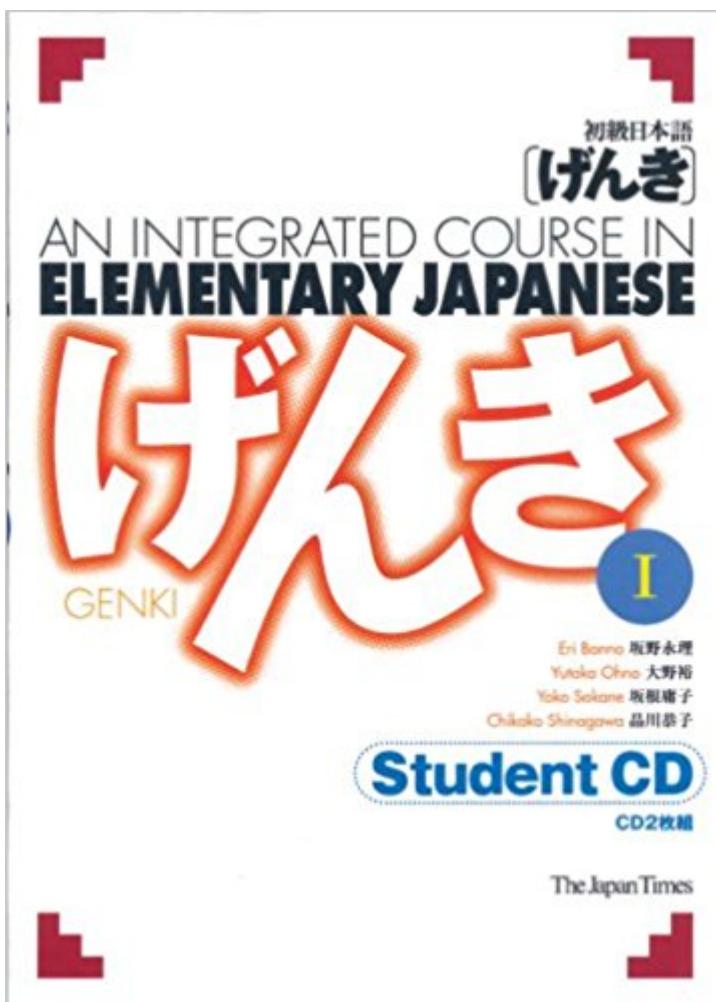


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Genki 1: An Integrated Course In Elementary Japanese 1 (Genki 1 Series) (Japanese Edition)



Synopsis

Published in Japan, Genki gives a beginning student of Japanese a solid grounding in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Packed with easy-to-understand grammar explanations, a variety of exercises full of illustrations, and scenes taken from everyday life, the 23 lessons will have students enjoying the often tedious beginning stage of Japanese-language learning and will enable them to acquire a well-balanced ability to communicate in elementary Japanese.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ideal for beginning students of Japanese.

Very good source for learning Japanese as I am sure you have heard. Make sure you get the newest edition, there isn't many differences just a few little changes in a couple words. It has Kana charts in it so you can begin right with this book. Although it would help to have a little background in how Japanese works. But like any resource make sure you use more than one. A fine addition to your collection here.

This was my first textbook in the Japanese language. I bought it again to keep up with practice. There are some grammar patterns that it doesn't cover as well as other texts, but then there are some it covers better. I supplement with the textbook Youkoso, another great beginner text.

This is probably the most commonly used Japanese textbook on the market for college students,

and it has earned that status. The organization is good within each chapter, things come in reasonable chunks (vocab, grammar or phrases), and the end-of-chapter exercises are enough to keep you busy if you choose not to buy the workbook (which you should buy if you are taking a class!) My only complaint was the fact that chapters have themes that really don't fit with their content -- barbecue, for instance, is a chapter, and really does not focus on that. Also, words like "this semester" and "last semester" may well be found in different chapters (true example). Lastly, if you are going further in Japanese and want to learn some kanji, you will need to look at the back of the book for each chapter's kanji list. They are organized by chapter but are not included in the chapters themselves, which I find strange and annoying, and they may or may not be vocab words from that chapter. The question word "what," for instance, is randomly placed and learned much later than is useful, even though it is relatively easy to write. If you are taking a class that uses this book: Buy it. Used or new shouldn't matter, but familiarize yourself with its organization and read all the grammar sections carefully. Some situations (like using a noun where an adjective is commonly used in a particular structure) are written but easy to miss if you skim. If you are not taking a class but want to learn Japanese: You might or might not find this a good match. If you memorize quickly and forget quickly, forget it. If you want things in context so they have somewhere to stick in your brain, forget it. It's really formatted for a formal classroom setting.

Before I begin, I want to make it absolutely clear that one word describes this book - "awesome." I have been recommended many, many times by friends and family members and I am honestly glad I purchased it. The only reason why it gets 4 stars instead of 5 is because of the condition I received the book in... has always been great in the past, but this book came and it had some damage to the dust cover - along with some black, "greasy"-like smears. When I pay nearly forty bucks for a book - I want it to be in dang good condition...brand spanking new. But anyways - about the book... This book is awesome, as I said above. You jump right into Japanese in the beginning, and everything is explained very clearly. What's also great is that everything provided is useful. Also, the Practice sections are great for reinforcing what you just learned. I couldn't imagine owning this book without having the audio CDs, so I really recommend buying them. I would look on eBay or something first (which I did) - though - before paying a ridiculous price. The audio is very nice with the dialogs and exercises, a must have for me. So, buy this book! But beware that someone needs to inventory their items a little better. You might get an ugly copy - like i did.

"Genki: I, An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese" is an excellent way to start learning

Japanese. It is a college (or motivated high schooler) oriented text that teaches hiragana, katakana and starts you on kanji (Chinese characters). It moves quickly but provides good vocabulary lists (again oriented to college age), dialogues, grammar notes so you can make proper sentences, and plenty of exercises to practice. There is also a work book and a CD (separate purchases).

Unfortunately we did not get the CD (the secondary seller did not provide one) so I cannot evaluate it. We have a college student teaching me and my two high school aged kids using this book and she provides the correct pronunciation as well as correcting our exercises. You could probably use this book without a tutor but you'd have to have the CD and be motivated. Our local college uses this text book and we could transition to their class. I have been told that one would need to complete this book and "Genki II" to begin being fluent in an all-Japanese language setting.

I went into buying this book for 7 dollars and change, it turned out to be a pretty good investment. I already knew quite a bit of Japanese but it gave me quite a few kanji that I hadn't memorized, and some that I still have not memorized in an easily digested format. note: I also bought the companion cd. The only significant complaint that I have about this book is that such a solid chunk of it is working with partner material which is silly. When I practice speaking Japanese I am not going to do it with a native English speaker and ruin my accent for life, I am going to practice with Japanese natives. On the whole I would say this is a very solid book. The only book that has helped me more is "A guide to reading and writing Japanese." I bought this book also and it was useful for memorizing the Toyo kanji.

So far so good, the explanations for concepts and technical explanations are very clear. I have been teaching myself Japanese in preparation for my move, and I have slowly been able to begin recognizing words, and I am reading more or less at a kindergarten level and it's only been about a month and a half all thanks to this book. Genki is money well spent.

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