

Description of the Levels of the Language and Culture Learning Program

SEND International of Japan

PHASE I

Overall Goals:

Level 1 - to be able to use Japanese necessary for everyday living, and for initiating relationships with Japanese people.

Level 2 - to be able to respond to various situations that occur in everyday living, as well as deepen the content and widen the scope of conversation.

Level 3 - to be able to converse and respond with confidence. The goal is to use the same spoken Japanese as one's companion. Topics of conversation expand beyond everyday activities to include, for example, one's own interests, feelings, thoughts, and opinions.

PHASE II

Overall Goals:

Level 4 - to be able to express one's opinions, convictions, and emotions clearly; to be able to summarize experiences and plans; be able to tell the state of things, the points one wants to emphasize, one's purpose, things that impressed one. A person is able to express ideas clearly and logically in writing.

Level 5 - to be able to think on the spot and spontaneously put into words what was practiced in writing in Level 4. A person is able to ask precise questions to supply the information of the point one does not understand. The goal is to be able to lead a Bible study or a class; to guide the discussion and freely explain the content or teaching.

PHASE III

Each of the following levels consists of specific activities which measure a person's progress. Only a few of these activities are noted below.

Level 6

1. Be able to use common expressions used by native speakers when making hospital visits expressing sympathy regarding injury, illness, or expressing regrets, as well as expressing words of greeting in a variety of situations.
2. Write a personal letter or thank you note for special occasions.
3. Be able to use the appropriate level of Japanese when speaking to children/adults in order to develop a close relationship with them.
4. Become familiar enough with the content of recommended discipleship training materials--so that these are presented in a coherent manner.

Level 7

1. Be able to understand and use honorific Japanese--including exalted and humble forms--to make an introduction, to give an appropriate word of greeting at an official ceremony; to introduce oneself or a guest with appropriate language.
2. Study Japanese proverbs; be able to use them appropriately and in a timely manner.
3. Be able to understand a conversation between Japanese men or women, being aware of masculine and feminine language forms. Be able to use these forms when appropriate.
4. Be able to teach in simple terms the meaning of at least seven parables from the Bible to children and to adults.

Level 8

1. Be able to ask and answer questions to help identify and deepen understanding of issues in informal counseling situations.
2. Be able to discuss issues related to world view with native speakers.
3. Be able to interpret a testimony or a private conversation between individuals in a non-public forum for small or personal gatherings.
4. Be able to read and understand the contents of five Christian tracts or pamphlets and select an appropriate one for a person one has in mind.

Level 9

1. Be able to understand and participate in discussions of Japanese society, including but not limited to, education, economics, and politics. In this particular forum, be able to express and exchange opinions and ideas with native speakers.
2. Be able to interpret a message in a worship service or a speech in a public forum from Japanese to English with 80% accuracy.
3. Read a Japanese novel or a biography based on the Bible and be able to write your impressions or reflections in Japanese.
4. Be able to conduct counseling sessions in Japanese.

Level 10

1. Read articles in a Japanese newspaper and be able to understand about 80% of the content. Be able to tell someone else about the content accurately.
2. Be able to understand with about 90% accuracy a newscast on the radio or television. Be able to tell someone else about the content.
3. Be able to understand and create public documents and be able to respond in negotiating.
4. Write an essay or technical article in the field of one's expertise in Japanese.