

JAPANESE

Japanese, now easily one of the world's most current popular learning and most influential business languages in the world is spoken by about 127 million natives and an increasingly number of foreign nationals, not only in Japan but also abroad.

People taking on Japanese will find it grammatically different to European languages or to Chinese, with whom it shares no common roots. As stated all structural forms are well explained and will be understood with the aid of the It's Just a Language book. Having none of the tonal variations or marked accents found in Chinese will make pronouncing the words simple enough for students.

One of the frustrations one may suffer at times - **because of a totally different culture viewpoint** - is the indirectness of the language and the incompleteness of the exact reminiscent or closeness in many translations, such as expressions.

Though the Japanese understand the romaji used in this book they use three different writing systems - Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. The spoken language comprises of differing dialects and is dominated by three different codes of speaking style...plain, polite and honorific terms. Not only does this depend on locality and lifestyle, but also requires the language to be appropriate to the speakers status, age, whether a friend or a working colleague. **Beware of these situations!**

PRONONCIATION TABLE

The table below gives you all the possible individual syllables in Japanese. Once it has been mastered you should be able to pronounce any Japanese word. The syllables may combine to give a number of other sounds. Long syllables - a doubling of a single vowel - are transcribed with a macron (a line above the letter). ex. a. Japanese also has many double consonants (e.g. **Kippu**, In English a double consonant word is **Summer**)

TABLE

Basic syllables: Vowel, Consonant plus vowel and n

	Vowel					
	a	i	u	e	o	
Consonant						
k	ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	
s	sa	shi	su	se	so	
t	ta	chi	tsu	te	to	
n	na	ni	nu	ne	no	
h	ha	hi	fu	he	ho	
m	ma	mi	mu	me	mo	
y	ya	-	yu		yo	
r	ra	ri	ru	re	ro	
w	wa	-	-	-	-	

Modified syllables: Consonant plus basic vowel

g	ga	gi	gu	ge	go
z	za	zi	zu	ze	zo
d	da	ji	zu	de	do
b	ba	bi	bu	be	bo
p	pa	pi	pu	pe	po

modified syllables: Consonant plus ya, yu, yo

k	kya	kyu	kyo
s	sha	shu	sho
c	cha	chu	cho
n	nya	nyu	nyo
h	hya	hyu	hyo
m	mya	myu	myo
r	rya	ryu	ryo
g	gya	gyu	gyo
j	ja	ju	jo
b	bya	byu	byo
p	pya	pyu	pyo