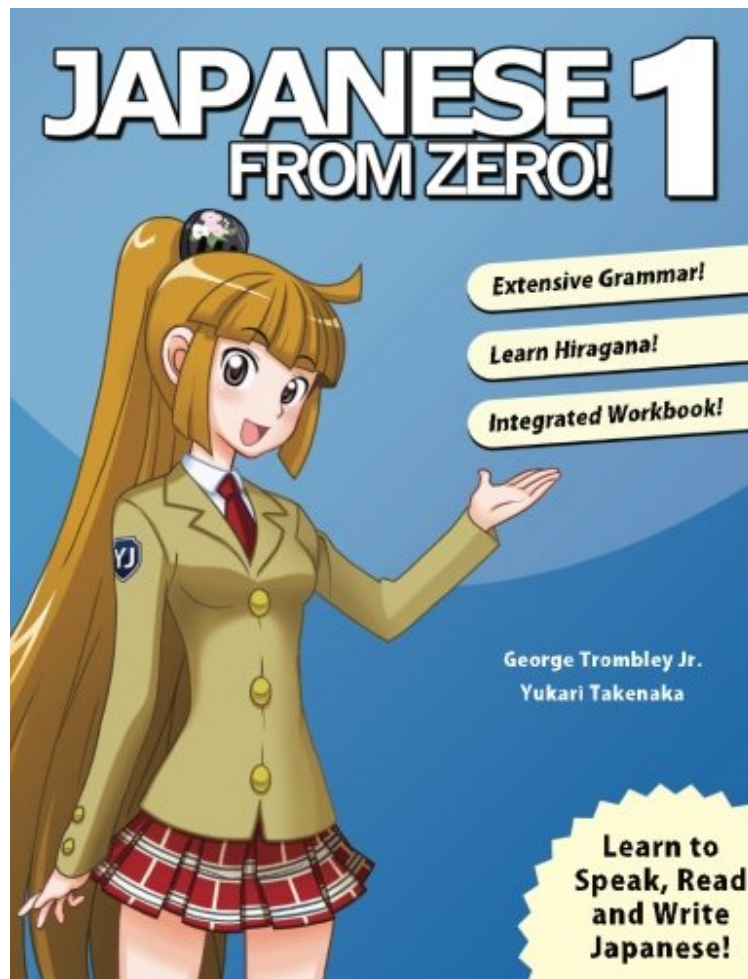


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Japanese from Zero! 1: Proven Techniques to Learn Japanese for Students and Professionals (Volume 1)

George Trombley, Yukari Takenaka
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George Trombley, Yukari Takenaka : Japanese from Zero! 1: Proven Techniques to Learn Japanese for Students and Professionals (Volume 1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese from Zero! 1: Proven Techniques to Learn Japanese for Students and Professionals (Volume 1):

78 of 80 people found the following review helpful. Wow. I love love love this book. It's very effective.By Jacob Alex HoltonThis book is amazing. Coupled with videos online, the material is properly paced to learn the right things in Japanese without burning you out. The book doesn't milk the simple stuff though. You go through material pretty quickly. I now know all the hiragana and katajana and some kanji. The book also explains grammar in the most

amazing way. It just makes sense. I cannot wait to move on to the next book (I'm over halfway). I have studied more because the book makes so much sense. It's kind of addicting... Have fun and totally buy this book. You will not regret it!

61 of 62 people found the following review helpful. Great for self-study

By Customer

Over the past year I have been attempting to teach myself Japanese but a few months ago I found myself hit a wall. I was beginning to struggle with the grammar/particles and my dependency on romaji was beginning to catch up to me. I was stuck and losing motivation fast so I quickly went on to find something to help me get it back. After reading the reviews I quickly purchased both Japanese from Zero 1 and 2 and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Unlike other textbooks I've tried this book is great for self-taught students. Everything is explained so simply and clearly that I rarely have any questions that aren't answered by the next page. The pace is just perfect for somebody who doesn't have other resources (like a professional Japanese teacher) to learn from and the integrated workbook is a godsend for somebody on a budget. The large letters, cute images, and child-like activities make this book appear a lot less difficult than it is which in turn makes me a lot less stressed. In regular textbooks the tiny print, and wordy pages overwhelm me and often make it appear more challenging than it probably is. This book makes learning easy and stress free (as well as perfect for nearly any age). One of the highlights of this book is the progressively introduced hiragana. In the past I have found textbooks that show you the alphabet and then magically expect you to have memorized them by the next page. This book introduces them slowly and at a good pace, ensuring that you have practice writing/reading them before replacing the romaji with the hiragana letters. I remember how giddy I was when I found myself sounding out sentences like I was in first grade all over again. I was extremely proud when I finished lesson 9 and found myself reading the sentences easy and efficiently as if I had been reading Hiragana my entire life. Another nice thing about this book is the grammar and particle explanations. In the past year I have attempted to learn Japanese I often memorized the sentences presented to me with very little understanding of why a certain particle was used and how the grammar worked (hence the wall I hit). I thought it was going to be impossible to understand grammar or particles and yet this book made it as clear as day. I finally found myself capable of applying grammar to my own sentences rather than simply memorizing the one's presented to me. There are only a few downsides to the book. As others have mentioned there are a few mistakes. Nearly once every lesson I came across a hirigana letter that I didn't recognize and it would take me a good 5min each time before I realized that it was a mistake and we hadn't actually been introduced to the letter yet. I suggest the authors hire a good copy-editor to make sure each page is consistent and correct. I also wish there was an ending section to the book with 'extra practice problems' or 'put it all together' activities to apply everything you learned in the entirety of the book. I found myself having to make notes on each chapter with 'practice problems' so that I could review before moving onto JFZ 2. Such a section would only require 5-10 extra pages. Either way this book was great. I used it alongside my current study routine (Japanesepod101.com) and used the flashcards from Memrize (the entire vocab from this book is on there) to help me memorize the vocabulary. I plan on purchasing the entirety of the series!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My favorite Japanese book!!!

By sariel

I just received my Japanese from Zero book and I am very impressed so far. I have read a lot of reviews complaining about the slower pace but I have to say it's exactly what I needed. I have been trying to learn Japanese for years now using everything from college classes to self-study and haven't been able to keep up (the self-study is my fault but the college class just moved way too fast for me to follow). I was just given Rosetta Stone for Japanese and I like it, however, it doesn't explain the grammar and reasoning behind it. This book does a great job of breaking everything down and explaining it. It also keeps things light by making it funny so it doesn't feel like I'm working with a textbook. I need the childlike approach and really enjoy the worksheets and progressive learning style. I plan on using it with the Rosetta Stone. That being said, this probably isn't the best series for a hardcore learner who wants to learn Japanese as fast as possible. I first learned about this series from their website. A downside of book learning is that you miss out on the getting familiar with hearing the language and learning how to pronounce everything correctly. I really appreciate the fact that they didn't include a CD with the book. Not only does it help keep cost down but everything you need is on their website, which is great because everything will be up to date instead of having to buy a new edition if there are any changes. I bought the actual book, but as a bonus they threw in the Kindle edition, which I love. Now I can study on the go. The only downside to that is that it's not compatible for the Kindle on Windows 8 so I'll have to use it on my cell phone, not the end of the world, but a bit disappointing, however I believe that is something I'm doing and not the publishers. I would definitely recommend this to a friend, in fact I plan on getting a copy for my husband. I can't wait to finish this book and order the rest of the series. I'll update this review when I finish the book.

Japanese From Zero! is an innovative and integrated approach to learning Japanese developed by professional Japanese interpreter George Trombley and co-writer Yukari Takenaka. The lessons and techniques used in this series have been taught successfully for over ten years in classrooms throughout the world. Using up-to-date and easy-to-grasp grammar, Japanese From Zero! is the perfect course for current students of Japanese as well as absolute beginners. In Book 1 of the Japanese From Zero! series, readers are taught new grammar concepts, over 800 new words and expressions, and also learn the hiragana writing system. Features of Book 1: * Integrated Workbook with Answer Key * Over 800 New Words and Expressions * Learn to Read and Write Hiragana * Easy-to-Understand

Example Dialogues * Culture Points about Japan * Bilingual Glossaries with Kana and Romaji ...and much more!

About the Author George Trombley is a professional Japanese interpreter who over the past 16 years has interpreted for corporations such as Microsoft, IBM, NTT DoCoMo, Lucent Technologies, and in countries throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. In addition to Japanese, George has also co-authored the Korean From Zero! series and consulted on Chinese, French, and Spanish language books. Yukari Takenaka moved from Himeji, Japan to the United States, and taught Japanese for over 10 years while co-authoring custom lessons for students that eventually became the basis of the Japanese From Zero! book series. Prior to becoming an author, Yukari worked in Japan as a professional in the medical industry. She continues to write Japanese related materials to support her passion for teaching Japanese.