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Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.15

While I was working as an English teacher in Japan, I tried to learn the language but it was hard. Even the kids found their own language hard. This photo is of a second grade class at the school. They were all practising writing some of the different letters for the sound ‘shou’ in Japanese. A lot of Japanese words are homophones so they have the same sound but different meanings. Japanese has so many letters and symbols to learn. There are several thousand, most of which have come from Chinese. It’s similar to English in the sense that it has also taken words in the past from other languages. For example, you can find lots of English words which have come from the languages of German and French.