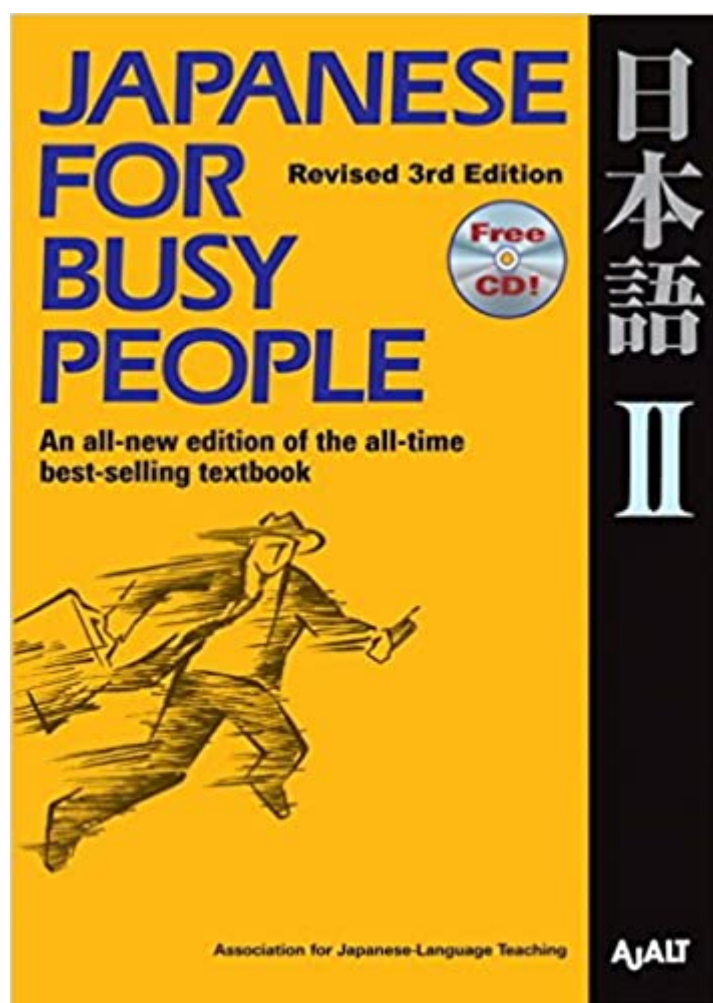


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# Japanese For Busy People II: Revised 3rd Edition (Japanese For Busy People Series)



## Synopsis

Volume I dealt with "survival Japanese" for tourists and other short-term travelers and newcomers to Japan. Volume II, meanwhile, turns to the basics of Japanese syntax. The book is by no means only about grammar, however. Rather, it is designed to help learners consolidate their understanding of syntactical structure through lessons that focus on how to talk about topics relevant to daily life. In addition to serving learners continuing from Volume I, Volume II will benefit those who have already studied beginning Japanese to some extent but wish to brush up on syntax.

**Major Features of Japanese for Busy People II, Revised 3rd Edition**

Japanese for Busy People II, Revised 3rd Edition will enable learners to progress smoothly through the equivalent of the latter half of a typical first-year Japanese course while gradually building speaking and listening skills. Learners approaching mid-beginner status often find themselves suddenly faced with syntax and vocabulary much more complex than what they have studied before. Such grammar and vocabulary do not appear as frequently in everyday conversation as those words and structures they have learned up to this point, necessitating that they spend ample time on review. Moreover, learners at this stage are expected to become familiar with verb tense and aspect, time expressions, conditional clauses, and other topics that require them to have a solid grasp of context and speaker intent if they are to fully understand the differences in meaning conveyed by each. Such points cannot be mastered by reading through grammatical explanations alone. In short, the mid-beginner level is a difficult one for many adult learners who, unlike students in school, have neither time nor opportunities to take repeated tests or to otherwise gauge their progress.

**Japanese for Busy People II, Revised 3rd Edition** helps overcome the above obstacles through grammar and content topics carefully selected to be appropriate to learners at this level of Japanese proficiency. The book is designed so that by practicing talking about each topic, learners will gradually and effectively acquire sentence patterns and vocabulary related to that topic. Like Volume I, Volume II is organized into several large units, each covering topics grouped under a particular theme. In this way, the book enables learners to achieve a well-balanced understanding of grammar, sentence structure, and context.

**Themes and lesson objectives of the five units in Volume II are as follows.**

**Unit 1: Souvenir Shopping**

Following up on Volume I, Unit 1 presents survival Japanese related to shopping, thus providing learners with a thorough review of simple clauses. The unit also goes beyond what was covered in Volume I by showing ways of asking someone's opinion while shopping, making comparisons between items, and describing an item's characteristics. The overall theme is "picking souvenirs," a subject that should be relevant to learners both in Japan and abroad. The verbal skills and dialogue patterns studied here may be applied not only to shopping but also more broadly to any situation

that involves choosing between options.

**Unit 2: Building Rapport with Colleagues** This unit introduces the plain forms of verbs *teiru* • a crucial component of Japanese compound sentences *teiru* • along with several sentence-final elements that make use of these forms. Topics are selected from among those that typically come up when interacting with people from work. Covered are constructions for indicating interest in another's actions, inviting someone to do something outside of work, asking for help or offering advice, and otherwise interacting with people in ways that help build relationships of trust and understanding.

**Unit 3: Returning to Japan for Work** This unit explains how to build sentences using temporal clauses, direct and indirect quotation, and attributive modifiers. Through talking about factual events in one's life history or in that of a particular neighborhood, learners will study how to relate an event in chronological sequence, compare the way something is now to how it was in the past, and describe facilities and other things around them.

**Unit 4: Planning a Vacation** Along with sentences with clauses for stating reasons or reporting questions, this unit covers sentence-final elements used to express indefiniteness, for example wish or probability. Topics deal with verbal skills necessary for planning and carrying out activities in cooperation with others, including explaining reasons or circumstances, expressing probability, and indicating desire. The overall theme is that of planning and going on a trip to a unique place in Japan.

**Unit 5: Solving Problems** The focus of this unit is on forming conditional clauses. Topics include preparing for earthquakes or other disasters, discussing dreams for the future, solving problems, helping someone who is lost, and other situations that call on learners to talk about what might happen in the future, discuss options for solving problems, and give instructions or explain steps for doing something.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, Japanese (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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.

This textbook was definitely not written by the same people as the authors of Japanese For Busy People I. That volume was great, while this one was a major disappointment for the following reasons.- Disorganization: JFBP II piles on a substantial list of new vocabulary at the END of each lesson, rather than the beginning. As a result the new words are not used in the lesson at all, or even the next immediate lesson. You will find one or two of those words randomly called upon in some later lesson. Furthermore, these vocabulary lists don't have any relation to the "themes" or "scenarios" of the lessons in which they are introduced.- Inconsistency: JFBP II fails to define all the new vocabulary. For some reason, they skip one out of every handful of words despite the fact that the reader has not encountered those words in this series before. To clarify, when they are defining all the new words at the bottom of the page, they'll leave some out for no reason. On top of this, they will introduce kanji and then fail to use it later on, resorting back to the hirigana.- Low Value: JFBP II contains much fewer exercises, no doubt because they expect you to make an additional purchase of their workbook, an additional \$18.- Misprint: Granted, this may not be the case for all copies, but the books my teacher and I received had a misprint in them where lines of text were completely missing. These were not "fill-in-the-blank type" exercises, although we treated them as such, because sometimes words were cut-off halfway through.

Perhaps it's history with this set of books, but I kinda preferred the prior edition of this book. They've definitely gone through a major revision here though which is good to see for such a useful series. I purchased this for a quick review reference (my 2nd edition copy is very well worn :-)). It includes

the CD which is a plus. The lesson flow is nice as are the vocabulary listings (now at the bottom of each section) but the grammar points seem convoluted compared to the prior edition. Overall, I recommend this and the other books in this series -- stay with the Kana versions though.

I have the Kana version. Romaji is not used. All words are defined in English. Narratives are in Kana and Kanji. Kanji the first few times are explained in Kana. Many proper nouns, if not all, are in Kanji. The Exercises often use vocabulary from the first book, so if you haven't memorized this earlier Vocabulary, one can waste time looking for definitions. This takes away from the learning process. I would prefer the glossary include the prior Book(s) vocabulary (that is, book II including both glossaries I and II, combined). The subject matter is sufficiently diverse. At times in the exercises they include a word that is similar to one in the story but may not be unrelated to the story. A learning plus. It is quite a challenge to read 3 foreign syllabets, learn new vocabulary, and new grammar. A good teacher can make the difference.

Book I was not very good (I would prefer the Genki series) so I was not happy when I heard my class was using book II. However, much to my delight this book is fabulous! There is quite a bit more interaction. The book is separated with different sections (grammar, reading, speaking, and listening). I like this focus. There is considerably more explanations in grammar with examples as well as fill in the blank (as compared to just copy a sentence with the words). These features were what I loved about the Genki series. I find this book very helpful when learning Japanese and would highly recommend it!

This book is the intermediate level in a really well-done series. The progression from simple conversation to more sophisticated material is so seamless that a learner will probably not even notice how much ground has been covered. This series is very much skewed toward everyday conversation, but the presentation has been done so comprehensively that transitioning into more sophisticated areas can be done very smoothly. The CDs are really high quality as well, making these books overall a fine value for the price. I do recommend getting the kana edition of book 1- students who put off kanji and kana until level two will find they have a lot on their plate.

As a linguist for the past 35 years, I have found that the entire series, "Japanese for Busy People", undoubtedly comprises the most outstanding language learning material that has ever been published in any language. It is obvious that a prodigious commitment was made in order to

successfully compile such a user friendly, organized and efficient course, which deserves prominent world recognition

Steps up the challenge from Busy People I, but using Ver I as foundation. Can be used outside the classroom, like Ver I, as a learning tool in its own right. I'm bypassing the Kanji section because 'Let's Learn Kanji' seems to be a more systematic approach ... and trying to combine the Kanji from the 2 different books would be confusing.

excellent text for the serious minded wanting to learn Japanese. Methodical lessons which are easy to follow and give you the best of your lesson

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