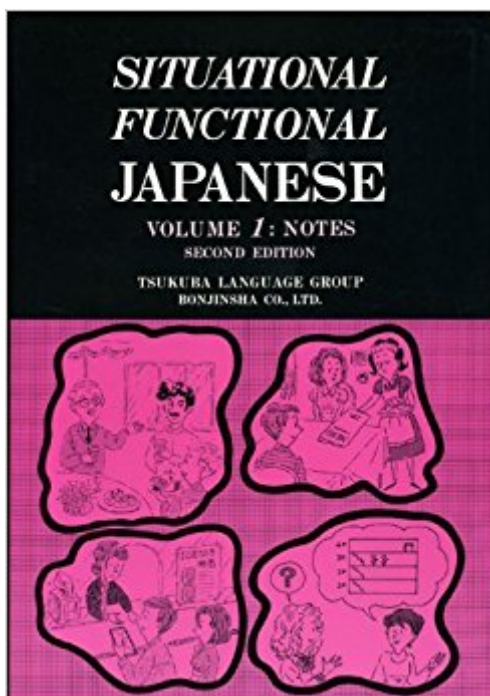




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Customer Reviews

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This book is fantastic. Like my earlier review, a colleague of mine recommended this book to me. And boy, was he right. At first, I thought it was disappointing because it was stuff I already knew. However, when I dived into a bit more I started to study it more and more. The Grammar and Conversational Notes are superb. The Grammar notes used phrases that I know but expand on it a bit more, then suddenly you get an "A ha" moment. The Conversational part where the situational part of the book comes in, that in itself is beyond words. I even used some of the phrases in my last Japanese class and my teacher's reaction was "Oh! that is very polite!". Another part I love about the book is different honorific speech it was which is very useful in everyday situations. Overall, along with A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar (and once you get into the higher levels), you'll be become the Ultimate Japanese Master!!!

I love this book. My only complaint is the kanji is printed in the weird font that makes it difficult for me to read. Not impossible I just sometimes need to practice the words on my own before I can recognize them in the book. I love the amount of detail for the grammar and tactics on politely talking to superiors. I'll admit I skipped or skimmed the few pages focusing on Japan life in detail. Like

mailing things in a post office or trying to make a hospital appointment. Not that these things aren't useful. But I don't have much use for them at the moment and I find it kind of early to try and memorize words like airmail or vending machine.

I purchased this because it has a section that explains Japanese intonation very well. I use the part only, and it's detailed and good. I don't know other sections in this textbook so I give 4-stars.

Good if you are using the Situational Functional Japanese series, but if you are searching for which series to use, I recommend picking the Genki series. Both sets are good, but I feel that the Genki series is a little better because it has better grammar explanations and includes Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji practice as part of the book (whereas this series does not include them).

A very grammar intensive series and perfect for students who do better with grammar than with vocabulary. Not much focus on kanji or vocabulary and that is one drawback, but there are other supplemental materials to make up for what this series of books lacks. The drills books are very useful as well.

Better than Genki

Words can hardly capture how much I loathe this book series, but I'm going to try. I'll start out by suggesting that there's a reason it's out of print. I am mystified by the organization of this book and its accompanying drill book. The authors didn't seem to know where to put the material for any given chapter, so the vocab is divided between the Drills and Notes books. In class we are constantly flipping madly between the two books and going 'Ohhh that part of the lesson is in Drills, etc.' Also, the vocab in each chapter is of really varied utility- ranging from antiquated colloquialisms to terms that the beginning student doesn't need right away. After finishing volume 1 we didn't know colors or anything about the weather, but we knew how to conduct obscure postal transactions. I hate the way this book uses kanji, too- for the beginner it's really intimidating to have kanji that aren't an important part of the lesson used without Furigana, and the expectation that having seen a kanji at some point, we'll recall it. There are just too many other types of learning going on at the same time for anyone in my class's memory to be that good. The accompanying audio files are pointlessly difficult, using expressions that haven't been introduced and forcing you to listen to conversational elements that you aren't accustomed to while you're supposed to be reinforcing terms you actually did learn.

It's sometimes hard to catch any dialogue you've actually encountered before in the text. Overall, confusingly laid out- bizarre haphazard order for the introduction of grammatical rules and vocab, and difficult to use for reference. I liked learning Japanese when using Yokoso and Genki but this book series sucked that joy right out of class. I have noticed that non-beginners seem to like this series, and beginners feel totally overwhelmed and fearful when interfacing it. Fear is one of the biggest handicaps in language learning, so I'd strongly recommend using this series.

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