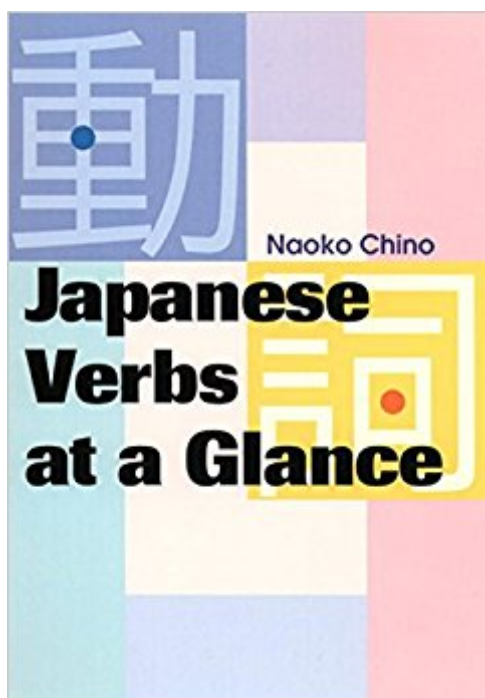


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Japanese Verbs At A Glance (Power Japanese Series)



Synopsis

This book provides useful information about verbs for beginning and intermediate students of Japanese. It's a handy reference to turn to when you have questions about Japanese verbs and how to use them. Charts and tables make the key points understandable at a glance, and the many example sentences show how to use verbs correctly in context. This book does not attempt a complete exposition of Japanese grammar. Instead, it provides a wealth of practical information in one specific area for people who need to speak or write Japanese. The book is organized according to how verbs are used. If you want to know how to ask a person to do something, for example, just check the Index for "Asking Favors and Making Requests" and go to that page. Special sections are devoted to areas of Japanese verbs that often cause difficulty for students, including polite forms, causatives, passives, and transitive/intransitive pairs. Each of these areas is covered clearly and in detail with charts, explanations, and example sentences. Previously published under the same title in the Power Japanese series.

Book Information

Paperback: 180 pages

Publisher: Kodansha International (November 2, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4770027656

ISBN-13: 978-4770027658

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.6 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #233,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Japanese](#) #2157 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses](#) #3116 in [Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

"... of great use to the beginner who is seeking a deep and correct understanding of verbs.... of great use to the beginner ... from the get-go.... also a good refresher for the intermediate-level student...." [The Hawaii Herald](#)

[The following summary of the book's contents reproduces the section "About This Book."] This

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Before describing the book, a word or two has to be mentioned regarding the publisher, Kodansha International. I don't know if it's because of the policy within Kodansha, or the Japanese culture in general, but you can feel the tidiness, accuracy, and meticulous nature of each author, and the effort expended in order to convey information to the reader the best possible way. When first starting to learn Japanese on my own, I had tried grammar texts and dictionaries from two other publishers. I found out after a couple of months, that they only cause the reader great confusion, lack a lot of important concepts, the print is often illegible, and the sentences are in Romaji and not in the native alphabet (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji), which is so necessary in order to learn the language properly. Other Kodansha publications which I found useful for learning Japanese are

- Kodansha's Essential Kanji Dictionary (Japanese for Busy People)
- The Kodansha Kanji Learners Dictionary (Japanese for Busy People)
- Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary: Japanese-English English-Japanese
- All About Particles: A Handbook of Japanese Function Words (Power Japanese Series)
- (Kodansha's Children's Classics)
- The Handbook of Japanese Adjectives and Adverbs (Kodansha's Children's Classics)

The text is divided into four chapters. The first chapter gives a general outline of verbs. The second chapter discusses the way verbs are used. For example, there are three polite ways to ask someone to do something, three formal ways, seven informal ways, and three ways to say it in a blunt manner. The third chapter discusses verb conjugates. For example, when the verb "owaru" is added to "yomi" (reading), the resulting connotation is "the end of reading". The third chapter discusses common expressions and phrases. For example when "shika nai" is added to "iku" (to go), the resulting connotation is "the only way to

go". Each case starts with a general form of the verb in each type of expression (polite, formal, and informal), and an example with a verb in each type, all in a block which makes it easy to locate it. Then it follows with an explanation of that case, and three sections for each type of expression. For each type of expression, two or three sentences are given, each in Japanese, Romaji, and English. The stem of the verb is given to the right of each sentence. The appendix includes two tables of different tenses of common verbs, one for each type of verbs. The index is organized in English, and includes Japanese text for each subject. Sometimes the English translation isn't the way it is spoken in the US, but I don't see it as a major drawback. In short, I recommend it for every English speaking Japanese student learning on his or her own, or even as supplementary material at college. Verbs are the most easily comprehensible element of Japanese sentence, and pose almost no hurdle in comprehension. Once the general structure is understood, which is in a simple manner divided into two major types, and a third restricted specialized one, which constitutes a handful of common verbs, and a few tenses and social status allusions, one is on her way, together with proper knowledge of particles and adjectives, to understand Japanese statements. Each variation is restricted to a specific circle, and once a reader enters a specific one, she shouldn't have to worry about the various other ones, and a general knowledge of the few prevalent ones, does the job. The verb structure is greatly invariable across all domains, and circumstances, which makes it all the much easier to read Japanese text. In this textbook one finds only a handful verbs. For definitions, one should resort to a reliable taxonomical source, to satisfy the specific need of the user. This is a general guideline, only showing the various structures, and a very comprehensive one, above that, describing in a concise, distinct, to-the-point, plausible, complete manner, readily amenable to definite distinction with other ones.

I've been reading this book for a few weeks now and I've got to say that it has increased my general knowledge of Japanese. The first 2 chapters you really have to study. It throws a lot of information out there for you as far as "Formal & Informal" methods of Japanese speech as well as past and present tense of verbs of formal and informal speech. Trying to learn both Formal & Informal methods is a headache, but it's good to have an understanding of both. Compared to other Japanese books that I've bought this one is better than all of them. I've had books that only used the formal methods of Japanese speech and other books that some professor wrote which was written in ways that you could only understand if you were another professor or a college student with a perfect ACT score. I'm still reading the book but this is good study material and you can learn a lot from this book, I'd recommend this book for everyone. However please note that you have to at

least know how to make small japanese sentences. Ex: (I ran to the store) before you start reading the book which isn't hard.

I found out that one of the most important things in learning the Japanese language is vocabulary and proper verb conjugation! This book helps so much with the verb conjugation, that it will easily become one of your more useful reference books. Another plus is the use of both Japanese text and romanji. However, I would rather see NO romanji...since in learning Japanese, romanji does nothing in helping you advance. Again, Naoko has outdone herself with this book, and I look forward to all her new Japanese learning books!

I read this a few years ago (4 years, maybe?) The one problem i remember having with this book was that it didn't tell me the negative form of some conjugations. At the time i was hopeless unable to figure it out, for example, how to say "I don't want to go". So i asked a Japanese friend. I put this as a comment in response to someone but i'll reiterate here. The forms are 100% predictable, but the reason you need a book on them is so you can learn the predictable forms. In addition you learn the passive and causative forms which are used a LOT in written Japanese. You also learn how to say things like "I want to do", "started to do", "finished doing", "was about to do", "just did", etc. You learn the difference between "I'm *doing the dishes*" and "I like *doing the dishes*" these are things that are used often. Admittedly, after a while you don't reference the book, but there is a while when you do. I found it to be valuable. Someone mentioned Ms. Chino's rule about using -eba, and -tara with suggestions. I followed that rule for 4 years and was not in error. It wasn't until a few days ago, that i heard -tara used with a suggestion (by a Japanese friend). I don't say that this discounts her rule, because as English speakers, we use double negatives, and "ain't" all the time, though it's not technically correct. Also, I enjoy looking at this book too. It is delightful. I always wanted to read it.

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