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Japanese: The Spoken Language, Part 1



Synopsis

This is a first book of Japanese: The Spoken Language initiates a course in modern spoken Japanese that teaches current usage through drills and functional exchanges. The series is entirely romanized. Accompanying audio and video materials are available

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As most readers will already know, Eleanor Jordan has spent a distinguished career campaigning to make language teaching a respected academic profession. Jordan does not indulge in empty theorizing: true to her pedagogical ideals, she gives concrete and practical working models where other might write methodological essays. Japanese: The Spoken Language (JSL) is the crowning achievement of this career. . . . More than two decades of thought and research went into the preparation of these materials, and the attention to detail shows. JSL, far and away the most consistent and rigorous language text I know of in any language, is already the most talked about work in the language teaching profession to appear in many years. . . . The text series is arguably the most important contribution to Japanese linguistics since Martin's A Reference Grammar of Japanese appeared in 1975. At the very least, JSL offers more than a pedagogical model; it also contains analyses of the Japanese language to be found nowhere else. There is no other published source for most of Jordan's ideas on grammar and sociolinguistics. The textbook is her forum for academic discourse, and she uses the medium with unmatched skill. . . . Demanding and rewarding." •S. Robert Ramsey, Modern Language Journal "Far more than

a mere revision of the earlier text. Jordan has introduced important modifications in her grammatical and sociolinguistic analysis as well as in the pedagogical approach. An impressive array of audio and video materials have been added to supplement the text. . . . Jordan makes a strong case for the romanization system used in her text. . . . Jordan takes great care to relate the language to the society and the culture where the language is spoken. . . . [She] is to be congratulated for the strong sociolinguistic emphasis of her text. All lessons have interesting observations and remarks about Japanese society and culture, but always related to some aspects of the language. . . . This is an excellent text. . . . Japanese: The Spoken Language provides an excellent and natural input which is made comprehensible through a variety of means. The sociolinguistic and cultural approach fosters high motivation and interest, therefore a low filter. Exercises, drills, reviews, grammatical explanations, etc., encourage and cause the acquisition of Japanese because they contribute to the comprehensible input and high motivation. . . . This text will be a valuable instrument for the increasing number of students of Japanese. Jordan and Noda should be congratulated for the tremendous amount of work, research, and thoughtfulness in the preparation of this text." – Bernard Saint-Jacques, Canadian Journal of Linguistics "One of the most reliable classroom textbooks of Japanese for beginners. . . . JSL1 is a monumental work that enables students to gain oral communicative competence in Japanese." – Yoshiko Nakano, Language

It is okay. My class required this book that is why I bought it. I wish there was hiragana to the side of each word so I can get use to it, but most is merely the pronunciation of the words. The Core Conversations are very useful because it helps you to know how to answer to certain situations.

Great price. Great quality. Worked perfectly for class.

I had this book recommended by a friend who majored in Japanese and I can honestly say with a basic understanding of Katakana and Hirigana that this book can be used really well as a personal learning tool or in a classroom environment, I would highly recommend.

The book came in super nice conditions for being used. It does not even have a bend in the cover like it was opened. This book is different to use, so make sure you read how to use this book in the first few pages.

The book was shipped on time and was incredibly cheap. I got a steal of a deal, and couldn't be

happier with my purchase.

The context of this book is pretty good. Don't rely too much on the romanji! I always write out the skits in hiragana/ kanji! :) My classroom uses it, it just takes a little adjusting but if you stay with it you will learn some great phrases and master some polite Japanese. The phrases are somewhat older, so I tend to ask Japanese people to check what I am saying. lol

This is a quality book for learning Japanese, and was the required book for my course in college. However, I do not like the way they "drill" the material into your head. There are unflowing conversations early on that make you attempt to memorize exact changes that mean the same thing, for the sake of using all of the different ways of saying something (our course was strict, and while these differences meant nothing, switching them counted against us). The drill section was also repetitive. There are online resources that go along with this as well, such as videos and audio practice. I give it a four out of five because it does what it's supposed to well enough, and the resources are helpful. The main problem I had is the first set of lessons start off too choppy with the conversations, to the point where 10 lines is actually 10 conversations. (shown in the video).

I see people writing reviews here about "why is there no kanji" and "the use of romaji is bad" or something along those lines. Seriously, this book is very good. I am a native speaker of Japanese. You need to read the "how to use this book" part first. Don't skip any of the lessons, no matter if you have learned part of it. If you are serious about learning Japanese, then you will seriously read this correctly. People getting mad over no hiragana or kanji is ridiculous. Think about it; how did you learn your first language. Did you learn to read and write first? No, you learned to speak it. And that's just what this book helps you achieve. Learning another language also takes practice. The romaji use is very good to help beginners that do not know the pronunciation.

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