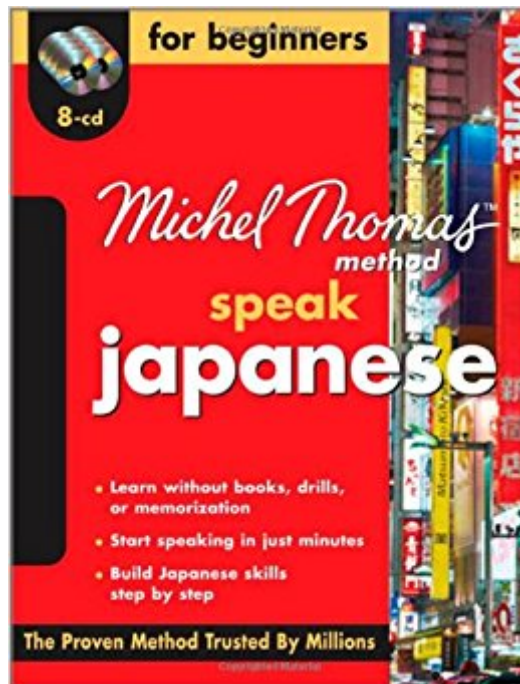




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Michel Thomas Method: Speak Japanese



Synopsis

Experience the language learning method millions around the world have come to trust Unlike most language learning systems, the Michel Thomas Method enables you to naturally and intuitively develop the building blocks for language comprehension. You learn at your own speed--listening, speaking, and thinking through the language. Guided by a language instructor and native speakers, Michel Thomas Method--Speak Japanese for Beginners takes you through an interactive lesson with two other students. By the end of the program, you will have the ability to put together words and phrases together naturally and make your own sentences. You will have basic vocabulary, conversation skills, and the confidence to speak in Japanese.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Helen Gilhooly is the director of the Language Faculty at Aldercar Community Language College, Derbyshire, United Kingdom, and has taught Japanese at Nottingham University. Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and taught languages for more than 50 years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills, and London. Over a period of twenty-five years he developed a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher. He has taught celebrities, diplomats, dignitaries, academics, and business executives.

I can't say enough good things about this program! My wife is Japanese, and I've been working to learn the language in my free time for the past couple of years. I've taken instructor-led courses, read books, used flash cards, and used a variety of audio CDs (including Pimsleur), interactive

DVDs (including Rosetta Stone), and on-line games. After having gone through the first 4 hours of this Michel Thomas Method beginner course, it has become my favorite approach by far. Here's why the Michel Thomas Method is truly awesome:- It very effectively emulates a small classroom environment with a very structured and patient teacher (with a voice that is a delight to listen to!)- You not only hear the other "students" speaking the lessons, but you hear a native speaker repeat the correct answer every single time, which is INVALUABLE when trying to learn proper pronunciation- It teaches grammar in very logical chunks that get re-inforced over and over again until they become natural and automatic- Even though I already knew most of the vocabulary covered, I found the explanations and practice to be incredibly beneficial in finally allowing me to really understand speaking structure until it's almost second nature. Here are things you will NOT learn from this course:- Reading and writing Japanese (obviously)- Lots of vocabulary. But that's okay -- those things can be learned elsewhere. What's most important (to me, at least) is to get a deep understanding of and comfort with the fundamental language structures and how to manipulate sentences to correctly say what I want to say. And that's what this course does better than any other. More vocabulary can (and should) be added later. But to get the right foundation right away for listening to and speaking Japanese, this is the best program around.

I am a huge fan of the Michel Thomas courses. Having studied the previous Spanish and French courses which were taught by Mr. Thomas before his death, I can tell you that it is possible to obtain a certain comfort level with the languages at the completion of the courses. Having said that, the previous courses did have some flaws. For one thing, the format could be frustrating if one had plans to listen to the courses more than one time. Basically, Mr. Thomas guided two pupils (one of which was invariably slow to learn) by having them try to put simple sentences together based on a noun or verb previously introduced. The pupils would try it, and Mr. Thomas would then repeat it before moving on to the next example. The audio quality was just average, and at times Mr. Thomas seemed to lose patience with his pupils. At times, it all could get quite tiresome. The courses also appeared to me to be hastily put together. Still, for the money, the recordings were light years above just about anything else out there. This new Japanese course, in my opinion, is pretty much perfect as a first level introduction to a very challenging language. Ms. Gilhooly not only has picked up where Mr. Thomas left off, but I believe has gone him one better. First off, the format is slightly different. Ms. Gilhooly, in her very soothing, mildly English accent introduces the concept, the students build on it, and finally the correct phrase is repeated by a native Japanese speaker. The inclusion of this last element, which was missing in Mr. Thomas' recordings, makes all the difference

and really sets this recording apart from the previous courses. I never get tired or bored of listening to these recordings. This course will give you a firm foundation in the basic concepts of conversational Japanese, which is a huge advantage should you choose to take your studies to the next level. You won't know a large amount of vocabulary at the end of this course, but you will understand how a Japanese sentence is constructed and you will be thoroughly familiar with a decent number of commonly used nouns, verbs and phrases. Moreover, this course will definitely motivate you to want to continue with your study of this fascinating language. You will not be disappointed with the purchase of this set, and basically, as it costs about the same as a tankful of gas for your vehicle, you won't find a better educational value.

This is a great way to learning the language. I can be doing an activity at home and have this playing in the background as I respond along with the prompts. It's nice for having in your car stereo for long trips or errands. I have also donned headphones and drifted off to sleep listening to this, learning in a semi-conscious way. You have a British instructor, a Japanese native speaker, and a male and female student present in the CD recordings. The instructor goes through the lessons, the student(s) respond, then the native speaker has a turn so you can hear and learn the correct pronunciation and accent presentation. I agree with some of the other reviews that listening to the female student gets painful (thus, my reasoning for the 4 1/2 star rating). I felt that way after listening to the first lesson. I feel like during the sessions, she didn't show up at the recording studio with enough caffeine in her system before jumping right in. However, her presence in the lessons may also put a listener at ease who is having issues keeping up with the material as well. Personally, I think it would have been better or even cuter if it had been a small child as the challenged learner. Vocabulary, sentence structure, sentence order, and polite inclusions are continuous throughout, as is useful conversational phrases for the would-be traveler. With Rosetta Stone being the big fish with an impressive reputation, sometimes it's hard to look at anything else. Any language program will offer different things. This is definitely more affordable for the presently economic minded. The Human Japanese program available here on is an excellent addition to the MTJ set. It teaches you writing, historical and present history of Japan, and includes games which help review and learn among many other things.

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