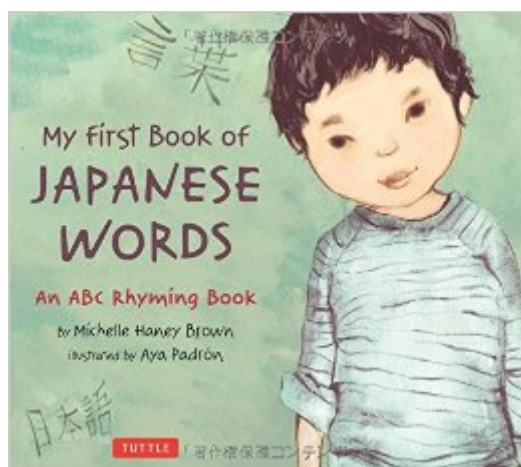


The book was found

# My First Book Of Japanese Words: An ABC Rhyming Book



## Synopsis

My First Book of Japanese Words is a beautifully illustrated book that introduces young children to Japanese language and culture through everyday words. The words profiled in this book are all commonly used in the Japanese language and are both informative and fun for English-speaking children to learn. The goals of My First Book of Japanese Words are multiple: to familiarize children with the sounds and structure of Japanese speech; to introduce core elements of Japanese culture; to illustrate the ways in which languages differ in their treatment of everyday sounds; and to show how, through cultural importation, a single word can be shared between languages. Both teachers and parents will welcome the book's cultural and linguistic notes, and appreciate how the book is organized in a familiar ABC structure. Each word is presented in Kanji (when applicable), Kana, and Romanized form (Romaji). With the help of this book, we hope more children (and adults) will soon be a part of the 125 million people worldwide that speak Japanese!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Hardcover with Jacket edition (December 31, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (56 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,654 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Japanese](#) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #15315 in [Books > Reference](#)

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This is a truly delightful book. The author has done a wonderful job of creating a rhyming book that highlights the Japanese language and culture in a fun and interesting way. The author brings a great deal of sensitivity and knowledge to this book that comes through not only in the words that were chosen for the book but also in the added notes throughout the story. The illustrations add so much to the text and bring to life the words and ideas that are being introduced. But in addition to

the depth of knowledge there is also a sense of fun about the book that will engage everyone who reads it. I think it's a wonderful addition to any children's library. I also loved the addition of both hiragana, katakana and kanji into the story. It adds another important visual element to engage the reader. The author and illustrator were well matched to deliver an excellent book to introduce readers to Japanese. Well Done!

Excellent book with breathtaking art! Our bilingual English/Japanese two year old loves it. It has a few minor mistakes--there's no long E sound in densha (train), and the LETTER "q" is not in Japanese but the SOUND it makes is. But those are easily ignored. Otherwise it's accurate, gorgeous, and entertaining.

I shared this book with all of the children at my Montessori School and they really enjoyed it. They liked learning the Japanese words and after a few more reads, I think they will assimilate some of these words into their everyday vocabulary. I would recommend this book. It has a special feel and it is obvious that a lot of love went into writing it and illustrating it.

â œW is for Waa! which is how we say â ^Wow!â ™ (Maybe youâ ™ll say it now that you know how.)â •I've always had an interest in learning about people and cultures, so I've collected an assortment of â œMy First Wordâ • books in a variety of languages. This Japanese word book is one of the best I've seen. At first glance, the choice of going through the English alphabet to present words in Japanese seems odd, but really itâ ™s brilliant. It gives young children a familiar setting while introducing them to something completely new and different. The few letter sounds with no Japanese equivalent use an English word beginning with that letter and the Japanese translation of that word. Itâ ™s a simple solution to the problem and works well. Each word is presented in all three written forms, so while we may read the Romanized form, children can see the other styles, as well. Speaking of the words, I love the selection! Instead of a book full of plain object words, the words chosen give a good overview of Japanese culture, with cultural notes as needed. Still, the words and concepts are ones that would interest young children: animal names and sounds, transportation, food, and even some exclamations. Children, from very young to middle grades, will enjoy learning from this fun book. Randy-Lynne Wach  
Review for Sacramento Book Review

The two stars are for the lovely illustrations: the picture on the back of the book (I is for inu) is gorgeous. But the rhymes and meter are disappointing - not a lot of joyful sounds here or well

thought-out word combinations, nor do the entries always relate to Japanese culture. Case in point: "I is for inu / dogs that bark. / My dog and I like / to walk in the park". The illustration for this entry features a beautifully rendered torii, which would be at the entrance to a shinto shrine. Many teachable moments are lost in this book. But the biggest boo-boo is the entry for "G" - "G is for Gakkou." The kana above the kanji is rendered incorrectly as "Kakkou"! You don't need a PhD in Japanese to pick up that mistake (although I do have a PhD in Japanese), but this is inexcusable in a text published by a major publisher (Tuttle).

Love this book! Fun for adults, also, who are new to Japanese! The only confusion is the ABC aspect. Japanese doesn't have 26 "letters" used in their "alphabet". So there's a disclaimer, on say the X page, giving the Japanese word for xylophone (which, incidentally, is spelled incorrectly as xylophone). So X is for Mokkin. My 10 year old granddaughter looked puzzled when I explained this. My 30 year old daughter was in great delight when we read about T is for TANUKI- a raccoon dog that lives in Japan. (Her favorite author, Robbins, has a book that features an imaginary tanuki.) The artwork is excellent, so gentle and quiet, just like I picture nature and homes in Japan.

What to say.... it's good, yes. I'd rather have an 'alphabet' book of the 46 kana sounds for my daughter, I think. The only issue is my daughter isn't completely thrilled with the artwork... which is a very subjective thing.

A lovely ABC book with gorgeous illustrations. It presents simple Japanese vocabulary words and hints at the meaning (if not stated outright) with beautiful poetry and paintings. I do wish there had been a glossary in the book, because my children were confused by one or two of them that were not so clear, but otherwise it was a wonderful find.

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