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# Michel Thomas Beginner Japanese, Lesson 5



## Synopsis

What is the Michel Thomas Method? The Michel Thomas Method teaches everyday conversational language that will allow you to communicate in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language instinctively, having absorbed the vocabulary and grammatical structures. These all-audio courses were perfected over 25 years by gifted linguist and teacher Michel Thomas, and provide an accelerated method for language learning that is truly revolutionary. Lessons 1-8, the Beginner course: This course makes no assumption of knowledge of any language other than English and gives the beginner practical and functional use of the spoken language. It is also appropriate for anyone who has studied Japanese before, but has forgotten much of it or does not have confidence in speaking. The Beginner course is designed to take you from complete beginner to intermediate level. Lessons 9-12, the Intermediate course: This course is for those with an intermediate-level foundation in Japanese, or those who have completed lessons 1-8 and want to take their learning to an advanced level and speak Japanese proficiently and easily. How does it work? Unlike most language courses that focus around topics or grammar forms, the Michel Thomas Method works by breaking a language down into its component parts, enabling you to reconstruct the language yourself - to form your own sentences, to say what you want, when you want. Within the first 10 minutes of the course, you will be generating complete sentences on your own. It is important that you complete the lessons in order. The Method is successful because it builds on the language you learn in each lesson and "recycles" language taught in earlier lessons, allowing you to build ever-more complicated sentences. Because the Method is based on understanding, not memorisation, there is no set limit to the length of time that you should study each lesson. Once you feel you have a good grasp of the language taught in one lesson, you can move on to the next. In lesson 5 of the Japanese Beginner course, you'll learn the past tense of "to be" and the past negative of "masu" verbs, and how to use the marker "de" (to specify location) with...Nouns: "restaurant", "day", "week", "home", "train", "book"Past tense of "to be"Past negative of "masu" verbs: "masen deshita"Time and place expressions: "every week", "last week", "next week", "at home"Marker: "de" (for location, e.g. "on", "in", "at") In the next lesson you'll learn about the polite prefix "o", use constructions with "while", and be able to talk about languages.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I've listened to about 2 CDs so far and I want to claw my eyes out. The pronunciation by everyone is just terrible. The one female "student" is terrible. She doesn't seem to be retaining \*anything\* the teacher is saying, and her pronunciation is horrible. The male "student" is far better and it seems he's able to retain this information. Having taken Japanese previously before, used books like Japanese For Busy People, Genki and even Rosetta Stone, I'm not honestly seeing how this is helping me. Seeing as I already have an understanding for Japanese, listening to these CDs, it doesn't feel special at all. I got it to listen to while at work, but I find myself more frustrated than actually learning. The pronunciation really gets to me and that's \*not\* how you pronounce words in Japanese. The teacher isn't bad per se, but her pronunciation is off quite a bit because of her accent. They barely mention any grammar at all, they don't mention that "o" is actually wo, nor do they explain that wo always goes with objects, wa goes with subjects and the "style" of learning seems to be "This is how it is, deal with it". They don't really explain anything, similar to how Rosetta Stone does it, and that never worked for me. I like explanations and the ability to understand. Seeing as how this costs \$80 for 8 CDs of an hour each, it doesn't quite feel like I'm getting my moneys worth. :(It may be better for me if they didn't have terrible "students". I get what they're trying to do with having people who don't know it, but have them do it the correct way, I don't need to hear how it doesn't sound. I think I'm going to send this back to as it really doesn't feel like it's \$80.

I lived in Japan for several years so have an ear for the language even though I don't speak it much. The Michel Thomas Method (MTM) is probably the best way to learn Japanese, or any language, bar none and this new 2012 version improves on the 2009 version. I have previously tried Rosetta Stone and Pimsleur. My only complaint with MTM is that the lady giving the lesson has a slight British accent when she speaks Japanese and I feel more native speakers are needed to demonstrate proper pronunciation even the teacher is very close. This can be easily be done in the

recording studio and with editing in the native speaker. And as a guy, I'd like to hear a Japanese guy speak so I hear very accurately how to speak like a native.

Having a Japanese daughter-in-law I have been trying to learn basic Japanese for many years without success. I came across the beginner CD in our local book store and immediately commenced the course - what a surprise that was. In just a few days I was amazed at just how easy it was and I actually finished the entire CD in just a week - AND I actually retained the dialogue. I immediately got onto and ordered the entire course. I am now commencing the third CD and actually loving the entire experience - and still remembering all the lessons - it has been so easy. My son, daughter-in-law and her parents have just returned to Japan after spending a fortnight with us on holidays and they were amazed at my vocabulary skills I could actually converse with them (of course very basically) but at least I had the confidence to attempt to talk to them. I recommend this course to everyone - if I can learn a language at my age then anyone can do it. !!!!!!!

I like the way this study has two students repeat the word(s) being taught. It also builds sentences from the words which is very helpful. The teacher also corrects the students if they pronounce a word incorrectly.

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