

JLPT N3 Adjectives

The full list: ~30 i-adjectives and ~53 na-adjectives that are new at N3, grouped by meaning so you learn them in clusters.

List of i-adjectives for the JLPT N3

Only ~30 — i-adjectives are a closed class, so most of the everyday ones are already behind you at N4.

DIFFICULTY AND DISCOMFORT

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
苦しい	くるしい	painful, distressing
悔しい	くやしい	frustrating, regrettable
きつい	きつい	tight, tough, harsh
険しい	けわしい	steep, harsh
痒い	かゆい	itchy
貧しい	まずしい	poor, impoverished
仕方がない	しかたがない	it can't be helped

FEAR, SUSPICION AND DISLIKE

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
恐ろしい	おそろしい	terrifying
怪しい	あやしい	suspicious, dubious
憎い	にくい	hateful
醜い	みにくい	ugly
ずるい	ずるい	unfair, sly
激しい	はげしい	intense, violent

NOISE AND LIGHT

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
騒がしい	さわがしい	noisy
騒々しい	そうぞうしい	noisy, boisterous
薄暗い	うすぐらい	dim, gloomy
汗臭い	あせくさい	smelling of sweat

PEOPLE AND APPEARANCE

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
賢い	かしこい	smart, wise
幼い	おさない	very young, childish
可愛らしい	かわいらしい	lovely, adorable
格好いい	かっこいい	good-looking, cool
有難い	ありがたい	grateful, welcome

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
上手い	うまい	skilful, delicious

TEXTURE, SPEED AND DEGREE

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
粗い	あらい	coarse, rough
緩い	ゆるい	loose, slack
鋭い	するどい	sharp, keen
鈍い	のろい	slow, sluggish
可笑しい	おかしい	odd, funny
ものすごい	ものすごい	tremendous, incredible
宜しい	よろしい	fine, all right (polite)

List of na-adjectives for the JLPT N3

Roughly twice as many — this is where your study time should go. Watch the 不 pairs: learn the positive form and the negative one is almost free.

CERTAINTY AND POSSIBILITY

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
確実	かくじつ	certain, reliable
確か	たしか	certain; if I recall
明らか	あきらか	clear, obvious
明確	めいかく	clear-cut, definite
曖昧	あいまい	ambiguous
微妙	びみょう	subtle, delicate
可能	かのう	possible
不可能	ふかのう	impossible
意外	いがい	unexpected

FORTUNE AND HARDSHIP

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
幸運	こううん	lucky
不運	ふうん	unlucky
幸福	こうふく	happy
不幸	ふこう	unhappy
有利	ゆうり	advantageous
不利	ふり	disadvantageous
貧乏	びんぼう	poor
贅沢	ぜいたく	luxurious, extravagant
高価	こうか	expensive

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
お得	おとく	good value

CHARACTER AND ATTITUDE

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
真面目	まじめ	serious, earnest
真剣	しんけん	serious, in earnest
熱心	ねっしん	enthusiastic
冷静	れいせい	calm, level-headed
平気	へいき	unfazed, indifferent
利口	りこう	clever
乱暴	らんぼう	violent, rough
いい加減	いいかげん	irresponsible, half-hearted
適当	てきとう	suitable — or slapdash, depending on context
お洒落	おしゃれ	stylish

SPEED, FORCE AND SCALE

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
急速	きゅうそく	rapid
急激	きゅうげき	sudden, drastic
高速	こうそく	high-speed
強力	きょうりょく	powerful
盛ん	さかん	thriving, active
豊富	ほうふ	abundant
不足	ふそく	insufficient
完全	かんぜん	complete
一般	いっぱん	general, ordinary
主	おも	main, principal
様々	さまざま	various
同一	どういつ	identical

Exam bait: 急激 and 急速 are near-identical in meaning. Classic paraphrase-question material.

STATES AND CONDITIONS

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
満足	まんぞく	satisfied
新鮮	しんせん	fresh
新た	あらた	new, fresh
平和	へいわ	peaceful
自由	じゆう	free

Kanji	Reading	Meaning
不自由	ふじゆう	restricted, inconvenient
退屈	たいくつ	boring
面倒	めんどう	troublesome
邪魔	じゃま	in the way
駄目	だめ	no good
滅茶苦茶	めちゃくちゃ	chaotic, absurd
真っ赤	まっか	bright red

Not sure whether a word is i or na? Put it in front of a noun. If it demands な, it is a na-adjective — no matter what it ends in. きれいな花 settles it forever.

Full conjugation cheat sheet and the two tests: nihongo-career.com