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Complete Japanese: The Basics (Book And CD Set): Includes Coursebook, 4 Audio CDs, And Learner's Dictionary (Complete Basic Courses)



Synopsis

With Living Language Complete Japanese: The Basics, you'll start by learning words, and then you'll progress to phrases, sentences, and conversations. This simple four-step building block approach will have you speaking with confidence right from the beginning, and you'll be able to learn gradually and effectively. Best of all, this comprehensive course includes everything you need • pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, culture, and practice • and it's designed to be effective in a short period of time. So what are you waiting for? With Living Language, you're just a few simple steps away from speaking Japanese! This comprehensive course package includes: 40 step-by-step lessons in a convenient coursebook 4 audio CDs with all the important course content A comprehensive grammar reference section Supplemental sections on e-mail and internet resources An English-Japanese/Japanese-English learner's dictionary A bonus pocket travel reference Plus, you can save \$5 with publisher mail-in rebate!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While I love a lot of Living Languages' courses like, Ultimate Arabic, Ultimate Spanish, the whole Spoken World series, these earlier basic versions really suck. This is the most boring language book I own and I own a *lot* of language books. The lay out is confusing and discombobulated. I have been trying for a month to get thru it and it is soooooo BORING, I have yet to get past the first

chapter, page 3. I got this on someone recommending it to me and I am sorry I listened to him because this course is a big disappointment. It has so much grammar per chapter, you give up before you begin from absolute terror of reading it and nodding off. The way they try to teach you is stuffing your head with so much information at one time, you can't wrap your head around it. The first chapter is so intimidating and that follows throughout the whole book. They spend more time explaining sentence structure and grammar in each chapter, there is little dialog and little else. I think that maybe, just maybe I might feel differently if I had another course under my belt and I understood Japanese a bit better but as a beginner basics course, that to me, is not true. No beginner could really do this unless they have a head--and love, for grammar and sentence structure explanations. I can't complain too hard, fortunately I got it used for 10 bucks so its little money lost and a lesson learned. I will come back and update later maybe my opinion will change but for now, if you are a beginner that hates grammar, sentence structure and detailed explanations, then avoid this book like Typhoid Mary and come back to it later. If you LOVE grammar, and that type of thing, this course is right up your alley.

The course was as affirming as it was informative in explaining conversational Japanese. I have through this course a few times and compared with Japanese language courses and textbooks and it is the one course I go to when I am tripped up in my language acquisition. The living language "system" that is stairway of sorts of learning words, repeating phrases, making sentences, and ultimately having conversations on par with following a math algorithm - "x ga arimasu" (there is x) or "y ni x ga imasu" (there is x in y). In fact, the course makes heavy use of algebraic formulas to help the reader make sentences. While the course consists of forty lessons, the actual lessons are further divided into two 'sublessons' that kind of compliment one another - Lesson 15 that introduces the "-te form or verbs" is coupled with lesson about the progressive form of verbs. All Japanese is in romanji. The lessons are simple as they can be and the quizzes are just difficult enough to give the absolute beginner a sense of progress. Compared with other editions of the Living Language series, I would have to say it offers a balance of good instructional content, encouraging results and price. If the reader has the time, they may want to compare my reviews on the 1993 and 2012 editions - in the simplest form, this is an improvement to the 1993 edition and copied verbatim to the 2012 edition, which may not be as disreputable as you might think. It does have some flaws though - there are some minor printing mistakes that do not reconcile explanations and conjugation tables, though by the time they appear, even I could tell something was off. The course only focuses the conversational element and after introducing the

syllabary first lesson, it never elaborates the written form. The box seems to hype *.MP3 compatibility, which I suppose is their tacit acknowledgement that will most likely rip the included CDs to your audio player.

Garbage. Japanese written in Latin! I owned this book years ago and it was in Japanese!

I love this product! The lessons are short and easy to learn. The audio also great, providing the correct pronunciation except I wish they would repeat the words more than once in a row before moving on to the next one so I can focus on that particular word. Furthermore, the dictionary is an excellent way to look up specific words and I love that! Overall, this is an amazing product!

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