BASIC JAPANESE VOCABULARY

An explanation of usage

1. The selected words are extremely useful, practical, and wide-ranging for students as well as teachers of the Japanese language.

2. The categories discussed are homophones, synonyms, Sino-Japanese words versus native Japanese words, foreign loan words, culture, colloquialisms, grammar, and idioms.

3. Clear and concise explanations with ample examples to illustrate the subtle but often confusing differences.

4. A comprehensive index and questions with answers are included for easy reference and review.

Toshiko Yamaguchi
This vocabulary book is written as a supplementary guide for students who are at the initial stage of learning Japanese and wish to reinforce their learning with an effective mastery of basic words. While learning, students encounter similar words that they use interchangeably without realising the subtle differences in meaning encoded in them. This problem is not easily solved by looking in dictionaries, reading grammar books or even by reviewing a vocabulary list supplemented by textbooks.

This book divides similar words into eight linguistically distinct yet interrelated areas that give rise to the similarity. In each chapter, a pair of words is presented under a single entry, followed by concise explanations and clear examples. This book highlights what is most important for essential vocabulary learning. Reading this book will help students grasp the overall structure of Japanese vocabulary. There are 181 entries covering more than 450 words in the main text.

The book can be used by intermediate students who wish to refresh their knowledge of Japanese as well as by teachers of Japanese, particularly those whose mother tongue is not Japanese.

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