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Gene Nishi

JAPANESE

STEP BY STEP

THIRD EDITION

GENE NISHI

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About the author

After graduating from the Engineering Department of Waseda University, the author worked as a technical advisor and as an instructor in Telecommunications Systems at the U.S. Military Headquarters in Zama, Japan, until he joined IBM. Starting as an instructor in the Education Department, he later became the manager of Computer-Communications, later working in IBM's Zurich Laboratory and at the Head Office in New York. He has also worked as a part-time lecturer in Communications Theory at Keiō University.

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We know that there are only 26 letters in the English alphabet. But how many different syllabic combinations are there? According to the late Prof. Minoru Utagaki of Tenkayama Gakuen Junior College, as quoted by Prof. Shirohiko Kikuchi in his book *Nihongo (Japanese) Shusho* (1987), there are over 1000 different syllables in English.

What about Japanese? How many syllables are there in Japanese?

What about Japanese? You will be surprised to know that there are 46 syllables, and there are only 101 syllables in Japanese. It appears to be an easy language to learn, doesn't it? But wait. Only 101 syllables to compose hundreds of thousands of Japanese words! The consequence is as clear as day: there must be a huge number of homonyms and homonyms in Japanese. A *homonym* is one of two or more words that sound the same but differ in meaning. A *homophone* is one of two or more words that are spelled the same way but differ in meaning.

What about English? How many syllables are there in English?

Of course there are a few homonyms in English. What are words "hole" and "hole" (the North Pole), meaning, and nothing. Some examples of homonyms are "hour and power" (minus power), and "to let the letter to pass" (to let). As for the word "content," we place the accent on the first syllable when we say "the content of the statement," and on the last syllable when we say "I am content with it."

Learn Japanese step-by-step and soon you'll be making leaps and bounds

Easy Japanese Step-by-Step is the quickest route to reading and speaking formal Japanese, the language spoken by educated Japanese adults both socially and professionally. Its clear, building-block approach is based on just five sentence patterns. Using this successful method, you'll progress from creating the simplest sentences to more complex constructions in your writing and conversation; soon, you'll speak and write Japanese with confidence.

Inside, you'll find:

- ★ Flow charts to simplify verb conjugations and derivations
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GENE NISHI, a former IBM engineer, is the founder of the Nishi Institute for extensive research and practice in Japanese and English education.



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