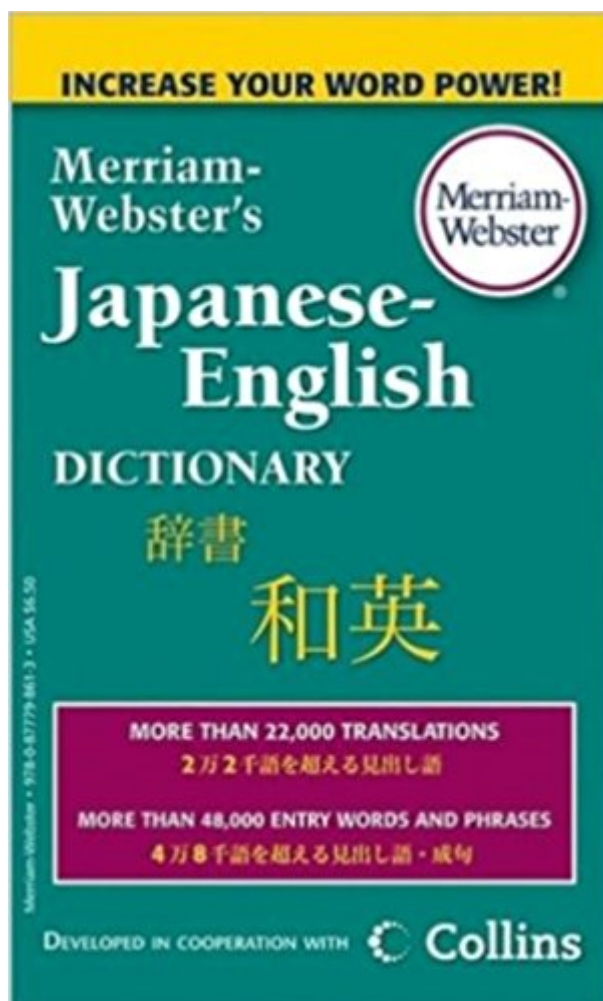


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# Merriam-Webster's Japanese-English Dictionary



## Synopsis

This is a compact reference to the Japanese language for students and business professionals, covering the words most widely used in written and spoken Japanese. It includes Romanised Japanese and standard kana and kanji characters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Merriam Webster Inc, Springfield, MA

This is an Ok dictionary, but in my opinion, the "Pocket Kenkyusha Japanese Dictionary" - Oxford - is better as it contains more grammatical information, easier to see kanji and kana. This dictionary though is not a bad one at all in fact it is better than most at this price, but I still find the one by Oxford has more grammatical information, particularly verb conjugation information, than this one. No one can own too many dictionaries as some are missing words that may be in another! It is a great price by the way.

got this for my daughter, she loves it

I am surprised to see fellow reviewers recommend this dictionary for beginners. My experience with this dictionary was awful. This was the first Japanese/English dictionary I tried, for use in conjunction with a beginning Japanese language immersion class. I primarily used the

Japanese-to-English section, and I found this dictionary section to be extremely frustrating, and often times entirely useless. First of all, one must already have a basic grasp of the Japanese language to use the Japanese-to-English section. For example, Japanese language beginners most frequently encounter new verbs in the neutral polite ("masu") or "te" forms, especially in immersion classes. This dictionary does not report entries for those forms; you must already be familiar with the "dictionary form" for the particular verb. Hence for a beginner encountering a new verb in some context, this dictionary proved useless. Secondly, the Japanese entries are Romanized, and presented in Romanized alphabetical order. While at the very beginning this may seem useful, in a matter of weeks it is recommended to be using kana, in which case the romanization serves as a hindrance. It prolongs reliance on Romanized alphabet, inhibits the beginner from using kana. Lastly, on several other occasions my instructors saw me floundering in class to locate definitions of vocabulary words. They attempted to assist me, but were surprised to see that several common words were absent. Likewise, with the sparse usage notes in the English-Japanese section, I frequently selected the incorrect Japanese word. After a few weeks of this, my instructors suggested I try a different dictionary. Merriam Webster has sat on the shelf ever since. For true Japanese language beginners I can't recommend the Oxford BEGINNERS Japanese dictionary highly enough.

I just bought this dictionary and I'm unimpressed. While I like the format -- words are in Japanese script but romanized in brackets -- the content of the dictionary is spotty at best. For example, the only listings for "father" and "mother" are the informal words you would use with your own family members, which would not be helpful for a foreigner trying to communicate with native Japanese. The grammatical, contextual, and connotational subtleties of both languages are poorly explained; I'm taking a college class in Japanese and I find the textbook index far more useful than this dictionary. If you are a traveler looking to memorize a few words and phrases, this book will work for you -- but in that case, a phrasebook will do just as well.

amazing

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