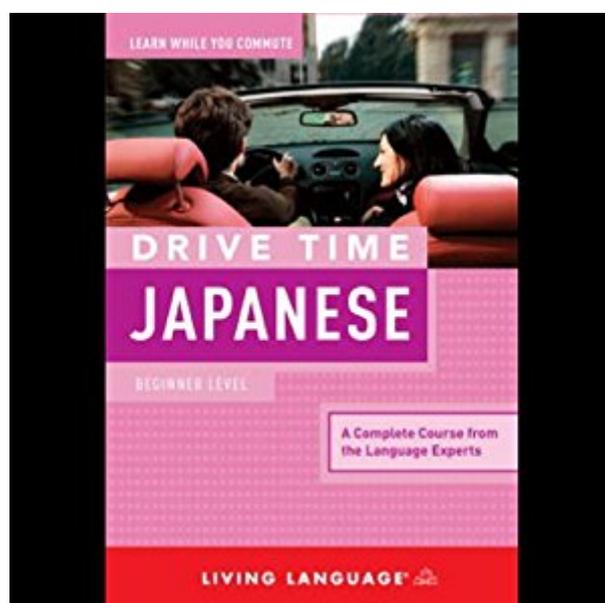


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Drive Time Japanese: Beginner Level



Synopsis

Learn Japanese anywhere and anytime! Drive Time Japanese is an innovative language-learning program from the experts at Living Language that lets you learn Japanese vocabulary, Japanese grammar, Japanese pronunciation, conversation, and even Japanese culture without a book. This convenient all-audio introduction to Japanese includes four hours of language lessons. Learn Japanese while you're commuting to work, running errands, taking a trip with the family, or even while jogging or working out!

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 32 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Living Language

Audible.com Release Date: November 13, 2009

Language: English

ASIN: B002X98JCW

Best Sellers Rank: #7 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Language Instruction > Japanese

Customer Reviews

Coming from the Pimsleur method of learning Japanese, this audio course felt rushed, and I felt I couldn't absorb as much information. The vocabulary words are shot at you 10-15 at a time, and there is little review before the next set of vocab, causing me to have to listen to each 1-minute-long "mile marker" over and over again. This is to Pimsleur as trying to memorize a dictionary is to learning from a textbook. It just doesn't seem prudent to listen to in the car because I find myself either listening to the 1-minute tracks on repeat until they sink in, or listen to a bunch at a time, and retaining nothing because the quizzing and recall flies by so quickly. Also, the response time is extremely short. I can barely answer the question in English in that amount of time. ALL THAT SAID, a strong vocabulary is necessary obviously, and I am eager to get to a level where this tape will be useful for me. For right now, I'm going to settle for the Pimsleur method of simple vocabulary, and focusing on grammar and sentence structure.

I had taught myself reasonable gaijin Japanese years ago, to the point of being able to carry on a reasonable conversation. I used Drive Time Japanese to refresh my memory and language skills

before a recent trip to Japan. The 4 CDs are easy to listen to and provided a useful review. I also learned some expressions and vocabulary that came in handy. The course could be better organized for typical daily activities. I'm also not sure how much someone completely new to Japanese would really learn. OTOH for the price how wrong can you go? Some other reviewers have criticized the lack of instruction in reading and writing. Hello, guys, this is, like, "Drive Time Japanese"? It's to listen to while you, uh, drive? You don't want to be reviewing your katakana while changing lanes!!

This tape course is great for people who really want/need in-depth Japanese lessons or review. You get a good idea of sentence structure and pronunciation. However, if you are trying to learn some basic Japanese for a short-term trip, this is not the tape for you. You need to know how to ask for basic items (food, beverages, train tickets, the bathroom). I've travelled to Japan once, and plan to go again, and I don't think I'll need to know how to say "It's a big new car" or "Let's go to a concert" to a total stranger on the street. Buy this tape if you need some support for regular Japanese lessons, or just want to generally improve your understanding of the language for business or regular travel. Nice set-up, but not practical for day-to-day needs.

Great program! Got a lot of compliments on my Japanese when visiting Japan. Definitely recommend this to anyone visiting Japan, whether for business or pleasure. I liked to listen to it in the car on the way to/from work.

I'm slowly going through these CD's and they are ok. There is the required amount of repetition that you can rewind and get what they are saying in Japanese and the exercises on the CD are appropriate to get a beginner learning of the language. Not great with writing and alphabet. There is no explanation of the Japanese writing styles hiragana, katakana nor kanji nor is there any indication of the Japanese alphabet only sounds are given against the English alphabet, which is strange. The grammar and number explanation is otherwise good and explained simply so you get it. Not good with building up your vocab as the CD sticks to a few basic words e.g. karuma - is used in many examples. You do learn a few basic words, but don't practice a range of vocab. So it is good to get a beginner started and I would recommend it if you are going to travel to Japan.

My husband and I moved to Japan with the US Military and thankfully, we knew about a year in advance of this life-changing event. I ordered Drive Time because I had also previously bought this

program in German for long commutes to work. I listened to the Japanese CDs during our long moves across country, to my commutes to work, and even occasionally on runs or bike rides. When we arrived in Japan I knew enough to get by and the locals were very excited and thankful that I took the time to learn their language. Everything in this program is what is taught in the first few lessons of a Japanese class, so I was ahead of the game when I decided to brush up. It won't make you fluent, but it will definitely get you where you need to go in small conversations.

This is an excellent beginners course for Japanese language. The title does not represent the real value of this package. Although it can stand alone as an independent course you need to combine it with another course with more in depth coverage of the Japanese grammar (Living Language courses are very good). The concept is excellent and I wish the authors could consider expanding this approach. The conversational part of this course is the real value to the student. You are not going to learn how to read or write Japanese using this course. That is a much more complex undertaking. Strongly recommend it to the business people trying to quickly build the basic communication skills in Japanese.

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