

Congratulations on Reaching Level 2 of Crystal Hunters Japanese!

You're officially literate in Japanese! You've already done the hardest part and read over 100 pages of manga! From here, the language in Crystal Hunters will slowly get more natural and will help you improve your Japanese little by little. The story will also get more and more complex!



The first jump was definitely the hardest, but now that you're literate, the guide before each book will be a lot easier. So you can just sit back, relax, and learn a few words and grammar points before diving straight back into another 100+ pages of magic and adventure!

New Vocabulary

Chapter 4			
Japanese Word	English Spelling	Kanji	Meaning in English
です	de-su		to be*
ひ	hi	火	fire*
ヒーロー	hi-i-ro-o		hero
かじ	ka-ji	火事	building fire*
かぞく	ka-zo-ku	家族	family
けす	ke-su	消す	to delete, to extinguish*
きえる	ki-e-ru	消える	to disappear, to go away*
まち	ma-chi	町	city
まほう	ma-ho-u	魔法	magic
まつ	ma-tsu	待つ	to wait
まずい	ma-zu-i		not good, troublesome
みんな	mi-n-na		everyone
みず	mi-zu	水	water
たてもの	ta-te-mo-no	建物	building

Chapter 5			
Japanese Word	English Spelling	Kanji	Meaning in English
ハハハ!	ha-ha-ha		HAHAHA!
いる	i-ru	要る	to need*
もう	mo-u		already, (not) anymore
おかあさん	o-ka-a-sa-n	お母さん	mother
おとうさん	o-to-u-sa-n	お父さん	father
よい	yo-i	良い	good*

**means there will be further clarification in the sections below.*

Review, But New!

This is grammar you've already learned. It's just used in a slightly different way. Because of that, it's super easy. Let's just skim over this real quick and get to the new grammar ASAP!

Japanese is for Ninjas! Even More Disappearing!!

Remember when we deleted half the words from a sentence in the previous guide? Well, we can delete even more!

Originally, this is the change we made:

わたし
私はクリスタルが好きだ。 → クリスタルが好き。

And now we're adding some particles to the potential delete list too! The particles は, が, and を can be omitted and it's perfectly OK!

For example:

クリスタルが好き。 → クリスタル好き。

You can even do this to the original sentence too! But, you might want to add a comma/pause for clarity.

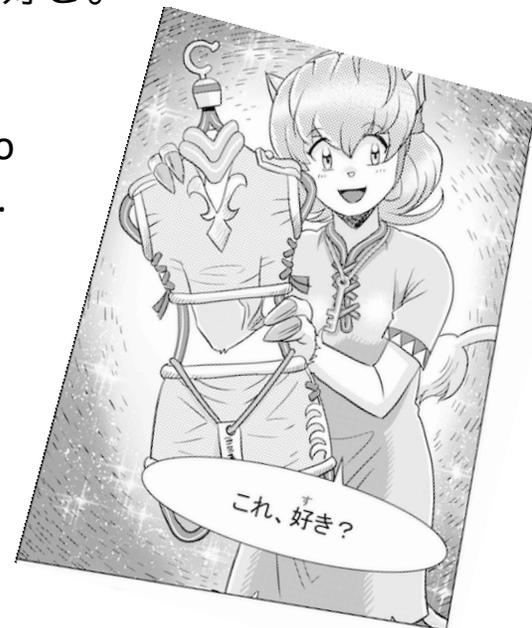
わたし
私はクリスタルが好きだ。 → わたし、クリスタル好き。

Questions too!

This works for questions too, although you'll want to add a clarity comma even for the shorter sentences.

For example:

クリスタルが好き？ → クリスタル、好き？



Thrown to the Wolves! Kanji Attack!

We already know that kanji are read a certain way, but what we haven't learned yet is that each kanji can be read in multiple different ways.

The Lone Wolf and the Wolf Pack

In general, each kanji has two different readings. The first of these is their lone wolf reading, which is also called "kun yomi" (くんよみ) .

The lone wolf reading is how they're read when they are free and wild. When kanji are in their lone wolf form, they might be alone or they might be running with other animals, like hiragana or katakana, but in general they don't mix with other kanji like this.

For example:

火 in its lone wolf form is read: ひ → 火^ひ

The second way to read kanji is when it's in its wolf pack reading, which is also called "on yomi" (おんよみ) . The wolf pack reading is how kanji are read when they're traveling with other kanji. They join together with other kanji to form new words, and because they're working as a team/pack they behave differently than they do when they're by themselves.

For example:

火 in its wolf pack form is read: か → 火^か事^じ

Beware the Werewolves

But, of course there are exceptions to these two general patterns, and some kanji have even more readings than just these two. When conditions are right, and the full moon comes out, they show their true form.

An example of this is the character 消, which has two lone wolf readings.

It can be read as: き → 消^きえる

or it can be read as: け → 消^けす

Some kanji have multiple lone wolf readings, and some have multiple wolf pack readings too. We don't have any examples of werewolf kanji with multiple wolf pack readings in Crystal Hunters yet though. Well, we do, but their werewolf forms are still hiding in the shadows.

Unfortunately, there's not much you can do besides memorize these werewolves when they appear. We'll try to point them out when we come across them in the future though, so they don't bite you when you're not looking.



Conjugating with す

We're encountering our first verb which ends in す in Book 2, but luckily it conjugates the normal way for the most part. Its negative form, "Let's" form, and "can" form all conjugate the normal way.

The slight differences are with past form and "て" form, and even then it's still easy. For past form, just take off the す and add した.

For example:

ひ　け
火を消す → ひ　け
火を消した。 = (I) put out the fire.

Just like that, easy peasy! It's easy to remember because the "s" from す wants to stay, so we just change to another "s" character – し – and then we just add the past た onto that.

And that's all we need to learn. The "て" form conjugates す verbs in the same way that past form does, just instead of た we add て.

For example:

ひ　け
火を消して！ = Put out the fire!



The State of て+いる

We already know that て+いる means “-ing” in English, but what we haven’t learned yet is that it can also be used for state of being. We use present tense – or sometimes other tenses too – for this in English, so be careful. It is not quite the same in Japanese.

Example:

スバサは^{たお}倒れていない！ -> Subasa is not down!
-> Subasa has not fallen!



Our First Homonyms!

Our first homonyms are いる (to exist) vs いる (to need), and luckily there are a few things that make these two verbs easy to separate.

The most obvious is their kanji:

いる (to exist) = 居^いる

いる (to need) = 要^いる

Plus, since we've been writing いる (to exist) in Hiragana only in Crystal Hunters, it will be even easier to separate them because 要^いる is the only one that we write in kanji.

In addition to them having different kanji, they also conjugate differently. In fact, they perfectly embody the “-iru hybrid” phenomenon. As we already know, いる (to exist) conjugates like an -eru verb, which means that 要^いる conjugates the normal way.

	いる	vs	要 ^い る
Negative:	いない		要 ^い らない
Past:	いた		要 ^い った
て form:	いて		要 ^い って
Let's form:	いよう		要 ^い ろう
Can form:	いられる		要 ^い れる



Homonyms they may be, but look at how easy they are to separate! That said, there is one thing that makes them slightly less easy to separate. 要^いる is also a “が set” word like いる is.

要る is Our Newest “が set” Word!

Just like when you like or want something, needing something also means we use the “が set” system, which means が becomes the object marker for 要る.

To review:

カルは剣けんがい要る。 = Kal needs a sword.

剣けんがい要る。 = (I) need a sword.

カルはい要る。 = Kal needs (it).

カルがい要る。 = (I) need Kal.

Here is the updated “が set” list, with our newest addition on top:

要る
いる
ある
好き
ほしい
見える



OK, review finished, now it's new grammar time! We only have a few new grammar points and a couple quirks of Japanese before we're off to the manga! Let's do this!

THE BUILDING! THE PEOPLE! THE FIRE!

Since we just did a bit on が, let's continue that trend. Our newest step on the way to mastering が is for when you want to say something is happening to something or someone, but you don't want to go into detail about exactly what is happening. When this happens, you take away the は which is after the subject and replace it with が.

Now, one reason you might do this is because you don't have time to say the full sentence. You just yell a word, and hopefully the other person responds quickly enough.

For example:

たてもの たお
建物は倒れている！ → たてもの
建物が！

Or maybe, you just don't have the heart to say the words because they are too sad.

For example:

わたし かね き
私のお金は消えた... → わたし かね
私のお金が...

Whatever the reason, just remember that implication = が !



Our First Honorific!

Honorifics are pretty crazy in Japanese. Everything in Crystal Hunters so far has been written using dictionary-level honorifics, but there are at least 2-3 politeness levels both above and below this.

But don't worry, let's take the easiest possible first step on this journey to learn Japanese honorifics – a single word. We're going to take **だ** and add +1 to its honorifics level, making it moderately more polite. Since **だ** is the most common verb in Japanese, this a good place to start.

To add +1 to the politeness level of **だ**, we just change it to **です**. Easy!

For example:

わたし なまえ
私の名前はダフニーだ。 → わたし なまえ
私の名前はダフニーです。

See, not hard at all! But changing **だ** into **です** is not the hard part. The hard part is knowing when to use **だ** and when to use **です**. This is important because using honorifics tells all the people in listening distance how much you respect the person you're speaking to.

There are A LOT of different things to consider when using honorifics in Japanese, but let's keep it simple for now. In Chapters 4-5 of Crystal Hunters, characters will only use **です** when talking to people who are 5+ years older, or when they are buying/selling something in a store.



Particle Style! Particles are the New Black!

Up until now, we've only had one particle/verb at the end of our sentences: よ or だ. However, we can actually use both at the same time!

For example, this is a perfectly normal sentence:

わたし なまえ
私の名前はカルだよ。

When we use different particles like this, the meaning of the sentence doesn't change. Instead, we learn a bit about the speaker. Different particle fashion styles make the speaker sound different. Here are the 4 different styles we can make with just だ and よ.

WARNING!

The following rules do not have the same implications for questions or after verbs or い adjectives.

First style: よ only

わたし なまえ
私の名前はカルよ。

わたし なまえ
私の名前はナイツよ。



Using よ only has a shade of femininity to it. If Kal spoke like this, we might think that Kal is a more passive kind of man. And if he used this style often enough, some people might even consider the possibility that Kal might be gay.

For Knites, this would be a very normal way to speak.

Also, like we learned in the last guide, よ also adds a touch of an exclamation feel to it. But depending on how it's said, the meaning of the よ in this sentence can range from pure femininity to femininity plus exclamation!

For example, if we add an exclamation point:

わたし なまえ
私の名前はナイツよ！

This feels like Knites is declaring her name to an opponent, is very happy to introduce herself to someone, or is annoyed that someone forgot her name.

Second style: だ only

わたし なまえ
私の名前はカルだ。

わたし なまえ
私の名前はナイツだ。



While you might think that this baseline style would add no context to it, it definitely has some. While this is a normal way to speak for Kal, it is slightly less normal for Knites. This is because using だ only has a tinge of masculinity to it.

If Knites spoke this way, we might think that she might be annoyed or angry. This is because particle use in Japanese can get a bit more masculine as people get angrier.

But this だ just has the slightest touch of masculinity. Take Subasa for example – using だ is completely normal for Subasa because Subasa is more of a tomboy than Knites.

That said, out of all four options here, だ only is the most masculine. If these 4 styles are your only options and you are super super pissed, you'll want to use だ only. While using だ only is more common for men, even feminine women like Knites will use it if they are super super pissed.

Third style: Naked

わたし なまえ
私の名前はカル。

わたし なまえ
私の名前はナイツ。



Using the naked style is normal for both Kal and Knites. A naked sentence adds a freeness or lightness to it. If Kal or Knites wanted to seem approachable or friendly, either of them might say it like this.

Fourth style: だよ

わたし なまえ
私の名前はカルだよ。

わたし なまえ
私の名前はナイツだよ。



Adding the slightly feminine よ to the slightly masculine だ makes this a much more gender-neutral phrase. This would be a normal thing for either of them to say.

However, it is still very slightly masculine, so Kal and Subasa might use this for both regular and exclamatory situations, while Knites's use of this might be more limited to slightly exclamatory or exclamatory only.

As you can see, we've only covered 4 possible styles and there is a lot of nuance between them. Since there are many more styles in real Japanese, there is A LOT of subtext in Japanese that we haven't covered yet, and we'll get deeper and deeper into that as the story for Crystal Hunters goes on!

Yin & Yang Verb Pairs

There are a lot of verbs in Japanese that have both a “passive” (yin) and an “active” (yang) form, (officially called “intransitive” and “transitive”), and we see our first example of this in Crystal Hunters in Book 2.

Our first yin & yang verb pair is:

^き
消える – to disappear, to go away

^け
消す – to delete, to extinguish



There are 2 characteristics of a yin & yang verb pair:

1 – Same Kanji

The furigana on 消 is read differently for these two words, but they still both use the same kanji.

2 – Same Meaning

Aside from one being “passive” and one being “active”, yin & yang verb pairs have the same meaning. If we reword the English definitions for

^き消える & ^け消す a bit, this is easier to see.

^き
消える – to disappear

^け
消す – to make something disappear



In general, yin & yang verb pairs are fairly easy to understand. However, there are some situations where we use the same word in English for both versions of a yin & yang pair, and that can be a bit more confusing. We don't have this in Crystal Hunters yet, but we'll point it out when we do.

Japanese Language Quirks:

The review and grammar sections are done! You just have to dash through these last 2 Japanese quirks and then you're ready to read book 2!

いい vs よい – Good is Good

Both いい and よい mean good. In fact, they're actually the same word, with よい just being a more old-fashioned way to say いい.

But if よい is old-fashioned, then why do we use it in Crystal Hunters? Well, this is because we still need it for conjugations of いい.

When we make the negative and past tense versions of いい, we use よい to make them. There are no negative and past versions of いい.

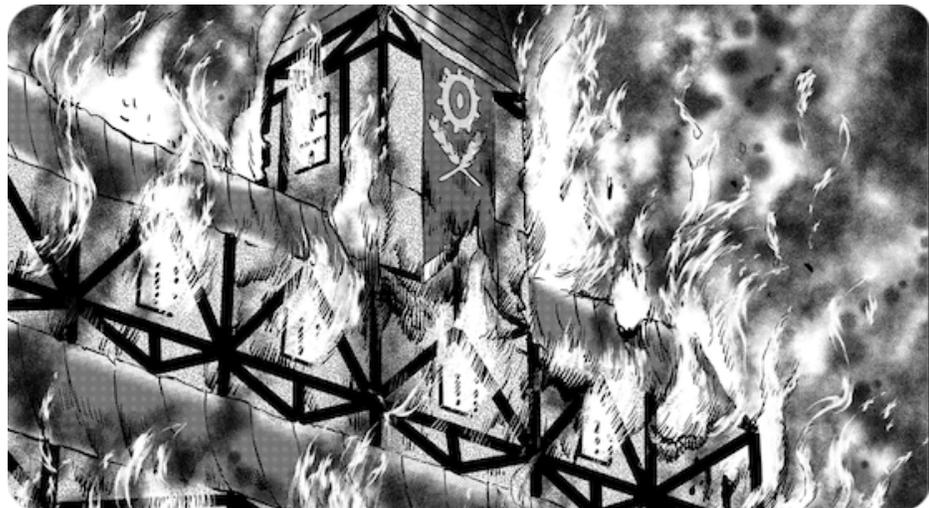
Negative form of いい/よい = よくない

Past form of いい/よい = よかった

火 vs 火事 – Playing with Fire

In English, saying “fire” pretty much applies to all types of fire. But Japan is traditionally known for its wood houses with sliding doors made out of paper, so fire in a building is a special kind of scary for them. This means that when fire is in a building, it requires its own special danger word – 火事.

That's it! Super easy!



TUTORIAL COMPLETE!!

You are now ready to read Crystal Hunters Book 2! Hurray for being even more literate in Japanese! Now go reward the effort you put into getting this far and enjoy book 2! Happy reading!



[Japanese Version](#)

And, if you want a natural version:

[Natural Japanese Version](#)

Book 3 of Crystal Hunters is available now!



[Book 3 Guide](#)

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