JF Standard related sites

Website introducing the JF Standard

Minna no "Can-do" website  http://jfstandard.jp/cando/
The Minna no "Can-do" website is a database of Can-dos that show levels of Japanese proficiency in the form of statements beginning with "I can...".

Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture  http://marugoto.org/
Website introducing the Japanese language coursebook Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture which was developed based on the JF Standard
Central to the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education is the idea that communication in Japanese can lead to mutual understanding among people.

We are now living in a global society where more and more people come into contact with other cultures as part of their personal and professional lives. In order to deepen mutual understanding through cross-cultural language communication the following two competences are needed.

Competence in accomplishing tasks: the ability to use language to complete specific tasks
Competence in intercultural understanding: the ability to understand and respect one’s own and other people’s cultures

With the aim of cultivating these competences, the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education has been developed in order to be practically useful in different educational contexts around the world.
The JF Standard displays levels using to Can-do statements.

The levels of the JF Standard are not based on what kind of grammar you know, or how many words or kanji you know, but what kind of tasks you can accomplish using Japanese.

These Can-dos, beginning with “I can...”, describe ability at completing tasks, and are divided into six levels from A1 to C2. These six levels are the same as those used in the CEFR, so it is possible to understand your Japanese proficiency using levels that are common with those used for other languages.

The JF Standard consists of both CEFR Can-dos and JF Standard Can-dos. CEFR Can-dos are multipurpose abstract descriptors, while the JF Can-dos are examples of practical language activities related to situations where you use Japanese. By making these Can-dos learning objectives, you can plan your learning so that it focuses on actual communication.

CEFR is an abbreviation of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment. It is being widely introduced as a common framework for language learning and education around the world.

You can search CEFR Can-dos and JF Can-dos at http://jfstandard.jp/cando/

Examples of Can-do statements for each of the six levels.

A1
Can say words of gratitude with simple fixed phrases such as “Thank you for your kindness” in front of those present at one’s farewell party held before one’s transfer, retirement, etc.

A2
Can make a short simple speech congratulating the bride and groom, explaining one’s relationship to them, etc., at a friend’s wedding party or other events, if one is allowed to occasionally look at one’s notes.

B1
Can introduce in some detail famous historical events and other features when giving people a tour of, for example, a famous sightseeing area as a professional guide, if preparations are made in advance.

B2
Can explain articulately and in detail one’s own proposal and respond appropriately to questions, while showing diagrams, graphs, etc., at, for example, a planning meeting at one’s workplace, if one has prepared beforehand.

C1
Can give a clear, well-structured presentation of a complex subject, expanding and supporting points of view at some length with subsidiary points, reasons and relevant examples.

C2
Can present a complex topic confidently and articulately to an audience unfamiliar with it, structuring and adapting the talk flexibly to meet the audience’s needs.
The JF Standard tree shows what Japanese language proficiency consists of.

The part of the tree where the branches spread out and produce flowers shows specific communicative language activities, divided into receptive activities, productive activities and interactive activities.

The Can-dos represented by the flowers are examples of communicative language activities.

The roots show communicative language competences, which correspond to knowledge of the Japanese language, such as knowledge of Japanese characters, vocabulary, grammar, etc., and these support the communicative language activities.

By looking at the JF Standard tree, you can see which communicative language activities your learning objectives are, and which communicative language competences support such activities.
Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture is a Japanese language coursebook that is based on the JF Standard.

Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture aims to be a course of Japanese language study that contributes to mutual understanding among the people of the world through competence in accomplishing tasks and competence in intercultural understanding.

Learning objectives are shown as Can-do statements.

It places an emphasis on intercultural understanding.

You use the portfolio to manage your own learning.

Can-do

Can make comments in short simple terms such as "How cute" and "I want that" when shopping with a friend.

You’ll be able to do that after you’ve studied unit 16.

It sounds perfect for me.

You can study language and culture together. You can do this not just by learning about Japanese things, but by looking back and reflecting on your own culture too.

More to be published in the future.

In your portfolio you can put, for example, self-assessment checklists, reflections on lessons and cultural experiences, compositions and recordings of speeches. By managing your own portfolio you can develop your approach to independent study. By showing your portfolio, you can also share your own learning processes and successes with teachers, classmates, and your family.
The Japan Foundation carries out a range of activities centred around the JF Standard in order to develop Japanese education overseas.

**The JF Standard for Japanese Language Education**

Aims to cultivate competence in accomplishing tasks and competence in intercultural understanding.

**Role-play test based on the JF Standard**

The role-play test is a test that can measure your ability in spoken interaction.

**Can-do website**

The Minna no "Can-do" website is a database of Can-dos. It provides support for practical aspects of Japanese language education, such as course design, lesson planning, and materials development.

**Assessment**

Test Creation Development of Assessment Methods

**Marugoto:** Japanese Language and Culture

Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture is a coursebook based on the JF Standard.

**Materials Development**

Coursebook Companion Website

**Teacher Training**

The Japan Foundation offers teacher training courses based on the JF Standard for overseas teachers of Japanese.

**Educa tional Practice**

Course Design Curriculum Development

**JF Language Course**

JF Language Course are Japanese language and culture courses based on the JF Standard.