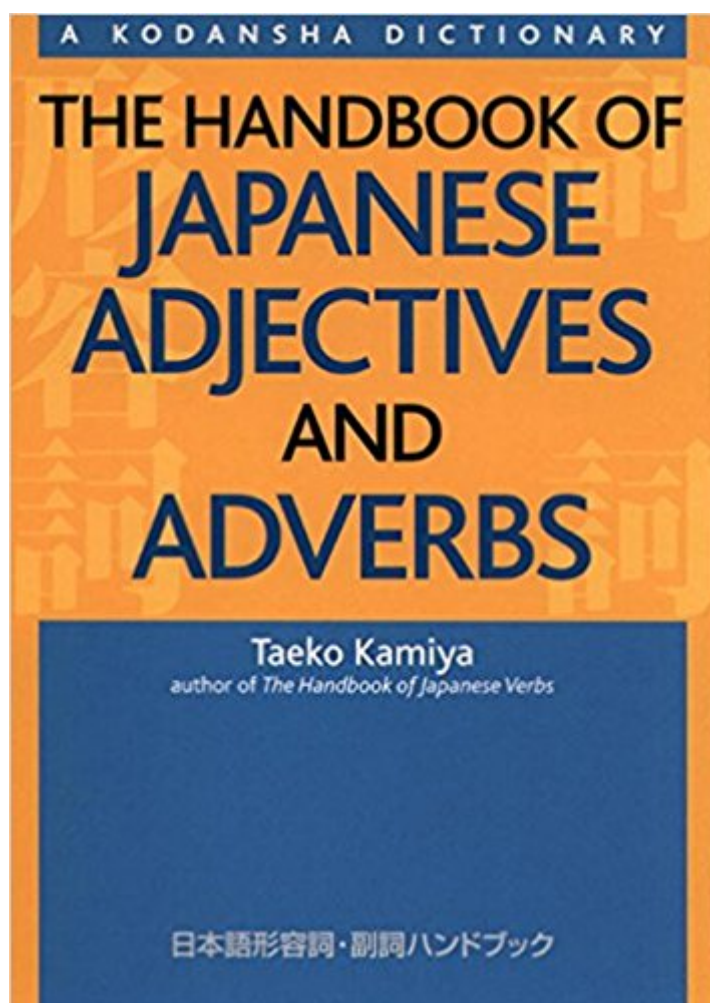


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The Handbook Of Japanese Adjectives And Adverbs



Synopsis

For any beginner of Japanese, adjectives and adverbs are bound to present a challenge. Unlike English adjectives, Japanese ones conjugate, meaning that you must memorize their various forms before being able to build sentences of any complexity. Adverbs do not conjugate, but make use of particles to show their grammatical relationship to other words, and some have very subtle shades of meaning that are difficult to grasp. Moreover, many do not translate into adverbs in English. The role these parts of speech play in adding flavor to the Japanese language is invaluable. This handy reference manual introduces the basic (and basics of) adjectives and adverbs in a clear and sensible way, enabling students not only to speak Japanese but to do it with pizzazz. The book is divided roughly in half, the first half dealing with adjectives, the second with adverbs. Each is prefaced by a short introduction that serves as an overview of the material introduced. The section on adjectives is divided into two parts: Part 1 covers the conjugations of i- and na-adjectives and some basic auxiliary adjectives, and Part 2 presents common sentence patterns in which adjectives appear. The adverb section is arranged by topic. Among the types of adverbs explained here are those used to express time, quantity, degree, circumstance, and natural sounds or actions (the ubiquitous onomatopoeic adverbs). Each entry in this book is given a simple, concise English explanation and two or more example sentences to illustrate its usage. Exercises every few pages enable students to measure their understanding. Finally, a number of quick-reference lists in the appendixes provide a convenient means of recalling and building vocabulary. Together with its sister publication, *The Handbook of Japanese Verbs*, this unique manual is certain to provide years of friendly guidance.

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[The first pages of the opening chapter; without the bold type setting relevant words and with Japanese script represented by X's.]

ADJECTIVES Introduction

This section deals with some of the main features of Japanese adjectives as well as their similarities to and differences from English adjectives. You are advised to read it carefully before moving on to the main text.

Types of Adjectives

Japanese adjectives may be divided into two types: (a) i-adjectives, which end with i, and (b) na-adjectives, which end with na. I-adjectives are Japanese in origin while na-adjectives are mostly Chinese-origin words.

atarashii XXX new isogashii XXX busy omoshiroi XXX interesting
shizukana XXX quiet sukina XXX favorite benrina XXX convenient

Noun Modifiers

When used as noun modifiers, Japanese adjectives, like their English counterparts, precede the nouns they modify. Foreign words used as adjectives in Japanese become na-adjectives.

(a) okii ie XXXXX a big house
kuroi kuruma XXXXX a black car
(b) kireina hana XXXXX a pretty flower
genkina hito XXXXX a healthy person
modanna biru XXXXX a modern building
yuniikuna aidia XXXXX a unique idea

Adjectival Predicates

I-adjectives, when used as predicates, behave like verbs. For example, when okii XXX (big) or kuroi XXX (black) is used as a predicate, it means "is big" or "is black," not just "big" or "black."

Tanaka-san no ie wa okii. XXXXXXXX Mr. Tanaka's house is big.
Watashi no kuruma wa kuroi. XXXXXXXX My car is black.

Na-adjectives, when used as predicates, behave like nouns. That is, the stem form (the form without na) must be followed by the copula (be-verb) da, as must an ordinary noun. For this reason, na-adjectives are sometimes called "nominal (nounlike) adjectives" or "adjectival nouns."

Kono hana wa kirei da. XXXXXXXX This flower is pretty.
Yamada-san wa genki da. XXXXXXXX Miss Yamada is healthy.

Some na-adjectives can be used as nouns when functioning as the subject or object of a sentence.

anzenna asobiba XXXXXXXX a safe playground
Kodomo ni totte anzen ga taisetsu da. XXXXXXXX Safety is important for children.
zeitakuna kurashi XXXXXXXX luxurious living
Sonna zeitaku wa dekinai. XXXXXXXX I can't afford such a luxury.

Exceptions: The i-adjectives okii XXX (big), chiisai XXX (small) and okashii XXX (funny) may be used as na-adjectives when modifying certain nouns such as those given in the examples below.

okina koen XXX a big park
chiisana ike XXX a small pond
okashina hanashi XXX a funny story

Auxiliary Adjectives

Auxiliary adjectives are adjectives that are attached to other adjectives or verbs. Some are i-adjectives (Examples 1, 2, 3, 4), while others are na-adjectives (Examples 5, 6).

1. Ano resutoran wa takai rashii. XXXXXXXX That restaurant seems to be

expensive. 2. Kono mondai wa judai kamoshirenai. XXXXXXXX This problem might be serious. 3. Fuji-san ni noboritai. XXXXXXXX I want to climb Mt. Fuji. 4. Kono kigu wa tsukaiyasui. XXXXXXXX This utensil is easy to use. 5. Kono pai wa oishiso da. XXXXXXXX This pie looks delicious. 6. Sumisu-san wa sumo ga sukina yo da. XXXXXXXX Mr. Smith appears to like sumo. In addition to auxiliary adjectives, there are also auxiliary verbs. These, too, can attach to adjectives. (a) Kono heya wa semasugiru. XXXXXXXX This room is too small. (b) Kare wa majime sugiru. XXXXXXXX He is too serious. Tenses of Adjectives Japanese adjectives conjugate and have two tenses: present and past. The same adjectival form is used to express both present and future tenses. (a) Shiken wa yasashii. XXXXXXXX The exam is/will be easy. Shiken wa yasashikatta. XXXXXXXX The exam was easy. (b) Tetsuzuki wa kantan da. XXXXXXXX The procedure is/will be simple. Tetsuzuki wa kantan datta. XXXXXXXX The procedure was simple. Levels of Speech Japanese adjectives have plain, polite and superpolite forms or levels of speech. The plain form is used among family and friends, as well as in publications. The polite form is used among adults who are not close friends. The super-polite form is seldom used by younger speakers except in such greetings as o-hayo gozaimasu XXXXXXXX (Good morning) or o-medeto gozaimasu XXXXXXXX (Congratulations). "It is interesting." (a) Plain form for i-adjectives Omoshiroi. XXX Polite form for i-adjectives Omoshiroi desu. XXX Superpolite form for i-adjectives Omoshiro gozaimasu. XXX (b) Plain form for na-adjectives Kantan da. XXX Polite form for na-adjectives Kantan desu. XXX Superpolite form for na-adjectives Kantan de gozaimasu. XXX --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Preface[minus the original macrons and with Japanese represented by X's] The Japanese language is said to be rich in modifiers -- adjectives and adverbs. If you pick up a book or magazine and read a page or two, you will see how adjectives go with nouns, and adverbs with verbs, to convey accurate, vivid descriptions. In fact, these modifiers add indispensable nuance and flavor to the language. The purpose of this book is to help students obtain a basic knowledge of Japanese adjectives and adverbs so that they may use them effectively in sentences. Adjectives are presented in two parts. Part I deals with the conjugations of the two types of adjectives -- i-adjectives and na-adjectives -- and of some of the basic auxiliary adjectives. A conjugation practice follows the description of each adjective or group of adjectives. Part II deals with the usage of various adjectival forms. Each usage is illustrated with example sentences, and practices are provided every few lessons to allow you to test your understanding. Adverbs are presented by grouping them according to what they express -- time, quantity, degree, circumstance and so forth. Each adverb is illustrated with examples sentences, and practices are provided every few lessons.

It is my wish that this book will prove useful, that you will come to better understand the meanings of Japanese adjectives and adverbs and be able to express yourself in "true Japanese." I thank my editors, Shigeyoshi Suzuki and Michael Staley at Kodansha International, for making the publication of this book possible. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Before describing the book, a word or two has to be mentioned regarding the publisher, Kodansha International. I don't know if it's because of the policy within Kodansha, or the Japanese culture in general, but you can feel the tidiness, accuracy, and meticulous nature of each author, and the effort expended in order to convey information to the reader the best possible way. When first starting to learn Japanese on my own, I had tried grammar texts and dictionaries from two other publishers. I found out after a couple of months, that they only cause the reader great confusion, lack a lot of important concepts, the print is often illegible, and the sentences are in Romaji and not in the native alphabet (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji), which is so necessary in order to learn the language properly. Other Kodansha publications which I found useful for learning Japanese are

- Kodansha's Essential Kanji Dictionary (Japanese for Busy People)
- The Kodansha Kanji Learners Dictionary (Japanese for Busy People)
- Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary: Japanese-English English-Japanese
- All About Particles: A Handbook of Japanese Function Words (Power Japanese Series) (Kodansha's Children's Classics)
- Japanese Verbs at a Glance (Power Japanese Series) (Kodansha's Children's Classics)

Part 1 is the backbone of the Japanese adjectives, which is presented in table format, for the *i* adjectives and *na* adjectives. Part 2 discusses different modifiers which conjugate with adjectives. For example, "daro" (probably) added to "tsumetai" (cold), means "it is probably cold". Each case is presented in a block in English and Japanese, and its meaning is given to the right. Then it follows with an example of the conjugate for each type of adjective, explanation of that conjugate, and three sentences each in Romaji, Japanese, and English, where that conjugate is used. The conjugate is highlighted in bold, in the Romaji and Japanese sentence, which makes it easier to pinpoint. Part 3 introduces a long list of adverbs and the way they modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, and nouns. Each section ends with 8 or 9 exercises for which answers are given at the back. The index has to be praised in particular, because each subject includes its own index. Each of *i* adjectives and *na* adjectives are organized in two different lists in Romaji (together with Japanese to the right), and another list is given in English for both types, with Japanese to the right). The adverbs are divided into sections in Romaji, for example, those expressing time, those expressing quantity, etc. Again a comprehensive list of adverbs is given in English. In short, I recommend it for every English speaking Japanese

student learning on his or her own, or even as supplementary material at college. For every case, two or three sentences are given, which demonstrate the various ways which the adjective or adverb is employed in sentence in Japanese. A Romaji sentence, which is a transliteration in English of the Japanese one, is followed by one in Kana, that is original Japanese version, and then a complete English translation. Each case starts with a heading, of the item, in bold characters, enclosed in a box, easily found, especially when one looks for a particular adjective in the text. The index is very helpful, too. It comes in a few different flavors, covering every possible category that one might ascribe an adjective or an adverb, to. So, it is easy to spot quickly the item you are looking for, including the Table of Contents, itself. The depository is well beyond the ordinary ones that one might come across, in daily use of the language. Many are never encountered, depending on the field of specialization. But they are there, if you might one day need it.

I have been studying Japanese for a long time 5+ years, but one of my greatest weaknesses is adverbs. So I bought this book due to the section that focuses on them. I would have liked for the section to be a little bigger, but I really love how the words are sorted with similar adverbs. For the time section, I especially liked how they were arranged from shortest to longest in duration. Very helpful. I also learned about a new conjugation for adjectives, and that section was a good review.

Contains all those useful words that you hear Japanese people speak all the time but they never bother teaching you in Japanese class because they are too focused on getting you to nail the grammar. I should have started with this book.

Love this book. I have both this one and The Handbook of Japanese Verbs. I wish there were just a list of adverbs and adjectives but sadly, there is not. However, this book does explain when to use what form and quite well. I suggest buying it for the serious Japanese learners out there.

I love this book, and the one on verbs by the same author. A fabulous reference, usefully exhaustive and organized in a way I have found very helpful. Japanese is never easy, but the Kamiya books have brought order into a very fuzzy universe. I constantly refer to the verb lists in the back of the verb book, and expect this book to be equally useful once I work my way through the exercises.

Fantastic Japanese language book and a great resource for adjective building. It's something that I would recommend to anyone wanting to be a better Japanese speaker.

Another great aid for learning Japanese. Very challenging to learn Japanese. This is another great aid to understanding how to put sentences together.

I received the product that I purchased in a timely manner. The product that I received was the same as described by the seller. Thanks!

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