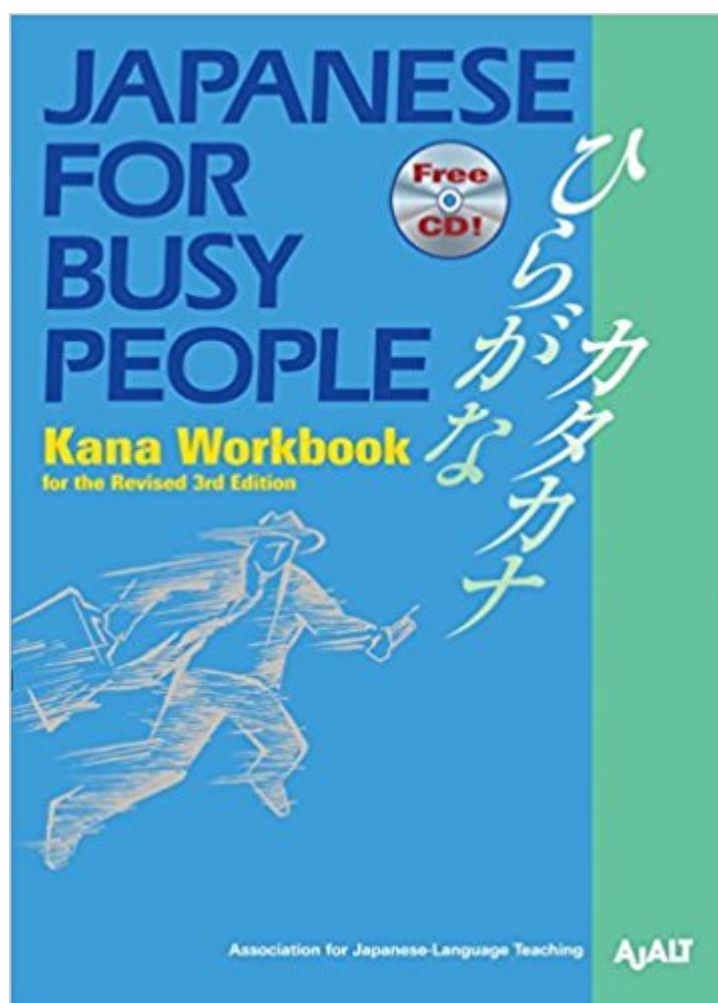




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# Japanese For Busy People Kana Workbook: Revised 3rd Edition (Japanese For Busy People Series)



## Synopsis

In the 22 years since its publication, Japanese for Busy People has won acclaim worldwide as an effective, easy-to-understand textbook, either for classroom use or for independent study. Now, more than a decade after its first revision, the series is being redesigned, updated and consolidated to meet the needs of today's students and businesspeople who want to learn natural, spoken Japanese as effectively as possible in a limited amount of time. The Kana Workbook teaches the reading and writing of the two most basic Japanese scripts, hiragana and katakana. These scripts are used all the time in written Japanese, and a mastery of them is essential for those who wish to study the language at any level above "survival." As such, the book serves as a prerequisite to both Japanese for Busy People I: Kana Version and Japanese for Busy People II, and it is also recommended as review for those who have learned kana before but have forgotten some of the basics. This completely revised workbook features:

- Lots of practice in recognition, reading, and writing;
- Fun, picture-dictionary-like illustrations that help students build their vocabularies;
- A free CD that gives learners a taste of the actual sounds of Japanese;
- A bonus section introducing basic kanji.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Association of Japanese-Language Teaching (AJALT) was established to meet the practical

needs of people who are not necessarily specialists in Japanese but who wish to communicate effectively. The AJALT was recognized as a nonprofit organization by the Ministry of Education in 1977.

**\*\*\* AWESOME WORKBOOK, 2 QUIBBLES \*\*\***Both the texts and workbooks in this series are **\*EXCELLENT\*** for learning Japanese on your own. In fact, these are some of the best books/tools I've found. However, the publisher's description on is somewhat misleading. The **\*CD\*** has the conversation exercises, **\*not\*** the workbook. Make sure the CD comes with your workbook. (If you're buying a used book, ask the seller.) The workbook is **\*only\*** vocab and Hiragana/Katakana practice. (I'm reviewing the Kana version; I don't know if the Romaji version has additional lessons, more vocab, or less pages.) That said, I heartily recommend this to anyone learning Japanese in any setting. Vocab (such as Japanese food) has drawings, not descriptions. Pictures are preferable to translation when learning vocab, unless the meaning would be unclear. I have a **\*quibble\*** about the illustration, though. Sometimes you can't tell what a few items are. These are simple line drawings, so they're easy to **\*see\***, but you'll see a bowl of mushy stuff with dots in it and say, "What is that? Rice? Something else?" In those cases, I have to use my dictionary to figure out what I'm looking at! Also, I wish they would **\*name\*** the **\*actual audio files\*** before putting them on the CD. A CD player isn't good for practice because the conversations are real-speed. You can't back up just a bit to repeat a phrase several times in a row! You want the audio as electronic files. But when you rip them from the CD to put on your iPod or other MP3 player, the files are random numbers. To use them, I had to stay up **\*ALL NIGHT\***, listen to the announcement at the start of each exercise, and rename **\*EVERY\*** file. (There are several files per lesson!) I'm glad I got it done -- because now I can pause and back up -- but it was a **\*real pain\***. If you need a lot of practice listening, be prepared for this! This workbook is a **\*great\*** way to reinforce your vocabulary (and your Hiragana, though I knew them already). And the textbook is **\*TOPS\***! It's not just me; I run a Japanese-English language group and **\*EVERYONE\*** loves this series! My learning is going much faster since I started using it. Plus, it's not expensive, so it has helped our group have more focused practice without breaking our wallets. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

I knew absolutely no Japanese when I bought this book for an introductory Japanese course. This book is well-organized with handy reference charts at the beginning and pages with spacing to help you practice writing each character. There are useful exercises for identifying and translating each character with the answers to the questions printed conveniently at the bottom of each page. There

are also reading challenges with the answers printed in order in the back of the book where they are easy to find and follow. The first section of the book focuses on hiragana; the second section on katakana. The book also addresses long vowels and double consonants, and includes a cd that is very helpful with learning correct pronunciation. Overall, I highly recommend this book, especially for someone who is new to Japanese.

First, I thought that this is the workbook to accompany the book *Japanese for Busy People I: Kana Version* includes CD (Bk. 1). I was mistaken, as this workbook does not accompany the lessons of that book but prepares the student for that book by teaching the Kana. Unfortunately, there is no Kana variant to the first volume, you need to use the same one that was prepared to the romanized version (*Japanese for Busy People I: Workbook*; includes CD (Bk. 1)). That was the bad news. The good news is that the few pages of picture dictionary that gives the words of some Japanese food and a Japanese room are a treasure because all the picture dictionaries I have come across so far are not Japan-specific but have images and therefore the words of western culture only, which may be useful for a Japanese tourist or a Japanese immigrant to the US or Europe but not to the student who wants to get familiar with Japanese culture as well as the language. As I bought this book after I had learnt reading and writing the Kana, I cannot tell if it gives an effective way of learning them. What I can say for sure, however, is that it gives a good reference when I grow uncertain how to draw a hiragana or katakana nicely.

I purchased this workbook in combination with J4BP textbook for an introductory Japanese class but have yet to use it. It all depends on which version of the companion textbook you purchase - Kana or Romanji. Since I plan to take additional courses I chose the Kana text which (surprise) has all of the lessons written in Hiragana and Katakana. When the instructor gave our first homework lesson, I spent hours trying to even understand what the lessons were! I spent many subsequent hours teaching myself Hiragana but within a week of intense practice was able to read most of the textbook. Katakana is still a work in progress for me but since most of the words are phonetic foreign adaptations it is easy enough to piece together. I would recommend this workbook only if you need outside help learning a new alphabet. For me a lot of ruled paper and practice was just as good.

I bought it because although I had been taught Hiragana in Japanese language school, I skipped one grade and must have missed learning Katakana. Whenever I go to Japan, I struggle reading

items written in Katakana so this book is really helping me to master Katakana. I think when I go to Japan in November, I'll be better able to read items from foreign countries for which the Japanese people write in Katakana. Thank you!

The book is absolutely perfect. Everything is well explained and it has some good excersizes. I do have one small detail: the exersizes are good but there are not a lot of them were you mix hirigana and katakana (only 1 page). I would have given it 4,5 stars if it was possible but since it's only a minor detail it does deserve 5 stars

Good practice

My weeaboo level increased tenfold with this book :)Only wish it came with flashcards

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