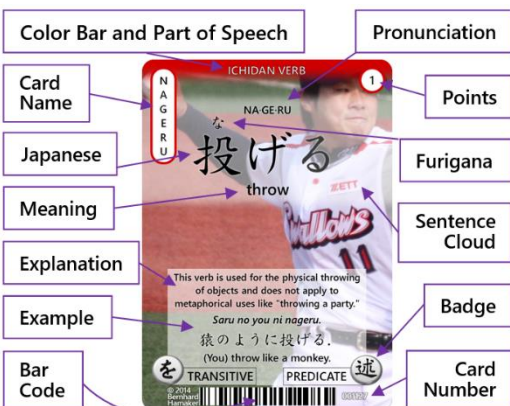




OVERVIEW: Japanese: The Game (J:tG) is played by using cards to create Japanese sentences and get points. 20 points wins!
CARD TYPES: Each J:tG card is a Japanese word. They're grouped into colors by their "part of speech" (such as Nouns and Verbs):

- Blue: Nouns - People, places, & things. Some are physical; some aren't. Examples: dirt = *tsuchi*; love = *ai*
- Indigo: Adjectival Nouns – Non-physical nouns that can act like adjectives, usually by adding "na". ease = *raku*; easy = *raku na* (None in this deck.)
- Purple: Adjectives – They describe nouns & states of being. They end in "i". small = *chiisai*; red = *akai*
- Red: Verbs – Action words. A subject performs the verb. Transitive verbs also have an object (see below). eat = *taberu*; sing = *utau*
- Vermilion: Copulas – Copula is just a fancy word for "words that mean 'is,'" like "am" and "were."
- Orange: Adverbs – These describe how or when an event plays out. tomorrow = *ashita*; probably = *osoraku*
- Yellow: Interjections – Words that give clues about a speaker's emotions. Oh! = *ara!*; Look! = *hora!* (None in this deck.)
- Green: Particles – Some particles tell you what role a noun plays in a sentence. Ex.: "ga" marks a word as a subject.
- Teal: Counters – These help you count, like "three sheets of paper." Liters = *ritoru*; head (of cattle) = *tou* (None in this deck.)

CARD DESIGN: The anatomy of a card reveals its meaning and function:



Color Bar & Part of Speech	The card's part of speech: noun, verb, etc. with color visual aid
Card Name	The card name outlined in the color of its part of speech
Japanese	The word written in normal Japanese
Meaning	Basic translation(s) into English; alternate meanings may be given in the Explanation.
Explanation	Card explanation with any special rules
Example	The word used in a sentence or two. (Some words are conjugated.)
Bar Code	Scan with the App to hear Japanese Pronunciation
Pronunciation	Pronunciation help for English speakers
Points	The point value of the card
Furigana	Pronunciation help for Japanese speakers
Sentence Cloud	This white cloud behind the text will line up the words in your sentence to make them easier to read and use.
Badge	Badges help you use words that have special rules.
Card Number	If you can't scan with the app, enter this number.

SETUP: You need at least 25 cards per player. Players may either share one deck or each use a personal deck. (We'll call it "the deck" either way.)
 Oldest player goes first. This is not necessarily an advantage.

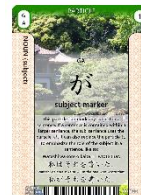
TURNS: To start your turn, draw one card. If you then have fewer than six cards, draw until you have six. On your turn you may: start and/or improve as many sentences as you like; OR pass; OR discard a card and draw another, ending your turn. Done? Play proceeds right.

START A SENTENCE: Japanese sentences are elliptical, meaning they fill in any blanks, so leaving out subjects, objects, etc. is okay. That makes your job easy. All you need to make a sentence is a "Predicate": a Verb, an Adjective, or a Noun plus a Copula. The Predicate Badge is at the bottom of every RED Verb, PURPLE Adjective, and VERMILION Copula card. Here is one example of each type of predicate:



Each of the predicates to the left is a complete Japanese sentence; their subjects are implied. **The first, Tataka**, means to hit or strike something. Because the sentence doesn't have a noun, we fill in the blanks with anything that makes sense (since we have no context) and get, "I hit things." It could just as easily mean "I hit you" for all we know. What you assume here doesn't affect game play, so have fun with it. **The second predicate, Urusai** (loud), is an adjective. Translated, it becomes "It is loud," "You are loud," or "Something is loud." **The third, Ike Desu**, is the word for Lake plus a copula (which means "is"). There's no subject in this sentence, so we could just say, "It is a lake."

IMPROVE A SENTENCE: We add nouns to a Japanese predicate by using "particles," which are short words that tell us the purpose of each noun in a sentence. The particle *Ga* (the green card to the right) marks the noun before it as the subject of the sentence. Particle cards in this game are offset upwards from their neighbors. They have light peach-colored notches for other cards to overlap them, which you can see in the image to the right. The notches may indicate what type of word goes on either side of the particle. (If blank, it doesn't matter what goes there.)





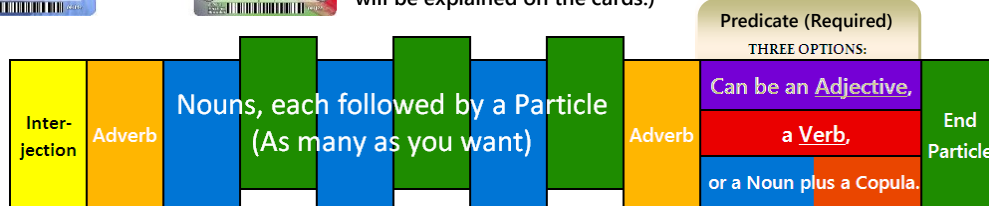
In the sentence to the left, the particle *wa* marks the noun Dog (*Inu*) as the subject. So it reads *Inu wa kagu*, or "The dog sniffs (something)." The particle tells us what role the noun plays in the sentence. To further improve our sentence and score more points, we can add a direct object to the sentence by adding another noun marked with the object-marking particle *o* (presuming you have a noun and *o* in your hand). Let's use Me (*Watashi*). You can put *Watashi o* before the *Inu wa* part or after it—it doesn't matter—because Japanese sentences use particles, not word order like we do in English, to show a noun's role in the sentence. (See below.) Now we have the sentence, *Inu wa watashi o kagu*, meaning "The dog sniffs me." Rock and roll, homey. You're speaking Japanese.

There are other ways to improve your sentences. Below is one more example, adding the adverb *Itsumo* ("always") to the beginning of the sentence:



The sentence above used this pattern:

Orange adverb, blue noun, green particle, blue noun, green particle, red verb. As you can see in the color pattern, we could have placed the adverb right before the verb if we wanted, using this optional pattern:



Our sentence is now *Itsumo inu wa watashi o kagu*. "The dog always sniffs me." Build and improve as many sentences on your side of the table as you like. Your points at any moment are simply the total of points on the cards in your sentences. You may rearrange your cards on your turn, swapping them between sentences, etc., but all of your sentences must be grammatical (i.e. follow the pattern) by the end of your turn.

WINNING:

SOLO PLAY: (Mode 1) Build sentences trying to use as many cards of the deck as you can. (Mode 2) Get to 20 points in as few rounds as possible.

COLLABORATIVE PLAY: Build and improve sentences together or separately. Take turns or don't. Have fun. Learn Japanese! Fall in love (optional).

COMPETITIVE PLAY: Points on cards you play from your hand within a turn are "Turn Points." When you're done playing cards on your turn, you may "retire" any opponents' cards up to the total of your Turn Points minus 1. If you play 5 points, you may retire up to 4 points worth of opponents' cards. But you must leave opponents' sentences grammatically correct (i.e. following the color pattern), which may limit your choices. Retired cards go into the discard pile. (This is demonstrated in the Game Play Video at JapaneseTheGame.com/GamePlay)

SUCCESS: Competitive games end either (a) the moment a player has 20 points in sentences on his or her side—this player is the winner; or (b) the first time a player's deck is empty at the end of his or her turn, at which time the player with the highest number of points in sentences is the winner.

ADVANCED CONCEPTS: You can put an adjective before a noun to modify it as we do in English: *Ookii* means Big. *Hon* means Book. *Ookii hon* means "big book." You can also use complete sentences to modify nouns as long as they don't end in the copulas *Da*, *Desu*, or *Deshou*. For example, *Moji no ookii* means "has big letters." *Moji no ookii hon* means "a book that has big letters." *Kau* means Buy. *Moji no ookii hon o kau* means "(I'll) buy a book that has big letters." This concept also applies to verb phrases, like *Kuruma o taberu hito ga omoshiroi* ("The person who eats a car is amusing.") This creates a sub-sentence that modifies a noun, but you still need a predicate for the overall sentence, which is where *ga omoshiroi* comes into it. This grammar concept will already be familiar to speakers of the language. If it's a little confusing, don't worry, just play without this concept to get used to Japanese and you'll be ready for it soon! Here's another example:



Kore wa ookii hon o taberu inu desu means "This is a dog that eats large books." The adjective *Ookii* (Large) modifies the noun *Hon* (Book) simply by going before it. *Ookii hon o taberu* ("Eats large books") modifies *Inu* (dog) by going before it. In short, put a verb or adjective phrase before a noun.

Want more example sentences? More detailed instructions? Gameplay videos? Pronunciation help? Go to JapaneseTheGame.com/Extras

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