

HERITAGE LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS PART I

BOOKLET 2 | WEEK 2 | DAYS 3 & 4



Days 1- 4 Reading

ぼく よんせい にほんじん ぶらじるじん は ふ
 1. 僕は四世です。日本人とブラジル人のハーフです。
 にじゅうろくさい せんだいだいがく がくいんせい しゅっしん いわて
 二十六歳です。仙台大学の大学院性です。それと、出身は岩手
 です。よろしくお願ねがいします。

Boku wa yonsei desu. Nihonjin to Burajiru jin no hāfu desu. Nijū rokusai desu. Sendai daigaku no gakuin sei desu. Shusshin wa Iwate desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

I am yonsei. I am “half” Japanese and Brazilian. I am 26 years old. I am a graduate student at Sendai University.¹ I am also from Iwate prefecture! Nice to meet you.



わたし にほんじん う そだ とろんと えいご
 2. 私は日本人です。でも、生まれ育ちはトロントです。英語と
 にほんご ばいりんがる さんじゅうよんさい まんがか
 日本語のバイリンガルです。三十四歳です。漫画家です。よろし
 くお願ねがいします。

Watashi wa nihonjin desu. Demo umare sodachi² wa Toronto desu. Eigo to Nihongo no bairingaruru desu. Sanjū yonsai desu. Mangaka desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.

I am Japanese, but I was born and raised in Toronto. I am a bilingual speaker of English and Japanese. I am 34 years old. I am a mangaka (manga artist). Nice to meet you.

¹ A fictional university.

² The place that I was born and raised.

わたし あめりかじん にほんじん くお た わたし そぼ にほんじん わたし ほてる
 3. 私はアメリカ人です。日本人のクォーターです。私の祖母が日本人です。私はホテルの
 れすとらん しえふ はたち しゅっしん ぼすとん
 レストランのシェフです。二十歳です。出身はボストンです。よろしく
 ねが
 お願いします。

*Watashi wa Amerika jin desu. Nihonjin no kuōtā desu.
 Watashi no sobo ga nihonjin desu. Watashi wa hoteru no
 resutoran no shefu desu. Hatachi desu. Shusshin wa
 Bosuton desu. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.*



I am American. I am a “quarter” Japanese. My grandmother is Japanese. I am a chef at a hotel restaurant. I am 20 years old. My hometown is Boston. Nice to meet you.



チェック **Exercise D:** Reading log Practice makes perfect! Record the number of times you read the passage above. Try using the *rōmaji* as a guideline and do your best to identify and the hiragana you’ve learned so far! Listen to the audio and try shadowing (i.e., repeating what you hear simultaneously with the audio).

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5

Nikkei Culture Note

During the Second World War, 22,000 Japanese Canadians were forced out of their homes, separated from their families, and sent away to camps across Canada. It was not until 1988 that former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney formally apologized to Japanese Canadian survivors and their families, thanks to the political activism of Art Miki (seen the photo) and members his community. The Canadian government provided a three hundred-million-dollar compensation package for survivors. To discover more, visit japanesecanadianhistory.ca.

Language Note

We use **Nikkei** (日系) as an all-inclusive and non-static term to refer to persons who are of Japanese descent, who have multicultural families and complex identities.

Nikkei kanadajin translates to Japanese Canadian and *nikkei amerika jin* refers to Japanese American. You can add *nikkei* before the name of any country to identify as having Japanese heritage in that country.

In short, the term **Issei** is used to describe pre-World War II emigrants of Japan. Issei refers to those who emigrated, and Nisei refers to the first generation of people who were born outside of Japan. Shin-issei, shin-nisei, and so on, refer to post-war immigrants. Because of the division it creates, both shin-issei and shin-nisei are not used as often.

The Japanese word **hāfu** is a controversial one. Some people refrain from using “hāfu” because it implies someone who is not “whole,” whereas others use hāfu as a powerful marker of one’s unique identity. In Japan, the word hāfu is widely used to describe people of mixed race. Nowadays, there are new words being used such as “mixed” *mikkusu*, and “double” *daburu*. At JFN we encourage you to use words you feel most comfortable with.