

Cambridge Intermediate Japanese

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with

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Preface

This book is designed for students who have already completed a full one-year intensive course in Japanese and who wish to take their studies further. It therefore assumes a good grasp of basic grammar, knowledge of about 900 *kanji*, and a vocabulary of some 2000 words. It makes particular reference to the grammar as explained in R. Bowring and H. Laurie, *An Introduction to Modern Japanese*, Cambridge U. P., 1992, (referred to in the text as *IMJ*) to which it forms the sequel, but it should prove useful to anyone who has already made reasonable progress in learning this difficult language.

The aim of this intermediate course is to introduce you to an eclectic mixture of styles, formal and informal, written and spoken, to help broaden and deepen your knowledge. It starts with a series of dialogues that cover the kind of situations that are likely to arise during an extended visit to Japan, opening a bank account, eating out, or registering as a student, for example. These dialogues are worth learning by heart, because they contain many phrases that you will hear and wish to use every day. You will then progress to a number of short prose passages, ranging from essays to newspaper articles. Particular attention is paid to stylistic features here. Since the lessons are not designed in order of difficulty, the teacher should be able to mix dialogues with prose as he or she thinks fit.

As with its predecessor *IMJ*, this intermediate course does not shy away from trying to explain grammatical difficulties. Wherever possible, the language is presented in its raw state: Japanese as it is lived, written and spoken, without recourse to the kind of doctored texts that are such a ubiquitous feature of many recent textbooks. To tamper with the vocabulary, *kanji*, orthography and the like is unavoidable in something designed for the first year of study, but to continue this habit further into more advanced study of the language is unnecessary and can have the effect of exacerbating the shock when 'real' texts are encountered.

It is assumed that four to five class hours will be spent on each lesson, but many more hours will be necessary, of course, for proper preparation. A comprehensive word list will be found at the end of each lesson and all words used can be found in the Japanese-English vocabulary with a reference to the lesson in which they were first introduced. As was the case with *IMJ*, romanisation has been kept to a bare minimum. English translations of conversations, text passages and examples have mainly been relegated to the end of the book, but there are one or two exceptions where the translation of the main prose passage immediately follows the Japanese; this has been done because the translation itself forms part of what is being explained.

There is a dearth of good textbooks dealing with the language at more than an elementary level and it is hoped that this course will fill a considerable gap in the provision of such material.