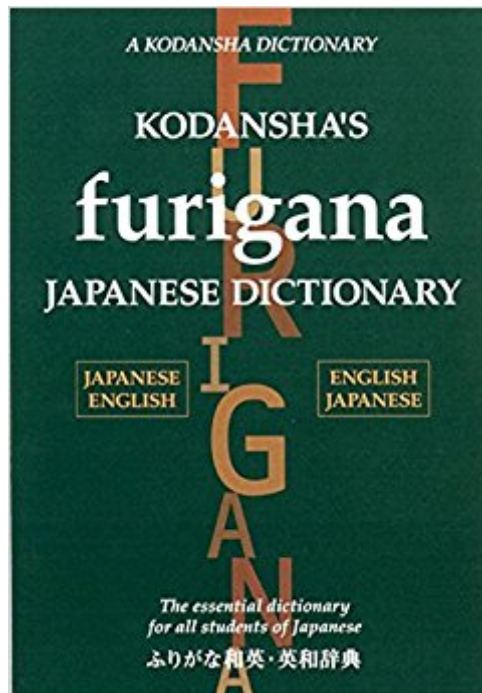




The book was found

Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary (Kodansha Dictionaries)



Synopsis

A comprehensive, communicative, and practical guide to using Japanese, Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary is an invaluable tool for anyone with an interest in the Japanese language. It has been edited with the needs of English-speaking users in mind, whether students, teachers, business people, or casual linguists, and special care has been taken at each stage of its compilation including the selection of entry words and their equivalents, the wording of the detailed explanations of Japanese words, the choice of example sentences, and even its functional page design to maximize its usefulness.

What is furigana and why is it so important? Furigana refers to the small kana that are printed above or alongside kanji to show their pronunciation. With furigana superscripts, the beginner who is familiar with hiragana and katakana is able to read even the most difficult and obscure kanji at a glance. Other dictionaries either provide little or no guide to kanji readings or romanize some or all of the Japanese words and sentences. In the past, romanized dictionaries were of some value to students using textbooks that contained no Japanese script. Now, however, an increasing number of influential curricula around the world are based on a rationale and methodology that demands the introduction of hiragana and katakana from the earliest stages. Learners and their teachers using such curricula will inevitably feel more comfortable with a dictionary such as Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary, one that shows the pronunciation of kanji with a familiar and authentic kana script.

Combining Kodansha's Furigana Japanese-English Dictionary (1995) and Kodansha's Furigana English-Japanese Dictionary (1996) in one portable, affordable, and user-friendly volume, this dictionary has the following unique features:

- A basic vocabulary of 30,000 entries covers the most frequently used English and Japanese words
- Special treatment has been given to hundreds of words, names, and phrases of special relevance to English-speaking students of Japanese
- Semantic and usage differences between Japanese words and expressions are explained in clear English
- Thousands of example sentences and phrases illustrate how Japanese words are used in context
- Special information is provided on verb conjugations, formality, and other aspects of Japanese grammar and usage

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Customer Reviews

Kodansha International is a Kodansha International author. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Are you a purist? Want to quit looking at roman letters and focus on remembering hiragana and katakana? This is the dictionary for you! It goes from English to Japanese and Japanese to English, but without a hint of romaji anywhere. You DON'T need to know kanji to use it (although kanji are given in the entries), but you do need to know hiragana and katakana, and be aware that the J>E section is "alphabetized" the way the Japanese organize their own dictionaries, so it doesn't go a-b-c-d-etc but rather a-i-u-e-o ka-ki-ku-ke-ko etc. so you'll have to get used to that. The E>J section is alphabetized English-style a-b-c-d-etc. There's also a really nifty center section that includes some of the most common conjugations of Japanese verbals in Japanese-style, so it teaches you about ichi-dan, go-dan, and irregular verbals the way the Japanese understand them (not whatever method your current textbook has chosen). There's also a list of common counters, and other useful lists and charts. Example sentences are also given in the dictionary entries, which I have found very useful for seeing how words are used. Overall, I think this is one of the BEST dictionaries on the market, and I recommend it to anyone who wants the romaji out of their brain so they can focus on truly internalizing the language.

Love this little bugger. But I didn't realize when I bought it that once I start learning Kanji, I would never really be able to use this to look up a Kanji I didn't know. It's my fault, not the dictionary's, but if you need to look up a Kanji you are reading (without an electronic device) you have to know/figure out that Kanji's "radical". Then you use a Kanji Dictionary and search through it by "radical" for the

Kanji you want. This dictionary is great for people who know kana and want to look up Japanese words they have heard, or any English-to-Japanese words they want to learn. Overall great dictionary, just make sure it does what you're looking for!

Let me start this review by saying that I'm a beginner in the studies of the Japanese language. With that in mind I have to say that this dictionary is just perfect for me. Pros:- The materials used to make this are top quality: the paper, the cover ... well, everything.- It's very organized and the instructions in the beginning are very informative.- Every word has at least one sentence. I can't emphasize this enough, especially when translating from English to Japanese. It's really crucial to place the word in a context so there are no confusions.- All kanjis come with furigana, this is just great to beginners that are also trying to learn kanji.- It is a very complete dictionary FOR IT'S SIZE Cons:- Well ... I must say that I have only one con to this book. Due to its size it may not be sufficient to more advanced students. As I said I'm a beginner so it's just perfect to me. Even if you are an advanced student you may want to buy this one just for its size. I would recommend this book to everyone, even if you are an advanced student. This dictionary is way more practical than some HUGE BOOK. You may want to carry this around and look for your bigger one only when this one fails to help you. EDIT: Just read a review saying that writing sentences is a waste of space. It's far from that. When you are translating a text from Japanese to English you already have a context so a sentence in this case is less important. When you don't know how to spell/say a word in Japanese you NEED a context. The same word in English can have SEVERAL distinct meanings in Japanese. If the book doesn't lay a context to you it may lead you to errors.

This Dictionary being hardcover, had no problems with bending like previous paperback books I bought knew, but hey deliveries have a rough journey, but yea this dictionary is great!! Just be patient and take your time learning the words if you know the grammar in Japanese like *watashi wa, ga, de, no* and so on.. This will be an adventure for those wanting to dedicate themselves in learning the Japanese language.

This dictionary was such a helpful companion that I hate to say anything bad about it. However, I must agree with other reviewers: it includes too much grammar, and should have more words. Firstly, I adore the fact that it uses furigana. The size of the furigana has never bothered me, but those with poor eyesight beware: those are some pretty small characters! Secondly, I enjoyed all of the little additions. Included with each verb and article is a sentence in which it is used. There's

some helpful grammar in the appendices, too. However, I wish there were more words. I would hate to give up those helpful sentences, but there simply isn't a large enough selection here. Words one thinks should be simple and common are completely omitted, much less complex ones. In the end, I have to say... I do not regret this purchase. I enjoy it, and I continue to use it in tandem with other dictionaries. The furigana is most helpful. So, for a college student, I think it's a pretty useful buy, although I suggest getting it used.

Very helpful for someone learning Japanese who doesn't have all Kanji characters memorized. I have another Japanese dictionary that's in Romaji but since I already know Hirigana, the Furigana dictionary is much more useful to me. Very good dictionary!

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