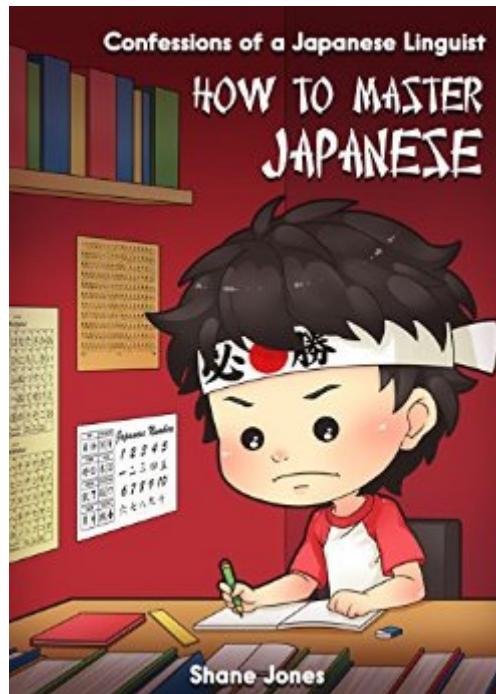


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# Confessions Of A Japanese Linguist - How To Master Japanese: (The Journey To Fluent, Functional, Marketable Japanese)



## Synopsis

Follow the author on his odyssey from a 24-year-old Midwesterner unable to speak a word of Japanese as he recounts his initial struggle to survive even Japanese 101, to cramming four years of college Japanese into one year with top grades, to gaining functional fluency, conquering kanji, and finally gaining sufficient mastery over the language to develop marketable Japanese skills as a Japanese teacher and translator, all within four short years. There is no shortage of excellent resources for learning the Japanese language. If simply having access to excellent study material or a learning environment were the key to language learning success, anyone today with an Internet connection or a good textbook would become a successful learner. However, without the proper insight and understanding of what it really takes to master Japanese, the reality is that most aspiring Japanese learners ultimately fail in their quest to master the language or even gain a basic level of fluency. This is NOT your run-of-the-mill Japanese textbook. You won't learn Japanese grammar, hiragana, katakana, or kanji by reading this book. Instead, *How to Master Japanese* provides a full insider's glimpse of what it really takes to succeed at Japanese, both inside the classroom and beyond, in order to attain a true functional proficiency in the language. As you read, you will learn how to negotiate the many unique nuances of Japanese culture, as well as avoid the many pitfalls and detours in the learning process that can result in years, if not an entire lifetime, of lost time and frustrated effort in attempting to learn the Japanese language and grasp the complicated intricacies of Japanese culture. Topics covered include:-Succeeding in Classroom Japanese-Study Abroad in Japan-Japanese Foreign Exchange-Successful Japanese Self-study-Conquering Kanji-Mastering Spoken Japanese-Negotiating Japanese Social Conventions-Making the Most of Your Stay in Japan-Advanced Japanese Language Study-Sex, Romance and the Japanese Language-Teaching English in Japan-How to Make Your Japanese Marketable-Working in Japan for a Japanese Company-How to Find a Japanese Specialization-Maintaining and Improving Japanese Post-Japan-How to Break into the Japanese Translation Industry-And Much More *How to Master Japanese* is a must-read for any aspiring Japanese learner and is full of first-hand insight into the nuances of the Japanese language and culture for any reader with even a passing interest in the language and culture of Japan.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Having lived in Japan more than 10 years and spent a long time learning the Japanese language, I was interested in reading about the author's journey. He takes you step by step as he tells his experience; the good and the bad. Readers will come away with not just the author's personal story, but will also gain the know-how and confidence it takes to become fluent in the Japanese language.

I'm a language school teacher in Tokyo, and I find my students often too strapped down with "Getting N2" or passing exams and what not. Sometimes, students forget why they started leaning a foreign language in the first place - to laugh and cry in that language & culture. Shane Jones is the perfect example of an American student who made his journey to fluency (with his share of dry memorizing of course), and now laughs and cries and loves and swears in the local tongue of the ever changing Tokyo culture.

Whether you are looking ahead at the joyful prospect of learning Japanese or looking back over years of endless practice and memorization, "Confessions of a Japanese Linguist: How to Master Japanese" is an absolute 'must read'!! This is NOT a Japanese grammar book, but rather an honest and positive revelation of the successes and pitfalls the author encountered while mastering this very different and extremely complicated language. Mr. Jones splendidly sets forth his expert

suggestions for learning Japanese and at the same time, gives concrete examples of the very unique features of the Japanese language which makes it truly worthy of being called 'the devil's tongue'. The most incredible thing for me, personally, was that with every page I found myself saying, "Oh my God! That is so true!" I have been genuinely devoted to studying Japanese for well over 20 years and I felt as if this book were written for me and about me for I have experienced and felt every word of this book! One of the things that I found so fascinatingly true was something Mr. Jones wrote near the close of the book: "You see, when you immerse yourself in the study of the Japanese language and commit to learning the nuances of the language and culture, you can't help but to undergo something of an identity change." And that is so true!! On a rating scale of 1 to 5 stars, I would - without hesitation - give it 11 stars!

This book was really inspiring and kind of made me want to get back into studying Japanese again... It's tough work and the author clearly states this as well as gives a heads up on what to expect if you want to master Japanese or move to Japan. I would recommend this book for any learner of Japanese but especially those that are just beginning on their journey! It will help mentally prepare them for the long road ahead.

I enjoyed reading the authors honest and insightful account of his language acquisition. As a student of Japanese at the Ohio State University currently struggling with the language program I was interested in hearing how he was able to navigate his own experience at OSU. He endured successfully and the program created a firm foundation for his lifelong study of the language. His discussion of the pressure of the program and the purpose it ultimately serves in the memory and learning process reassured me that the struggle is real. I've had some major anxiety issues arise provoked by the process and have seen other classmates struggle as well, but he endured and came out the other side of it stronger. The book goes on as the author discusses his experience with others who have learned Japanese though different approaches giving thoughtful considerations of the pros and cons. The program at OSU is strongly focused on the spoken language, whereas other institutes place more emphasis on literacy. I also enjoyed hearing about his relationship with the Japanese culture and how his language learning did not stop after his formal education. He discusses learning to network with people on a personal and professional level in Japanese as well as what job prospects look like for an aspiring linguist. I recommend this book to anyone thinking about or currently studying Japanese. I would especially recommend it to students of the Noda/Jorden JSL (Japanese the Spoken Language) program at OSU and

elsewhere. Learning Japanese may be a struggle but can greatly expand ones world view.

Ganbatte kudasai!

It is not a book to learn Japanese from. It is a book of one person's journey to gain mastery over Japanese. It was a nice read and reflected a sincere effort on the authors part to inform the readers of all the trials and tribulations he went through, the spurt of growth after intense periods which, at the time, seemed to go on for ever, and the satisfaction when successive peaks were captured. As a beginner of the language it helped me by informing me of the difficulties and proposing areas of focus for continued learning. All in all a nice book and a good read.

I raced through this book in less than a week and I love it. Jones-San and his stories have made me so excited that I have decided to take the chance on trying to learn this amazing language. Thank you. This book would be a fantastic resource for anyone looking for encouragement in their language studies and it is also just a fascinating piece of writing.

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