

## Japanese Language Preparatory Reading

If you are offered a place to read Japanese Studies at Cambridge, the short period between leaving school and coming into residence offers a valuable - and necessary - window of opportunity to do some effective preparatory work.

### Japanese language

Before you start your first term in Cambridge, you must do some preparatory language learning. The language course is intensive and moves very quickly. It is vital that you are completely familiar with the basic syllabaries (*hiragana* and *katakana*) before you arrive. Your knowledge of them will be assumed from the very beginning and the course does not use Romanization. Lists of these syllabaries are provided in the three books marked with a large asterisk ( \* ) in the list below. Specialist workbooks are also available.

### First year textbooks:

- みんなの日本語 初級Ⅰ 第2版 本冊 : *Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 1 Honsatsu* (Everyone's Japanese Beginner 1 Textbook) 2nd Edition Paperback
- \* みんなの日本語 初級Ⅰ 第2版 翻訳・文法解説 英語版 : *Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 1* (Everyone's Japanese Elementary 1) 2nd Edition - Translation & Grammar Notes - English Paperback
- みんなの日本語 初級Ⅱ 第2版 本冊 : *Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 2 Honsatsu* (Everyone's Japanese Elementary 2 Textbook) 2nd Edition Paperback
- みんなの日本語 初級Ⅱ 第2版 翻訳・文法解説 英語版 : *Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 2* (Everyone's Japanese Elementary 2) 2nd Edition - Translation & Grammar Notes - English Paperback published by スリーエーネットワーク : 3A Corporation

### Guides to character stroke order:

- \* F. Sakade, ed., *A Guide to Reading and Writing Japanese* (Tokyo: Tuttle) **or**
- \* W. Hadamitzky and M. Spahn, *A Guide to Writing Kanji and Kana*, 2 vols. (Tokyo: Tuttle)

### Japanese dictionaries

Dictionaries are useful, but expensive if purchased in the UK. They are not essential in the early stages of language learning, and the Faculty Library is well provided for in this respect.

### Other preparatory reading

In addition to language classes, all first-year students will attend a participatory lecture and seminar series titled "Introduction to East Asian Studies" with students studying Chinese. To prepare, we strongly advise you to do some general reading to gain a basic understanding of Japanese history, society, and culture. A suggested, preliminary reading list for these topics can be found [HERE](#). We also advise you to read some Japanese literature in translation. There are many excellent novels but anthologies such as the *Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories* and the *Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories* are highly recommended.