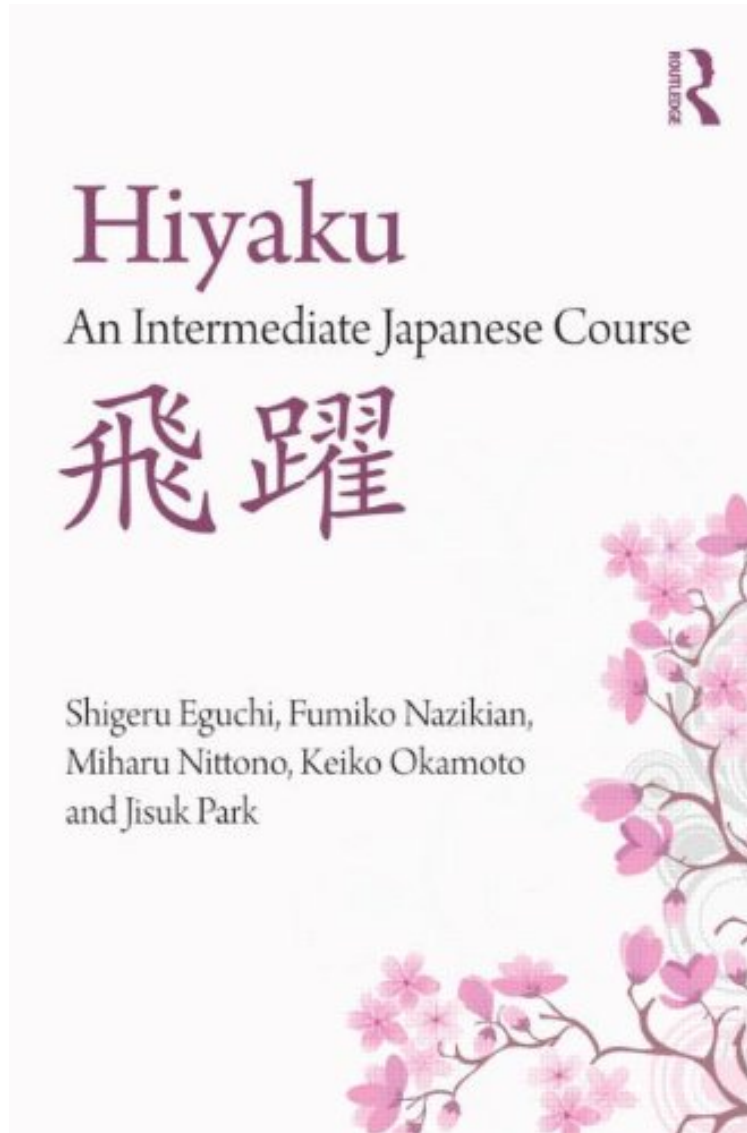


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Hiyaku: An Intermediate Japanese Course

Shigeru Eguchi, Fumiko Nazikian, Miharu Nittono, Keiko Okamoto, Jisuk Park
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Shigeru Eguchi, Fumiko Nazikian, Miharu Nittono, Keiko Okamoto, Jisuk Park : Hiyaku: An Intermediate Japanese Course before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiyaku: An Intermediate Japanese Course:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Try to convince your professor to use something else...By SamuI like the idea behind this book and their approach to teaching Japanese in a more practical manner but even with my professor guiding us through it, the setup of the book was not user friendly. I found that the Kanji areas were

ESPECIALLY challenging. 8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Horrible textbook
By JC
For the past three semesters, I've been really happy using the Genki textbooks, so switching from those textbooks to Hiyaku was a terrible transition. To start, the grammar points have absolutely no English explanation on how they should be used; the book literally introduces a grammar pattern and then lists a bunch of example sentences - with no English translation, by the way - so if you're not sure how to read a kanji character, you're just tough out of luck. And if you're not sure what kind of exceptions the grammar patterns has, or if you're not supposed to use it in certain situations, too bad. On top of that, with kanji writing section, they will provide you with two examples of terms/vocabulary that include that kanji... but only give you a definition for ONE of the examples. That second term? Yeah, forget about it - they're not going to tell you what it means. If you are a college student and your professor wants you switch to this book, point all of these things out and hope that they will listen to reason. This book is awful.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book, but requires extensive effort
By AJ
I started using Hiyaku a few weeks ago, as a second-year Japanese student at Columbia. I am publishing my initial reflections on the text at this point, and I will update as need be throughout the semester. For the first year and the fall semester of second year Japanese, students use the Minna no Nihongo textbooks. We then switch to the Hiyaku textbook, and students are often taught by the authors of the textbook. This may make a significant difference, as students are guided through the course by people who know the text backwards and forwards. Chapters have a simple format:
1. Introductory question
2. Essay (reading) + reading comprehension questions
3. Vocabulary (three columns: kanji; reading + stress pattern; meaning)
4. Kanji intro
5. Grammar, including fill-in-the-blank examples for practice
6. Speaking questions
7. Listening + questions
8. Short essay (reading)
9. Essay (writing)
The textbook definitely rewards independent study, and punishes those who aren't willing to use other resources to learn. It assumes knowledge of the kanji in Minna no Nihongo books 1 and 2; because I am behind on Kanji, I find this particularly motivating, as I have to take time to look the ones I don't know up, which has helped me learn faster. If you are struggling with kanji, I highly recommend using either jisho.org (where you can draw in kanji or search by radical online), or the app imiwa?, where you can search by radical, to help you along. It takes longer, but the rationale behind constructing the book this way is sound. The same can be said for grammar: the textbook does not spoon-feed by any means. When I am not sure of a concept, I look it up online or ask the teacher in class, and that has gone okay so far. That is not to say that the textbook doesn't help with Kanji at all. In the first essay of the unit, the essay is reproduced twice: on the left-hand side of the book is the essay on its own, while on the right, the furagana readings for some kanji are included and new grammatical patterns are underlined. I love this format, because I can test myself on the left-hand side, but get quick help from the right. However, as the unit progresses, the furagana readings over kanji are slowly reduced, making you practice your new skills. Instructions on how to draw, read, and use each unit's kanji are in the back of the book. The textbook has some clear pros. The first, over Minna no Nihongo, is that everything is in one book instead of across seven gajillion. In addition, the focus on Japanese culture throughout the book has made for some really interesting and enjoyable reading (although dancing in class is not one of my favourite activities). I like the challenge associated with the kanji in the book, as it mimics the real world. Finally, I love that the stress patterns of words are included in the book. With that being said, there are some cons as well. First, I don't like how the vocabulary section is organized; this may be habit, as I got used to Minna no Nihongo (with all verbs first and words grouped by subject), as it makes it more difficult for me to look up what I want in the book. In addition, the shading of alternate rows actually makes it harder for me to read them. Finally, it feels like the chapters are too long: we learn so many grammar points, and I find it confusing; in Minna no Nihongo, most chapters were short and tied together with one grammar lesson. Given the depth of culture covered in Hiyaku, I understand that this may not be possible, but the grammar does feel a bit disorganized at this point.

Hiyaku: An Intermediate Japanese Course provides a progressive intermediate course in Japanese, incorporating modern teaching methods and practicing all four language skills. Hiyaku provides content-based instruction, with authentic and semi-authentic dialogues and readings, all carefully selected to instruct and inspire students as they learn Japanese. Key features of the textbook include: highly structured chapters, beginning with warm-up exercises followed by focused practice of each of the four skills gradual introduction to increasingly authentic materials content taken from original Japanese sources such as books, TV programs, magazines, newspapers and websites extensive audio material provided as FREE MP3 files on a companion website instructors materials, including PowerPoint files provided through the companion website. Hiyaku does not simply teach language and basic cultural points: it also helps students gain a holistic understanding of Japanese society and history, and provides the necessary foundation for the advanced study of Japan and its language.

About the Author
Shigeru Eguchi is a lecturer in Japanese and the Administrative Director of the Summer MA Program in Japanese Pedagogy at Columbia University. Fumiko Nazikian is the Director of the Japanese Language Program at Columbia University. Miharu Nittono is a senior lecturer of Japanese at Columbia University. Keiko Okamoto is a lecturer in Japanese at Columbia University. Jisuk Park is a lecturer in Japanese at Columbia University.