How do we learn Japanese as a Foreign Language?

Alaska State Japanese Speech Competition
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Learners in the U.S. / Alaska

- Japanese Immersion System
  - Anchorage
    - Anchorage High School
    - Robert Service High School
    - East Anchorage High School
  - Wasilla
    - Wasilla High School
  - Fairbanks
    - West Valley High School
    - (high school students course through a community college)

- Japanese Language Proficiency Test: JLPT
  - N1
  - N2
  - N3
  - N4
  - N5

K-12 (Immersion & regular) to Higher Education

UAF
- Japanese Studies Major
- Study abroad opportunities
  - ASU: All Japan International (with NIU)
  - Hokkaido University
  - HASSP: Short Term Exchange Program
  - Waseda
  - Mears Middle School
  - Trios' International Program in Liberal Arts
  - Waseda University
- AP Japanese policy
  - High school students take AP Japanese exams, depending on their score and school, the course credits

History/relationship between Alaska and Japan
- Alaska was the first state to open a small office in Japan (1963)
- Alaska is a growing year-round destination for Japanese people

History of immersion programs
- Multiple decades around the world are the innovation immigration process to learn second and third language. Many schools in Europe, North America, and Asia have adopted this teaching method in some form. The method of teaching a language completely different than the one students are learning at home. Universities like the University of Alaska Anchorage, during the diploma student level.

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What is Immersion?
- Immersion is the process by which children learn another language by having large amounts of their classes taught in that language, starting at the elementary school level.

What is JET Program?
- JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program) offers two types of positions: ALT and JALT. ALTs are English teachers who teach in Japan. JALTs work for the Japanese government.

Job Opportunities
- JET program (JET: the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program) offers two types of positions: ALT and JALT. ALT stands for Assistant Language Teacher, and both is designed to improve the students’ English language skills. The ALTs are non-teaching, they work at the Consulate General of Japan in Tokyo, Saitama Prefecture office, and Osaka Prefecture office, and Shikoku International Relations office
- Facebook North Star Branch
- Anchorage School District
- US government
- Ditu

AK State Japanese Speech Competition
What isAK State Japanese Speech Competition? Speech Contest Mission Statement:
- Through the Alaska State Japanese Language Festival, we bring together all Alaska students of the Japanese language and give them the opportunity to share their knowledge and skills of enthusiasm for Japanese language and culture. The contest promotes mutual understanding between Alaska and Japan.

There are four big categories which are Skills & Songs, Poetry, Haiku, and Speech. Each categories have 2-3 judges, who judge using a well-designed rubric. Each year there are about 100 volunteers in addition to the large number of participants that help make this event possible.

Skills & Songs
- Elementary Non-Heritage Skit
- Elementary Mixed Skit
- Middle/High College Non-Heritage Skit
- Middle/High College Heritage Skit
- Song E: Elementary
- Song F: Middle/High College
- Poetry:
  - Elementary/Middle/High College
  - Original Poetry
- Haiku (Japanese Poetry composed of 17 syllables, broken down by 5-7-5)

Speech
- Beginning
- Elementary
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Open
- Aurora (winners of this division can go to a national level competition)

Pedagogy at UAF
- The purpose of this paper is to research how students use various study resources and improve their Japanese linguistic and communication skills. In the UAF Japanese Studies Program, students learn Japanese through a curriculum that is based on the research findings of the process of foreign language acquisition. Students participate in various language-related events and projects. One of those is the Alaska State Speech Competition. Students’ proficiency levels become higher through language practice and self-reflection. As UAF students not only learn Japanese Modern Literature, but also classic Japanese Language courses, and various projects such as learning Alaska history and nature & earthquakes in Japan before going to study abroad. If students are moving in Japanese Studies, they are required to study abroad in Japan for one year. Through studying abroad, their Japanese fluency and adapt to other cultures become high. Exchange students from Japan have opportunities to learn Japanese in language paramombres. Participating in events like the Japanese Speech Contest is a great opportunity to not only to learn the language, but also to think about it. through 12 foreign language education.

Foreign Language teaching experiences as TAs/Tutors
- Exchange students have opportunities to be teaching assistants or tutors during their period of exchange. If they are interested in teaching, especially if they are from an University of Education, they can take pedagogy classes. Foreign Language Practice and Language Acquisition Pedagogy for Teachers of Japanese. Through these classes, students observe Japanese classes and teach in those classes under instructors’ supervision. They discuss on second language acquisition research topics, learners’ learning process, teachers’ teaching styles and pedagogy, and what they learned from their teaching experience. It is a great opportunity to learn how to organize the class and teach Japanese.

Learning Acquisition Process
- Japanese Language
  - Japanese is a very different from the English language. First, Japanese is a non-Romantic order in Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) whereas English is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO). Second, Japanese and English are totally different in grammar. There are three types of letters which are Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana. Like English, these three have pronunciation and spelling rules. In contrast, differences are also different. On the other hand, Japanese words are written down with each letter. On the other hand, Japanese words are pronounced as syllables. Because of that, at the beginning of learning the language, learners first need to learn pronunciation, before paying attention to writing. For this reason, many learners learn both of pronunciation and writing at the same time.

- How long does it take to learn Japanese? (FSI Data)
  - According to the survey from the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the US government, it takes 2200 hours for an English speaker to learn Japanese at the same level as native Japanese speakers.

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