

Students using A.I. over humans to learn English

23rd December 2024



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More and more students in Japan are using artificial intelligence (AI) to learn English and other languages. The language-learning app Duolingo conducted a survey on how students study languages. More than 4,700 Japanese

students answered questions about their language-learning habits. The survey found that the number of people using ChatGPT and other AI tools increased by more than 80 per cent in 2024. AI was particularly popular with younger people. The researchers said more young people used AI than took face-to-face lessons. However, some people in their 20s were not totally happy with AI lessons. They said AI lacked natural responses and was a little boring.

Duolingo said: "We're in the midst of an AI revolution....Technology has long had an impact on language learning." It found that apps were the most popular method in Japan to learn languages. English was the most studied language, followed by Korean. People are studying Korean "to understand the language as spoken by...favourite artists and celebrities." Duolingo said around 58 per cent of people who took the survey used language-learning apps. This was followed by video streaming platforms like YouTube and Netflix (37%), textbooks (36%) and online lessons (16%). The number of people going to a language school is decreasing. Just 13.8 per cent of people went to classes with a teacher.

Sources: japantimes.co.jp / mainichi.jp / duolingo.com

Writing

AI will replace teachers one day, especially for language learning. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

students / Japan / artificial intelligence / language learning / apps / lessons / boring / revolution / technology / Korean / celebrities / streaming / online lessons / teachers

True / False

- 1) The article says many people are learning multiple languages. T / F
- 2) The number of people using AI tools increased by 80% in 2024. T / F
- 3) Young people are still preferring face-to-face lessons over AI. T / F
- 4) People in their 20s loved the natural responses of AI lessons. T / F
- 5) An app company said there was an AI revolution happening. T / F
- 6) The app company said people are studying Korean to understand artists. T / F
- 7) More people used video streaming than textbooks. T / F
- 8) Just over 20% of people in the survey had an English teacher. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. conducted | a. monotonous |
| 2. habits | b. personalities |
| 3. particularly | c. middle |
| 4. totally | d. practices |
| 5. boring | e. approach |
| 6. midst | f. waning |
| 7. impact | g. entirely |
| 8. method | h. especially |
| 9. celebrities | i. effect |
| 10. decreasing | j. carried out |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How has technology changed language learning?
- c) What language would you like to study other than English?
- d) What do you think of using YouTube to study English?
- e) What are your English textbooks like?
- f) What are your experiences of language schools?
- g) Would you prefer to study with a teacher or ChatGPT?
- h) What questions would you like to ask AI makers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Duolingo conducted | a. of an AI revolution |
| 2. language-learning | b. platforms |
| 3. AI was particularly | c. natural responses |
| 4. people in | d. most popular method |
| 5. They said AI lacked | e. the survey |
| 6. We're in the midst | f. their 20s |
| 7. Technology has long | g. a survey |
| 8. apps were the | h. had an impact |
| 9. people who took | i. popular |
| 10. streaming | j. habits |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of artificial intelligence?
- How do you study English?
- Who was the best teacher you ever had?
- What do you think of studying with AI?
- What do you think of face-to-face lessons?
- Have you always been happy with your English lessons?
- What do you think learning English using ChatGPT is like?
- What advice do you have for people studying English?

Spelling

- iraafliict intelligence
- Duolingo conducted a urseyv
- their language-learning abthsi
- AI was ltrirauay|pc popular with younger people
- people in their 20s were not ltytloa happy
- They said AI lacked natural neserspos
- in the idmst of
- an AI voretunloi
- had an ipmtac on language
- the most popular metdoh in Japan
- favourite artists and rslebietice
- video esiatgrnm platforms

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. d	3. h	4. g	5. a
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. b	10. f

Role Play

Role A – A.I.

You think A.I. is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): YouTube, face-to-face lessons or textbooks.

Role B – YouTube

You think YouTube is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): A.I., face-to-face lessons or textbooks.

Role C – Face-to-face Lessons

You think face-to-face lessons is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): YouTube, A.I. or textbooks.

Role D – Textbooks

You think textbooks is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): YouTube, face-to-face lessons or A.I.

Speaking – English

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to study English at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| • A.I. | • Pop music |
| • YouTube | • Textbooks |
| • Reading | • Face-to-face lessons |
| • Self study | • Watching movies |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.