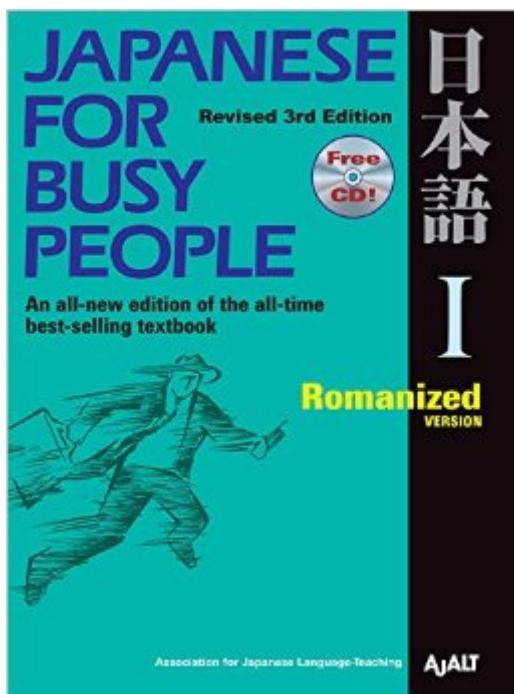


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# Japanese For Busy People I: Romanized Version 1 CD Attached (Japanese For Busy People Series)



## 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 has been 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

I think this book does a great job working with the business oriented very basic beginner. For my intents & purposes this book is fantastic - at this point, I'm not looking to have an in depth understanding of the language, I'm looking to be able to communicate just enough with Japanese speaking individuals. The book jumps right in with sentences and useful business phrases written in romaji (romanized writing of Japanese sounds/words) so that learning, understanding and speaking these phrases can begin immediately without having to learn the new alphabet. At this time, I am "illiterate" when it comes to Japanese (Kanji/Hiragana) but I can say enough phrases to get my point across. Should I desire to be able to read, write or better communicate, I would probably suggest a book that deals more thoroughly with the Japanese characters.

Got this book for a class I'm taking. I am up to chapter 6 now. This book does not seem like the best way to study Japanese. I can do the exercises because most of the time we just have to plug in the different information, but I am having a hard time generating my own sentences when the teacher calls on me. I notice that the others in class are having the same problem. This is the romanized version of the book. It is not helpful to have it in the Romanized format as other reviews have said. Words are harder to pronounce without learning the Hiragana first. I also have another book for hiragana. I agree with another reviewer who said the order of learning things was difficult in this book. Telling time in Japanese is covered very early as well as learning complicated numbers. There is vocabulary at the bottom of the pages and I like the way it is separated, so I can easily make electronic flash cards. I have not traveled to Japan yet, but do not feel prepared at all. I cannot read the packaging of most Japanese foods at the international market because they are not in romanized Japanese. What I can read is from learning in the hiragana book. I'm not familiar with other Japanese books, but I think there must be something better than this.

I can't give this book - the whole series in fact - enough stars. It is truly outstanding, and was a lifesaver when I lived in Japan. First, some context: I've studied Japanese and Chinese at Harvard, Yale & Princeton, so I've seen quite a few methodologies for teaching East Asian languages. My

verdict is that "Japanese for Busy People" is by far the BEST AND MOST ENJOYABLE. It's the best methodology, because it tries really hard to introduce grammar and vocab at a manageable pace, and in a practical context. I found it ideal for self-study - very clear explanations, in just the right amount of detail. Whenever I would study a lesson, I would end up using what I'd learnt within a few days, sometimes a few hours! Most other methodologies (for example Nakama 1 & 2) are very overwhelming - they rely on rote memorization and try to force feed every grammatical detail, so much that nothing "sticks". It's also the most enjoyable methodology, which is VERY IMPORTANT because you want a book that you're going to WANT to pick up during your free time. The enjoyment comes from the excellent presentation, clear explanations, relevant subject-matter, as well as the CD. I found myself listening to the lessons on my iPod when I was walking on the street, and opening the book whenever I had 5 minutes in the subway. I was amazed at how quickly I was learning. All in all, I've never found an easier methodology that gave me so quickly a smattering of "fluency" with only a beginner's range of vocab and grammar. The only caveat is that you really need to get to book 2 to dive into the grammar. P.S. I recommend the Romanized version over the Kana version. Wait till book 2 to tackle the Japanese alphabet.

I have just begun my study of Japanese, and this book was perfect for me | I know there is a lot of controversy over whether or not to use the Roman alphabet when learning Japanese, but I specifically choose the Romanized version of this text for a number of reasons | First and foremost is the fact that I was raised using the Roman alphabet, and when I began to study the Japanese alphabets (Hiragana and Katakana), it was of great help to have the Romanized letters alongside the Kana characters | Having the Roman letters alongside helped not only my pronunciation, but also my memorization of the Kana | Second was the fact that I intend to type emails and other correspondence in Japanese, and if you're like me and using a Windows computer here in the USA, you are forced to type using the Roman keyboard with the Japanese language pack installed (Windows automatically converts the qwerty typing into the appropriate Kana characters). And yes, I know if I were to move to Japan, I had better be able to read and write Kana and Kanji, and eventually, perhaps I will fully wean myself off of Roman | but for now, it's just another tool to be used | and if you also get the companion JFBP 1 Kana Workbook, you get the best of both teaching methods!!

Definitely NOT recommended for people who want to learn a lot of practical Japanese language in a short time. Despite the title, it seemed to me that the book requires a great deal of effort to learn a

lot of random things very quickly in a sort of childish kindergarten way ("This is a key. That's a book."), and definitely not in order of usefulness - why do I need to know how to say "one trillion mechanical pencils" before I learn toilet, passport, visa, taxi, bus stop, train station, train ticket, entrance, exit, ...? There is very little explanation - much of the material raises more questions than it answers, giving the student the feeling that they don't know how to use what they've learned except in the very few explicit examples given in the book. A very, very disappointing purchase.

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