

About みどり: Japanese for Technical Intern Trainees

1. Introduction: What みどり Aims to Do

みどり: Japanese for Technical Intern Trainees (hereinafter referred to as “みどり”) is a set of teaching materials for Japanese study designed for technical intern trainees. It can be used as the main teaching material for lectures, as well as in continued learning, so by all means download it. In creating it, we endeavored to accomplish primarily the following two objectives.

- (1) Cultivate the Japanese communication skills that technical intern trainees require at internship work sites and in daily life settings.
- (2) Create easy-to-use teaching materials for those teaching Japanese to foreigners but who have no special knowledge or experience for such a task, as well as for instructors who are not native Japanese speakers.

2. Structure of みどり in the Website

みどり consists of a total of 32 lessons. Each lesson is divided into four sections. In the page for each section you will find the following teaching materials.

- (1) student: Two A4 pages comprise one section. It will surely be easy to use if you copy it on successive A3 pages.
- (2) instructor: These are the same sheets as those for students above, but they have notes and other information for instructors
- (3) Voice file: Voice files for practice. The files are divided up for each practice session. The corresponding voice files are indicated by an icon such as . If you would like to know more about how to play the downloaded voice files in the classroom, please click the following URL:
http://hiroba.jitco.or.jp/info/category/how_to_ja/how_to_02_ja/
- (4) Voice file scripts: Transcriptions of the voice files. There is one file per section.



The screenshot shows the Jitco website interface for Lesson 1, Section 1. The main content area displays the title "1-1 はじめて あった ときの あいさつ を する" and a short introductory text. Below the text is a "Word Check" section with a list of words and their hiragana/katakana forms. Annotations include:

- A box on the left titled "Sections and their Aims" explaining the goal of the section: "Extend greetings upon first meeting".
- A box on the left titled "Lists the teaching materials in Lesson 1, Section 1" pointing to a sidebar menu where various materials like "教材", "音声", and "字幕" are listed.
- An oval on the right titled "Displays the content of the 'Word Check' in the section" pointing to the word list.

3. Study Time for みどり

One lesson (four sections) is designed to be covered in about four hours. If you devote around two hours in a day's classes to one lesson in みどり, as well as hiragana, katakana, pronunciation, numbers, and review of past material, you should finish the first 16 lessons before entering Japan. Naturally, the required time will vary with the size of the class, the methods of instruction, and the level of the students, so consider this just an estimate.

4. Eight Unique Features of みどり

- (1) It Cultivates the Japanese Communication Ability of Technical Intern Trainees**
We have taken a close look at what is important in technical intern trainees' communication in Japanese, chosen study material with utmost care, and carefully crafted the order and methods of learning. It is a set of teaching materials designed for technical intern trainees, and is a shade different from standard textbooks.
- (2) It Can be Used Broadly from Entry-Level through to Continued Learning**
For those just starting out in their study of Japanese, starting from the first lesson and working forward would be good. If using it for continued learning or in conjunction with other teaching materials, you can also pick out the parts you deem necessary and use only those.
- (3) It Can Also be Used by Those Who Have No Experience Exclusively Studying How to Teach Japanese**
We have written specific methods of how to conduct each practice session in the main text of the sheets for student use. If you follow those methods in class you will achieve the goals of that lesson. The sheets for instructors and the materials for instructors also provide specific instruction methods, the answers to practice problems, and other information for reference.
- (4) It Can Also be Used by Instructors Who are Not Native Japanese Speakers**
The instruction sentences in the sheets for students and the explanations in the sheets for instructors are written in hiragana, in easy-to-understand Japanese. There is plenty of voice included so that Japanese native pronunciation can be heard abundantly.
- (5) It Starts with Listening**
In order to learn to use language, we think one must first—more than anything—listen a lot, so we have incorporated a great deal of practice with voices. For example, there are practice drills where students listen to voices while looking at illustrations and consider the meaning, and where they listen to and try to understand examples that use new sentence forms and expressions. After that, the textbook proceeds to speaking and writing practice.
- (6) It Instills Sentence Forms and Expressions while Communicating**
The main practice items in みどり are listening and speaking activities. We have chosen communication activities that use conversation topics that are familiar and that the students will likely become more and more interested in talking about. Through such practice, they will gradually take up the required sentence forms and expressions.
- (7) It Uses Many Illustrations for Practice**
We have used many illustrations when introducing and practicing new words and expressions, and when practicing conversations. The use of illustrations makes the situations and meanings in a given setting easy to understand, and enables enjoyable practice. This also cuts down on the need for translations and explanations.
- (8) It Incorporates Plentiful Pair and Group Practice**
We have incorporated large amounts of pair and group activities for when the students practice speaking or checking each other's answers. Compared with one-on-one practice between the instructor and a student, or between the instructor and the whole class, pair and group work lets you increase the amount of practice and boost the level of student participation. It also allows students to relax more as they study, since they do not have to feel nervous speaking in front of the whole class.

5. Study Content of みどり

We have prepared a list of the study content of lessons 1 through 16 on a separate page, so please see here. <http://hiroba.jitco.or.jp/categories/index/4> It shows you a bird's eye view of みどり. It also serves a reference for those wishing to choose certain parts of みどり to use.

6. Structure of Each Section and How to Use It

Goal

At the beginning, the students write the goal of the section in their native language with the help of the instructor. By writing it themselves, they become aware of the goal and can be expected to proactively tackle the studies ahead. The goal is written in Japanese in the lower right of the box, but a translated version will appear for each language in the heading of each section, which can be consulted if necessary.

Let's Begin

The topics and study content of this section are indicated by illustrations or the like. New words and expressions are also introduced. Here the students are allowed to freely discuss what they can glean from the illustrations in their native language. By using their native language, they can predict the content of the upcoming listening practice, which has the effect of being more similar to listening during actual communication. At this stage, the emphasis is on listening to the voices and understanding the meaning while relying on the illustrations. They do not need to be able to speak eloquently.

Two A4 sheets comprise one section.
It is convenient to conv to A3 paper

Clicking the URL opens a download page for sheets that explains the practice in detail, as well as other materials for instructors.

Word Check

Indicates new sentence forms and expressions. These have already been touched on in “Let’s Begin” and “Let’s Listen,” but here the sentence forms and expressions are firmly ingrained and confirmed. Explain in their native language if necessary.

Could You Do It?

Finally, the students look back on their studies and assess themselves on their level of achievement of the goal. This gives them a sense of accomplishment and alerts them to areas that need improvement. It also raises their enthusiasm for learning.

Let's Listen

Practice listening to voices while viewing illustrations to select the correct answer. While exposing students to pronunciation and intonation, it also encourages understanding of sentence forms and expressions. Then there is continued practice speaking using the same illustrations.

Let's Talk

Practice talking about oneself using newly learned sentence forms and expressions, as well as asking and answering questions with other students.

This is an example sheet for instructors. The yellow balloons contain information for instructors. There are also answers to the practice problems

Let's Read

Practice reading comprehension from written passages and confirming sentence forms and expressions

Let's Write

Includes practice writing about oneself and one's classmates

Let's Try it Out

Practice to check whether the "goal" was achieved, with accompanying movements

(Each section does not necessarily include all practices above.)

About the Icons

The following icons (or symbols) are used in みどり.

- (1) : Indicates an activity where it is OK for students to use their native language.
- (2) : In addition to A, there are also icons with the letters B through H. These icons indicate practice using voices. The letters A through H correspond to the last characters of the voice file names to be used.
- (3) 音声 : Pronounced *onsei*, these kanji are used as an icon in みどり. The icon indicates the sound of playing a voice file.
- (4) : Clicking the URL to the right of this icon opens a download page for related teaching materials and/or information.
- (5) T, S : In the sheets for instructors and the explanations for instructors, T indicates "teacher" and S indicates "student."

7. Aspects Not Covered in みどり

みどり does not include teaching materials for introduction or practice of text, pronunciation, or numbers. Please supplement as necessary for such study.