



私は日本語が話せる

Watashi wa nihongo wo  
hanashimasu

## DO YOU KNOW?

- Modern Japanese is written in a mixture of three main systems: **kanji, hiragana and katakana**.
- All Japanese **vowels** are pure - that is, there are **no diphthongs, only monophthongs**.
- Japanese word order is classified as **Subject - Object - Verb**.
- Pronouns are correlated with **gender** of the speaker and the **social situation** in which they are spoken.
- Japanese often use **titles** of the person referred to as the pronoun.
- Japanese language can express differing **levels** in social status.

## USEFUL PHRASES

今日は  
*Konnichiwa*  
Good afternoon

お元気ですか?  
*O genki desu ka*  
How are you?

はい、元気です。あなた  
は?  
*Hai, genki desu. anata wa?*  
I'm fine, thanks. And you?

どこからですか  
*Doko kara desu ka?*  
Where are you from?

さようなら  
*Sayōnara*  
Goodbye

*Language is the means of getting and idea from  
my brain into yours without surgery.*

**-Mark Amidon**