

Japanese Language Contest 2025

1. **Date and Time** 29th March 2025 (Saturday), 12:00 hrs-15:00 hrs

2. **Venue** Embassy of Japan in Zambia, Multipurpose Hall
(Address: No.5218, Haile Selassie Avenue, Lusaka)

3. **Organizer** Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia

4. **Entry Categories** Choose only one of (1) or (2) below.

LEVEL (1) Reading of Assigned Texts

Choose one of the following two works and read out the whole text in Japanese.

*It is not necessary to memorize the text.

A: "WATASHI TO KOTORI TO SUZU TO", Author: Misuzu Kaneko

B: "GOJUON" (also known as "AMENBO NO UTA"), Author: Hakushu Kitahara

(* For the texts, please refer to 10 below.)

Reading time: 2 minutes or less

Judging criteria: pronunciation and expression

LEVEL (2) Reading of Free Theme Texts

Choose a text from a Japanese poem, novel, folktale, fairy tale, anime, manga, etc. of your choice, and read it out in Japanese. After the reading, explain in your own words in English why you chose the work. *There will be no Q&A session.

Reading time: 2 minutes or less

Explanation time: 1 minute or less

Judging criteria: pronunciation, expression, and ability to compose sentences.

5. **Application Procedure**

Access the following website to apply. After entering the required information, upload the audio file of your reading. The deadline for application is **14th March 2025**.

👉 <https://forms.gle/bGuzRADNn7cfLfnH7>



6. Eligibility

- (1) Applicants must be non-native speakers of Japanese language and must reside in Zambia.
- (2) Applicants must not have experience of residing in Japan for more than 5 years.

7. Prize Giveaway

Winners will be selected for the 1st to 3rd place in each category. Winners will receive a prize giveaway.

8. Number of Contestants to be invited

Up to 10 applicants in each category.

If we receive an overwhelming number of applications, a preliminary screening will take place on the basis of the audio files submitted.

9. Terms and Conditions

Apply only if you agree to all of the following:

- (1) Participants who submit voice data by someone other than themselves or who are found to have made false statements on the application form will be disqualified.
- (2) Participants may not apply for both entry categories of the LEVEL (1) “Reading of Assigned Texts” and LEVEL (2) the “Reading of Free Theme Texts”.
- (3) Participants’ names, nationalities, photos, and comments of participants may be published on the organiser’s website and social media including live streaming.
- (4) The press may cover the contest.

10. Reference Information of the LEVEL (1) assigned texts for preparation

Sample readings, texts, and English translations can be found on the following websites:

(For Japanese text, refer to the next page too.)

A: “WATASHI TO KOTORI TO SUZU TO”, Author: Misuzu Kaneko

Sample reading	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oww576ff-I4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WbEeUn4On0	
Texts	https://www.nippon.com/ja/japan-topics/c09202/	『私と小鳥と鈴と』
English translation	https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-topics/c09202/	(Bird, Bell and I)

B: “GOJUON” (also known as “AMENBO NO UTA”), Author: Hakushu Kitahara

Sample reading	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak3nXgiRZxw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCkBIvs6GJw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP4DIMQ6tbk	
Texts	https://kokoronigutto.info/amenboakinaaiueo/#i	『五十音』
English translation	https://bundaido.com/gojuon/	(Gojūon)

11. LEVEL (1) Assigned Texts

<p>A</p> <p>『私と小鳥と鈴と』</p> <p>作者 金子みすゞ</p>	<p>“WATASHI TO KOTORI TO SUZU TO”,</p> <p>Author: Misuzu Kaneko</p>
<p>「わたしと ことりと すずと」</p> <p>わたしが りょうてを ひろげても、 おそらは ちっとも とべないが、 とべる ことりは わたしのように、 じべたを はやくは はしれない。</p> <p>わたしが からだを ゆすっても、 きれいな おとは でないけど、 あの なる すずは わたしのように たくさんな うたは しらないよ。</p> <p>すずと ことりと、それから わたし、 みんな ちがって、みんな いい。</p>	<p>「WATASHI TO KOTORI TO SUZU TO」</p> <p>WATASHI GA RYOTE WO HIROGETEMO, SORA WA CHITTOMO TOBENAI GA, TOBERU KOTORI WA WATASHI NO YOU NI, JIBETA WO HAYAKU WA HASHIRENAI.</p> <p>WATASHI GA KARADA WO YUSUTTEMO, KIREI NA OTO WA DENAI KEDO, ANO NARU SUZU WA WATASHI NO YOU NI TAKUSAN NA UTA WA SHIRANAI YO.</p> <p>SUZU TO KOTORI TO, SOREKARA WATASHI, MINNA CHIGATTE, MINNA II.</p>

<p>B</p> <p>『五十音』（あめんぼのうた）</p> <p>作者 北原白秋</p>	<p>“GOJUON” (also known as “AMENBO NO UTA”), Author: Hakushu Kitahara</p>
<p>「ごじゅうおん」</p> <p>あめんぼ あかいな アイウエオ うきもに こえびも およいでる かきのき くりのき カキクケコ きつつき こつつつ かれけやき ささげに すをかけ サシスセソ そのうお あさせで さしました たちましょ らっぱで タチツテト トテトテ タッタと とびたった なめくじ のろのろ ナニヌネノ なんどに むめって なにねばる はとぽっぽ ほろほろ ハヒフヘホ ひなたの おへやにや ふえをふく まいまい ねじまき マミムメモ うめのみ おちても みもしまい やきぐり ゆでぐり ヤイユエヨ やまだに ひのつく よいのいえ らいちょうは さむかる ラリルレロ れんげが さいたら るりのとり わいわい わっしょい ワイウエヲ うえきや いどがえ おまつりだ</p>	<p>「GOJUUN」</p> <p>AMENBO AKAINA AIUEO UKIMONI KOEBIMO OYOIDERU KAKINOKI KURINOKI KAKIKUKEKO KITSUTSUKI KOTSUKOTSU KAREKEYAKI SASAGENI SUWOKAKE SASHISUSESO SONOUO ASASEDE SASHIMASHITA TACHIMASHO RAPPADE TACHITSUTETO TOTETOTE TATTATO TOBITATTA NAMEKUJI NORONORO NANINUNENO NANDONI NUMETTE NANINEBARU HATOPOPPPO HOROHORO HAHIFUHEHO HINATANO OHEYANYA FUEWOFUKU MAIMAI NEJIMAKI MAMIMUMEMO UMENOMI OCHITEMO MIMOSHIMAI YAKIGURI YUDEGURI YAIYUEYO YAMADANI HINOTSUKU YOINOIE RAICHOWA SAMUKARO RARIRURERO RENGEGA SAITARA RURINOTORI WAIWAI WASSHOI WAIUEWO UEKIYA IDOGAE OMATSURIDA</p>

12. **Inquiries**

Should you have any questions, please contact us by email.

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