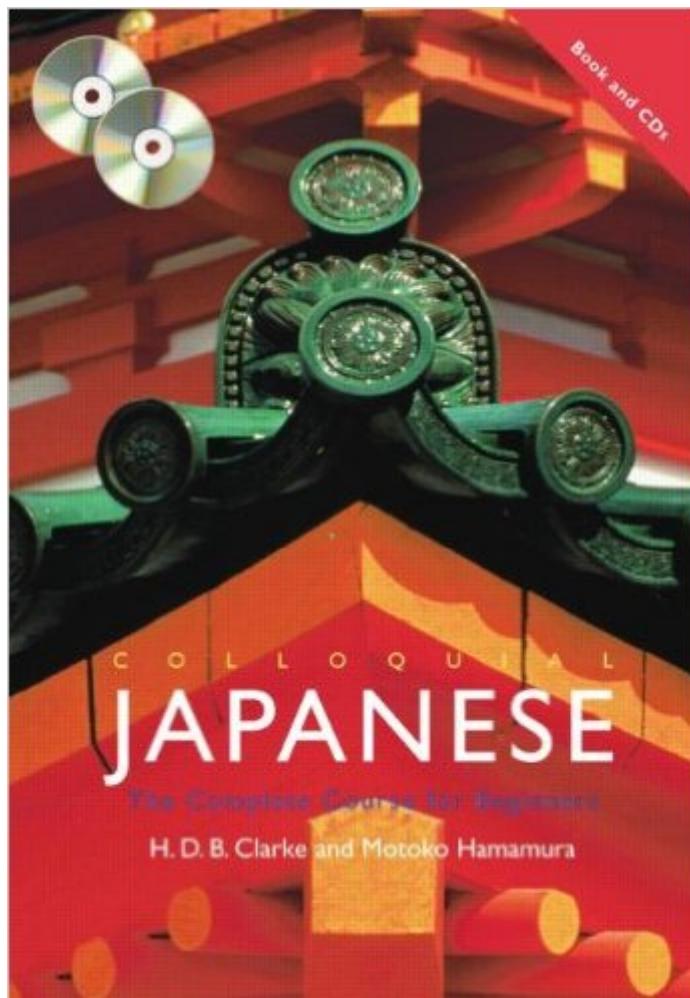


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Colloquial Japanese (Colloquial Series)



Synopsis

COLLOQUIAL JAPANESE is easy to use and completely up to date! Specially written by experienced teachers for self-study or class use, the course offers a step-by-step approach to written and spoken Japanese. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Learning to read and write Japanese is made as easy as possible, with kanji, katakana and hirigana introduced gradually throughout the course. COLLOQUIAL JAPANESE is also suitable for use by those who do not wish to learn the script. Other features include: *Dialogues covering a range of social and business situations*Exercises with answer key*Grammar reference section*Extensive vocabulary lists, including Japanese script and romanization*Index of kanji, giving on and kun readings By the end of this rewarding course you will be able to communicate confidently and effectively in Japanese in a broad range of everyday situations. This pack contains the book and 120 minutes of audio material, provided on CDs. Recorded by native speakers, this material will help you develop your pronunciation and listening skills. Course components: The complete course comprises the book and audio materials. These are available to purchase separately in paperback, ebook, CD and MP3 format. The paperback and CDs can also be purchased together in the great-value Colloquials pack. Paperback: 978-0-415-19478-5 (please note this does not include the audio) CDs : 978-0-415-27911-6 eBook: 978-0-203-98691-2 (available to purchase from http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio_viewbooks.aspx. Please note this does not include the audio) MP3s: 978-0-415-47080-3 (available to purchase from http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio_viewbooks.aspx) Pack : 978-0-415-45391-2 (paperback and CDs)

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Customer Reviews

I am now living in Japan, and am fluent in Japanese(among other languages), a holder of a degree in linguistics, and a professional language teacher, and tutor of Japanese. I think that this text is a great place to start your Japanese studies, whether or not you prefer to use only Romaji, or authentic Japanese scripts (or a combination of the two, like myself.) This feature is what sets this book apart from similar priced texts like Hugo's and Teach Yourself, or the Berlitz Essential Japanese books. Having succeeded in learning in Japanese, I think people who 'demonize' romaji as a crutch, or useless are seriously misguided. Understanding new grammar rules, and sentence patterns can be mastered much faster, and with more confidence if the student isn't concerned about reading new characters correctly as well. Also, I dare anyone to look at Japanese only text and not be a little intimidated. I think romaji is important for providing the beginner with the sense of achievement that is so often needed to overcome the inevitable frustrations that come with learning a new language. Viewed in this context it can be a valuable tool. That said, even if spoken Japanese is your only goal, if you plan to live or visit Japan (where Japanese is spoken) Kanji is a necessity if you realize it or not. It takes a lot of work, and is best started sooner than later. I like the approach in this book because it presents the option of studying Kanji right from the first chapter, and avoids the common mistake of only teaching Kanji individually, out of context like so many other 'Kanji' specific texts.

As opposed to another review I'm past the 5th chapter and I've yet to find more than one instance where the vocabulary wasn't comprehensive. Then the word was still available in the glossary in back. In the forward the author does say that in later chapters they will deliberately not include a comprehensive vocabulary because part of learning the language is learning to utilize the appropriate reference materials. But I haven't reached that point yet. Though, even then, the glossary in the back is comprehensive. There are however a number of typos throughout. Most are rather obvious because they are nearly all in the vocabulary sections where romaji and kana are in parallel text. Thus, the romaji will nearly always be correct and kana characters will either be missing or misplaced. I'm sticking with a 5 though because I find these typos obvious and they didn't confuse me. The rest of the book is great. I've found each chapter leads into the next very well with comprehensible explanations and each section just the right size. Kana and Kanji are introduced from the beginning slowly and reinforced each chapter. Unfortunately, it makes everything so

comprehensible that many will press on before fully learning each chapter. So I recommend going back to the beginning and reviewing everything at least once every other day until the book is complete. I'm doing this and every time I see some detail I missed all the other times. So it may feel tedious but it does pay off. Also, it's a good idea to keep each study period under 30 minutes so you don't burn out. Review, review, review. My favorite feature about this book is it is not a "Japanese for business" book.

In contrast most other reviewers, I have finished the whole book. I was initially drawn to this book because unlike many introductory Japanese books, hiragana, katakana, and kanji are introduced right away. I continue to believe that learning kanji is essential to learning Japanese as the building blocks of vocabulary, not something to tack on after learning the spoken language. For this reason, I think this book's concept is head and shoulders above the competition. However, it is very poorly executed. Especially in the later chapters, long lists of kanji appear at the end of each chapter, but most of them were not ever used in the chapter. Each chapter has one or two dialogues, concepts introduced, exercises, and vocabulary, however, there is virtually no overlap of vocabulary in the chapter. This means that you will see each word/character once or twice, but there will be around 50 new words. Somehow, the reader is supposed to be able to effectively learn 50 new words with little repetition. As one progresses, there can be some repetition (a word you saw once in chapter 8 reappears once in chapter 14), and so I can say that I have learned some vocabulary, but not very effectively. Same problem with the grammar--it is introduced in one small section of one chapter, and if you are lucky it will reappear in a sentence in a later chapter. A much much better way to learn would be to stick to a set list of words and one major concept per chapter and repeat these same words and concept in the dialogue, exercises, vocabulary, etc. I have used Random House Living Language books for French and German (they use this approach) and in 6 months was told by a German professor that I sounded like someone with 2 years study.

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