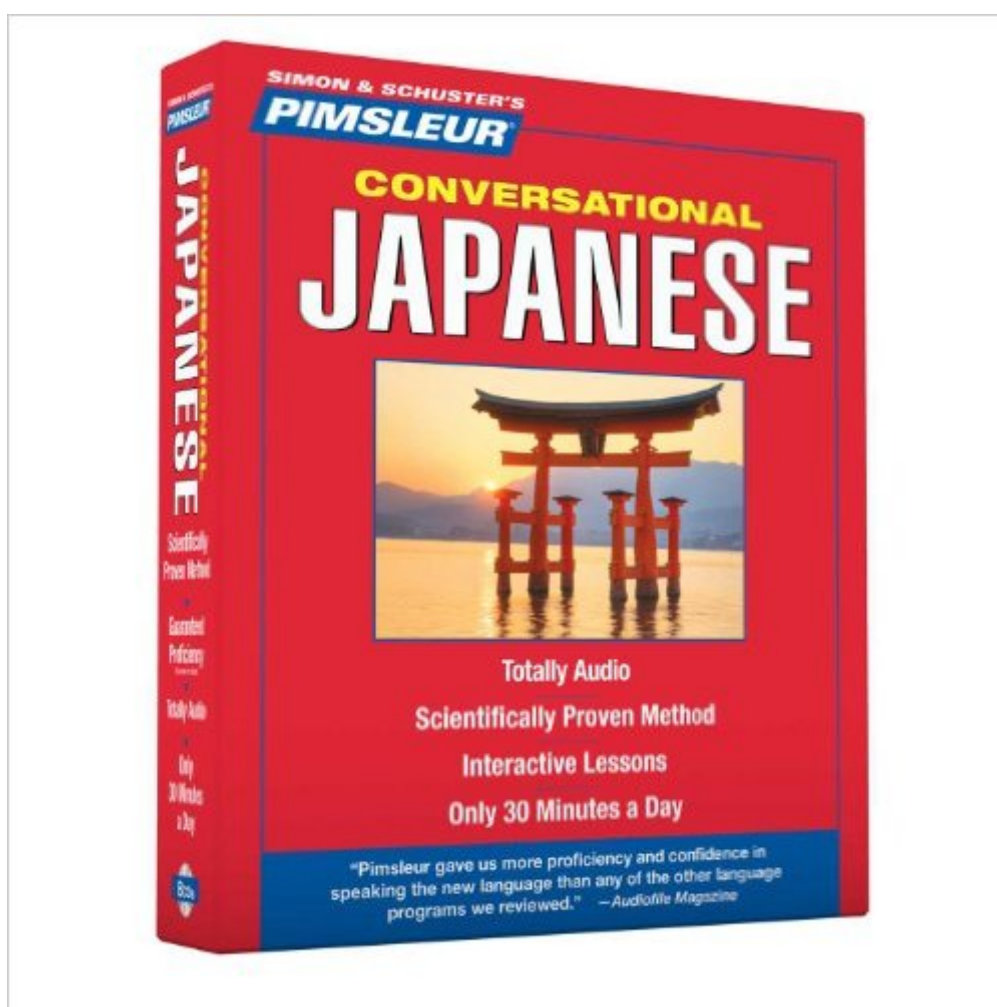


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# Pimsleur Japanese Conversational Course - Level 1 Lessons 1-16 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand Japanese With Pimsleur Language Programs



## Synopsis

Pimsleur® equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the Japanese Level 1 program - 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak Japanese. The Japanese Language Japanese is spoken by about 130 million people, 122 million of whom are in Japan. There are also speakers in the Ryukyu Islands, Korea, Taiwan, parts of the United States, and Brazil. Japanese has many registers or levels of politeness. Pimsleur's Japanese courses will teach you how to speak at a polite register, which is appropriate in virtually any situation you are likely to encounter in Japan.

## Book Information

Series: Conversational (Book 1)

Audio CD: 8 pages

Publisher: Pimsleur; 3 edition (December 5, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743550463

ISBN-13: 978-0743550468

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 2.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #345,168 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > Japanese #131 in Books > Books on CD > Reference #142 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Japanese

## Customer Reviews

This program will not make you a fluent speaker of Japanese; but usage of all three comprehensive Japanese courses probably would. What this particular program will do, it will certainly give a basic tourist level knowledge of Japanese. The narrator will give you some tips on grammar so that you can put together sentences from the various words and phrases you learn on the program. Also it

will teach you proper pronunciation of the words - which will help you to sound more native. Keep in mind that this review is only referring to the Pimsleur Conversational Japanese course which is only half as much as that found in the Comprehensive. Also if you get this program to start then move on to the Comprehensive package Pimsleur will reduce the price of the package, I forget by how much, but I remember it was a good deal compared to what others are selling it for. Let's put my thoughts on the program this way, if you want to learn to speak Japanese on your own this will really do the job as long as you stick to it. I would recommend doing each section twice before moving on to the next. But it really does work. I don't regret spending a penny on this program. I honestly can't think of any problems I've had with this program.

I bought this because I wanted to find something productive to do during my commute, so I needed a program that was audio only - no books, no computer. Even if the program is ponderously slow in the beginning, and constantly repeats some vocabulary through all the lessons while completely forgetting other words, it's not a bad way to learn a language. No matter what the popular opinion, the research shows that adults are capable of learning a language faster than a child, and I could have used some basic explanation on some of the grammatical concepts and rules - just a little would have helped me understand the rules around using the various "extra sounds" that were added (since there was no grammar I don't know what to call them!). My problem with this is that there were massive glaring holes in what was taught. How could I just spend 16 hours (practicing the lessons twice) and not learn how to ask where the bathroom is? Or how to say "What's the word for xxxxx in Japanese"? Or ask for water (instead of the constant focus on sake and beer)? Or know how to say he or she instead of just you and I? Or how to ask "How are you?" Or the words for right and left (kind of important when getting directions...). I've read that this set is the first sixteen lessons from a larger set - maybe all these critical basics are in later lessons. These lessons don't fully stand on their own, they leave you as a beginner able to communicate in some situations a traveler might encounter while leaving you completely unprepared for others. It works - but it's not enough. I'm off to find something a little more comprehensive, and after this experience it probably won't be Pimsleur.

I feel the lessons go a little too slowly for my taste but maybe that's because JP is my 2nd foreign language (after French) and I've already developed some useful learning skills and shortcuts. You really can't go wrong though I recommend supplementing this with additional study of grammar ("Teach Yourself" is good) as the conversations taught here are limited by necessity and it's

sometimes difficult to make out what exactly the narrators are saying without a written transcript. You get 8 hrs of Japanese for \$32 so this is a cheap and very effective way to learn. Dont hesitate to buy :)

If your planning to take a trip to japan and want to learn some phrases, this is a great tool if your learning period is limited. But I feel that more could have been done to help the listener \* truly\* understand the language. First and foremost, A 5-7 page transcript should be included of all the conversations. This would help for several reasons- People would better remember if they could read along- people wouldnt say words wrong when they cant make out what the speaker is saying ( for example n and d can sound similar)- the user would better understand particles which would help them form their own sentences- The user would understand present and negative tenses better Without the transcript, a person will learn to speak well and have the context for several useful conversations. But they may not catch on to some things that would make more sense if there was a romajii translation. For example, nanika is to drink, ka at the end of this root word is present tense. However, nanimasen ka is a question, ka is not part of the word nanimasen which is negative present tense. A listener would be hard pressed to understand this if they had no prior japanese knowledge.

I have been trying to learn Japanese for sometime now. I've tried different computer programs that rate your pronunciation and have struggled with the language. These audio cds are very clear and teach you as though you are a child. As an adult, it is much harder to learn another language, but I have used some of the phrases I have learned on friends and they were impressed. I love how the cd's give instruction in a male's and female's voice.

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