

# Japanese

ようこそ

## Script

- Uses Chinese characters and other Japanese alphabets (for example, Kana).

## Sentence structure and word order

- Usual pattern is S-O-V, with the verb at the end of a clause, but subject and object do not need to be expressed.
- Information that in English would form an adjective clause or phrase precedes the noun it modifies, with no relative pronoun: 'He gave me a too difficult for me book'.
- A subordinating conjunction occurs after the dependent clause.
- Has postpositions (after the noun), not prepositions.

## Nouns and pronouns

- No plural forms.
- No distinction between countable and uncountable nouns.
- Many nouns can function as adjectives and adverbs; this leads to confusion between *danger* and *dangerous*, *safe*, *safety*, and *safely*.
- Possessive pronouns can be omitted: 'He hurt shoulder'.

## Verbs

- A verb can stand alone, with subject and object understood: 'Kaimasita:' (I) bought (it).
- Verb forms and tenses contain only one word.
- Verbs do not change for person or number. Japanese writers have difficulties with agreement with third person singular subject.
- No equivalent of auxiliary *do*.
- Different limits on what can be used in the passive voice: 'They were stolen their luggage'.

## Adjectives and adverbs

- Complex adjective phrases can precede a noun: 'The responsible for the changes committee'.
- Expressions with *easy* and *difficult* are used as subject complement to refer to a person: '\*I am easy to fix a car'.

## Articles

- No system for referring to number or to countability: 'Computer is expensive'. 'She bought coat last week'.