

This is a digital version of a textbook that was first published in 1992. Although it is now out-of-date in terms of its vocabulary and the conservative context of its dialogues, its pedagogical approach has been and continues to be appreciated by a number of those who wish to learn Japanese. It is an intensive, grammar-based one-year introductory course, and those who finish it should have a firm grasp of how the language works and enough knowledge of the writing system to tackle everyday written material with no more than a dictionary. Particular attention is paid to matters of Japanese grammar which foreign learners often find difficult, so Book I can also serve as a reference grammar.

There are two caveats. First, this course was written not just for private study but to be taught by a native-language speaker; no audio aids were ever produced. Second, it does not rely on romanization but plunges the student directly into a mixture of the *kana* syllabary and characters. *Hiragana* should certainly be learned before approaching Lesson 1. Help with the meaning, reading, and stroke order of the characters is now readily available via a number of useful apps. Book II contains exercises to accompany the fifty-two lessons in Book I, word lists for each lesson, and a comprehensive vocabulary for the whole course.

An Introduction to Modern Japanese

Book 1: Grammar Lessons

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