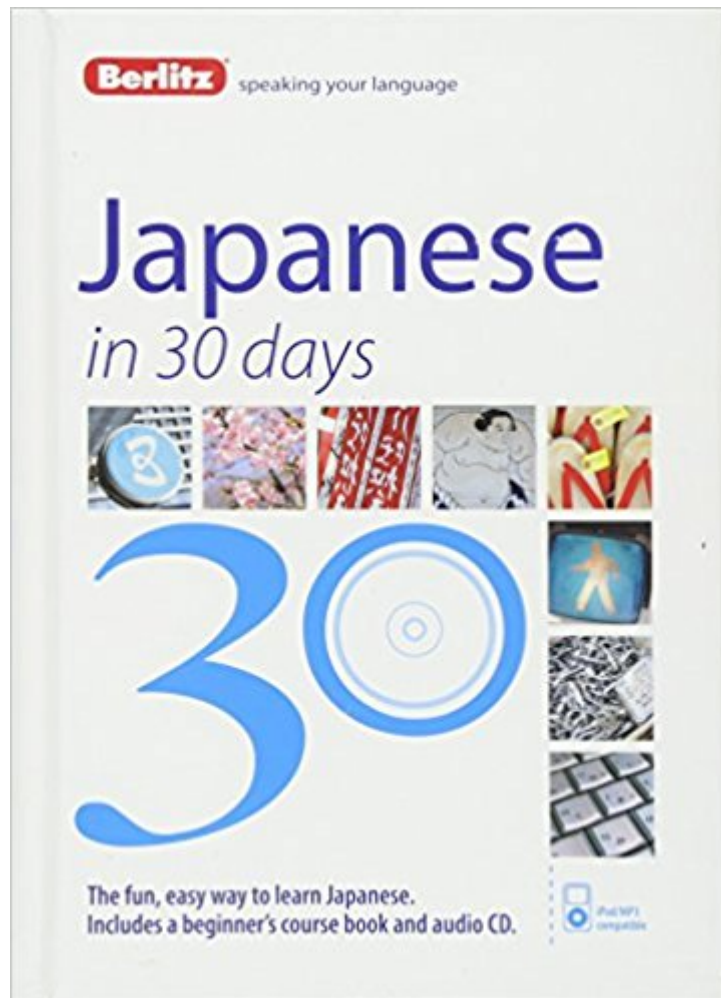




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Berlitz Japanese In 30 Days



Synopsis

This newly designed, beginner-level Japanese audio course is ideal for language learners looking for a fun and effective course with short, manageable daily lessons. Lessons are in a fun, diary-like format, designed to fit seamlessly into your daily schedule. The audio CD runs for 60 minutes and the contents can be easily downloaded to your iPod or MP3 player. Following through the lessons transports you to life in Japan where you will learn how to meet and greet people, carry out everyday tasks, and find and start work. Exercises and examples progressively build a solid foundation of essential grammar and vocabulary alongside knowledge of the country and its culture.

Book Information

Series: In 30 Days

Audio CD: 288 pages

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Customer Reviews

Berlitz, the expert in languages since 1878.

I grabbed this as a way to ease back in to Japanese after a year of not really studying too hard. If you already know how to pronounce Japanese words and are still getting used to reading hiragana (or don't mind romaji!) this could be a nice, slow walkthrough of the language. It would be vocab-heavy, but grammatical ideas are introduced at a measured pace and you learn to write a few kana every day. If you pair this with a great kana book (like Tuttle's Japanese Hiragana and Katakana for Beginners) you'll be more than ready after 30 days to move on to a more serious textbook with enough vocabulary and basic grammar under your belt to do some damage. Recognize this for what it is-- a nice, leisurely introduction, and you'll be fine. The caveat, though, is

that you are already comfortable with pronunciation. The book is great, for what it is, but the CDs sound like they were recorded by Chuck Berlitz himself in the heady Tokyo nightclub scene of the 60s. I imagine he woke up at his hotel, bleary-eyed from too many saketinis, at the end of his three month "research" trip to Japan, before offering the hotel's lounge singers the contents of his wallet to record a couple hours worth of dialogue in front of the hastily set-up microphone in his thoroughly trashed hotel room. I imagine he partied hard, Chuck Berlitz. Seriously though, the CDs sound awful. I honestly enjoy the kitschy novelty value of using ancient sounding tapes to work through a newly printed book, but I've also studied Japanese before and am not really worried about understanding the CDs. You, dear reader, still learning the difference between your "su" and your "tsu," are going to need a plan B. Or some saketinis. Also: the language is on the super-formal side. This isn't a problem, I actually find it a great way to introduce grammatical concepts, just be aware of it going in!

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