

Dictionaries of Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Grammar

1. A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar

日本語基本文法辞典 牧野成一、筒井道雄著 ジャパンタイムズ ¥2,890 1989

2. A Dictionary of Intermediate Japanese Grammar

日本語文法辞典（中級編）牧野成一、筒井道雄著 ジャパンタイムズ ¥3,700 1995

These 2 reference books are both by Seiichi Makino and Michio Tsutsui and published by The Japan Times. There are a variety of grammar handbooks on the market but these are probably the best grammar handbooks especially for native speakers of English or European languages. The authors have many years of experience teaching Japanese to college students in the US. Their choice of basic grammatical items is based on the range found in major Japanese textbooks used in Japan and the States. The layout, examples and explanations are easy to follow. The difference between grammatical items with overlapping meaning or usage such as *no de* and *kara* are clearly explained in the basic dictionary.

The basic dictionary consists of 5 sections:

- a. An introduction to grammatical terms used in the text.
- b. An overview of the characteristics of Japanese grammar particularly where it differs from English in word order, ellipsis, topic, personal pronouns, the passive, politeness and formality, sentence final particles, *gitaigo* and viewpoint.
- c. Approximately 200 main entries in alphabetical, romanised form. (The forms and examples are given in Japanese script as well but those not familiar with reading and writing can easily use this dictionary too.) From pages 61-573 this forms the bulk of the book.
- d. Appendixes e.g. pairs of transitive and intransitive verbs, basic verb conjugations etc
- e. Indexes – grammar, English and Japanese

The Dictionary of Intermediate Grammar has the same layout as Basic Grammar with some additions to the section on grammatical terms. Although the main items are still listed in romanised, alphabet order, one big difference is that there is no romanization of example sentences. Instead, *furigana* is used on kanji words. Again approximately 200 grammatical items have been chosen from a variety of intermediate and advanced textbooks. The authors believe these to be the most important grammatical items for intermediate Japanese learners.

3. A Dictionary of Advanced Japanese Grammar

¥3,990

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The third volume in the widely-acclaimed, bestselling Japanese grammar dictionary series is designed to introduce students of Japanese to advanced-level Japanese grammar expressions and help them deepen their understanding of the critical and subtle differences in meaning and usage between the target expressions and other synonymous expressions. Following the same format as the previously published volumes, the book offers approximately 230 Japanese grammar items that are believed to be highly important for students striving to master advanced-level Japanese and also for instructors who teach Japanese at that level. This book is especially useful when reading advanced-level materials such as newspapers, professional journals, technical/business/legal documents, academic papers, and literature.

Contents:

Special Topics in Advanced Japanese Grammar

This section focuses on six topics: adjective classification in Japanese, interpretations of □N1 no N2, □ concepts of politeness and formality, meanings of rhetorical questions, metaphorical expressions, and number marking in Japanese.

Main Entries

Which have been carefully selected by examining upper-level textbooks and other teaching materials. Each entry offers detailed and lucid descriptions of its meanings and usages, along with abundant examples showing authentic usage. In-depth comparisons between the target expression and expressions similar to it in meaning or form (approximately 430 items in all) are also included.

Indexes

The English Index enables students to look up the book's main entries using English. The Japanese Index is comprehensive; it includes all the main entries and related expressions that appear in this book and in DBJG and DIJG.