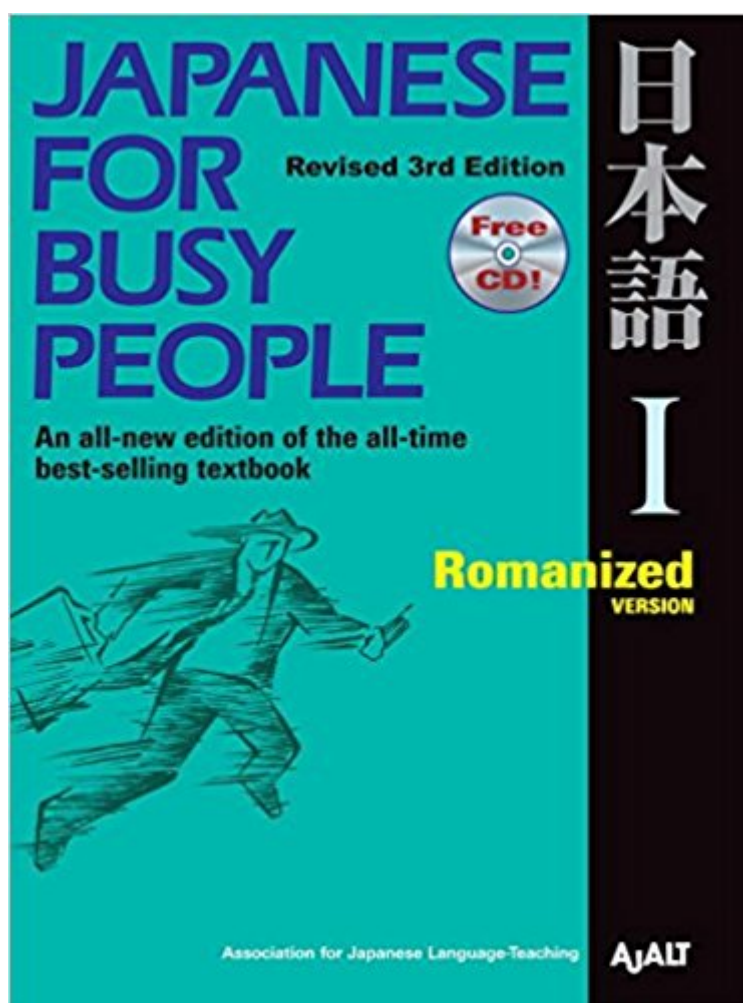




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Japanese For Busy People I: Romanized Version (Japanese For Busy People Series)



Synopsis

Japanese for Busy People is the most popular Japanese language textbook series in the world. With over 20 components including texts, workbooks, CDs, videos and teacher's manuals, it is also one of the most comprehensive. Now, a decade after its first revision, the entire series is being redesigned, updated and consolidated to meet the needs of 21st-century students and businesspeople who want to learn natural, spoken Japanese as effectively as possible in a limited amount of time. The book features not only a sleek, new design but also a unit structure that groups thematically linked lessons together, making it easier than ever to learn Japanese. Moreover, it now comes with a CD containing audio for the dialogues and listening exercises from the text. The exercises in the book have also been thoroughly revised to incorporate more comprehension and production tasks. Many of these exercises are illustrated, making for a stimulating learning experience, and the purpose of each one is clearly stated. This first of three volumes introduces "survival Japanese" – the absolute minimum amount of Japanese needed to live in Japan. Thus, the vocabulary and grammatical items it introduces are limited to about a third of what is typically introduced in a first-year course. In addition, the book features notes on Japanese culture intended to expand the learner's understanding of Japan, its customs and people. Japanese for Busy People I is available in two formats: romanized and kana. The Romanized Version uses romanized Japanese throughout, with kana in the Opening Dialogues of each lesson. The Kana Version – exposing students to hiragana and katakana from the very beginning – uses only kana. The content of the two books is otherwise exactly the same. The companion volume, Japanese for Busy People 1: The Workbook for the Revised 3rd Edition contains a variety of illustrated exercises for mastering the basic sentence patterns presented in the main text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Association of Japanese-Language Teaching (AJALT) was established to meet the practical needs of people who are not necessarily specialists in Japanese but who wish to communicate effectively. The AJALT was recognized as a nonprofit organization by the Ministry of Education in 1977.

The book offers a way to begin learning Japanese. The CD is of no help what so ever. In my opinion the CD needs to give an English word/phrase then the Japanese with time for students to process and repeat. I realize that the Japanese language is tonal and is spoken rapidly, however in the learning phase the words/phrases need to be at a reduced rate of speed so that the brain can process it. I have chosen to disregard the CD because it is frustrating and of no help what so ever. Joanne

I like the pace of this book, and the sequence is logical. I use it along with CDs by Pimsleur and an old college textbook (Nakama 1). I like this Romaji version, because it's much easier to read along in my native alphabet. However, I'm losing my command of Kana in the process. I will probably purchase the Kana version too.

I am using this as my text in Level 1 Japanese courses that I am currently taking and this book is a great learning tool. It comes with a CD which you use along with the exercises in the book within each lesson chapter. This is the Romaji version but if you know Kana (hiragana and katakana) there is that version as well. Highly recommended!

I used the kana version of this book in an introductory course. It is now ten years later, and I have finally found time to take the next course. This time, I am using the Romanized version, because I am already far behind the rest of the class. I would have stayed with the kana version, but the print is so small and light that it is hard to decipher. The print of the Romanized version is okay in English

and in the Japanese dialogues that introduce each chapter, but it, too, is often small and light. This is annoying, but it is not the worst thing about the book. I think I can best describe its faults by contrast with a German text by Vail and Cunz that I think is excellent. In the German text, two American exchange students are living with a German family, for a year. In each chapter, they have a new experience that teaches them about German culture and geography. They hear anecdotes from their hosts, and discuss their observations with each other. The vocabulary is alphabetized for each chapter, and verbs are fully conjugated, even though all of the forms are not used immediately. In the Japanese text, there is no on-going story, just an opening passage, for example, in which someone invites someone else to a movie, or says that he is going on a business trip, which will involve a few stops. I would have liked a travelogue, or a history of the samurai wars, or visits to a tea ceremony or a shrine, etc. The vocabulary is not alphabetized, and we students are rather observers, than participants in the stories. Because verbs are not fully conjugated in one place, one is forced to flip back and forth, as new forms appear. I have also listened to some Pimsleur language tapes, while driving, or walking around, and it seems to me that the Japanese for Busy People book would be much improved if it had more (and similar) audio with slower, "repeat after me" interactions, and discussions of what was in the chapters.

This was the recommended text for my Japanese Adult class at our Sr. Center. It is very good and has both English and hiragana. It is nicely organized and easy to follow. Good beginning text for learning the language.

good reference book

In my senior years, I am taking adult education at our senior center and Beginning Japanese is one of them. This is the exact book the instructor uses. The class had just ended but I am planning to take it over again. Now I have my own book to work with instead of xerox copies given to me from this book. And, yes, if I choose to continue learning Japanese, I will most definitely be needing the Version II.

It will teach you how to speak Japanese but not how to write or read it. If you want to submerge yourself in the language, Genki might be a better option.

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