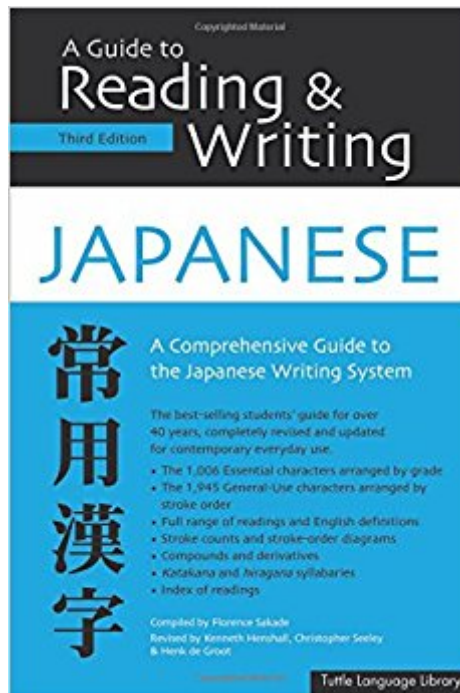




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# Guide To Reading & Writing Japanese: Third Edition



## Synopsis

A best-seller trusted by beginning and intermediate students since 1959 and now in its third edition, this affordable study guide includes all 1,945 current joyo kanji. Detailed entries for all 1,009 "essential" kanji include stroke order, meanings, and pronunciation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Wow! Another amazing book by Tuttle at a price I can afford. As a single mom living under the poverty level, I need to be careful how I spend my money. I want value in need books that will supplement my girls' education and also useful to me as well. A Guide to Reading and Writing Japanese is modern with "the most recent changes to the kanji list prescribed by the Japanese Ministry of Education." Learning each stroke of the 2,136 characters in the general use kanji set in the 1,009 essential characters are a breeze. It includes the full range of character readings and their English definitions. There are plenty of examples and "special codes to indicate the kanji required for the JLPT and AP exams." Learning kanji has never been so easy!" [Goodreads](#) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This book is designed first of all to make the study of written Japanese a much less formidable task for the foreign student than it has traditionally been. Its second major purpose is to enable the student to achieve fluency in reading and writing the language in its everyday style. Essentially, the

book reflects the language simplification movement now under way in Japan. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

The first edition had detailed explanations, examples, and mnemonics, for the roughly 2000 kanji. Definitely 5 stars. This third edition has not only detailed explanations, examples and mnemonics for the first 1000 kanji but also stroke by stroke guide to writing them. That would warrant 6 stars if possible. However for the second 1000 kanji there are no explanations, examples, or mnemonics at all. If somebody wants a book/dictionary to help study for any of the JLPT tests from N5 to N2, this will be great, but if you want a book/dictionary to help study for N1 (the hardest test), the first edition would be better than this (third edition).

I have found this book (small and compact) is typically in a hardcover edition. As such, it has been a convenient, reliable tool which I keep handy. I especially find the stroke order section helpful as I am able to identify kanji by counting the strokes. I sent my mother this book (she lives far) and whenever I have a question, we can literally be talking on "the same page" so to speak. (Try listening to someone describe kanji over the phone and then feeling uneasy as you may not have the right one; pretty scary.) Well, I can rest now as this book is also very reasonably priced, usually I have seen this book for \$5 including shipping, and now we are discussing the right kanji. Other features this book is that it contains what I also believe is a fair assessment of 1,850 common kanji. It has a stroke order (how it is written) as a guide along with common words besides it so you can get a practical look at how it is combined with other kanji and its use. Also, keep in mind that since this book is small, you may need to take that into consideration when using it strictly as a way to learn to write kanji. A section of the book has the basics of hira/kata kana which makes it very convenient as a quick reference. The back also includes a summary of on readings (Chinese) and kun (Japanese) and where it can be found. Keep in mind, I am writing about the 1st edition and over time things change, yet, I haven't had any problems. Again, it's very convenient and portable. For the price, and content, it's a great reference tool.

This is an improvement over the original (hardbound) book by Florence Sakade in some ways -- much friendlier on the eyes, anyway. Many kana workbooks include stroke order and mnemonic devices these days to help students learn the kanji more effectively, but the 3rd edition has fantastically clear notations to accompany each character. It's important, for example, to realize at an early stage that there are at least TWO readings for each kanji (onyomi, or

monosyllabic/Chinese-like, and kunyomi, or multi-syllabic/Japanese-like. This information is vital for students who wish to move on to the intermediate level. Some of my JPN 1 students like the coupled hiragana/katakana chart in the back, although some instructors still prefer to keep the two separate. All in all, a very useful book and I was very grateful that it offers new and slightly used copies at a very reasonable price.

We used this book in my high school Japanese class. Although it only has a limited number of kanji in it, it's very useful for learning the basics. Each kanji has instructions for each stroke to make sure you're using proper stroke order, and it gives you both Chinese and Japanese (onyomi and kunyomi) readings though not all of them, for example it doesn't list conjugations of each reading, and it only gives you the most important ones. This book is very straight forward, so it doesn't give you ways to remember each kanji, but it's a good tool for learning meanings and learning the stroke order.

The title is misleading. I was expecting a book that would help me with sentence structure, grammar, etc. This book is really just a guide to kanji. This book gives a good description of the kanji and shows you how to properly form the kanji.

Indispensable. The only reason I don't give a five-star is that the "Index of Readings" in this fourth edition are frequently incorrect. (I've learned when it says page 145, column a, to check a few pages further on to find that kanji.) I don't find the new 'radical index' to be very useful, but that may not be true of others (especially those familiar with radicals because they are native Chinese readers. One thing seldom mentioned is the cover. Reference books (and this is definitely a reference book) absolutely need strong and durable covers. This work meets that standard!

I recommend this book for intermediate Japanese learners who have learned a fair number of kanji, know some elementary spoken Japanese, and can already recognize a few kanji. Having all of the jōyō (general use) kanji in one place, makes this book an excellent resource for those trying to learn the Japanese written language to be able to read Japanese books or manga, and also for those aiming to take the JLPTs (Japanese Language Proficiency Tests). However, the book only gives the stroke order, basic meaning and two or three of the most common compounds for each kanji. It is a bit difficult to retain the more complicated kanji on this system so I recommend using other resources, and drilling yourself by methods such as flash cards and writing practice. I have used this

book to memorize all of the grade one and grade two kanji (240 in all) so it is very useful. You'll just need additional resources to aid in retention, and for learning other facets of the Japanese language.

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