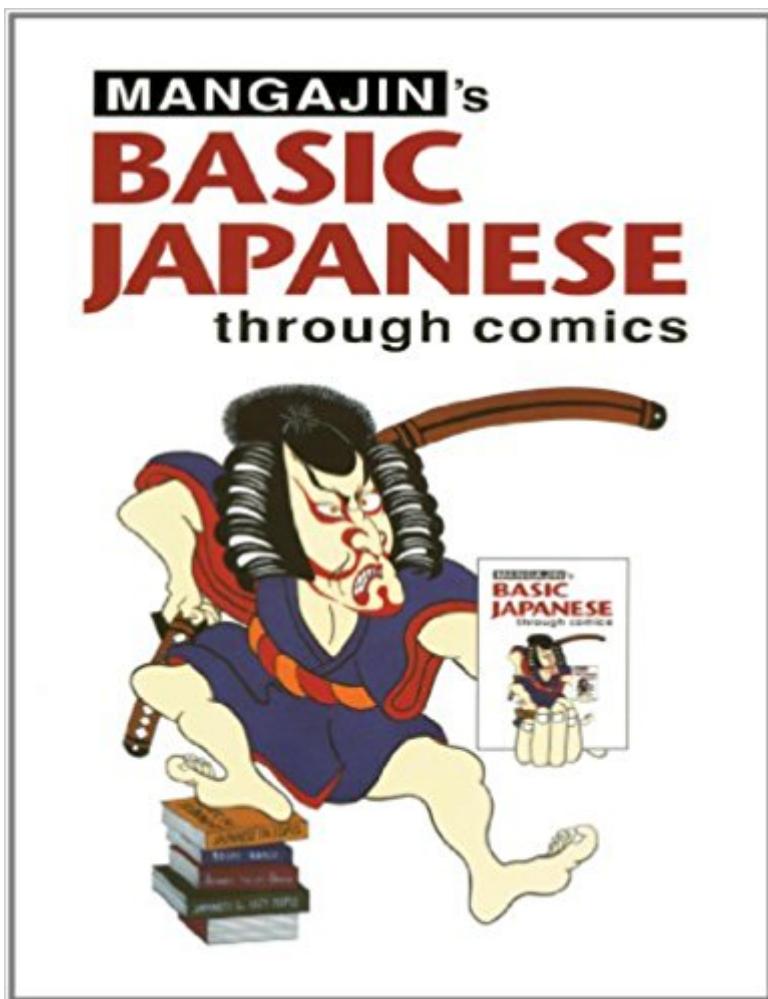


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# **Basic Japanese Through Comics Part 1: Compilation Of The First 24 Basic Japanese Columns From Mangajin Magazine (English And Japanese Edition)**





## Synopsis

What is "Basic Japanese"? This book presents some very basic words and phrases along with some that are not usually considered "basic" at all. In fact, some of the material in this book is not typically presented until the student is well into his or her study of the Japanese language. and even then, it can be confusing without a skilled explanation. The Mangajin method, however, makes even this advanced material "basic" and accessible to students at all levels. Frames from Japanese manga ("comics") are used to illustrate every point, and English translations and notes allow even the basic beginner to understand material that might otherwise stump advanced students. Basic Japanese through Comics is not intended as a textbook, but rather as an entertaining supplement to a more formal study of Japanese. The 24 "lessons" in this book do not build on each other—they can be read or studied in any order.

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Paperback: 160 pages

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Language: English, Japanese

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"The use of comics is a wonderful way to teach colloquial Japanese, and it also give readers a window on one of the liveliest most enjoyable parts of Japanese pop culture. Anyone who is serious about Japanese or modern Japan will want this book."—James Fallows, Washington Book Editor of the The Atlantic Monthly and author of Looking at the Sun

Indispensable if you are learning how to read Japanese books and manga and how to write

Japanese sentences in kanji and kana. It shows how common Japanese expressions and sentences are constructed, breaks them down for you, and translates each concept of each sentence (using the building block approach). Each Japanese line spoken by a manga character is presented first in kanji/kana script, then translated into the English meaning of each word/phrase, then further translated and rationalized into idiomatic English. These 3 steps show clearly how Japanese sentences are constructed. Often instructional books skip the 2nd step. *Mangajin* is fun to read and groups common Japanese expressions you hear every day into chapters and explains them. For example, there are chapters dedicated to "the meaning of *Hai*" alone. "*Hai*" doesn't just mean yes, it can mean different things depending on context, and the book uses manga to show each context. It is amply illustrated with manga panels from popular books from the 1990s. I own both Vol 1 and 2. My only regret is that they did not continue this magazine or series, because there should be enough to fill at least 2 more volumes.

This book does not teach grammar or vocabulary: each chapter is about one particular Japanese expression such as "*sumimasen*", "*shitsurei shimasu*" and gives various examples of how those expressions are used in everyday Japanese. It truly is invaluable, as it would take a significant amount of work for someone to figure out all the diverse, sometimes contradictory, possible uses of each of those expressions on their own. I would like to add that while the format is similar, the content is NOT the same as *Japanese the Manga Way* - it is complementary, and I would highly recommend you also acquire that book.

Not suitable for serious study since romanization hinders reading progress. The eye will of course always go there first, and the paper is too thin to redact with marker. Furigana would have been preferable for beginning/intermediate students. I can post this same review for a few other books made in this style. It is a completely discredited "feature" and has to stop, especially since the book would be pretty good otherwise.

Once upon a time there was a wonderful magazine called "*Mangajin*" which helped you learn Japanese through Manga -- Japanese comics. In the process it also taught about Japanese life and culture as well as serving as an introduction to Manga themselves. The magazine, alas, is no more. But this book is a collection of excerpts aimed specifically at learning Japanese. Starting very simply, it walks you through Japanese using panels from manga to illustrate the concepts. It also uses a unique representation system where each sentence is shown first in Japanese characters, then in

phonetic English, then in a literal translation, and usually a colloquial English translation. This is coupled with explanatory notes in English. The book won't teach you Japanese by itself, but it will help you get started in an easy, fun manner.

I read this and volume two a couple of times reverting back to it when I needed a break from actual studying. I may not be an expert in Japanese and other comments might be more to your liking but it does help in breaking the cultural barriers between me and my wife. I would definitely recommend this for kids to start learning from. And I love the ideas presented in this book so much that I lent it to a friend who never returned it yet! But I will get it back one of these days since I want to learn a bit more and indulge in my reading escapism!

This book shares the concept of "Japanese the manga way" An image taken from a real manga that has been published (not a manga specially invented for the method) the text in Japanese next to it, the text in English phonetics, the translation in each word in the Japanese Order and finally the English translation. You learn a lot of vocabulary, you see a lot of different Japanese fonts which trains your eyes to all the possible fonts you can encounter and it's really well explained. Perfect for people learning on their own. Only downside is there are no exercises. I really think it's too bad, but this one, the number two and Japanese the manga way are really great

This is a great book to get if you have already learned 6 months of Japanese or so (at least). It is a series of chapters illustrating a few interesting words or topics of Japanese language, all illustrated with bits of real, commercially available manga. But be warned, they use a "magnifying glass" approach which I loved: they focus on ONE word for several pages. For example, the chapter on "hon", one of the counters, goes on and on for four pages of comic book panels. I will never forget what that word means and how to use it and I was fascinated with the examples from the comics. But then again, it is just ONE word. It is a book for people that are not in a hurry and are having fun with Japanese, as opposed to people that need to learn Japanese quickly for a particular objective.

I bought this book to review my Japanese, after studying it for many years in college and subsequently not utilizing it. This book is a really fun way to review. I don't think it would be applicable for people without any knowledge of Japanese, though.

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