JLPT *Spin*

Your free *JLPT* study schedule

N5 → N3

A simple plan for people who are busy with work or school. About 45 minutes a day, and you speak a little every day from the start. The exam only tests reading and listening, but in real life you need to talk.

My daily 45 minute routine

15 min	Vocab and kanji. New words plus review in a flashcard app (Anki is free)
15 min	Grammar. Learn 1 or 2 points and write 3 sentences about your own life
10 min	Listening. Easy audio, podcasts or news at your level
5 min	Speaking. Spin a word at **jlptspin.com** and talk for 1 minute. Mistakes are fine.

N5 · 12 WEEKS

N5, your first JLPT

Goal: read hiragana & katakana fluently, know basic everyday words and polite sentence patterns.

~800	~100	~80	45 min
words	kanji	grammar points	per day

Week	Focus	Vocab / kanji	Grammar	Speaking (JLPT Spin)
1	Hiragana	All 46 + dakuten	です / じゃないです	Read every spin word aloud
2	Katakana	All 46 + long vowels	これ・それ・あれ、の	Self-introduction (じこしょうかい)
3	Numbers, time, dates	60 words · 10 kanji	～時 / ～曜日 / から・まで	Talk about your daily schedule
4	Verbs (ます-form)	60 words · 10 kanji	ます / ません / ました	What did you do yesterday?
5	Particles	70 words · 10 kanji	は・が・を・に・で・へ・と	Spin N5 words, 1 min each
6	Adjectives	70 words · 10 kanji	い / な adjectives, past	Describe your town / room
7	Existence & place	70 words · 10 kanji	あります / います、～の上	Describe your house
8	て-form	70 words · 10 kanji	～てください / ～ています	What are you doing now?
9	Wants & invitations	70 words · 10 kanji	～たい / ～ませんか / ～ましょう	Your dream weekend
10	Plain form, comparisons	70 words · 10 kanji	～より / ～のほうが / いちばん	Compare two places or foods
11	Review + mock test 1	Review all	Weak points only	Spin random N5, 3 min timer
12	Mock test 2 + timing	Review mistakes	Exam question types	1 min every day, keep the habit

N5 tips

- Don't wait until you "finish" kana to start speaking. Say every new word out loud from week 1.
- Do the official sample questions at **jlpt.jp** in week 11 so the format isn't a surprise.
- Listening is where most people lose points. 10 minutes a day is enough if you never skip it.

N4 · 16 WEEKS

N4, talk about your life

Goal: understand everyday conversations at a natural-ish speed and read simple texts with basic kanji.

~1,500	~300	~130	45-60
words (total)	kanji (total)	new grammar points	min per day

Weeks	Focus	Vocab / kanji per week	Grammar	Speaking (JLPT Spin)
1-2	Plain forms fully	60 words · 15 kanji	dictionary / ない / た forms	Talk casually to yourself (タメ口)
3-4	Potential & experience	60 words · 15 kanji	～られる / ～たことがある	Things you can / have done
5-6	Giving & receiving	60 words · 15 kanji	あげる・くれる・もらう	Best gift you ever got
7-8	Conditionals	60 words · 15 kanji	～たら / ～ば / ～と / ～なら	"If I had a week off..."
9-10	Intentions & plans	60 words · 15 kanji	～つもり / ～(よ)う / ～予定	Spin N4 topics: 旅行, 将来, 夢
11-12	Passive & causative	60 words · 15 kanji	～られる / ～させる	A time someone made you do something
13-14	Keigo basics, reading	Review + short texts	お～になる / お～する	Polite self-intro for a job / school
15-16	Mock tests + weak points	Review mistakes	Exam question types	Spin random N4, 3 min timer

N4 tips

- Conditionals (たら・ば・と・なら) appear every exam. Make your own example for each and say it out loud.
- Start reading one short easy-Japanese news article a day (NHK NEWS WEB EASY has furigana).
- When you spin a word, use at least one grammar point from this week in your 1 minute answer.

N3 · 20 WEEKS

N3, the big jump

Goal: read articles on familiar topics, follow conversations at near-natural speed, give opinions and reasons.

~3,700	~650	~150	60
words (total)	kanji (total)	new grammar points	min per day

Weeks	Focus	Vocab / kanji per week	Grammar	Speaking (JLPT Spin)
1-3	Reasons & explanations	100 words · 18 kanji	～ため / ～おかげで / ～せいで	Why are you learning Japanese?
4-6	Hearsay & appearance	100 words · 18 kanji	～らしい / ～ようだ / ～っぽい	Talk about a rumour or trend (流行)
7-9	Change & time	100 words · 18 kanji	～ようになる / ～うちに / ～最中	How your life changed this year
10-12	Opinions	100 words · 18 kanji	～べきだ / ～わけではない / ～に対して	Spin N3: 環境, 人生, 自信. Agree or disagree?
13-15	Formal & written style	100 words · 18 kanji	～による / ～について / である	Explain a custom from your country
16-17	Reading speed	Review + 1 article/day	Long-text question types	Summarise today's article in 1 min
18-20	Mock tests + weak points	Review mistakes	Timing practice	Spin random N3, 3-5 min timer

N3 tips

- N3 is mostly a **reading-speed** test. Time yourself on every practice passage.
- Learn grammar in pairs that look similar (ようだ vs らしい, ため vs おかげで). The exam likes to mix them up.
- By now your 1 minute answers should have a structure: わたしは～と思います。なぜなら～からです。

EXAM MONTH

The last 4 weeks

The JLPT is held in July and December in most countries. Registration closes months before, so check your local test centre early.

4 weeks before

- ☐ Do one full mock test with a timer
- ☐ List your 20 weakest grammar points
- ☐ No new vocab, only review

2 weeks before

- ☐ Second full mock test
- ☐ Listening every day, 20 min
- ☐ Practise with an analogue watch

Test week

- ☐ Light review only, sleep 7+ hours
- ☐ Print your test voucher (受験票) + photo
- ☐ Pack: pencils, eraser, watch, ID
- ☐ Plan your route to the test centre

On the day

- ☐ Never leave an answer blank, just guess
- ☐ Don't get stuck: move on, come back

Free resources that actually help

- **jlpt.jp**: official sample questions for every level. Do these before any mock test.
- **NHK NEWS WEB EASY**: simple news with furigana and audio. Good from late N4.
- **Anki**: free flashcard app (computer and Android)
- **Erin's Challenge / Marugoto** by the Japan Foundation: free video lessons with real conversations
- **jlptspin.com**: 1 minute speaking practice with English and Hindi meanings

Practise with me

I'm learning too. I spin a word and talk for a minute, mistakes and all. Post your own video, tag **@anurag.pov** with **#JLPTSpin**, and I'll repost some every week. がんばりましょう！