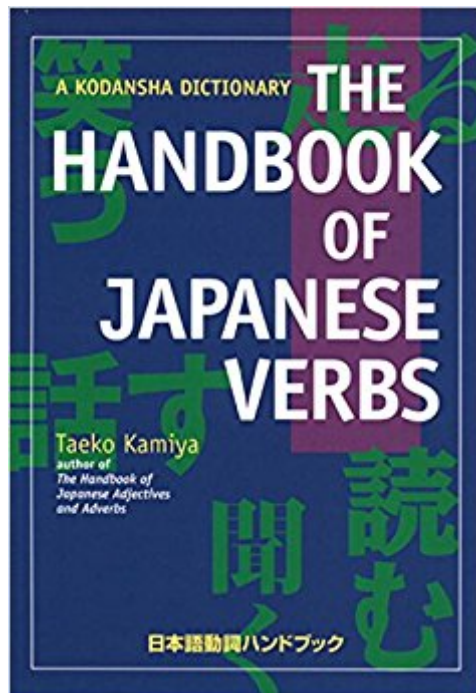




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The Handbook Of Japanese Verbs (Kodansha Dictionary)



Synopsis

From the very earliest stages of study until far into the intermediate level, students of the Japanese language are continually scratching their heads over the usage of verbs. It is no wonder that they should feel the need for a solid reference book, one they can continually turn to throughout their studying careers. The Handbook of Japanese Verbs is just that book. The Introduction takes the first step toward comprehension by pointing out the features of Japanese verbs that stand in contrast to their English counterparts, such as tense, politeness level, auxiliaries, and transitive and intransitive forms. Part 1 shows through tables and concise commentary how Japanese verbs are categorized, conjugated, and combined with auxiliaries. Each form is followed by a short exercise, reinforcing the points just made. Part 2 takes up the forms described in the first part and shows how they function in full-fledged sentences. Each discussion is followed by examples and exercises, ensuring that the student has understood the forms under discussion. In the appendices, the student is offered a number of look-up methods, including an English-Japanese verb dictionary. This completes the apparatus necessary for a solid handbook on Japanese verbs, a book students can rely on for many years to come.

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Customer Reviews

TAEKO KAMIYA received a BA for Doshisha Women's College (Kyoto) and MAs from the University of San Francisco in education and from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in linguistics.

She taught Japanese for twenty-five years at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Among her publications are *Speak Japanese Today* (1989), *Japanese for Fun: Make Your Stay in Japan More Enjoyable* (1990), *Tuttle New Dictionary on Loanwords in Japanese* (1994), *Subject-Grouped 1016 Kanji in Context* (1997), and *Japanese Particle Workbook* (1998).

Preface In order to master a foreign language, it is crucial for students to acquire a solid knowledge of its verbs and their usage. Japanese is no exception. Japanese verbs are often said to be difficult and complicated and hard to learn. That is not true. In fact, they are simple and less complicated to learn than those of many other languages. Unlike some European languages, you do not have to memorize different forms to indicate the number or person or gender of the subject of the sentence. The verb *kaku*, for instance, could mean I/we write, you (sing./ pl.) write, he/she/it writes or they write. Moreover, Japanese verbs are highly regular in the way they make their forms. Once you grasp certain rules for making such forms as the negative, conjunctive, conditional forms, etc., you will be able to apply these rules to almost any verbs. The purpose of this book is to describe in detail not only how Japanese verbs conjugate, but how you should use the verb forms in connection with sentence structures. The book is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the conjugations of the three types of verbs--regular I, regular II and irregular verbs, as well as copulas (be-verbs) and auxiliaries. A conjugation practice follows the description of a verb or a group of verbs. Part II deals with the usage of various verb forms. Each usage is illustrated with example sentences, and exercises are provided every few lessons to allow you to test your understanding. I do hope that this book will prove to be helpful--you will discover how simple and easy conjugating and using Japanese verbs can be. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book! I wish there was a kindle version too! I would totally buy it! One with OCR so I can search the books for words while I am practicing grammar in daily life. Until then, I'm going to buy my own scanner so I can scan all of my grammar books for various languages and have them all with me and searchable when I am out in the field practicing these languages. Love this book! Thank you! :) I have too many books to carry with me! GET KINDLE! :) Until then I'll scan it myself! THANKS!

I've been studying Japanese for 4 years now and this is probably the most helpful book on Japanese grammar I've ever bought! While there are practice sections for each grammar pattern, I would not recommend this book for someone who is just beginning Japanese. However, as a

supplement for students who have already been studying the language and want to take their writing and reading to the next level, this product is a must have. The sentence pattern index in the back is just amazingly helpful. You can look things up by either the Japanese conjugation or the English equivalent - both things that are necessary for a book to really be helpful for reading and writing, as I can easily look something up. It is also really nice to be able to just look up a conjugation, especially "Te-form" and be able to see ALL of the grammar patterns that go with it.

I had a couple of years classroom study in Japanese, many years ago, and have been learning on my own for the last year. This book, and Kamiya's other manual on pattern sentences, have been useful especially as integrative works that bring together lots of scattered information approached differently in textbooks. I think it would be less successful as a first-learning tool, but I'm not in a position to judge. The verb handbook is a very nice reference and summary of verb groups and conjugations, and clarifies the systems by which the various forms are derived. Short exercises with answers let you know whether you've really "got it".

The Handbook of Japanese Verbs by Taeko Kamiya is aimed at beginning and intermediate students who want to learn a lot of Japanese verbal patterns in one place. In this way, the book succeeds. It contains some 150 entries categorized by each verb form (i.e. "i-stem," u-stem, "te-form," etc.). This is a great aid to the learning process and may just save you from committing some grammatical gaffe later down the line. Each entry contains pithy, insightful explanations and three example sentences each. Additionally, the glossary contains about 12 pages of vocabulary drawn from the example sentences, which is nice for such a short book. The categorization by verb form I mentioned is also a detraction, however. Since many of these auxiliaries can be added to several forms for a predictable change in meaning, I often found myself bored as I got further in the book, seeing the same auxiliaries I'd seen before, only now in the past tense or the negative. In fact, this bloats the book and if one were to take it into account, the actual number of unique entries treated is closer to 115 than 150. I think the book would be more useful with some sort of cross-referencing in each entry to note all the stems with which it can be used rather than segregating obviously related entries for the sake of the book's format. Although perhaps not a fair criticism, this book only covers a very basic set of auxiliaries and inflections on the whole, which is frustrating to intermediate students wanting to move on. Japanese verbal inflection is a rich subject matter that goes well beyond the scope of this book, and there's really no reason it shouldn't have been covered more thoroughly. In addition to the bloating of the number of entries I referred to in the

previous paragraph, the author did not include any advanced entries such as polite speech, literary-only language or any colloquial/slang language, which again is frustrating. This book could have been much more comprehensive, yet it comes off as elementary and repetitive. The practice exercises in this book are basically a waste of page space, yet there are so many of them! These are all of the rather useless fill-in-the-blank type, take up about a page each and occur every 2-5 pages. I have never found that filling in a blank with the "correct" verb conjugation helped me to better speak or understand a language. I would have preferred that these practice exercises had been left out, to make room for more informational entries about Japanese verbs. In all, The Handbook of Japanese Verbs is a very useful book that fills a need in my Japanese language materials library for verb-only grammar with adequate usage notes and an accessible format. Although all of this information is available in other books, no other books I've found have limited themselves to just verbs or treated verbs by "form" like this. The book could be better if it were less bloated, better organized and included some advanced verbal inflections, though.

very helpful, use it every study time I am practicing Japanese.

Well written and useful...if your studying Japanese this small book at an excellent price is a treasure and invaluable...the layout is well done and designed for the beginner and intermediate student to gain the most benefit.

This is not a "user friendly" book for the casual learner of Japanese. This is nothing more or less than a small, pocket-book sized grammar text for using Japanese verbs. "Te" forms, "tara" forms, "hoshii" forms are all covered, along with pretty much every other possible conjugation. This is no dictionary, however, so do not expect to learn any new words. Just expect to make better use of the verbs you already know. The sections are broken down well, and there are very small practice sections at the end of each chapter. For what it is, it is an excellent resource. I would recommend this book to serious, college level learners of Japanese.

Amazing Book for verb

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