Japanese Pronunciation for Communication

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Innovation in recent years of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed traditional learning environments and opened a door to new approaches of learning.
Online Education

In addition to face-to-face classroom instruction during class hours, ICT, internet in particular, enables us to study without constraints of space and time.
A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), ‘Japanese Pronunciation for Communication (JPC)’ is open to public since November 2016. This course has been offered by edX (https://www.edx.org/), which is a global MOOC platform jointly developed by Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
JPC

JPC is the first Japanese language related course offered by a global MOOC, and has been open repeatedly every half year since 2016 to provide an opportunity to practice pronunciation for people who are interested in learning Japanese.
JPC

JPC is distributed worldwide to learners and teachers involved in Japanese language education at no charge. More than 42,000 people have registered from 170 countries and regions (as of October 29, 2018).
The final goal of JPC is to attain proficiency of Japanese pronunciation so that you can accurately get your message across and share your feelings’. The aims of this online course are:

1) **acquisition of phonological knowledge,**
2) **consciousness raising in pronunciation,**
3) **vocalization practice and continuation,**

all of which are vitally necessary to achieve proficient Japanese pronunciation.
Presentation

➢ MOOCs and Japanese Pronunciation for Communication (JPC)
➢ Utilizing JPC to teach Japanese pronunciation
➢ Blended-learning, flipped learning

WasedaX team
Why MOOCs?

‘To bring the best quality education to as many people as we could, so we formed Coursera, whose goal is to take the best courses from the best instructors at best universities and provide it to everyone around the world for free.’

Founder of Coursera, Stanford University Daphne Koller (TED, 1 August 2012)
Impact of MOOCs

MOOCs offer certificates and employability for people who are not lucky enough to receive higher education, but full of the ability and the motivation.

Especially in the USA, MOOCs are recognized as valuable open educational resources for people for the better future.
MOOCs Platforms

<global MOOC>
- Coursera (Stanford University)
- edX (Harvard University · MIT)

<local MOOC>
- FutureLearn (UK) · JMOOC (Japan) · KMOOC (Korea) · XuetangX (China) · Thai MOOC (Thailand) · Iversity (Germany) · FUN (France) · OpenupEd (EC) · Open2Study (Australia) etc···
The 1st Japanese Language
Contents on global MOOC: JPC

<global MOOC>
• edX
Japanese Pronunciation for Communication (JPC)
WasedaX team

<local MOOC>
• JMOOC (放送大学 MOOC)
NIHONGO STARTER
放送大学 • Japan Foundation
よく見られている動画・資料一覧（年間更新2017年度）

01. 「第1単元 開局練習のポイント」

科目名：なめらか！発音3-4（留学生対象日本語科目）
担当教員：戸田 剛子
公開日：2015/05/15
再生時間：00:16:57
再生回数：11193

02. 「第1-1 東併の原因～戦争の定義～」

科目名：国際安全保障論（2014年6月JMORC国語論座）
担当教員：長谷 周平
公開日：2015/04/09
再生時間：00:14:31
再生回数：6919
Japanese Pronunciation for Communication

Practice pronunciation and improve your spoken Japanese in context.

About this course

One of the most challenging aspects of learning Japanese is pronunciation.
JPC Contents

会話で学ぶ日本語発音
&カルチャー

本編講義

世界の日本語
音声教育

受講生

シャドーイング
練習用教材

各週クイズ＆最终テスト*

発音チェック
(相互評価)*

発音フォーラム

*成績評価の対象  该当者のみ
Lectures on Accent, Intonation etc.

Audio Player allows students to repeat model sounds.

Students are able to stop and rewind lectures.
Conversation and Culture Notes

- Conversation
- Learning Japanese pronunciation through conversation
- Culture Notes
- Cultural aspects are introduced. The results of our questionnaire show that students are particularly interested in this section.
15 sound files are provided to practice pronunciation through shadowing.
Teaching Japanese Pronunciation around the World

- English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai
- Students select language they are familiar with.
### Discussion Forum

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>第1回</td>
<td>Points on Japanese Pronunciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>第2回</td>
<td>Accent</td>
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<td>第3回</td>
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<td>第4回</td>
<td>Pronunciation of Colloquial Japanese</td>
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<td>第5回</td>
<td>Becoming a ‘Pronunciation Expert’</td>
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- Exchange ideas and establish learner communities.
• Thank you very much 先生 for the detailed feedback I received! It provided me with insightful information on the areas I should focus on while exercising.

• Thank you for your helpful feedback! I am working on the suggestions. This has been an eye-opening course. I hope there’s a JPC 112 :-D
Thank you to Professor Toda and her staff for the excellent feedback I received on this assignment. I’ve gained much insight on where I need to make improvements and feel even more motivated to reach my (lofty) goal of speaking perfect Japanese.
Grading

- 1. Quiz (Section 1–4): 40%
- 2. Pronunciation Check Assignment (Section 1–5): 10%
- 3. Final Test (Section 5): 50%

Self-paced
- 1. Quiz (Section 1–4): 50%
- 2. Final Test (Section 5): 50%

The passing grade for the course is 60%. To qualify the Verified Certificate, learners must score at least 60%.
Blended Learning

Blended Learning

- Students learn in part through online learning, and they have an element of control over where, when and how they work.
- Devices are used to leverage opportunity for personalization.
- Classrooms fundamentally shift instruction in a way that provides an integrated learning experience.

Tech-rich Instruction

- Students use technology to do the same work at the same place, time and pace.
- Devices are used to support traditional instruction.
- Classrooms may enhance traditional learning experiences.

www.blendedlearning.org
Blended Learning with JPC

• Pronunciation Class @Waseda
  Blended Learning
  ⇒ we offer classroom instruction from the first week to 5th week, and online education from 6th week until 15th week.
  * The classroom disappears in the middle of the semester!

JPC is blended into this course for 5 weeks.
Conclusion

• We can use ICT to change the traditional way of teaching pronunciation.
• Blended learning provides us opportunities for personalization, and enables us to improve language education.
References


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Waseda Course Channel（なめらか！発音3－4）
<http://course-channel.waseda.jp/contents/>（2018年4月21日）
Acknowledgement

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