

## General course text books – intermediate level

- Shin Nihongo no Chuukyuu 新日本語の中級

「新日本語の中級」	スリーエーネットワーク編	2000
本冊	¥2,700	
分冊英語訳	¥1,700	
3 CD's	¥4,100	

This is the main intermediate text at the OMF Japanese Language Center as from spring 2001. It is designed to follow on from Shin Nihongo no Kiso books 1 & 2 but fits well after Minna no Nihongo as well. The first half of the text reviews basic grammar as well as introducing new or applied uses. The syllabus focuses on functions of the language such as Asking and Confirming (unit 1), Telephoning (unit 2), Making requests (unit 3), Getting permission (unit 4), Inviting and Refusing (Unit 5), Visiting and Introducing (unit 6), Explaining your symptoms (unit 7), Shopping (unit 8), Asking the way (unit 9) etc. Each unit is divided into the following sections:

1. Learning objective
2. Warming up
3. Learning points
4. Conversation
5. Let's read
6. Practice
7. Activity
8. Listening

The 'bunsatsu' is divided into 2 parts – part 1 lists new vocabulary with English translations and includes vocabulary not used in Shin Nihongo no Kiso Books 1 and 2. Part 2 is a translation of the text.

All Kanji have furigana on them. This text can, of course, be used by any intermediate level learner independently of the JLC curriculum.

- Bunka shokkyu Nihongo 1 and 2, (1-18 and 19-37 units)
- Bunka chukkyu Nihongo 1 and 2 texts (8 units each)

「文化初級日本語」 **1&2** 1987

「文化中級日本語」 1& 2 1992 produced by 文化外国語専門学校編  
Main text ¥1,600  
Renshuu mondai shuu 練習問題集 1&2 ¥900 each  
English translation 英語訳 ¥1,359  
Korean and Chinese translations ¥1,400 and ¥1,650

There are a multitude of courses available particularly at beginner level but the texts produced by the **Bunka Institute** (Bunka Gaikokugo Semmon Gakko, Shinjuku, Tokyo) are to be recommended. The college has a large Japanese department of about 400 mainly Asian students who plan to get professional training at 'senmon gakko' in Japan. The texts contain only Japanese even at the beginner level. It is suggested therefore, that **the 2 beginner texts may best be used by people who have already studied an elementary text but need to review basic language.** Kanji are not taught or practised explicitly but help in reading is given by the use of furigana over words. There are accompanying tapes and helpful 'renshu mondai shu' to accompany Bunka Shokyuu 1 and 2. Both text books and mondai shu have an attractive look with lots of pictures.

**The 2 intermediate level texts will perhaps appeal most to non native speakers of English with a kanji background or to Westerners with a fairly high standard of vocabulary and reading ability.** The books are well designed and attractively produced with colour photos. Lots of new expressions and grammar are introduced through examples and practice. Some may find it a drawback not having grammatical explanations in English. The aim of each lesson is clearly stated eg Book 1 Unit 4 - to be able to express one's feelings. The topics are, of course, geared towards what foreign students need to do with the language when they are in full time study but because of the interesting approach this does not necessarily detract from the usefulness of the texts for missionaries. The themes of Chukyu 2 include, news and newspapers, communication in a foreign culture, Japanese history, language and culture and life and environment. Without a language helper the text will tend to become a reading text. For correct understanding and usage of the new grammar, it is preferable that the student work with a teacher.

Cost is average, varying from ¥1.600 for the beginner books to nearly ¥3,000 for the intermediate level.

- An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese

by Miura Akira and Hanaoka Naomi McGloin. Published by: Japan Times.

1994 ¥3,300 2 50 minute tapes

「中級の日本語」 三浦昭、マクグロイン花岡直美著 ジャパンタイムズ

This text has 15 units and introduces more intermediate grammar patterns than, for e.g., Shin Nihongo no Chuukyuu. It is written primarily for American college students learning Japanese and many of the role- plays reflect this context. It aims to focus equally on the 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading texts include actual newspaper articles, excerpts from books etc.

- 'A course in Modern Japanese' Vols 3 and 4.  
(Gendai Nihongo kousu Chukyuu 1 & 2)

by Nagoya Daigaku Nihongo Kyoozai kenkyuu Group. Publisher: Nagoya Daigaku Shuppan Kai.

「現代日本語コース 中級 1 & 2 名古屋大学日本語教育研究グループ編 名古屋大学出版会

Each textbook costs ¥2,800, accompanying tapes ¥7,000 and the workbook (tapes included) ¥4,854.

These texts were produced at Nagoya university and therefore are aimed at overseas students as are the majority of Japanese language text books. Some of the situations may not be particularly useful for missionaries. However, there are a number of advantages which outweigh the disadvantages. Each book has 9 units dealing with **functions** of the language ie things you need to do in Japanese such as 'Making requests', 'Inviting and receiving', 'Inviting and refusing', 'Giving and receiving permission', 'Sending a message,' 'Giving advice', and 'Expressing one's thoughts'. The emphasis is therefore on communication. Each unit gives lots of scope for practice and consists of

Dialogue

Notes on the dialogue

Grammar

Drills of various kinds - usage, adaptation, discourse, situational drills and grammar drills.

Aural comprehension

Reading Comprehension

There are a set of 4 tapes accompanying each book . These have the dialogues, drills and aural comprehension on them.

However, perhaps the major plus of this course is that each book is now accompanied by **a boxed set of aural worksheets** - consisting of tape and 3 slim workbooks (entitled Developing Intermediate level Listening Skills/ Gendai Nihongo kousu Chukyu 1 and 2). One is for use in preparing for class and for use in class, the second for review, and the third gives the answers to blank filling exercises and the tapescript. The aural worksheets are to be used along with the textbook. Although designed for a classroom situation, these worksheets particularly lend themselves to self study as the answers and tapescript are given. There is lots of applied practice of what is being taught. Either book 3 or 4 are highly recommended especially for those from a non kanji mother tongue background as there is a considerable amount of English explanation.

The main drawback is cost. The textbooks themselves rate favourably with other similar texts at ¥2,500 and ¥2,800 yen and the textbook tapes can be supplied at the cost of the blanks. The boxed aural worksheets ,however, have to be bought as a set and cost ¥5,000.

- **Shizen na Nihongo - Chuukyuu Yoo Kaiwa kyoozai**

by Sakurai Harumi . Publisher -Bonjinsha ¥1,500

「自然な日本語」 中級用会話教材 桜井晴美著 凡人社

To quote from the introduction this text aims to 'introduce essential vocabulary and useful expressions in structured situational contexts but with a touch of humour so that students would remember what they were taught and be able to apply that outside of the classroom.' There are 32 short units (4 pages ) each based on the same pattern of cartoon and introductory dialogue (4-6 lines), 3 'yoorei' or sample sentences for each of a number of expressions, and plenty of 'renshu mondai' in which students have to complete sentences using the expressions already introduced. There are no answers given (as the answers are openended ) so anyone choosing to use this book would need a language helper to check his renshu mondai. There is no furigana on the kanji and no

English or grammatical explanations. However, the usage of expressions should be very clear from the many examples given. This is an excellent little book giving practice of a great variety of useful expressions (eg unit 1 - wazawaza, ~garu, yohodo ~rashii/yoo da/no daroo, marude~yoo, ~o atsukau.) . Although some may be familiar, it is helpful to have them contrasted with expressions of similar meaning. Altogether, it is a book to be recommended although the same approach through 32 units could get a little tedious.

● **Shizen na Nihongo 2 - Chuukyuu/jookyuu yoo kaiwa Kyoozai**

by Sakurai Harumi. Publisher - Bonjinsha. Text - ¥1,942  
Tape (1 x 60 min) - ¥2,330 (NB this is not available at JLC)

「自然な日本語」 中級・上級用会話教材 桜井晴美著 凡人社

**This is an upper Intermediate level conversation text.**

This volume maintains the humorous conversation with pictures format as in 'Shizen na Nihongo' but with some differences. Each of the 10 chapters is laid out as follows:

1. A series of pictures and colloquial conversations that present a situation.
2. Lists of new vocabulary and kanji with readings. No meanings are given but a column left open for the student to write the meanings in.
3. Drills using 'How', 'Where' 'What happened' 'What did they think?' and other questions. The aim here is on learning to describe events, feelings and actions smoothly and how to report conversations and impressions.
4. Model speech - a description of the situation that a Japanese might give verbally using the desu/masu forms. (This can be used as reading practice). This is followed by comprehension questions.
5. Example sentences of useful patterns and vocabulary with accompanying practice sentences.
6. Fluency drills
7. Test questions on the vocabulary and patterns in the chapter.

**There is lots of useful and varied practice in this text and it looks fun to use. With a good teacher or language helper it can be excellent source of learning how to become fluent in oral composition using the pictures alone as prompts once the basic expressions are learnt. It is also a good way of picking up colloquial conversation patterns.**