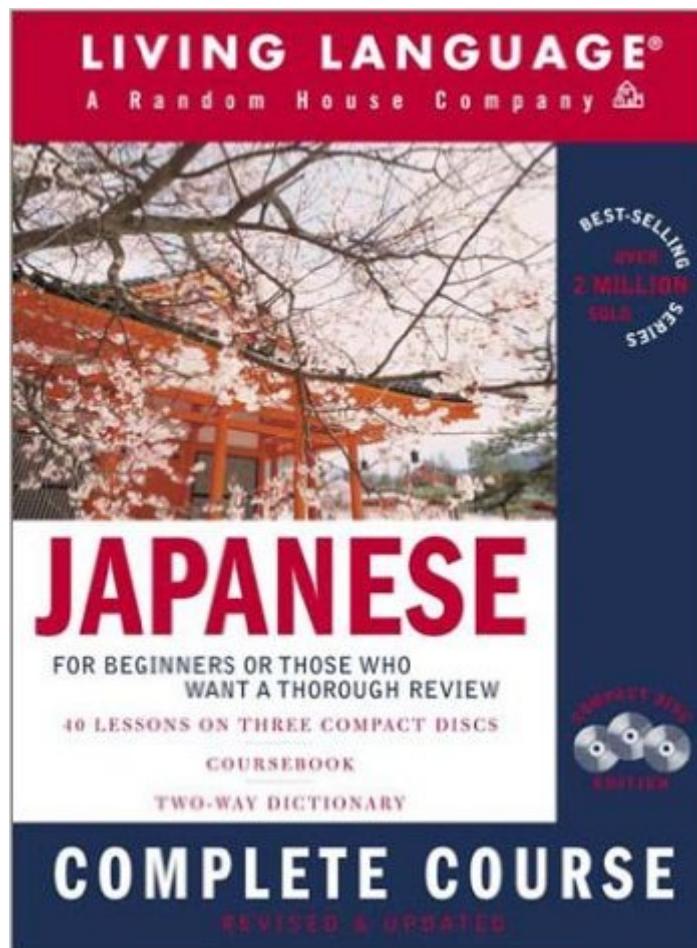


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# Japanese Complete Course: Basic-Intermediate, Compact Disc Edition (LL(R) Complete Basic Courses)



## Synopsis

SPEAK JAPANESE WITH CONFIDENCE IN JUST 6 WEEKS!The Living Language® Japanese Complete Course teaches the basics of Japanese language and usage. It uses a highly effective speed-learning method developed by U.S. government experts to teach languages to overseas-bound service personnel and diplomats. THREE 60-MINUTE COMPACT DISCS WITH 40 LESSONS ¢ Begin with simple words and progress to complex phrases and sentences. ¢ Just listen and repeat after the native speakers on the recordings to learn naturally, the way you learned English. JAPANESE COURSEBOOK ¢ 40 lessons from the recordings with translations, additional vocabulary, detailed explanations, quizzes, and reviews. ¢ Verb charts, a comprehensive grammar summary, and a section on letter writing are also included. JAPANESE  ENGLISH / ENGLISH  JAPANESE DICTIONARY ¢ More than 20,000 words, idioms, and expressions. ¢ Examples show how words are used in everyday conversation. ¢ 1,000 frequently used words are highlighted for easy reference.

## Book Information

Series: LL(R) Complete Basic Courses

Audio CD

Publisher: Living Language; Package edition (April 16, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400020190

ISBN-13: 978-1400020195

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 2.1 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars  See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,423,756 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > Japanese #401 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Japanese #2753 in Books > Books on CD > General

## Customer Reviews

If you just want to play this one in your car as you drive, don't bother buying it - on the other hand, if you want to learn Japanese effectively, and plan on taking the time to study, this series is the best out there. I used this for a year before moving to Japan, and its method of giving you an 'example sentence', showing you where the noun/verb etc goes, basically giving you a 'template' so you can create your own sentences. From experience, this is exactly how you must learn a foreign

language. The CD isn't cluttered with English sentences - it is all Japanese, which is what you want. Listening to the cd alone will help tune your ear to Japanese, and as you are learning, you will be able to pick it up more and more as you go along. Just be aware that you will need to study the book to make any progress, but if you do study the book, you will improve by leaps and bounds.

I had this book set for over 4 years, and I have to say it is pretty good at teaching Japanese (I picked it up pretty fast using their recommended study plan). But it still needs work.....  
**PROS:** Native speakers on the CD help you speak Japanese clearly and tune your ears to fluent spoken Japanese.  
Proper Verb and Sentence structure lessons  
Essential Words and Phrases are given and explained  
Japanese Dictionary and Pronunciation Guide  
Japanese Grammar supplement in back of the book  
Easy for absolute beginners  
**CONS:** Native speakers only cover the \*SELECTED\* words in the book. No Kanji or Kana are used with the lessons (although there is a Japanese alphabet section in the back of the book)  
Even though grammar is explained, it could be simplified with using charts instead of blocky paragraphs.

I seldom review something until I finish it be it a book or a CD. But in this case it will be quite awhile until I finish this. Only knowing a few words in Japanese, I bought this to learn Japanese from the ground up. The CDs are in Japanese and says the bolded words in the text but does not say what the phrase means, the only thing I have heard that is in English is the Lesson Number. While it is great to hear the words and get used to the sound of the language it does nothing to help you learn the meaning of the words. There is not enough space between the words/phrase to let you say them. The Course Book is a necessity in the early stages until you learn what the phrases mean. Which makes driving and trying to use this course hard. It does not contain computer program that compares your pronunciation or allows you to play games to help you learn the language. The course is very dry and boring. I would not recommend it to those just starting to learn Japanese, but as a review tool.

The Living Language Complete Course, is really better for students trying to get a quick handle on Japanese. Grammar explanations are minimized in favor of pattern sentences and learning the writing system is deferred. The Living Language Ultimate Course is more dedicated towards the serious student who wants to know the mechanics of Japanese and delve deeper into the writing system as well. This should be on the box so potential buyers can make a more informed choice; instead, it is on the company's home page FAQ. So if you want a good course that isn't technical yet

will get you talking quickly get the complete course. If you want a more scholarly work equivalent to a college Japanese education and fully learn the mechanics of the language, get the ultimate series. I haven't tried the basic course although I am using the ultimate course, but after reading the other reviews addressing the lack of serious content I thought it might help to address why that is so. After all, the word "Complete" can be misleading.

The CDs only contain Japanese, which makes them frustrating to listen to unless you already have the meanings memorized or if you have the book open in front of you. Definitely not for learning in the car.

If you just want to learn the skin of Japanese like you did in high school Spanish class. This is a good book to start from. However, if you're a serious learner who wants more than just Yamaha, Suzuki and Toyota, you better find other books. The souls of the Japanese are Katakana and Hiragana. At least from the reading and writing aspects. Forget about those impossible-to-learn Chinese characters in Japanese (for those whose native languages are originated from Romance). If you image to order cousins in a Japanese restaurant with Japanese in the near future, without learning Katakana and Hiragana, your dream will never be realized. For beginners who may or may not want to know much of Japanese or for those who have some interesting about Japanese but don't want to involve too much, this book, yet, is the one. With help of those CDs recorded by native speakers and easy-to-understand content, it is well designed for Americans to have first contact. The lessons are arranged from easy to hard which won't frustrate you from the very beginning. Several misspelling and without Katakana and Hiragana, I hardly recommend this book to anybody who wants to learn serious Japanese. However, for those people I mentioned above, it is not a bad book to start with. Sum up and divide by two. I got 3 stars.

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