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My First Book Of Japanese Words: An ABC Rhyming Book Of Japanese Language And Culture



Synopsis

My First Book of Japanese Words is a beautifully illustrated book that introduces young children to Japanese language and culture through everyday words. The words profiled in this book are all commonly used in the Japanese language and are both informative and fun for English-speaking children to learn. The goals of My First Book of Japanese Words are multiple: to familiarize children with the sounds and structure of Japanese speech, to introduce core elements of Japanese culture, to illustrate the ways in which languages differ in their treatment of everyday sounds and to show how, through cultural importation, a single word can be shared between languages. Both teachers and parents will welcome the book's cultural and linguistic notes and appreciate how the book is organized in a familiar ABC structure. Each word is presented in Kanji (when applicable), Kana, and Romanized form (Romaji). With the help of this book, we hope more children (and adults) will soon be a part of the 125 million people worldwide that speak Japanese!

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

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Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"My First Book of Japanese Words really captured nine-year-old Emma's attention. My academically-inclined daughter loved the detailed pronunciation guide, and the cute illustrations definitely helped! This book has a Japanese word for every letter of the alphabet. All four of my kids (aged 3, 6, 7, and 9 years old) love the illustrations and text in this ABC rhyming book!"

—Mama Smiles blog "It's a fun way to learn a handful of basic Japanese words, and perhaps

inspire an interest in learning more." [•The Children's Book Review](#)"I've always had an interest in learning about people and cultures, so I've collected an assortment of "My First Word" books in a variety of languages. This Japanese word book is one of the best I've seen. At first glance, the choice of going through the English alphabet to present words in Japanese seems odd, but really it's brilliant. It gives young children a familiar setting while introducing them to something completely new and different." [•Randy-Lynn Wach, City Book Review](#)"This is a lovely picture book in ENGLISH but with Japanese words for each letter. There is also interesting tidbits of information about the Japanese culture that kids would enjoy."

[•PragmaticMom.com blog](#)"This has a nice introduction to the sounds of the Japanese language. An A-Z book of Japanese words with hiragana and/or katakana, the Kanji and a short little rhyme in English. It teaches small things about Japanese culture in a very natural way. As well, there are gorgeous illustrations that let children jump right into what life in Japan might be like for a child." [•CatherineAmi.com blog](#)"a perfect introduction to studying Japan. It gives you an overview of things that are the same and different with our cultures and introduces the language at the same time." [•CraftyMomsShare.com blog](#)"Join Kenji and his friends as they introduce us to words such as Futon, onigiri (a yummy rice ball treat) and sensei." [•Growing Book by Book blog](#)"Such a sweet book that introduces a kid-friendly Japanese word for every letter of the alphabet, in rhyming prose. The painted illustrations are colorful and whimsical that keep the kids interested." [•Kid World Citizen blog](#)

Michelle Haney Brown thrives on awakening preschool through adult students to the wonders of Japan's language and culture. She also teaches cross-cultural navigation to individuals and to groups in organizations such as NASA. She and her family live in Austin, TX. Aya Padron is a freelance artist who works in many media, among them painting and photography. She is the illustrator of My First Book of Korean Words and My First Book of Chinese Words. She and her husband live in Austin, TX.

The two stars are for the lovely illustrations: the picture on the back of the book (I is for inu) is gorgeous. But the rhymes and meter are disappointing - not a lot of joyful sounds here or well thought-out word combinations, nor do the entries always relate to Japanese culture. Case in point: "I is for inu / dogs that bark. / My dog and I like / to walk in the park". The illustration for this entry features a beautifully rendered torii, which would be at the entrance to a shinto shrine. Many teachable moments are lost in this book. But the biggest boo-boo is the entry for "G" - "G is for

Gakkou." The kana above the kanji is rendered incorrectly as "Kakkou"! You don't need a PhD in Japanese to pick up that mistake (although I do have a PhD in Japanese), but this is inexcusable in a text published by a major publisher (Tuttle).

Love this book! Fun for adults, also, who are new to Japanese! The only confusion is the ABC aspect. Japanese doesn't have 26 "letters" used in their "alphabet". So there's a disclaimer, on say the X page, giving the Japanese word for xylophone (which, incidentally, is spelled incorrectly as xylophone). So X is for Mokkin. My 10 year old granddaughter looked puzzled when I explained this. My 30 year old daughter was in great delight when we read about T is for TANUKI- a raccoon dog that lives in Japan. (Her favorite author, Robbins, has a book that features an imaginary tanuki.) The artwork is excellent, so gentle and quiet, just like I picture nature and homes in Japan.

Excellent book with breathtaking art! Our bilingual English/Japanese two year old loves it. It has a few minor mistakes--there's no long E sound in densha (train), and the LETTER "q" is not in Japanese but the SOUND it makes is. But those are easily ignored. Otherwise it's accurate, gorgeous, and entertaining.

A lovely ABC book with gorgeous illustrations. It presents simple Japanese vocabulary words and hints at the meaning (if not stated outright) with beautiful poetry and paintings. I do wish there had been a glossary in the book, because my children were confused by one or two of them that were not so clear, but otherwise it was a wonderful find.

Growing up Japanese I never wondered if I can find a Japanese word for every letter of the English Alphabet-- and there are some letters that have no Japanese words for. Like "L" where the book says its for Lion (Yes, I know its in English) and says in Japanese we say it in "Raion". So you can see how this would be confusing to a little child if they really start thinking about it. I got this for my infant to read to her so she will learn a few Japanese words, but I will wait until she is older for her to read the book on her own. Overall the concept is good and the pictures are cute.

This is like other books, read, study, memorize...not enough time. If I'd did set aside proper study effort, this book and several others, I could learn Japanese. I recommend it though work is involved.

It was not exactly what we were expecting but the story is good and it was our fault for not looking

through with the look inside choice on .

With help from their mother, our grandchildren really enjoyed learning Japanese words via this book.

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