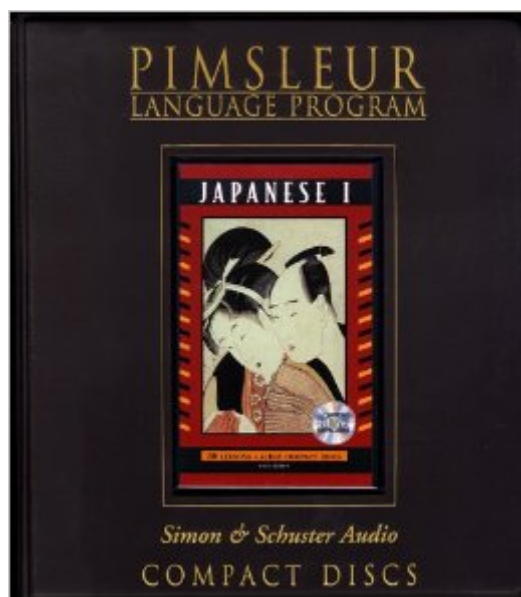


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Customer Reviews

Preface: I'm going to Japan in Jan. 2006. Unlike most young people, who go there as English teachers, I'm going there as a kaishain (office worker). The company is Japanese. My co-workers will be Japanese with little English skills. My study of Japanese is not a hobby - my career partially depends on it. Therefore, my review is meant to build upon the 40+ other reviews. They have done a great job detailing both the strong and weak points of the Pimsleur course. Yes, it's repetitive. It teaches formal, stilted Japanese. Neither of the speakers are native Japanese speakers (imitate the man, whose accent is acceptable. The woman has a horrendous Chinese accent. I basically ignore her). Those who expect Pimsleur to be the perfect self-study course - dream on. I strongly feel it should be the backbone of your studies. But it must, MUST, be used in conjunction with multiple other resources. I've taken the liberty to list them below. I hope it will especially help those who are also studying Japanese as a necessity, not as a hobby. 1. I found "Basic Japanese I," which is a series of videos from the 1980's made by the Japanese Learning Foundation. It's complete with skits and a mini-drama about the adventures of a foreigner in Japan. It magnifies the Pimsleur lessons, as well as teaches you extra material. Not to mention, there are NATIVE speakers who talk at normal speeds and intonations and use "natural" Japanese. These are 30% more detailed and more difficult than Pimsleur ... but without Pimsleur, these would be very frustrating and thus useless. Try to find this oldie-but-goodie (as well as the accompanying text). And be prepared to LAUGH at how very 1980s it is (in a BAD way). I spend 2 days on each lesson (there are 26 total). 2.

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