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Why 80/20 Japanese?Japanese is easy – you just need to be taught the right way.When I learnt Japanese, I did it the hard way – by memorizing sentence patterns, set phrases and random vocabulary. The problem was, I didn’t know how to put it all together. I knew all these various bits and pieces, but didn’t understand why everything works the way it does.I figured it out eventually, but there are so many things I wish someone had taught me. Japanese is actually incredibly logical, flexible and intuitive, but I wasted a lot of time feeling confused and frustrated because it didn’t make sense to my English-speaking brain.That’s why I decided to write 80/20 Japanese. I want to save you from all the difficulties that I faced, and help you understand how the Japanese language really works.So instead of spoon-feeding you situational expressions with limited application, 80/20 Japanese focuses on what really counts – the fundamentals. It teaches you how the language actually works, and helps you avoid the confusion that most Japanese learners face.That’s the 20% that will get you 80% of the way to speaking fluent Japanese. Features How Japanese WorksA complete and easy-to-follow explanation of the basic structure that all Japanese sentences follow. Essential Building BlocksDetailed lessons on all of the building blocks that fit within Japanese sentence structure. Exercises GaloreLoads of examples and exercises throughout the book to help you understand and consolidate each concept. Express Yourself FullyDiscover the simple yet powerful way to transform basic phrases into complex, highly-detailed sentences. Speak Like a NativeAfter building a rock-solid foundation, refine your natural voice with over 40 useful expressions. Learning StrategiesIncludes language learning strategies that ensure you get the most out of your time. What You’ll LearnEverything covered in 80/20 Japanese, chapter by chapter.80/20 Japanese provides in-depth explanations and loads of exercises to help you master the most important Japanese grammar concepts. You’ll learn all about:Particles and sentence structureAll major verb conjugationsThe te-form (and over a dozen different ways to use it)Adjectives and adverbsNumbers and countersTime expressionsComplex sentence formation... and a whole lot more!But it’s not just about what you learn – it’s how you learn it.The key to the effectiveness of 80/20 Japanese is the logical order in which the lessons are presented.By teaching everything in the right order, 80/20 Japanese ensures that every new concept and sentence pattern you learn makes total sense.In total, 80/20 Japanese covers more than 100 topics over 12 chapters. This can be broken into four parts: 1. The Japanese crash courseThe first four chapters are designed to achieve two main things:Build a solid foundationGet you conversational as quickly as possibleIt’s vital to get the basics right from the beginning. Having a proper framework that you can apply to everything you learn makes it much easier to make sense of each new concept – even the more advanced ones. Of course, getting the basics right is no good if it’s all just impractical theory.We learn faster and more effectively by doing, which is why Chapter 4 in particular is all about giving you practical knowledge that will allow you to actually hold a meaningful conversation.Here’s a more detailed breakdown of the first four chapters: Above all else, if you want to communicate in Japanese, you need to be able to recognize and pronounce the sounds that make up each word.Chapter 1 walks you through all the unique sounds of Japanese so you can be sure that people understand you when you speak. Next, you will learn the fundamental structure of Japanese sentences, with a particular focus on the particle system. Doing this early is the key to avoiding getting stuck in beginner mode for way too long.See, most books and courses skip this vital step, and instead start with specific phrases and sentence patterns. The result is that you end up knowing how to say a bunch of random things, but have no idea why they make sense, or how you can deviate from the standard pattern to say something that’s... you know... actually useful.By giving you a better understanding of how Japanese sentences and particles work right from the beginning, 80/20 Japanese helps you build a solid foundation that will apply to everything you ever learn about Japanese grammar. Adding to your understanding of how Japanese functions, Chapter 3 covers the essential cultural understanding you need to speak Japanese effectively.These are easy but important lessons that are applicable every time you use Japanese. This chapter is focused on getting you up to speed with conversational Japanese, fast. It introduces a variety of concepts that you can immediately use in real life situations, including:More particlesEssential verb tenses needed to talk about the past, present and futureHow to talk about things you like and wantHow to ask questionsMany more useful words and expressions 2. Master the core building blocks Now that you have a solid base to work from, it’s time to look closer at each of the major pieces of the grammatical puzzle.Over these next five chapters, you’ll develop the ability to properly use and combine the core building blocks, allowing you to speak and understand Japanese with greater flexibility and precision. Here, you will learn how to count from 1 to 100 million and beyond.More importantly, you’ll learn how to turn numbers into the correct form (ie. counters) so you can, for example, count your friends as people instead of, say, birds or sheets of paper.This chapter introduces some of the most common counters, and shows you how to use all counters in a sentence. This chapter covers everything you need to know to talk about the three main aspects of time:Timing = When things are donePeriod = How long things are doneForFrequency = How often things are doneFor each, you’ll learn all the essential counters and expressions, and how to use them in sentences. Here you will learn all the different ways to conjugate adjectives (past tense, negative, etc.), as well as the different ways these can be used in sentences, both polite and informal.We’ll also apply the lessons about adjectives to “noun + desu” sentences, and discuss in detail everything you need to know about adverbs. The main verb tenses, plus some useful verb-based expressions, are introduced in the polite form in Chapter 4.This chapter goes into more depth on all things verb-related, including the main verb types, informal verb forms of each tense, the potential (can do) form, and more. The te-form of verbs is insanely useful – so much so that it gets its own chapter.Here you will learn how to convert all verbs (and adjectives) into the te-form, as well as the most useful ways to apply it.This includes things like the “is doing” form for describing things happening right now, commands and requests, and linking multiple actions together in a sequence (eg. I did this, then that).A dozen more te-form expressions are introduced later in Chapter 12. 3. Add complexity and depth With the core components of the language covered, it’s time to step it up a notch.These next two chapters will expand your range of expression substantially, and set up to easily learn any new concept the language might throw at you. This chapter really takes you to the next level. It teaches you all about noun phrases, which have a wide range of uses and give you the ability to talk about things in far greater detail.For example, instead of saying something simple such as, “I ate lunch in Shinjuku with my friends”, noun phrases allow you to say much more interesting things like, “I ate lunch at a new restaurant in Shinjuku with some friends that I met at high school”.Noun phrases are incredibly powerful, yet fairly simple to put together, especially in Japanese. This chapter covers them in detail. As a key building block of the Japanese language, particles are of course covered right from Chapter 2, with more added along the way as needed. This chapter provides a far more detailed look.The lessons in this chapter are not essential to being able to speak Japanese, but they will give you a deeper understanding of how different particles work. This will help you avoid the more subtle mistakes that even some advanced Japanese speakers sometimes make.This chapter also answers one of the biggest questions that even confuses people who have been studying Japanese for years – the difference between the particles “wa” and “ga”. 4. Learn a boat-load of useful expressionsBy this point, you will have a very good understanding of Japanese.This final chapter simply builds on everything you know by introducing 40+ useful expressions, all explained – with examples – in the context of everything learnt throughout the rest of the book. This chapter is broken into five parts:12.1 Very Useful ExpressionsA few of the most useful expressions not introduced in earlier chapters.12.2 Conditional ExpressionsSeveral different ways of saying the equivalent of “if...” and “when...”.12.3 Te-Form ExpressionsAdding to the most important te-form expressions covered in Chapter 9, this section introduces 12 more expressions that make use of the te-form.12.4 The Passive VoiceTo talk like a Japanese person, you need to be able to use indirect language. This section will show one of the most important ways to do that, with detailed lessons on the passive voice, a verb form that turns a sentence like, “He saw me”, into, “I was seen by him”.12.5 Other ExpressionsAnother 24 common expressions – enough to get you to approximately JLPT N4 level. What People Are Saying I love the book so far. I've tried other sources but nothing has engaged me and kept me motivated to study Japanese like this. It's crazy how in one month I've gone from being able to put together a lot of sentences. It helps a lot how you teach Japanese from an English speakers viewpoint.10/10 so far. I wish there was this format book for Spanish and Russian as well. I've tried lots of other less successful learning tools. I'm only a few chapters in but it's already given me the clearest, most understandable explanation of the particle system. I skimmed ahead and really like how verb tenses were handled.Love the logical break down of the concepts. I really appreciate the order you are teaching things. It is very clear and straightforward. I'm an ecologist/research student but also did a degree in classics (i.e. Latin and Ancient Greek) a few years back and your ability to explain grammar simply, concisely, and empathetically beats anything I encountered in the many ancient language textbooks I used (written by professors and linguists no less!). You've got a fantastic feel for the perspective of the English speaking student. Well done mate. Seriously. 30-Day Risk Free Money Back Guarantee!self you're not completely happy with 80/20 Japanese, simply reply to your purchase confirmation email within 30 days for a full refund - no questions asked. Study Your Way!With an abundance of resources to make learning easier, you can choose what you need according to your learning style and language goals. Romaji Edition!n this edition, all Japanese words and sentences are written in 'romaji', the Latin script we use in English.This is perfect if you are new to Japanese and want to focus on learning to speak the language, without worrying about learning all of the different Japanese characters. Kana + Kanji Edition!f your language goals include learning to read and write Japanese, this is the edition for you.In this edition, the Japanese words and sentences are mostly written as they would normally appear in Japanese, whether that be in hiragana, katakana or kanji.Importantly, with only a couple of exceptions, every word written in kanji throughout the entire book has the reading above it in hiragana (known as 'furigana'). Here's an example of what that looks like:This ensures that you never run into a word and have no idea how to read it. At the same time, you gain lots of exposure to naturally written Japanese, so your eyes get used to dealing with kanji. Apart from a couple of small points that relate only to written Japanese, both editions cover the exact same material. eBook formats that work with your deviceEach edition of 80/20 Japanese comes in the following formats:PDF - for use with almost any deviceePub - for use with most e-readers, such as iBooks, Nook, and virtually all non-proprietary e-reader appsMOBI - for use with Amazon Kindle devices and appsAZK - for use with the Kindle app on iOS devicesChoose your preferred option, or download the eBook to all of your personal devices - no restrictions. Soft Cover (Physical) BooksGo the old-school route with a physical, paperback copy of 80/20 Japanese.You can add a soft cover copy of...the Kana + Kanji Edition,the Romaji Edition, or both editions...to any package.Ships to most countries worldwide. Audiobook (MP3)This is the complete book narrated from start to finish by the author, including all Japanese example sentences, exercises and answers. Listen and learn on the train, in the car or while working out.Comes as a single MP3 file, or as a separate file for each chapter.Included in:Self-Study Pack, Self-Study + Anki Pack Audiobook RemixThe Audiobook Remix is the standard audiobook (above) rearranged into a format that gives you more control over how you study and revise. There are two parts:Explanations onlyMany readers of 80/20 Japanese like to binge-read or binge-listen chapters of the book, absorbing the lessons within and then reviewing them again later, often multiple times. But when you just want to absorb the meat of the content, the stop-start nature of the exercises can get in the way.The Explanations Only audio cuts out all of the exercises from the book for a smoother listening experience that lets you focus on the lessons, and not worry about putting them into practice until later.Exercises onlyThis consists of all the exercises in the book, with none of the explanations in between.In this version, for all of the exercises throughout the book you get...a question, followed by a pause long enough for you to try to answer it, and then the answer to that question.Most exercises in 80/20 Japanese ask you to build sentences, so this format is perfect for practicing your sentence-building skills, testing your knowledge, and working on your spoken fluency and pronunciation.Included in:Self-Study Pack, Self-Study + Anki Pack Hiragana & Katakana WorkbookThis comprehensive workbook is a printable PDF that will teach you all of the hiragana and katakana characters, with exercises to help you practice using and recognizing them, not just individually, but in the context of words and sentences too. It includes:A thorough explanation of both character setsA side-by-side comparison of similar, easily-confused charactersWriting practice sheets with stroke order guidesWord-based character reading and writing exercisesFull sentence exercises for even more reading and writing practicetoo! also comes with a full set of printable flashcards for individual characters and whole words (the same as in the Anki Pack below), so you can learn and test yourself quickly and easily!Included in:Self-Study Pack, Self-Study + Anki Pack Kanji Reference GuideThis 61-page printable PDF lists every kanji character you will encounter as you work through 80/20 Japanese, in the order they appear.There's an enlarged version of every unique kanji (518 in total), plus all of the words in which it appears, as well as hiragana reading, English meaning, and a handy example sentence for each word. FAQsHere are the answers to the most frequently asked questions: Which edition should I get? All packages include both editions of the eBook, but if you want to get a physical copy (and only one), and can't decide which is best, ask yourself one question:Do I ultimately want to be able to read and write Japanese?If so, the Kana + Kanji Edition will probably be better in the long run. It will likely be more challenging at the beginning, especially if you are not yet familiar with hiragana, but as you progress through the book and your reading skills improve, the Kana + Kanji Edition will actually become easier to read. Plus, you always have the Romaji Edition eBook to fall back on if it becomes a bit too much while you're still getting used to the characters.If, however, you are mainly only interested in learning to speak and understand spoken Japanese, the Romaji Edition will be much easier to work with as you will have one less (very large) obstacle in your way. Which package should I get? This really just depends on two things - your budget, and how you like to learn. I can't tell you your budget, but I can try to address the other point.Some people like physical, paper books because they find it easier to take notes and flip between pages. If that's you, you'll probably appreciate a physical copy. If, on the other hand, you're happy reading on your smartphone, tablet, computer or e-reader, then the eBook should do the job - the content is the same.The Audiobook and Audiobook Remix are popular with people who like to learn or revise lessons while driving, sitting on a bumpy bus, or even as they go to sleep. Others just like having audio of the Japanese example sentences and exercises so they know how everything is supposed to sound.Anki is a great way to revise and commit to memory all of the vocabulary, characters and grammar covered in the book. If you want to be able to pull out your phone and study a little when you have a few spare minutes, or use of your commute to easily practice what you have learnt in the book, the Anki Pack makes this easy.If you're still not sure, then it may help to know that you can upgrade later without re-purchasing what you already have. To do this, just go to our dedicated upgrades page. Can I upgrade to a different package later? Yes! There is a dedicated upgrades site through which you can upgrade at any time without re-purchasing what you already have. You will just need your purchase ID and email address to view your upgrade options. Can I purchase a soft cover book only? Yes, you can purchase the physical book by itself on this page. However, please note that there are no packages available that combine a physical book with the Self-Study Pack or Anki Pack. Is the book available to buy in book stores, or online at sites like Amazon? No, sorry. 80/20 Japanese is currently only available to purchase on this website. There are no plans for this to change in the near future. Can I print the eBook? Sorry, no. Just like any eBook bought on Amazon Kindle or Apple iBooks, the eBook is intended for digital use and cannot be printed. However, the Hiragana & Katakana Workbook, Exercises PDF and Kanji Reference Guide can all be printed. For a paper copy of the whole book, please add a Soft Cover copy to the package of your choice. We ship worldwide. Will 80/20 Japanese help me with the JLPT? 80/20 Japanese was not written specifically for the JLPT, but it will give you a very solid understanding of the fundamental grammar concepts that are tested - either directly or indirectly - in the exams.The biggest difference between the different levels of the JLPT is quantity - primarily the number of words and expressions you can understand and interpret in context. 80/20 Japanese focuses on ensuring your quality of understanding is high, because that gives you a strong base to build everything else up on. Quantity is important too, but a good base makes it much easier to learn new words and expressions so that you can actually use them, which also helps with memorization.Bottom line, if you learn everything in 80/20 Japanese and nothing else, you should be able to pass N4 comfortably, depending on your listening ability. To go from there to N3 and beyond, you would likely need other resources targeted specifically at those exams, but this should be much easier than if you studied only what was necessary to pass N4. What happens after I purchase? Once your payment has been processed (usually immediately), you will be re-directed to a web page where you can download the digital files included in your chosen package. You will also receive an email with a link to the download page, as well as a receipt for your purchase.If your package includes a physical book, we will process your order as quickly as possible and send you an email when the book has been dispatched (usually within 2-3 business days). Does the download link expire? The download link expires after a period of time and a certain number of download attempts, but this is only to prevent abuse. If you missed the download window, lost the files, or need to access your files again for any other reason, please contact us and we'll re-activate your download. Do you ever have sales or offer discounts? For existing products, no, and this is good for everyone. Why? A couple of reasons.Firstly, it means that there is no chance that you will buy the book one day, only to find that it has been discounted a week later. That's an awful feeling that I do not wish to inflict on anyone.Secondly, it means that you have no reason to put off learning Japanese. If you want to learn or improve your Japanese, now is the best time to start. The hope of a sale gives you a reason to wait, and for every day you wait, that is one day lost that you could have spent learning and improving.The price will never be lower than it is right now, so if you want to start, start now and don't look back.The only time we ever intend on having a sale is when releasing a new product, but this won't affect the price of existing products. Is there a student or military discount available? Sorry, no, but we can offer a bulk discount if purchasing a large number of copies for a class of students or study group. If this interests you, please contact us. How much do the packages cost in other currencies? All sales are processed in US dollars, and this will be converted to your local currency by your bank or credit card issuer using their exchange rate at the time of purchase.For a rough estimate of the amount you will be charged in your currency, please visit. Please note that this should only be used as a guide, and your bank's rate will likely differ and include a small currency conversion fee. I live in Japan but don't have a credit card. How can I purchase the book? PayPal is also available, but if you are unable to create a verified PayPal account without a credit card (as is usually the case in Japan), one alternative is V-Preca, a prepaid debit card that can be topped up at Japanese convenience stores. There are a few steps involved in getting set up, but once completed, you will have access to a virtual debit card that can be used like a normal credit card for online purchases.You can now also purchase 80/20 Japanese with Bitcoin. Can I purchase multiple copies at once? Yes, of course! Please click here to visit our product list page, where you can add items to your shopping cart and adjust quantities before proceeding to the checkout. Didn't find the answer you're looking for?Click here to contact us. 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