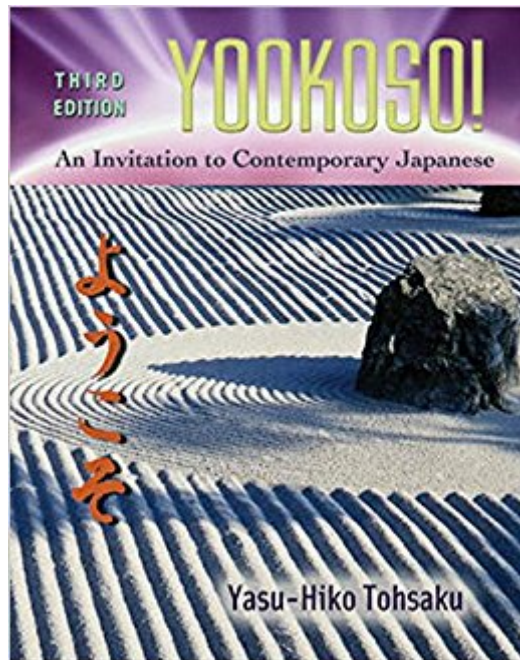


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Yookoso! Invitation To Contemporary Japanese Student Edition With Online Learning Center Bind-In Card



Synopsis

Yookoso! An Invitation to Contemporary Japanese is the first volume of a two-volume series for beginning Japanese courses. Based on modern principles of second-language acquisition, it was the first beginning Japanese text to integrate the teaching of all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and offer a full complement of ancillary materials. In this text, grammar is treated as a tool for developing the ability to communicate in Japanese, rather than as a focal point. The rich illustration program--including photographs, line drawings, and realia--provides an attractive context for language learning.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (22 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I don't know why does not have all the Yookoso 3rd edition book reviews linked. The online student center for this book is free now. You do not need the card from the book. Feel free to buy used you wont miss out on anything. I first reviewed this book and gave it one star. After using this book in my Japanese class at my local community college for the past three months I decided to delete my review and rewrite a new one. The Yookoso textbook has a couple flaws but a lot of upsides as well. The version of romaji used in this textbook is not standard. However, it is only used through chapter one. I personally think the Revised Hepburn of romaji is the best, I am guessing the author did not want to confuse students with how long vowels work so he chose to use "oo" instead of "ou" and "ee" instead of "ei". There are also english spelling mistakes throughout the book. So far I haven't encountered any japanese mistakes. However, I honestly have to say this is the best

Japanese textbook I have used. There are a few points you need to keep in mind when using this textbook.

1. Do not try to learn every thing in the getting started section. I can not stress this enough. The getting started section is there to give you something to do while learning the Japanese kana system. During the getting started section learn the kana system, numbers, and how to conjugate verbs. Try to learn as much vocabulary as you can but if you can't remember everything don't worry about it (70% is good). Most of it shows up again in the later chapters.
2. Yookoso likes to throw in a lot of extra kanji examples. Do not try to learn every kanji this book uses in each chapter. Learn all the kanji that the book has in the "Learn these kanji" sections. If you can learn some more that's fantastic. However, they are only there to give you more exposure to the kanji.
3. This textbook is not something you can blow through in a short amount of time. It is very hard. My community college uses this textbook for JPN 101 and JPN 102. Each class is 5 credit hours and we only cover Getting started and chapters 1 - 3 in JPN 101.
4. Do the activities in the textbook. We do about 70% of them in class and they really help. Find someone who is interested in Japanese if you can and do them together.
5. Buy the accompanying workbook. If you're using this book as a self study tool than a good rule to follow would be to do about 70% of the getting started section and 90% of each chapter section.
6. Get a spaced repetition flashcard program for review. I really hope this helps. If you're a dedicated student this textbook will be a fantastic tool for you.

I took Japanese 1 using the Genki series, which I found to be much more comprehensive and easy to study from, with quick references to the lesson content in each chapter introduction, and the kanji learned in the corresponding sections in the back pages. I'm now in Japanese 2, and we're using Yookoso. Yookoso isn't nearly as nicely laid out, and does not work well for studying from. The workbook is actually necessary in order to get a good study session out of the series.

Over the past three months, I've taken two summer classes using this textbook. To learn two semesters-worth of a language in such a short time-frame, it is essential to have a good textbook. Unfortunately, I feel cheated. To begin on a very superficial level, the book is just plain ugly. There are two colors of ink used throughout the entire book: dark olive green and black. Because of the lack of colors, excessive stereotyping seems to have been used to strive for a more politically correct set of example students. For example, the token African-American learner--or as the book calls him, Henry Curtis--is always drawn with lips at least as large as 1/4 of his face. No other example student is drawn this way. During my summer classes, I would often find myself lost on the exercises. I would repeatedly read the grammar notes (which are nothing more than outlines with

little detail), before accepting defeat and asking for help from our teacher. Imagine my surprise to find out that I was one of the better students in the class! Few students understood the book by itself, and it seemed as though nothing was learned unless the teacher explained it separately from the book. In my experience, books should supplement a teacher in the opposite way: provide a student reference in the cases that the teacher is not available. Having had students in the class with previous editions of the book was also quite interesting. I can almost list the changes in their entirety: both kanji and hiragana on vocabulary lists (as opposed to one or the other in previous editions), and roughly 1 to 2 new exercises for each chapter. All the existing exercises were worded the same, and included the same "misprints." It is a bit of a misnomer when I say "vocabulary lists." There is no consistent way of finding vocabulary throughout the chapters. The end-of-chapter lists often leave out words introduced in mid-chapter lists. All-in-all, I'm very dissatisfied with this text. I learned a lot from these past two classes, but I feel as though I may have learned just as much if we used no textbook at all.

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