

Beginner-Friendly Anime Guide: Supplementary Attributes

General Themes	Anime Title	Setting	Character-Driven or Plot-Driven	Male or Female Main Character (MC)	LGBT+ Characters	Is there a good English dub?	Does it contain fan service?	Completion Status	Current Approx. Length
Epic Action & Adventure	<i>One Piece</i>	Fantasy world of islands and seas; pseudo-historical with pirates + fantastical powers	Both, but more so character-driven	Male (Luffy), but large ensemble cast	several queer-coded & openly LGBTQ characters	Yes, but many people prefer the dub in later seasons compared to earlier seasons	Occasional sexual fan service; becomes more prevalent in character design after time skip.	Ongoing (Anime and Manga)	1000+ Episodes + 15 Movies
	<i>Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood</i>	Pseudo-European industrial-era fantasy world	Plot-driven, but also very character focused	Male (Edward Elric)	N/A	One of the most praised English dubs	Minimal to none.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	64 Episodes + 1 Movie
	<i>Naruto</i>	Ninja villages in a fantasy world inspired by feudal Japan.	Plot-driven, but has some deep character arcs	Male (Naruto Uzumaki)	N/A	The dub is nostalgic for some, but most people prefer sub	Sexual and comedic fan service	Completed (Anime & Manga)	720 Episodes (between the original series and its sequel series, <i>Naruto: Shippuden</i>) + 11 movies
	<i>Demon Slayer</i>	Taishō-era Japan (early 1900s) with demons	Plot-driven, but has strong sibling/family-driven characters	Male (Tanjiro Kamado)	N/A	Very solid — receives high praise	Mild aesthetic fan service; A few moments (e.g., the Entertainment District Arc) feature revealing outfits, but not frequent or lewd.	Ongoing (Completed Manga)	63 Episodes + 1 Movie
	<i>Jujutsu Kaisen</i>	Modern-day Japan with hidden sorcerer society	Mainly plot-driven with some strong character arcs	Male (Yuji Itadori), but ensemble feel	No explicit, though fandom interprets subtext in some relationships	Widely praised dub	Minimal sexual; some aesthetic	Ongoing (Completed Manga)	47 Episodes + 1 Movie
	<i>Solo Leveling</i>	Modern-day South Korea + dungeons/monster worlds	Heavily plot-driven	Male (Sung Jin-Woo; pronounced [Jee-noo Suhng] in English)	N/A	Decent, but not standout; VA for Jin-Woo gave good performance	Moderate aesthetic fan service.	Ongoing (Completed Manhwa)	25 Episodes
Dramatic, Emotional, & Reflective	<i>Frieren: Beyond Journey's End</i>	High fantasy world, post-heros' journey; heavily inspired by medieval Germany	Character-driven with episodic story arcs	Female (Frieren)	N/A	Highly praised one of my favorite dubs	Aesthetic/emotional fan service; no sexual content.	Ongoing (Anime & Manga)	28 Episodes
	<i>To Your Eternity</i>	Shifting across eras and locations (fantasy/primitive → medieval-like → modern, near-present-day)	Character-driven with major story arcs	Male-presenting (Fushi, genderless immortal being)	Some gender-fluid implications	Dub had a generally good reception	No sexual or visual fan service.	Ongoing (Completed Manga)	62 Episodes
	<i>Violet Evergarden</i>	Pseudo-European, post-war (early 20th century inspired)	Heavily character-driven, ensemble drama	Female (Violet Evergarden)	N/A	Highly acclaimed dub — I really enjoyed it	Emotional/aesthetic fan service; no sexual content.	Completed (Anime & Light Novel)	13 Episodes + 2 Movies
	<i>Fruits Basket (2019)</i>	Contemporary Japan (late 1990s, early 2000s)	Heavily character-driven, ensemble drama	Female (Tohru Honda)	Several queer-coded and non-binary/gender-fluid elements	Very strong — one of my favorite dubs	Emotional/romantic fan service; no sexualization.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	63 Episodes
	<i>Your Lie in April</i>	Modern Japan, middle/high school; music competitions	Character-driven with a dramatic story arc	Male (Kousei Arima)	N/A	Solid dub, but some people (myself included) preferred sub	Emotional and aesthetic fan service; no sexual content.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	22 Episodes
	<i>The Apothecary Diaries</i>	Imperial China-inspired palace, pseudo-historical	Character-driven with episodic mysteries.	Female (Maomao)	Subtle queer-coded side characters	Well-received — I greatly enjoyed it	Light sexual and comedic fan service; mostly clever and plot-driven.	Ongoing (Anime, Manga, and Light Novel)	48 Episodes
Wholesome, Cozy, & Quirky	<i>Spy x Family</i>	Fictional pseudo- Cold War Era city; heavily inspired by East and West Germany	Primarily character-driven comedy/family bonds mixed into spy missions	Male (Agent Twilight / Loid Forger) with shared focus on other family members	None explicitly, though the dynamic sometimes reads as parody of heteronormative roles	While the sub is excellent, I loved the performances in the dub — especially since the characters'/locations' names sound more natural in English; there were also a couple of fun accents for background characters	Light comedic fan service.	Ongoing (Anime & Manga)	49 Episodes + 1 Movie
	<i>Delicious in Dungeon</i>	High fantasy world, dungeon-crawling with cooking twist; inspired by medieval and Renaissance-era Europe with minor influences from Japan	Character-driven with light plot progression	Male (Laios) and ensemble cast	Yes — canonically has queer characters	Excellent dub; fits the setting and characters well	Minimal and humorous fan service.	Ongoing (Completed Manga)	24 Episodes
	<i>Haikyuu!!</i>	Modern-day, rural Japan; high school boys' volleyball	Character-driven with strong plot arcs	Male (Shoyo Hinata)	No canon, but major fandom with queer-coded dynamics	Dub is good, though I preferred sub for the intensity	Aesthetic/emotional fan service; no sexual content.	Ongoing (Completed Manga)	85 Episodes + 1 Movie
	<i>Zenshu</i>	Dualistic world that features modern-day Japan and the fantastical world of the MC's favorite anime film	Character-driven with strong plot progression	Female (Natsuko Hirose)	N/A	I'd actually recommend dub over sub on this one; the English script was well-written and very funny	Aesthetic/emotional fan service; no sexual content.	Completed (Anime Only)	12 Episodes
	<i>Mob Psycho 100</i>	Modern, urban Japan	Balances characters and plot really well	Male (Shigeo "Mob" Kageyama)	Yes — one explicitly gay side character; series also has progressive themes	Both sub and dub are equally fantastic	None to mild comedic.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	37 Episodes
	<i>Ouran High School Host Club</i>	Contemporary Japan (early-mid 2000s); wealthy private academy	Character-driven; episodic comedy	Female (Haruhi Fujoka)	Yes — MC is gender-nonconforming; other characters queer-coded	Dub is legendary and I would highly recommend it	Romantic and parody fan service; constantly plays with tropes—beautiful boys catering to girls, shirtless scenes, and homoerotic humor—but intentionally exaggerated and comedic, not exploitative.	Incomplete (Completed Manga)	26 Episodes
Dark & Intense	<i>Attack on Titan</i>	A post-apocalyptic world inspired by medieval/early-industrial Europe (especially Germany)	Primarily plot-driven, but heavily character-driven as the series progresses.	Male (Eren Yeager)	Yes — there are a couple canonically confirmed queer characters.	Highly praised voice acting from Fumination/Crisp actors.	None.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	94 Episodes
	<i>Death Note</i>	Modern-day Japan	Strongly plot-driven, with psychological and moral tension.	Male (Light Yagami)	None confirmed; some fans interpret L's and Light's dynamic as homoerotic subtext, but it's not canonical.	Widely regarded as one of the best English dubs in anime history.	None.	Completed (Anime & Manga)	37 Episodes
	<i>Cyberpunk: Edgerunners</i>	Night City — a neon-drenched dystopian future inspired by the Cyberpunk 2077 universe.	Character-driven tragedy within a tight plot arc.	Male (David Martinez)	Some supporting queer-coded and bisexual characters	Netflix's dub is strong and well-cast.	Moderate sexual and aesthetic fan service. Explicit nudity, sex scenes, and gore—all fitting the gritty world, not comedic.	Ongoing (Anime only)	10 Episodes
	<i>* TO BE HERO X and Link Click are Chinese animated series (donghua) not technically anime, but very similar in style.</i>	<i>TO BE HERO X*</i>	A surreal, semi-futuristic parody world blending superhero and slice-of-life themes.	Male (X, though storylines often switch perspectives)	Not prominently featured; some ambiguity in comedic context.	It has a solid dub that fits the characters well.	Comedic fan service. Mostly parodying anime tropes rather than being genuinely sexual.	Ongoing (Donghua only)	24 Episodes
	<i>Link Click*</i>	Modern-day China	Character-driven with a strong mystery plot.	Two male leads (Cheng Xiaoshi and Lu Guang).	Heavily queer-coded relationship between the two leads (deep emotional intimacy, often read as romantic by fans).	Fumination/Crunchyroll dub is solid though fans often prefer the original Mandarin.	None.	Ongoing (Donghua & Manhwa)	29 Episodes + Prequel

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