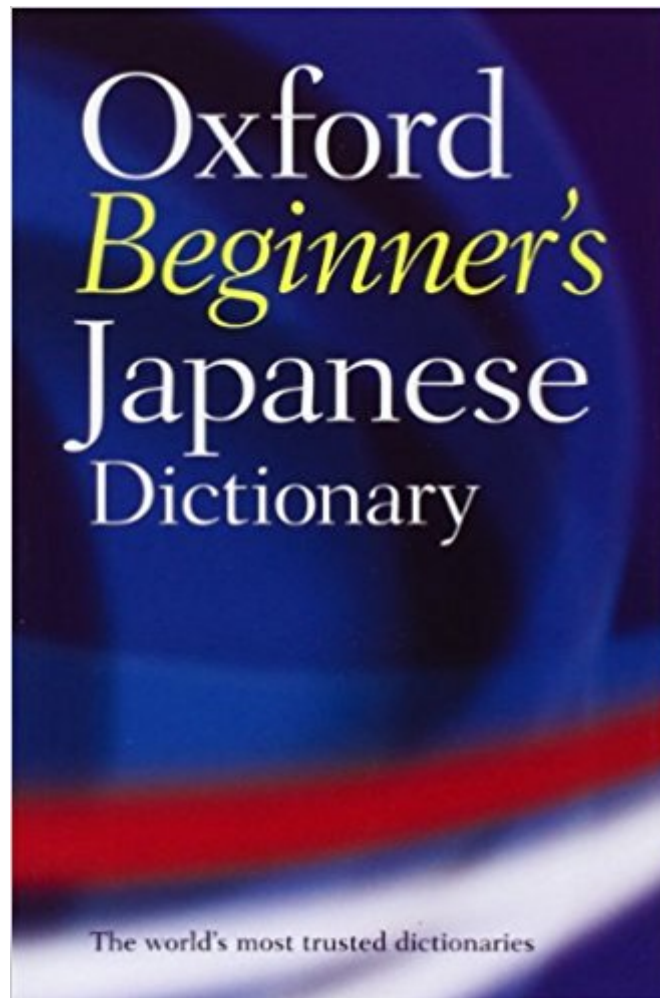




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Oxford Beginner's Japanese Dictionary



Synopsis

Each Oxford Beginner's Bilingual Dictionary is designed to offer English speaking adult learners a comprehensive, straightforward introduction to foreign languages, covering all the vocabulary needed for the first years of study, along with notes on grammar and usage and guidance on the culture where the language is spoken. These easy-to-use references break from standard dictionary design. Clear entries with examples showing how the language works in context make it quick and simple to find the translation you're looking for, and the bold, color layout makes the dictionary easy to navigate, allowing you to get to grips with the language fast. All main translations are preceded by an equals sign so that they are instantly identifiable, and all parts of the entry are spelled out in full, avoiding confusing jargon and abbreviations. Grammar and usage notes throughout the text warn of possible translation pitfalls, and thousands of example phrases show how the language is used in real life. At the center of each dictionary is a section devoted to useful information on the country, countries, or regions where the language is spoken. This includes background on lifestyles and culture, tips on etiquette and interaction, and a phrasefinder that provides handy phrases for use when traveling abroad. The dictionary also includes a section on core vocabulary--all the words you absolutely must know at a beginner's level, whether you are a student, traveler, or business person. The Oxford Beginner's Bilingual Dictionary is the perfect tool for adult language learners who need basic vocabulary at their fingertips fast.

Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Bilingual edition (October 16, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199298521

ISBN-13: 978-0199298525

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.8 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (53 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #104,764 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Japanese](#) #80 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > English](#) #173 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference > Dictionaries](#)

Customer Reviews

If you're learning Japanese.. the first thing you should probably do is learn how to read Japanese.

So it's a relief to find a dictionary that abandons romaji (the Latin alphabet) in favor of native Japanese script (hiragana and katakana). It requires a few days or weeks of learning (depending on how diligently you study it), but pays off immensely in the long-run. With that in mind, this dictionary expects you to learn how to read hiragana and katakana. It does not print romaji, which would hold you back and possibly confuse you. It is also organized like an actual Japanese dictionary, using the Japanese alphabetic order: a-i-u-e-o followed by ka-ki-ku-ke-ko and so on. If you get nothing else from this book, it will force you to learn how to read the Japanese alphabets in order. From what I browsed of competing titles at Uwajimaya, this approach is indeed quite rare. I suppose it is their loss. That practical issue taken care of, this is a solidly usable dictionary. It is designed with English speakers in mind and explains terms clearly and with care. At the same time, it's not overwhelming. You can expand your knowledge as you go along, learning kanji for the vocabulary you are studying and figuring out how to apply the many Japanese particles. Perhaps my favorite feature of this dictionary is the way terms are printed. Each word is listed in bold blue ink, aiding readability. Meanwhile, the English definition (which are ultimately secondary to the Japanese you are trying to learn) are printed in a thinner and smaller but still-readable black font. The text is much larger than that of (squint-inducing) competing dictionaries. At the same time, the dictionary packs a wide-ranging selection of terms useful for the beginning learner.

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