



MAEBASHI FOCUS



Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Q

What questions do you get asked at the Counseling Service for Foreigners window?

A

Inquiries about learning Japanese and consultations regarding resident registration, change of address, and tax payments and certificates are common. I will accompany visitors during these procedures and provide support and interpretation as needed.

Q

What do you think of AI translation tools like ChatGPT and Copilot?

A

An important point to keep in mind when using AI translation tools is that passages may be directly translated word for word, potentially leading to unnatural sentences. That said, the ability of generative AI to process an enormous amount of data in an instant is its biggest strength, and I've found that the accuracy of translations is reasonably high. Unless a native check is necessary, I strongly encourage the use of these tools for work purposes.

Q

What do you think of Japanese peoples' English?

A

Speaking in broken English is more admirable than not saying anything, and I truly respect those who make an effort to communicate. Regardless of the result, working hard daily and mustering the courage to speak are very important when learning a language, and I am filled with awe when I converse with these types of people. Everyone's English is better than what they give themselves credit for.

Q

How did you learn Japanese?

A

I began learning Japanese in 9th grade, and I enrolled in Japanese classes until I graduated college. During COVID-19, when classes were moved online and opportunities to go out were few, I consistently engaged with Japanese through podcasts, novels, anime, and reality television shows. I also studied abroad at Doshisha University, where speaking with classmates only in Japanese was an effective method for improving my language ability.

