

TED-IELTS. DESCRIBE A SKILL. TRANSCRIPT

One skill that takes a really long time to learn is Japanese. This is an old Asian language which is notoriously difficult. Although it has no tones like Chinese or Thai, it is nonetheless renowned for its complexity. It has three alphabets which are mixed together according to some really confusing rules to create the Japanese writing system. This makes it far more difficult than most languages.

Like any language, you can learn a little Japanese easily, but it takes a long time to get good at it. In fact, becoming fluent at Japanese can take a very long time due to the complexity of the language. It is not just the written language that is tough, but the grammar is hard. Japanese culture is also infused with many cultural rules that require the use of certain honorific forms, meaning that you need to learn a lot of subtle rules in order to speak with people appropriately.

These days, you can learn Japanese online through helpful videos and audio tutorials. You can download apps for your iPad or find a speaking partner to communicate with on Skype.

If I succeeded in learning Japanese I would feel incredibly proud of myself for learning such a challenging language and I would also feel excited to plan a trip to Japan knowing that I could explore more easily with my newfound linguistic skills.

VOCABULARY

alphabet (noun) - the letters of a language arranged in a specific order.

appropriately (adverb) - doing something in a proper or correct way.

challenging (adjective) - something that is difficult and requires effort.

complexity (noun) - the state of being intricate or having many parts.

confused (adjective) - feeling mixed up or not sure about something.

create (verb) - to make something new or bring something into existence.

explore (verb) - to travel and discover new places or ideas.

fluent (adjective) - being able to speak or write a language easily and smoothly.

forms (noun) - different shapes or structures.

honorific (noun) - a word or expression used to show respect or admiration.

incredibly (adverb) - to a great extent or unbelievably.

infused (verb) - to add or introduce something into another thing.

linguistic (adjective) - related to language or the study of language.

mixed (adjective) - blended or combined together.

newfound (adjective) - recently discovered or acquired.

nonetheless (adverb) - in spite of that; however.

notoriously (adverb) - famous or well-known for something negative.

proud (adjective) - feeling pleased and satisfied about one's achievements or qualities.

renowned (adjective) - famous and respected.

subtle (adjective) - not easily noticed or understood.

succeeded (verb) - to achieve a goal or complete a task successfully.

tutorials (noun) - a lesson or guide that helps you learn how to do something.