

General course text books - beginner level

● *Minna no Nihongo Shokyuu texts 1 and 2.*

「みんなの日本語初級1 & 2」 スリーエーネットワーク編 1998
¥2,500 each.

These form the basis of the OMF Japanese Language Center curriculum and are among the most popular beginner texts in Japan. Book 1 covers approximately 79 basic sentence patterns and introduces about 1060 vocabulary items. Book 2 has about 73 sentence patterns and 900 new vocabulary items. Grammar notes and a translation (翻訳・文法解説 ¥2,000) are available in a separate text and in a variety of different languages including Chinese and Korean. Exercise books (問題集) and a set of 4 x 80 minute tapes also accompany each text book.

For those who cannot read hiragana and katakana and who do not wish to learn to do so, there is also a romanised version of Book 1 and its accompanying translation and grammar book. This is only for English speakers. Learning through romaji is not recommended for those planning to stay any length of time in Japan.

There are a variety of supplementary materials for 「みんなの日本語初級1 & 2」 accompanying the basic ones mentioned above.

1. **Kanji Eigo Ban 1** 「漢字英語版1」 ¥1,800

This introduces 220 Kanji which appear in Minna no Nihongo Book 1.

2. **Kanji card book 1** 「漢字カードブック1」 ¥600

These are cards to accompany 'Kanji Eigo Ban' with the simple kanji together with its number and Unit number on one side and its reading and a sample sentence on the other. There are 8 cards per page and the total number of kanji taught is 220 with 240 kanji words.

3. **'Shokyuu de yomeru topic 25'** 「初級で読めるトピック25」 1 ¥1,400

This text is written to follow the order of grammar introduced in the main text Minna no Nihongo Shokyuu Book 1. New vocabulary is introduced with translation in 5 languages including English, Chinese and Korean. As there are few materials for

reading at a basic level this text is to be highly recommended.

4. Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 1 & 2 (2 volumes) “Kaite oboeru bunkei renshuu cho

みな日本語初級 1 & 2 [書いて覚える文型練習帳] ¥1,300
平井悦子, 三輪さち子 スリーエーネットワーク

Book 2 contains grammar check sheets for each unit of Minna no Nihongo 2’s main text along with exercises on verbs, particles and adverbs. It also explains and practices vocabulary or grammar items that are likely to be confused or patterns in which learners make frequent errors. Examples of items grouped together for practice are 「と・ば・たら」、「て・から・ので」「自動詞・他動詞(transitive and intransitive verbs)」、 「受身・使役(passives and causatives)」、「尊敬・謙譲(honorifics etc)」。 **The text is attractively laid out with pictures and is an excellent way of reviewing the basic grammar of Minna no Nihongo through simple writing exercises.** As this is supplementary to the main texts and grammar translation books it is completely in Japanese (with furigana on the kanji) and with no explanations. The answers to the grammar check lists are at the back. It is possible to use this for self-study but it would be helpful to have the exercises checked by a native speaker.

5. ‘Yasashii sakubun’ 「やさしい作文」 ¥1,200

Chapters 1-15 are to be used alongside Minna no Nihongo Shokyu 1 & 2 and chapters 16-20 are designed to lead on to the intermediate level. Vocabulary lists are in English, Chinese and Korean.