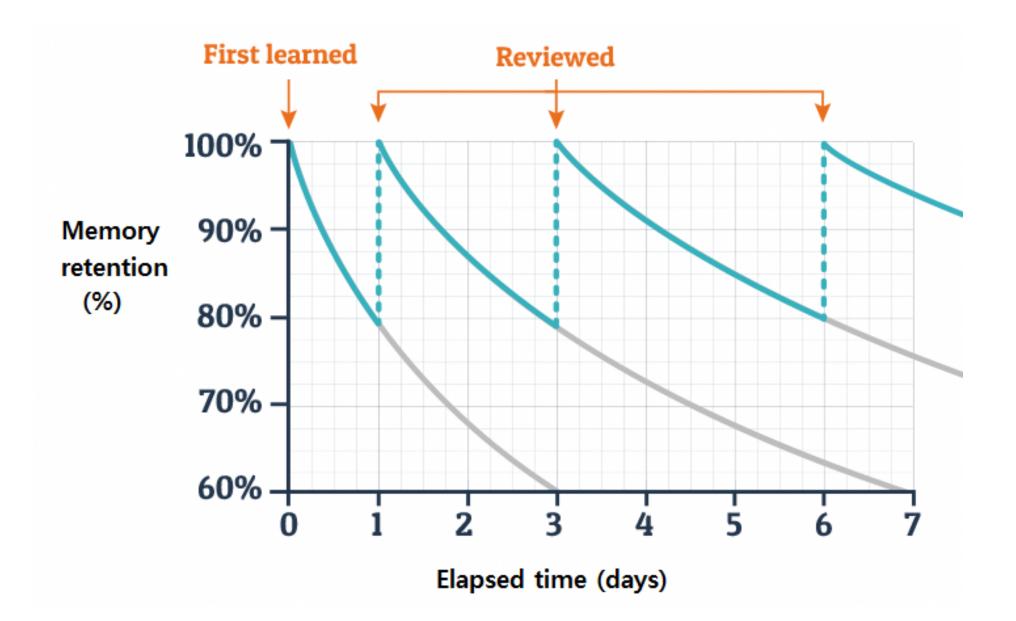


#### Flashcard - Back

# 向う = to face, to go towards, to head towards

#### The Forgetting Curve

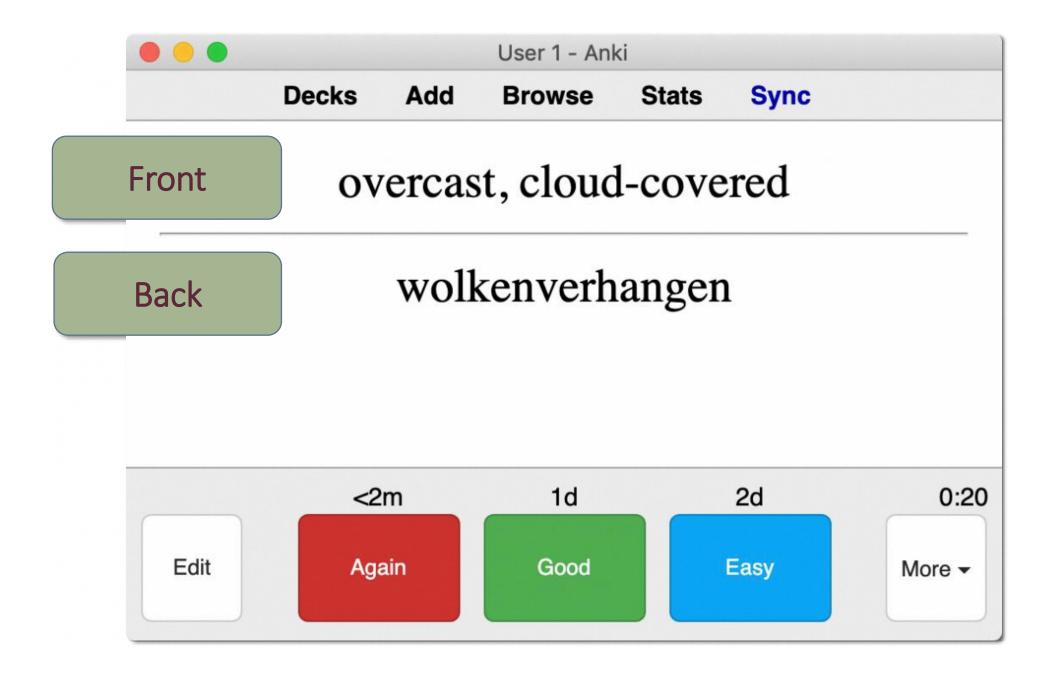




## **Spaced Repetition**

- Method of reviewing material at systematic intervals, right before you forget it
- Spaced Repetition Systems (SRS) will be our weapon to combat the forgetting curve
- You can make your own system with **physical flashcards**, or use an app like **ANKI** with a built-in SRS



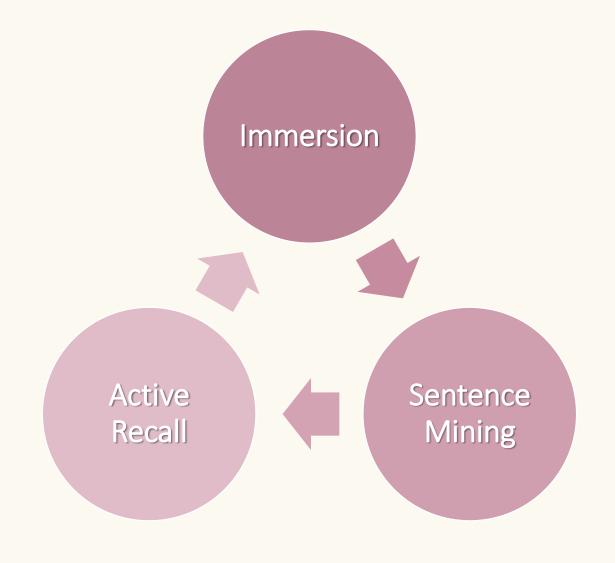


## **Active Recall**

- You want to **force your brain to recall something** in order to memorize it. Active recall is also called forced recall.
- Instead of testing your knowledge only at the end of a study session/chapter/before a test, you want to be doing it every step of the memorization process.
- You can use your **flashcards** to do active recall, or try a **closed book** technique.
  - Write down everything you know about your subject without the help of any book or resource; or write down all of the kanji you just practiced without referencing.



## Ultimate Study Method...?





## Taxonomy of Educational Objectives

## **Bloom's Taxonomy**

CREA		Produce new or original work Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate									
EVAL		stify a stand or decision praise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh									
ANAL	YSE	Draw connections among ideas differentiate, organise, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, expertiment, question, test									
APPL	Y	Use information in new situation Execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch									
UND	ERSTAND	Explain ideas or concepts Classify, discribe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate									
REM	EMBER	Recall facts and basic concepts define duplicate, list, memorise, repeat, state									

## **Objective Based Learning**

- What I used to call 'actually studying' 'Sitting down at a desk with your books and struggling'
- Use this as **your foundation**; your learning by immersion will complement it.
- Contrary to exposure based learning, there is clarity in what you need to learn. You'll have structure and won't get as lost.
  - (Ex: A grammar lesson on the particle  $\mathfrak{D}^{\mathfrak{Z}}$  VS an episode of your favorite show with no intended educational purpose)



## Pick a source and stick to it (mostly)

- Books like Genki, Minna no Nihongo...
- JLPT books (Shin Kanzen Master series is best)

(Careful! JLPT levels are not necessarily a good way to assess your level of Japanese, and the books are more of a guide on how to take the test itself.)

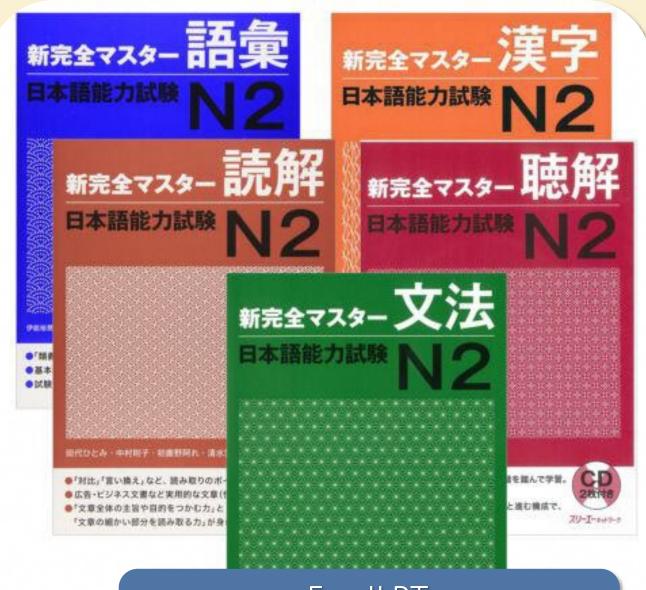
• In-person or online Japanese language classes (Ask about classes in your area! Sometimes you can attend classes done by volunteers from your city.)

If you spend too much time figuring out what the perfect way to learn is, you'll never actually start. (Take it from me.)





#### For Japanese: Minna no Nihongo series



For JLPT:

Shin Kanzen Master series

## What did not work for me

- Passively immersing myself in media without ever trying to recall anything
- Trying to learn vocabulary lists or kanji readings out of context

#### • JLPT books (!)

(Because I used them as a Japanese learning tool and not an exam prep tool. But when it was time to practice for the test, they came in handy.)

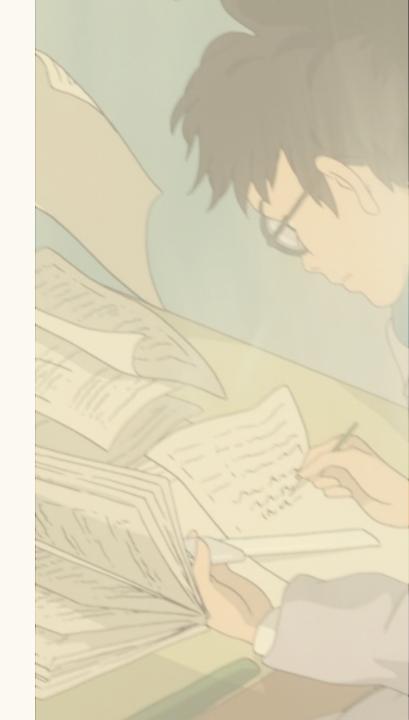
ひと, -り, -と ・ ジン, ニン

小国人・がいこくじん
 個人・こじん
 三人・さんにん,みたり
 人間・にんげん
 5) 人気・にんき



## What worked for me

- Consuming video content in Japanese, sentence mining and SRS flashcards
- Getting an e-reader and using the built-in dictionary
- Learning about the phonetic components of kanji
- Joining club activities and blending in with Japanese people



だけ T る。 「考え わ 風は年相応にあどけな なんぞっと思 いるようだ。 1 対して 俺が馬鹿でかっこ悪 たげ 人だ。 か すると、 打ち交じりにそ 町 小町はお姉さんぶ 0 が炬燵に ねえ So ・だから じや ったならよろ は妹だから 位置を あ、 答える俺の 小 い町のことけ 目が合っ 手を 直 お兄ち 2 小町 T ね、 T か も う Highlight Q Note Share . いれも、小町のたったりのかり 小町 照れ 上がると、 いい 元を見れば ない ことは起きな よ ように付け足し はふふ っ た天板にぶぶ で、 かな なのに、 そ きにし ことや 炬燵 の拍 のた 41 っと h Y r 優 T Dictionary • 馬鹿 (ばか) idiot, moron, retard, imbecile, cretin, half-wit · a person of subnormal intelligence poor fish, stupid, pillock, dullard, dolt, pudding head · a person who is not very bright juggins pudden-head bampot Union Japanese-English Dictionary> ...

#### Phonetic Components can help you read



## What I am still struggling with

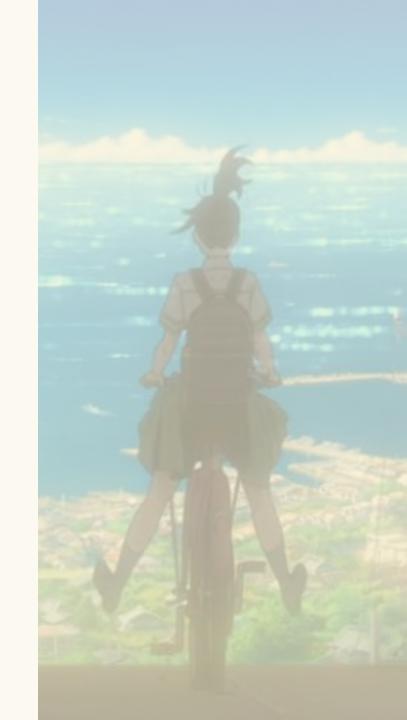
• Reading

• Writing by hand

Oh God how do you write « keikaku » again, I'm literally a game planner I can't not know how to write plan, this isn't happening, Cloé WHAT WERE YOU THINKING AAAAFFGGDGGSGHHAA

## What studying am I doing now?

- Studying **beyond N1**
- Getting out of the 'Books for foreigners' section of the store and discovering vocabulary books for Japanese people (!)
- Timidly checking out the Kanji Kentei guides...



#### Vocabulary books for Japanese children





« Encyclopedia of the vocabulary you'd want to know before 12 years old »

すかつ

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kanji Kentei (or Kanken)

都統	お年を召された方た。 し分の正しさを訴える。 単一回 増加テスト	軽や	20県内の史跡を調べる。	13 祖母の謡曲を聞く。	(1)総理が威儀を正す。	177 主治医が執力する。	10 劣勢に立たされる。	19 内震が拡大する。	19 奇抜なアイデアを述べる。	1回 あらたな分野を開拓する。	12 メールで近況報告する。	① 詳細なレポートを読む。	12 黙読の時間を設ける。	⑨ 優雅な生活にあこがれる。	<ol> <li>(8) 民衆が騒然とした。</li> </ol>	⑦ 端麗な顔立ちをしている。	⑥ 議員が釈明会見を行う。	⑤ 恒久案として提出する。	④ 含蓄のあるはなしを聞く。	③静寂が耳にここちよい。	②脈絡のない説明だ。	① 濃霧に注意して進む。	<ol> <li>次の―― 絵の漢字の読みをひらがなで</li> </ol>	
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NINTERNEDSS	中 調 漢字辞曲	「戸秀 イ修 ウ襲 工衆	12 技業の単位をシュウ得する。	「御敵軍が来シュウする。	1	(ア い イ 王 ウ 興 工 郡		⑦ キョウ喉の声が上がる。	1	(ア皆イ懐ウ攻王皆)()の建物が全カイする。	必ずカイ律を守	④ 勝つ確率はカイ無だ。			③ 作りを引を云とる。	① 健康を一持する。	() 次の――岐のカタカナにあてはまる淡空				彼女は	成功するように祈る。	② 國らずも当たったようだ。	80R 89R
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## **Discussion: Group Assignment**

Or



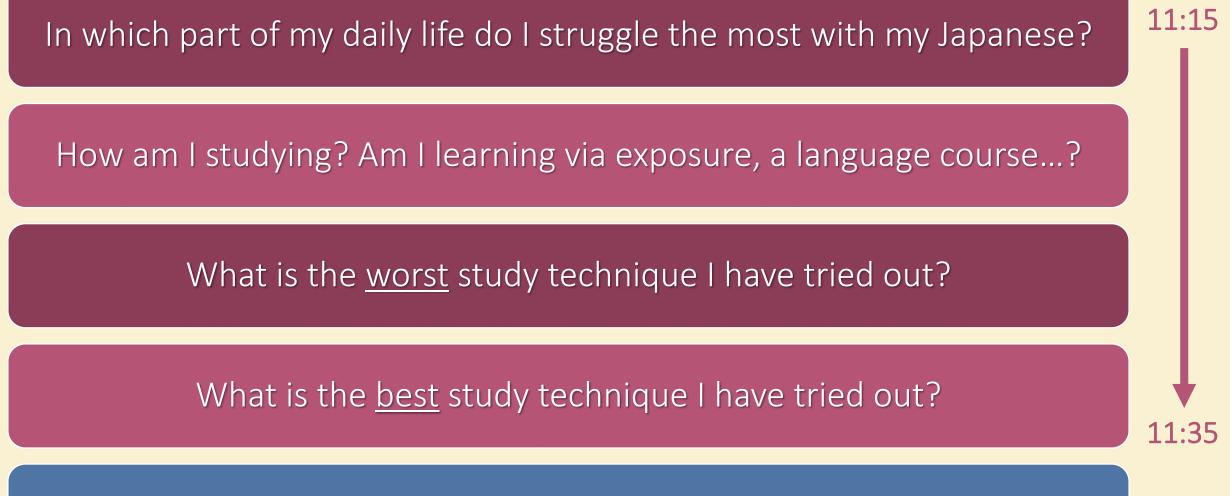
Go to the following address

## www.wooclap.com

and enter the code

SDC2

## **Discussion Topics**



Bonus question: Am I able to talk about my interests in Japanese?

(5 min max per topic)

## **Discussion Review**

Let's look at everybody's answers on Wooclap and discuss!

# **Resources & Tools**



Google Doc with the resources mentioned in this presentation & more

## **Closing Remarks from Senpai**

- Don't be like me, do your flashcard reps
- Find what works for **you** and for **your own goals**
- Even that pretentious dude who's got full marks on N1 started somewhere, **don't compare yourself**
- You're in a foreign country, learning the language as you go, for crying out loud! **Pat yourself on the back!**

In fact, please give yourselves a round of applause for being here today. Thank you for your participation!

