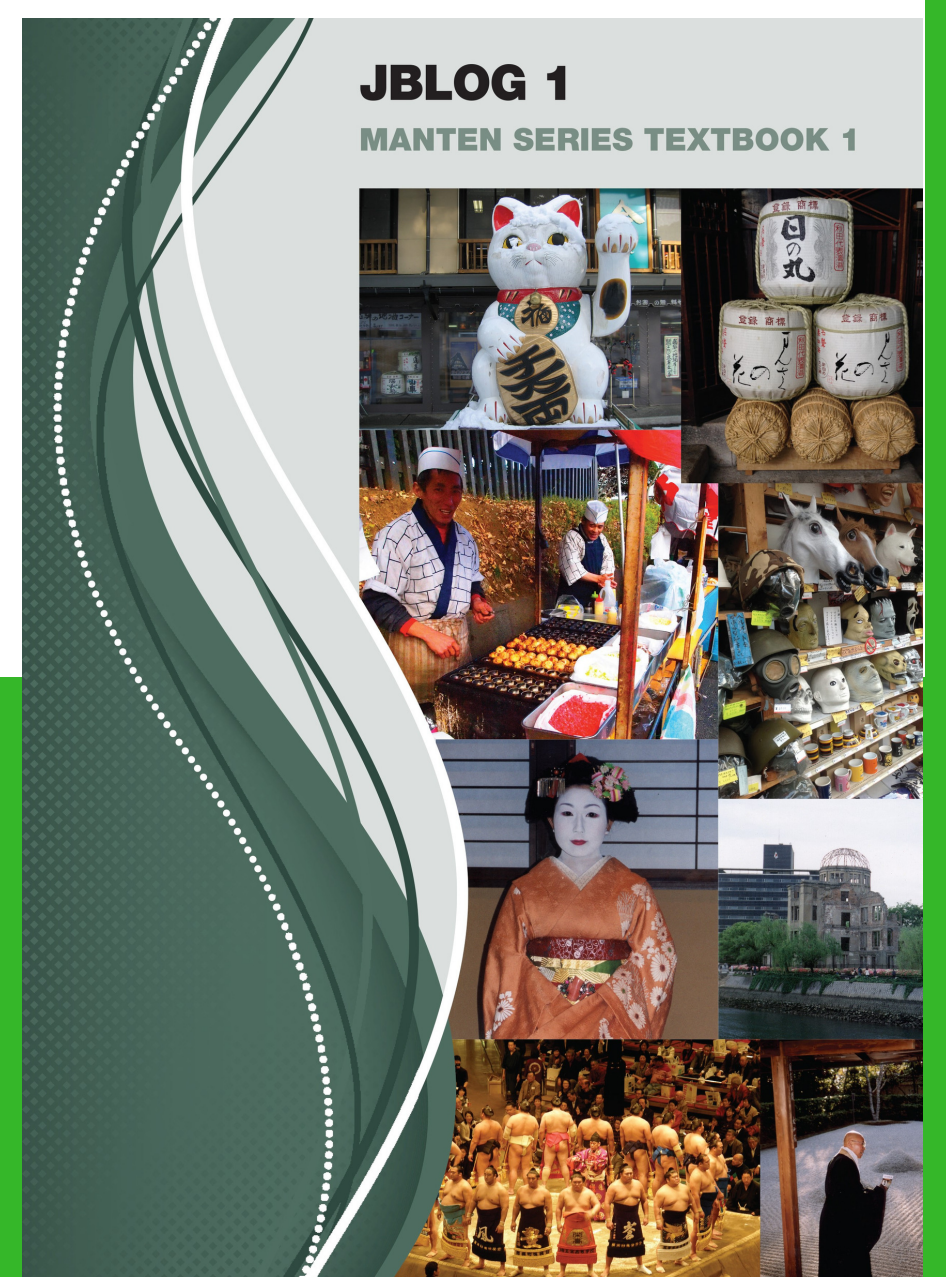


# HOW TO USE YOUR JBLOG TEXTBOOK

THE TEXTBOOK IS DESIGNED TO BE YOUR CHILD'S MAIN RESOURCE FOR LEARNING JAPANESE. THE CONTENT IS PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO TEACH THEMSELVES WITHOUT THE HELP OF THEIR TEACHER. THEIR TEACHER WILL EXTEND THE MATERIAL COVERED IN THE TEXTBOOK WITH ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM.



# Let's look at the key features of the book and how they can help your child.

## 1. The Inside Covers of the Textbook.

You will find script tables in the inside covers of the textbook: the hiragana table in the front and the katakana table at the back. A script is how we describe written language systems. In English, we use capital letters, lower case letters and cursive letters.

Japanese uses three main scripts: hiragana, katakana and kanji. Your child should refer to the hiragana and katakana tables when they are practising reading and writing. If you look closely, you will notice that they are numbered with the stroke order to write each letter.

## 2. The Index

You will find the index at the back of the textbook.

The English to Japanese index can be found on pages 106 to 110, with words listed in alphabetical order. You can look up a word in English and see the Japanese translation written next to it in Japanese script. Above each letter in the Japanese word is romaji. Romaji shows how we pronounce the word by using the English alphabet phonetically. This will support your child as they master reading Japanese scripts.

The Japanese to English index can be found on pages 110 to 114. The words are listed in the hiragana order, which is different to the English alphabetical order.

The kanji index can be found on pages 114 to 116. The kanji words are listed in the order they appear in the textbook by chapter. The kanji index lists how to write the kanji using the correct stroke order, the English meaning of the word, and how it is pronounced and written in hiragana.

## 3. Page Numbers

Each page is numbered with the chapter number followed by page number, for example, 1-3 is Chapter 1 Page 3. These numbers appear on the side panels of each page.

## 4. Chapter Title Page

Each chapter begins with a large photograph of an aspect of Japanese culture. These images will help your child develop an understanding of the many facets of Japanese modern society, for example, traditional temples and shrines, modern skyscrapers, martial arts and school life. Students will learn through exposure to such images that Japanese culture is more than the stereotypes they may be familiar with.

## 5. Jblog

Jblog is a weblog that introduces the cultural background of the chapter. It is written from the perspective of the main character, Jake. His family, including his mum and younger sister, have moved to Tokyo with his father's role.

The blog includes detailed facts to keep even our most gifted students engaged with new insights. The blog has a black side panel that includes the focus words for the blog. These words are listed in Japanese script and English. The pronunciation of each word is listed in the body of the text. If a word is repeated several times in the text, then the romaji above the word with the pronunciation occurs on the word's first appearance only.

## 6. Grammatical Explanations

When new phrases or grammatical structures are introduced, they are presented as a scaffold. A scaffold is a table that explains what each part of the sentence means and the order the words need to appear in in Japanese. This is called syntax.

## 7. Ski Challenge

This section provides challenges at three levels of difficulty based on the ski run rating system of green for beginner, blue for intermediate, and black for advanced. Students are encouraged to return to these challenges and try more difficult levels as their confidence with the content grows.

## 8. Ask Your Senpai Column

This section is based on an Agony Aunt column. A reader sends in a problem they are having understanding an aspect of Japanese language or culture. For example, why is my locker number 4 considered unlucky? The Senpai is the mentor who explains the Japanese perspective to the reader. This section will develop your child's ability to think laterally and consider other perspectives. It will promote a deeper understanding of how Japanese works as a language system, and how the Japanese culture influences the way people act.

## 9. Lucy's Diary

This section is written from the perspective of Jake's younger sister, Lucy. She studied Japanese in Australia prior to the move and offers her advice to Jake. Lucy models the language studied in each chapter in more contextualised texts. For example, she creates palm cards with phrases to use at a birthday party.