

ひらがな カタカナ

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There are three types of letters in Japanese.

1. Hiragana (phonetic sounds) are basically used for particles, words and parts of words.
2. Katakana (phonetic sounds) are basically used for foreign/loan words.
3. Kanji (Chinese characters) are used for the stem of words and convey the meaning as well as sound.

“I am an engineer.”

| | | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Watashi | wa | enjinia | desu. |
| | | | |
| Kanji | ↑ Hiragana | Katakana | Hiragana |

Hiragana is basically used to express 46 different sounds used in the Japanese language. We suggest you start learning Hiragana, then Katakana and then Kanji. If you learn Hiragana first, it will be easier to learn Katakana next. Hiragana will help you learn Japanese pronunciation properly, read Japanese beginners' textbooks and write sentences in Japanese. Japanese will become a lot easier to study after having learned Hiragana. Also, as you will be able to write sentences in Japanese, you will be able to write E-mails in Hiragana.

Katakana will help you read Japanese menus at restaurants. Hiragana and Katakana will be a good help to your Japanese study and comfortable living in Japan.

To master Hiragana, it is important to practice writing Hiragana. Revision is also very important - please go over what you have learned several times.

Rōma-ji, Hiragana and Katakana

| | A | I | U | E | O |
|---|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| - | a あ ア | i い イ | u う ウ | e え エ | o お オ |
| K | ka か カ | ki き キ | ku く ク | ke け ケ | ko こ コ |
| S | sa さ サ | shi し シ | su す ス | se せ セ | so そ ソ |
| T | ta た タ | chi ち チ | tsu つ ツ | te て テ | to と ト |
| N | na な ナ | ni に ニ | nu ぬ ヌ | ne ね ネ | no の ノ |
| H | ha は ハ | hi ひ ヒ | fu ふ フ | he へ ヘ | ho ほ ホ |
| M | ma ま マ | mi み ミ | mu む ム | me め メ | mo も モ |
| Y | ya や ヤ | | yu ゆ ユ | | yo よ ヨ |
| R | ra ら ラ | ri り リ | ru る ル | re れ レ | ro ろ ロ |
| W | wa わ ワ | | | | o を ヲ |
| - | n,m ん ン | | | | |

“n” before b, m and p becomes “m” which is pronounced like “m” in “sample”.



| | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| G | ga が ガ | gi ぎ ギ | gu ぐ グ | ge げ ゲ | go ご ゴ |
| Z | za ざ ザ | ji じ ジ | zu ず ズ | ze ぜ ゼ | zo ぞ ゾ |
| D | da だ ダ | ji ぢ ヂ | zu づ ツ | de で デ | do ど ド |
| B | ba ば バ | bi び ビ | bu ぶ ブ | be べ ベ | bo ぼ ボ |
| P | pa ぱ パ | pi ぴ ピ | pu ぷ プ | pe ぺ ペ | po ぽ ポ |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| kya | きゃ | キャ | kyu | きゅ | キュ | kyo | きょ | キョ |
| sha | しゃ | シャ | shu | しゅ | シュ | sho | しょ | ショ |
| cha | ちゃ | チャ | chu | ちゅ | チュ | cho | ちょ | チョ |
| nya | にゃ | ニャ | nyu | にゅ | ニュ | nyo | にょ | ニョ |
| hya | ひゃ | ヒャ | hyu | ひゅ | ヒュ | hyo | ひょ | ヒョ |
| mya | みゃ | ミャ | myu | みゅ | ミュ | myo | みょ | ミョ |
| rya | りゃ | リャ | ryu | りゅ | リュ | ryo | りょ | リョ |
| gya | ぎゃ | ギャ | gyu | ぎゅ | ギュ | gyo | ぎょ | ギョ |
| ja | じゃ | ジャ | ju | じゅ | ジュ | jo | じょ | ジョ |
| bya | びゃ | ビャ | byu | びゅ | ビュ | byo | びょ | ビョ |
| pya | ぴゃ | ピャ | pyu | ぴゅ | ピュ | pyo | ぴょ | ピョ |

Foreign words representation by Katakana

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| she | シェ | che | チェ | je | ジェ | | |
| tse | ツェ | tso | ツォ | | | | |
| fa | ファ | fi | フィ | fe | フェ | fo | フォ |
| ti | ティ | dhi | ディ | dyu | デュ | | |
| wi | ウィ | we | ウェ | wo | ウォ | quo | クォ |
| va | ヴァ | vi | ヴィ | ve | ヴェ | vo | ヴォ |



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| a | あ | あ ①②③ | あ | あ | あ | あ | あ | | | | | | |
| | | | あ | あ | あ | | | | | | | | |
| i | い | い ①② | い | い | い | い | い | | | | | | |
| | | | い | い | い | | | | | | | | |
| u | う | う ①② | う | う | う | う | う | | | | | | |
| | | | う | う | う | | | | | | | | |
| e | え | え ①② | え | え | え | え | え | | | | | | |
| | | | え | え | え | | | | | | | | |
| o | お | お ①②③ | お | お | お | お | お | | | | | | |
| | | | お | お | お | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ka | か | か ①②③ | か | か | か | か | か | | | | | | |
| | | | か | か | か | | | | | | | | |
| ki | き | き ①②③ | き | き | き | き | き | | | | | | |
| | | | き | き | き | | | | | | | | |
| ku | く | く ① | く | く | く | く | く | | | | | | |
| | | | く | く | く | | | | | | | | |
| ke | け | け ①②③ | け | け | け | け | け | | | | | | |
| | | | け | け | け | | | | | | | | |
| ko | こ | こ ①② | こ | こ | こ | こ | こ | | | | | | |
| | | | こ | こ | こ | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ] Write the following words in hiragana.

- 1. aka (red) _____
- 2. ao (blue) _____
- 3. aki (autumn) _____
- 4. eki (station) _____

- 5. ie (house) _____
- 6. kaki (oyster) _____
- 7. ōkii (big) _____
- 8. ue (on top) _____

Similar Hiragana
→ さ き

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|----|----|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| sa | さ | ① さ ② さ | さ | さ | さ | さ | さ | | | | | | |
| | | | サ | サ | サ | | | | | | | | |
| shi | し | ① し | し | し | し | し | し | | | | | | |
| | | | シ | シ | シ | | | | | | | | |
| su | す | ① す ② す | す | す | す | す | す | | | | | | |
| | | | Su | Su | Su | | | | | | | | |
| se | せ | ① せ ② せ ③ せ | せ | せ | せ | せ | せ | | | | | | |
| | | | セ | セ | セ | | | | | | | | |
| so | そ | ① そ | そ | そ | そ | そ | そ | | | | | | |
| | | | ソ | ソ | ソ | | | | | | | | |

← そ OK

[QUIZ]

1. asa (morning) _____

3. shio (salt) _____

2. osushi (o-sushi) _____

4. osake (sake) _____

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ta | た | ① た ② た ③ た ④ た | た | た | た | た | た | | | | | | |
| | | | タ | タ | タ | | | | | | | | |
| chi | ち | ① ち ② ち | ち | ち | ち | ち | ち | | | | | | |
| | | | チ | チ | チ | | | | | | | | |
| tsu | つ | ① つ | つ | つ | つ | つ | つ | | | | | | |
| | | | ツ | ツ | ツ | | | | | | | | |
| te | て | ① て | て | て | て | て | て | | | | | | |
| | | | テ | テ | テ | | | | | | | | |
| to | と | ① と ② と | と | と | と | と | と | | | | | | |
| | | | ト | ト | ト | | | | | | | | |

→ さ き

[QUIZ]

1. ashita (tomorrow) _____

3. tokei (watch) _____

2. chikatetsu (subway) _____

4. kutsu (shoes) _____

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| na | な | ①な②③④ | な | な | な | な | な | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ナ | ナ | ナ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ni | に | ①に②③ | に | に | に | に | に | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ニ | ニ | ニ | | | | | | | | | | |
| nu | ぬ | ①ぬ② | ぬ | ぬ | ぬ | ぬ | ぬ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ne | ね | ①ね② | ね | ね | ね | ね | ね | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ネ | ネ | ネ | | | | | | | | | | |
| no | の | ①の | の | の | の | の | の | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ノ | ノ | ノ | | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. kono neko (this cat) | 3. sono inu (that dog) |
| 2. nani (what) | 4. niku (meat) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ha *wa | は | ①は②③ | は | は | は | は | は | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ハ | ハ | ハ | | | | | | | | | | |
| hi | ひ | ①ひ | ひ | ひ | ひ | ひ | ひ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ヒ | ヒ | ヒ | | | | | | | | | | |
| fu | ふ | ①ふ②③④ | ふ | ふ | ふ | ふ | ふ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | フ | フ | フ | | | | | | | | | | |
| he | へ | ①へ | へ | へ | へ | へ | へ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ヘ | ヘ | ヘ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ho | ほ | ①ほ②③④ | ほ | ほ | ほ | ほ | ほ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | ホ | ホ | ホ | | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ] ■ Note that the particle WA is represented by は, the E is represented by へ.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. fune (ship) | 3. hito (people) |
| 2. hoshi (star) | 4. hako (box) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ma | ま | ① ② ③ ま | ま | ま | ま | ま | ま | | | | | | |
| | | | ま | ま | ま | | | | | | | | |
| mi | み | ① ② み | み | み | み | み | み | | | | | | |
| | | | み | み | み | | | | | | | | |
| mu | む | ① ② ③ む | む | む | む | む | む | | | | | | |
| | | | む | む | む | | | | | | | | |
| me | め | ① ② め | め | め | め | め | め | | | | | | |
| | | | め | め | め | | | | | | | | |
| mo | も | ① ② ③ も | も | も | も | も | も | | | | | | |
| | | | も | も | も | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. ame (rain) | 3. mushi (insect) |
| 2. namae (name) | 4. Moshi moshi (Hello) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ya | や | ① ② ③ や | や | や | や | や | や | | | | | | |
| | | | や | や | や | | | | | | | | |
| yu | ゆ | ① ② ゆ | ゆ | ゆ | ゆ | ゆ | ゆ | | | | | | |
| | | | ゆ | ゆ | ゆ | | | | | | | | |
| yo | よ | ① ② よ | よ | よ | よ | よ | よ | | | | | | |
| | | | よ | よ | よ | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. yasumi (day off) | 3. fuyu (winter) |
| 2. yuki (snow) | |

■ Note that ū and ō are represented by adding む.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. yūmei (famous) | 3. kinō (yesterday) |
| 2. yōfuku (Western clothes) | 4. kūkō (airport) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| ra | ら | ① ② | ら | ら | ら | ら | ら | | | | | | | →ち |
| | | | ら | ら | ら | | | | | | | | | |
| ri | り | ① ② | り | り | り | り | り | | | | | | | →い |
| | | | り | り | り | | | | | | | | | |
| ru | る | ① | る | る | る | る | る | | | | | | | |
| | | | る | る | る | | | | | | | | | |
| re | れ | ① ② | れ | れ | れ | れ | れ | | | | | | | →ね |
| | | | れ | れ | れ | | | | | | | | | |
| ro | ろ | ① | ろ | ろ | ろ | ろ | ろ | | | | | | | →る |
| | | | ろ | ろ | ろ | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| wa | わ | ① ② | わ | わ | わ | わ | わ | | | | | | | →わ |
| | | | わ | わ | わ | | | | | | | | | |
| o particle | を | ① ② ③ | を | を | を | を | を | | | | | | | |
| | | | を | を | を | | | | | | | | | |
| n, m | ん | ① | ん | ん | ん | ん | ん | | | | | | | |
| | | | ん | ん | ん | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

■ Note that the particle O is represented by を, not お.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. kore (this) _____ | 5. kuro (black) _____ |
| 2. sore (that) _____ | 6. kuruma (car) _____ |
| 3. Sayōnara (Goodbye) _____ | 7. watashi (I) _____ |
| 4. hon (book) _____ | 8. Sumimasen (I'm sorry.) _____ |

[QUIZ] Similar characters (Write the following characters in hiragana.)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| a/o | ki/sa | chi/ra | ta/na |
| me/nu | i/ri | ma/mo | ru/ro |
| ke/ha/ho | | wa/re/ne | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| ga | が | が | が | | | | |
| gi | ぎ | ぎ | ぎ | | | | |
| gu | ぐ | ぐ | ぐ | | | | |
| ge | げ | げ | げ | | | | |
| go | ご | ご | ご | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| za | ざ | ざ | ざ | | | | |
| ji | じ | じ | じ | | | | |
| zu | ず | ず | ず | | | | |
| ze | ぜ | ぜ | ぜ | | | | |
| zo | ぞ | ぞ | ぞ | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| da | だ | だ | だ | | | | |
| ji | ぢ | ぢ | ぢ | | | | |
| zu | づ | づ | づ | | | | |
| de | で | で | で | | | | |
| do | ど | ど | ど | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| ba | ば | ば | ば | | | | |
| bi | び | び | び | | | | |
| bu | ぶ | ぶ | ぶ | | | | |
| be | べ | べ | べ | | | | |
| bo | ぼ | ぼ | ぼ | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| pa | ぱ | ぱ | ぱ | | | | |
| pi | ぴ | ぴ | ぴ | | | | |
| pu | ぷ | ぷ | ぷ | | | | |
| pe | ぺ | ぺ | ぺ | | | | |
| po | ぽ | ぽ | ぽ | | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. mado (window)

2. mada (not yet)

3. sugoi (great)

4. Arigatogozaimasu. (Thank you.)

5. denwa (telephone)

6. Komban wa particle

7. shimbun (newspaper)

8. tomodachi (friend)

9. ginkō (bank)

10. chizu (map)

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| kya | きや | きや | |
| kyu | きゅ | きゅ | |
| kyo | きょ | きょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| gya | ぎや | ぎや | |
| gyu | ぎゅ | ぎゅ | |
| gyo | ぎょ | ぎょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| sha | しゃ | しゃ | |
| shu | しゅ | しゅ | |
| sho | しょ | しょ | |

| | | | |
|----|----|----|--|
| ja | じゃ | じゃ | |
| ju | じゅ | じゅ | |
| jo | じょ | じょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| cha | ちゃ | ちゃ | |
| chu | ちゅ | ちゅ | |
| cho | ちょ | ちょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| nya | にや | にや | |
| nyu | にゅ | にゅ | |
| nyo | にょ | にょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| hya | ひや | ひや | |
| hyu | ひゅ | ひゅ | |
| hyo | ひょ | ひょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| bya | びや | びや | |
| byu | びゅ | びゅ | |
| byo | びょ | びょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| pya | ぴや | ぴや | |
| pyu | ぴゅ | ぴゅ | |
| pyo | ぴょ | ぴょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| mya | みや | みや | |
| myu | みゅ | みゅ | |
| myo | みょ | みょ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| rya | りや | りや | |
| ryu | りゅ | りゅ | |
| ryo | りょ | りょ | |

[QUIZ]

1. Tokyō

2. jūsho (address)

3. Ja, mata. (See you.)

4. shūmatsu (weekend)

5. shashin (photo)

6. shukudai (homework)

The rules in Hiragana

(1) Long vowels

- ① ā is represented by adding あ.

okāsan (mother) おかあさん、māmā (so-so) _____

- ② ii and ī are represented by adding い.

oniisan (older brother) おにいさん、ojiisan/ojīsan (grandfather) _____

- ③ ū is represented by adding う.

yūgata (early evening) ゆうがた、chūgoku (China) _____

taifū (typhoon) _____

- ④ ē is represented by adding え in the words of Japanese origin.

onēsan (older sister) おねえさん

- ⑤ ei is written in えい in the words of Chinese origin.

Eigo (English) えいご、yūmei (famous) _____

sensei (teacher) _____、gakusei (student) _____

- ⑥ ō is represented by adding う.

sayonara さようなら、byōin (hospital) _____、kyō (today) _____

Domo arigatogozaimasu. _____

- ⑦ In some words it is traditionally written in お.

ōki おおきい、tō (ten) _____、tōri (street) _____

(2) Double consonants

Double consonants (kk, pp, ss, and tt) are represented by small っ. As small っ indicates a one-syllable pause, the mouth prepares for the pronunciation of the next syllable.

gakkō (school) がっこう、kippu (ticket) _____、kitte (stamp) _____

Chotto matte kudasai. (Just moment, please.) _____

Gambatte kudasai. (Go for it. Good luck.) _____

(3) ji and zu are usually written in じ and ず. In few cases, they are traditionally written in ぢ and づ.

sanji (3:00) _____、 jisho (dictionary) _____

chizu (map) _____、 mizu (water) _____

(4) wa using as a particle is written in は, not わ.

Kyō wa doyōbi desu. (Today is Saturday.) きょうは は どようびです。

Watashi wa nihonjin desu. (I'm Japanese.)

Watashi wa nihonjin dewa arimasen. (I'm not Japanese.)

(5) o using as a particle is written in を, not お.

Osake o nomimasu. (I drink sake.) おさけを のみます。

Sore o misete kudasai. (Please show me that.)

Kore o kudasai. (Please give me this one.)

(6) e using as a particle is written in へ, not え.

Shibuya e ikimasu. (I'm going to Shibuya.) しぶやへ いきます。

Doko e ikimasuka. (Where are you going?) _____

Kyōto e ikimasu. (I'm going to Kyoto.) _____



Katakana in used in the following ways

- (1) For words of foreign origin
- (2) For onomatopoeia ex. ワンワン wanwan (bowwow)
- (3) For the names of some animals and insects
- (4) For the emphasis of some words ex. それはダメです。

The rules in Katakana

- (1) Long vowels are represented by a dash, “—.”
- (2) Double consonants (kk, pp, ss, tt etc.) are represented by small tsu, ッ.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| a | ア | ① | ア | ア | ア | ア | ア | | | | | | |
| | | ② | ア | ア | ア | | | | | | | | |
| i | イ | ① | イ | イ | イ | イ | イ | | | | | | |
| | | ② | イ | イ | イ | | | | | | | | |
| u | ウ | ① | ウ | ウ | ウ | ウ | ウ | | | | | | |
| | | ②③ | ウ | ウ | ウ | | | | | | | | |
| e | エ | ① | エ | エ | エ | エ | エ | | | | | | |
| | | ②③ | エ | エ | エ | | | | | | | | |
| o | オ | ① | オ | オ | オ | オ | オ | | | | | | |
| | | ②③ | オ | オ | オ | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ka | カ | ① カ ② | カ | カ | カ | カ | カ | | | | | | |
| | | | カ | カ | カ | | | | | | | | |
| ki | キ | ① キ ② | キ | キ | キ | キ | キ | | | | | | |
| | | | キ | キ | キ | | | | | | | | |
| ku | ク | ① ク ② | ク | ク | ク | ク | ク | | | | | | |
| | | | ク | ク | ク | | | | | | | | |
| ke | ケ | ① ケ ② ③ | ケ | ケ | ケ | ケ | ケ | | | | | | |
| | | | ケ | ケ | ケ | | | | | | | | |
| ko | コ | ① コ ② | コ | コ | コ | コ | コ | | | | | | |
| | | | コ | コ | コ | | | | | | | | |
| ga | ガ | ガ | ガ | | | | | | | | | | |
| gi | ギ | ギ | ギ | | | | | | | | | | |
| gu | グ | グ | グ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ge | ゲ | ゲ | ゲ | | | | | | | | | | |
| go | ゴ | ゴ | ゴ | | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. kukkī (cookie)

3. kikku (kick)

2. kōku (coke)

4. kēki (cake)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| sa | サ | ① ^② ③ サ | サ | サ | サ | サ | サ | | | | | | |
| | | | サ | サ | サ | | | | | | | | |
| shi | シ | ① ^② ③ シ | シ | シ | シ | シ | シ | | | | | | |
| | | | シ | シ | シ | | | | | | | | |
| su | ス | ① ^② ス | ス | ス | ス | ス | ス | | | | | | |
| | | | ス | ス | ス | | | | | | | | |
| se | セ | ① ^② セ | セ | セ | セ | セ | セ | | | | | | |
| | | | セ | セ | セ | | | | | | | | |
| so | ソ | ① ^② ソ | ソ | ソ | ソ | ソ | ソ | | | | | | |
| | | | ソ | ソ | ソ | | | | | | | | |
| za | ザ | ザ | ザ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ji | ジ | ジ | ジ | | | | | | | | | | |
| zu | ズ | ズ | ズ | | | | | | | | | | |
| ze | ゼ | ゼ | ゼ | | | | | | | | | | |
| zo | ゾ | ゾ | ゾ | | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. sukī (ski)

2. gasu (gas)

3. sōseji (sausage)

4. sakkā (soccer)

5. sōsu (sauce)

6. kuizu (quiz)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| ta | タ | ①②③ タ | タ | タ | タ | タ | タ | | | | | | | | →ク |
| | | | タ | タ | タ | | | | | | | | | | |
| chi | チ | ②③① チ | チ | チ | チ | チ | チ | | | | | | | | →シ |
| | | | チ | チ | チ | | | | | | | | | | |
| tsu | ツ | ①②③ ツ | ツ | ツ | ツ | ツ | ツ | | | | | | | | →シ |
| | | | ツ | ツ | ツ | | | | | | | | | | |
| te | テ | ①②③ テ | テ | テ | テ | テ | テ | | | | | | | | →シ |
| | | | テ | テ | テ | | | | | | | | | | |
| to | ト | ①② ト | ト | ト | ト | ト | ト | | | | | | | | →シ |
| | | | ト | ト | ト | | | | | | | | | | |
| da | ダ | ダ | ダ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ji | ヂ | ヂ | ヂ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| zu | ヅ | ヅ | ヅ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| de | デ | デ | デ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| do | ド | ド | ド | | | | | | | | | | | | |

■ ji and zu are usually written in ジ and ズ.

■ An aid to the シ(shi) and ツ(tsu), remembrance and distinction.

| | Hiragana | Katakana | |
|-----|----------|----------|--|
| shi | し | | |
| tsu | つ | | |

Keep in mind the equivalent hiragana, し(shi) and つ(tsu).

[QUIZ]

1. tekisuto (textbook)

4. chīzu (cheese)

2. sutēki (steak)

5. takushī (taxi)

3. dezato (dessert)

6. shītsu (sheet)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| na | ナ | ① ② ナ | ナ | ナ | ナ | ナ | ナ | | | | | | | →サ |
| | | | ナ | ナ | ナ | | | | | | | | | |
| ni | ニ | ① ② ニ | ニ | ニ | ニ | ニ | ニ | | | | | | | →エ |
| | | | ニ | ニ | ニ | | | | | | | | | |
| nu | ヌ | ① ② ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | | | | | | | →ス |
| | | | ヌ | ヌ | ヌ | | | | | | | | | |
| ne | ネ | ① ② ③ ④ ネ | ネ | ネ | ネ | ネ | ネ | | | | | | | |
| | | | ネ | ネ | ネ | | | | | | | | | |
| no | ノ | ① ノ | ノ | ノ | ノ | ノ | ノ | | | | | | | |
| | | | ノ | ノ | ノ | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. tennis (tennis)

3. noto (notebook)

2. nekutai (necktie)

4. tsuna (tuna)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| ha | ハ | ①② ハ | ハ | ハ | ハ | ハ | ハ | | | | | | | |
| hi | ヒ | ②① ヒ | ヒ | ヒ | ヒ | ヒ | ヒ | | | | | | | →セエ |
| fu | フ | ① フ | フ | フ | フ | フ | フ | | | | | | | →ウ |
| he | ヘ | ① ヘ | ヘ | ヘ | ヘ | ヘ | ヘ | | | | | | | |
| ho | ホ | ①②③④ ホ | ホ | ホ | ホ | ホ | ホ | | | | | | | |
| ba | バ | バ | バ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bi | ビ | ビ | ビ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bu | ブ | ブ | ブ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| be | ベ | ベ | ベ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bo | ボ | ボ | ボ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| pa | パ | パ | パ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| pi | ピ | ピ | ピ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| pu | プ | プ | プ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| pe | ペ | ペ | ペ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| po | ポ | ポ | ポ | | | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. pasupōto (passport) | 5. hīta (heater) |
| 2. pasuta (pasta) | 6. basu (bus) |
| 3. kopī (copy) | 7. sutoppu (stop) |
| 4. supīdo (speed) | 8. sābisu (service) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| ma | マ | ① ② | マ | マ | マ | マ | マ | | | | | | | →ア |
| | | | マ | マ | マ | | | | | | | | | |
| mi | ミ | ① ② ③ | ミ | ミ | ミ | ミ | ミ | | | | | | | →ニ |
| | | | ミ | ミ | ミ | | | | | | | | | |
| mu | ム | ① ② | ム | ム | ム | ム | ム | | | | | | | |
| | | | ム | ム | ム | | | | | | | | | |
| me | メ | ② ① | メ | メ | メ | メ | メ | | | | | | | →サナ |
| | | | メ | メ | メ | | | | | | | | | |
| mo | モ | ① ② ③ | モ | モ | モ | モ | モ | | | | | | | |
| | | | モ | モ | モ | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. hamu (ham) | 6. mōta (motor) |
| 2. memo (memo) | 7. messēji (message) |
| 3. gamu (gum) | 8. tomato (tomato) |
| 4. maiku (mike) | 9. chimu (team) |
| 5. shisutemu (system) | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|
| ya | ヤ | ① ② | ヤ | ヤ | ヤ | ヤ | ヤ | | | | | | | →コ |
| | | | ヤ | ヤ | ヤ | | | | | | | | | |
| yu | ユ | ① ② | ユ | ユ | ユ | ユ | ユ | | | | | | | |
| | | | ユ | ユ | ユ | | | | | | | | | |
| yo | ヨ | ① ② ③ | ヨ | ヨ | ヨ | ヨ | ヨ | | | | | | | |
| | | | ヨ | ヨ | ヨ | | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. yotto (yacht) | 3. yūza (user) |
| 2. taiya (tire) | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ra | ラ | ① ② ラ | ラ | ラ | ラ | ラ | ラ | | | | | | |
| | | | ラ | ラ | ラ | | | | | | | | |
| ri | リ | ① ② リ | リ | リ | リ | リ | リ | | | | | | |
| | | | リ | リ | リ | | | | | | | | |
| ru | ル | ① ② ル | ル | ル | ル | ル | ル | | | | | | |
| | | | ル | ル | ル | | | | | | | | |
| re | レ | ① レ | レ | レ | レ | レ | レ | | | | | | |
| | | | レ | レ | レ | | | | | | | | |
| ro | ロ | ① ② ③ ロ | ロ | ロ | ロ | ロ | ロ | | | | | | |
| | | | ロ | ロ | ロ | | | | | | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. rūru (rule)

2. toire (toilet, bathroom)

3. kurisumasu (Christmas)

4. garikku (garlic)

5. meruadoresu (e-mail address)

6. taoru (towel)

7. erebeta (elevator)

8. esukareta (escalator)

9. kareraisu (curry rice)

10. makudonarudo (McDonald's)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|
| wa | ワ | ② ①ワ | ワ | ワ | ワ | ワ | ワ | | | | | | | →ク ウフ |
| | | | ワ | ワ | ワ | | | | | | | | | |
| o | ヲ | ① ②ヲ | ヲ | ヲ | ヲ | ヲ | ヲ | | | | | | | |
| | | | ヲ | ヲ | ヲ | | | | | | | | | |
| n, m | ン | ① ②ン | ン | ン | ン | ン | ン | | | | | | | →ソ |
| | | | ン | ン | ン | | | | | | | | | |

■ Katakana ヲ is not used in modern living.

■ An aid to remembrance and distinction the ソ(so) and ン(n,m).

| | Hiragana | Katakana | |
|------|----------|----------|--|
| so | | | |
| n, m | | | |

[QUIZ]

1. resutoran (restaurant)

6. hambagu (hamburg steak)

2. ressun (lesson)

7. sōsu (sauce)

3. ranchi (lunch)

8. wain (wine)

[QUIZ] Similar characters (Write the following characters in katakana.)

| | | | | |
|---------------|------|------------|------|-------|
| shi/tsu | n/so | ku/ta | ma/a | nu/su |
| sa/na/me | | ku/fu/u/wa | | |
| se/hi/e/ni/mi | | | | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| kya | キヤ | キヤ | |
| kyu | キユ | キユ | |
| kyo | キヨ | キヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| gya | ギヤ | ギヤ | |
| gyu | ギユ | ギユ | |
| gyo | ギヨ | ギヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| sha | シヤ | シヤ | |
| shu | シユ | シユ | |
| sho | シヨ | シヨ | |

| | | | |
|----|----|----|--|
| ja | ジャ | ジャ | |
| ju | ジュ | ジュ | |
| jo | ジョ | ジョ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| cha | チャ | チャ | |
| chu | チュ | チュ | |
| cho | チョ | チョ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| nya | ニヤ | ニヤ | |
| nyu | ニユ | ニユ | |
| nyo | ニヨ | ニヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| hya | ヒヤ | ヒヤ | |
| hyu | ヒユ | ヒユ | |
| hyo | ヒヨ | ヒヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| bya | ビヤ | ビヤ | |
| byu | ビユ | ビユ | |
| byo | ビヨ | ビヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| pya | ピヤ | ピヤ | |
| pyu | ピユ | ピユ | |
| pyo | ピヨ | ピヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| mya | ミヤ | ミヤ | |
| myu | ミユ | ミユ | |
| myo | ミヨ | ミヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| rya | リヤ | リヤ | |
| ryu | リュ | リュ | |
| ryo | リヨ | リヨ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| tsa | ツァ | ツァ | |
| tse | ツェ | ツェ | |
| tso | ツォ | ツォ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| she | シェ | シェ | |
| che | チェ | チェ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| je | ジェ | ジェ | |
| quo | クォ | クォ | |

| | | | |
|----|----|----|--|
| va | ヴァ | ヴァ | |
| vi | ヴィ | ヴィ | |
| ve | ヴェ | ヴェ | |
| vo | ヴォ | ヴォ | |

| | | | |
|----|----|----|--|
| fa | ファ | ファ | |
| fi | フィ | フィ | |
| fe | フェ | フェ | |
| fo | フォ | フォ | |

| | | | |
|----|----|----|--|
| wi | ウィ | ウィ | |
| we | ウェ | ウェ | |
| wo | ウォ | ウォ | |

| | | | |
|-----|----|----|--|
| ti | ティ | ティ | |
| di | ディ | ディ | |
| dyu | デュ | デュ | |

[QUIZ]

1. sukejūru (schedule)

2. chokoreto (chocolate)

3. menyū (menu)

4. dizunīrando (Disneyland)

5. remontī (lemon tea)

6. chekku (check)

7. kompyūta (computer)

8. orenjijusu (orange juice)

9. infomēshon (information)

10. shampū (shampoo)

