

Mikiko Iwasaki's Systematic Japanese
Welcome Program – Evaluation

When I first met Iwasaki-sensei, she was very pleasant and made me feel comfortable and not embarrassed, even though it has been over five years since I last studied Japanese.

I had about six sessions with Iwasaki-sensei in the Welcome Program. Since I had about two years of Japanese study experience, I felt the Welcome Program was basic, but Iwasaki-sensei was able to correct many bad language habits I had and teach me things that were skipped in language programs found at universities. The main reason for taking the beginner programs was because my business school was interested adding an external language program to help its students study Japanese.

Compared to self instruction, there were many benefits. Iwasaki-sensei forced me to speak and think quickly by pointing at pictures depicting different situations or items and having me say the phrase relative to those pictures. And if Iwasaki-sensei noticed a problem with the pronunciation or grammar, she was quick to correct me and force me to repeat.

Also, I think the Iwasaki-sensei's organization of the content in the program was unique and the grouping of grammar points and vocabulary was easy on the memory. I feel that beginners of Japanese language study would greatly benefit from this program.

Even with two years of experience, I took away some very important grammar points that I use in my conversations in and outside of class. I would even recommend this course to my business school classmates who have experience studying Japanese as it is great practice.

It should be noted that I was the only student in these sessions, but I feel this method/program would be effective for smaller groups/classes as well.

Tony Blotsky