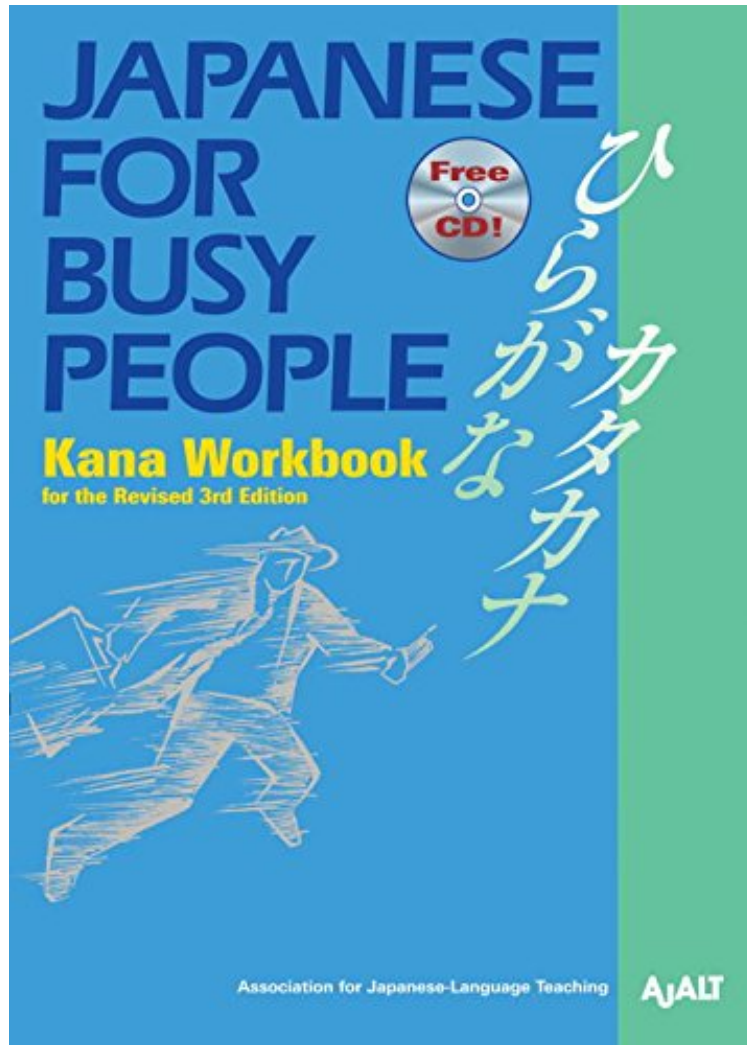


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Japanese for Busy People Kana Workbook: Revised 3rd Edition (Japanese for Busy People Series)

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AJALT : Japanese for Busy People Kana Workbook: Revised 3rd Edition (Japanese for Busy People Series)
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese for Busy People Kana Workbook: Revised 3rd Edition (Japanese for Busy People Series):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Workbook is *ONLY* for vocab and Hiragana/Katakana, but CD helps you understand Japanese at full speed! Get with CD! By Coder*** 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 it 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!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-organized, helpful text perfect for someone new to Japanese. By Loriane D. Parker 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.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Part 0 to the series. By Tiberius 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.

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.

About the Author 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.