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Teach Yourself Phone Japanese (Teach Yourself: Language)



Synopsis

Can you understand me now? Good! Talking on the phone in a second language introduces unique challenges. What is the proper way to greet a person in Japanese? Should one be formal or informal when addressing a receptionist in Osaka? How do you say, "I need an appointment"? Teach Yourself Phone Japanese offers you solutions and advice to this nerve-racking subject. This audio package features 10 conversations that cover typical telephone situations, including introducing yourself, understanding when someone will be available, and arranging a meeting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Haruko Laurie is an experienced author of Japanese language-learning materials.

The English on this CD is so clear (and possibly louder than the Japanese), it sounds like that's what they're intending to teach. I'm sure a Japanese person would profit a lot from listening to it if they wanted to learn English. The first track (after the introduction) is 1:23 minutes. The Japanese starts at :26. During the English introduction to the first track, the person is obviously reading from notes, and first reads a heading "The Way You Say It", followed by "Listen and then repeat." I know that listening and then repeating is, kind of, a way to "say" it, they should have cut half of this English dialogue out. So I get ready to repeat after every Japanese line - but laughably, there's not enough time given! The English for the next sentence comes blaring in before one can finish saying

the previous line. On to the first line of the first listening. The notes say "Hai, Yamakawa desu." The CD, on the other hand, says "Hai, Yamakawa desu ga." (or "ka", I can't make it out.) The next line is "Kazuko san irasshaimasu ka?" The "irasshaimasu" was spoken so fast/unclearly that I thought I was either listening to the wrong track or maybe there was dust on the CD. They have also messed up who is meant to be saying what. The first three lines are spoken by the same person, but you can see from the notes it's meant to be person A, then person B, then back to person A again (this is correct in the notes but not on the CD). Maybe I'm being unfair. I *haven't* followed the whole course through. But I'd just like the first page to be done right. Maybe it improves significantly from here on.

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