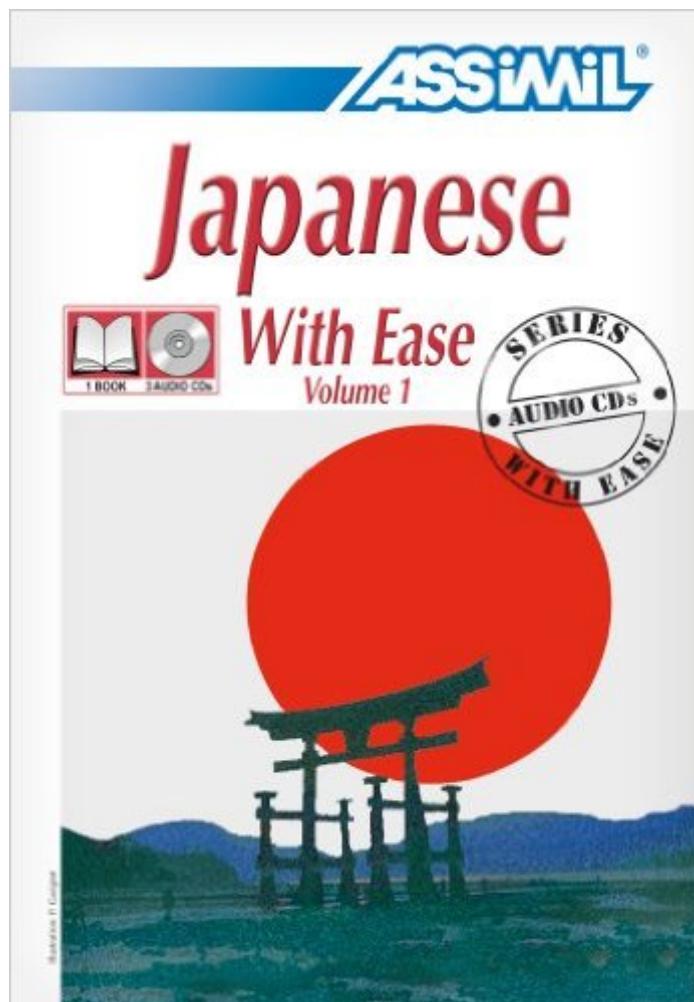


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Japanese With Ease, Volume 1 (Assimil With Ease) (v. 1)



Synopsis

Aims to take users through the basic structures needed for communication and become familiar with the basic words and grammar. This book employs a method which comprises two phases - passive phase, in which users repeat what they hear and read, and active phase, in which users create sentences and imagine themselves in everyday situations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After completing Vol. 1 of this course (the "passive phase") I have a few reactions. This volume does not enable you to understand whatever spoken or written Japanese you may encounter, but that can't reasonably be expected. (I doubt that Vol. 2 does that either.) You do get a good start in understanding sentence structure and grammatical forms. The Japanese is written both in Latin letters and in Japanese characters. You can study the Japanese characters or you can ignore them. (Vol. 2 emphasizes them more, and the last lessons are only in Japanese characters.) This course is much different from a textbook. Each lesson consists of a conversation written in Japanese on the left-hand page and in English on the right. (Except that every seventh lesson is a review, in English, of grammar and vocabulary.) The English page provides a word-for-word translation of the Japanese page and also a more idiomatic English translation. At the end of each lesson there are exercises in which one translates Japanese sentences into English and English sentences into Japanese. Teaching is done very much by example. You are expected to learn by familiarization

more than by explanation. Very often new grammatical forms are introduced in the conversations without any explanation or even a notification that there is something new. Grammar is discussed in the review lessons, but it can be far behind the conversations. For example, the lessons contain many different verb forms, but only in the last lesson do you begin to learn explicitly how to get from the dictionary form of a verb to the root from which other forms are developed. You learn new grammar and vocabulary by comparing the word-for-word translation on the English page with the Japanese original.

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