

Japanese Katakana for Beginners

First Steps to Mastering the Japanese Writing System



Includes a set of
46 flash cards with
easy-to-remember
drawings and stories for
each katakana character!

Timothy G Stout

ア イ カ キ サ シ タ チ シ

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First Steps to Mastering the Japanese Writing System

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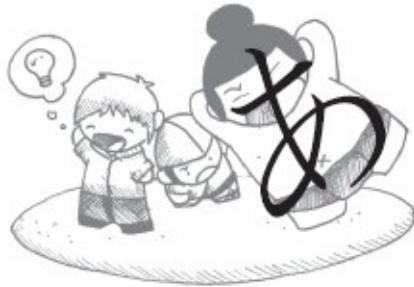
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CONTENTS

Introduction

SECTION ONE

The Basic 46 Katakana Characters

Reading Practice 1: ア ~ ソ

Reading Practice 2: タ ~ ホ

Reading Practice 3: マ ~ ン

SECTION TWO

Katakana Usage Rules

Rule 1: Tenten and Maru

Reading Practice 4: Tenten and Maru

Rule 2: Combined Characters

Reading Practice 5: Combined Characters

Rule 3: Small “tsu”

Reading Practice 6: Small “tsu”

Rule 4: Additional Combined Characters

Reading Practice 7: Additional Combined Characters

SECTION THREE

Reading and Writing Practice

Answers

FLASH CARDS

Suggested Activities

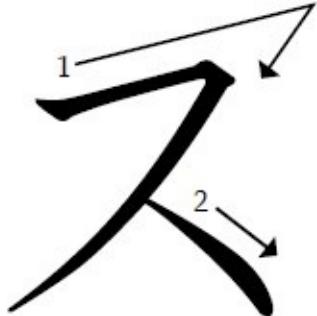
Acknowledgments



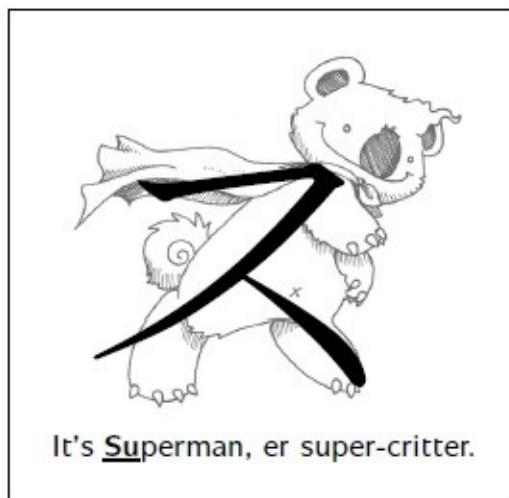
Introduction

The aim of this book is to help beginning Japanese learners to quickly master katakana characters. Katakana is one of two sets of Japanese phonetic characters (used for their sounds, not their meanings). The other is hiragana. Both hiragana and katakana are essential to basic Japanese proficiency, but normally hiragana is learned first. This book is designed as a companion to *Japanese Hiragana for Beginners*. As with hiragana, you can learn to read the basic 46 katakana characters in a few hours, and with practice learn to write them in a few days.

In *Japanese Katakana for Beginners* you will find everything you need to build strong katakana skills. Helpful tips and exercises with practical example words and sentences will help you learn the characters quickly. Picture mnemonics, such as the one below, will improve your learning and recall of the katakana characters as you associate the sound and shape of a new katakana character with an already familiar word and image.



"su" as in super



How to Use This Book

This book is organized into an introduction and three major sections. The introduction gives you basic information about katakana characters: where they came from, how to

pronounce and write them, and how to write your name. In Section [One](#) you will learn the basic 46 katakana characters, and how to write some simple words. Section [Two](#) introduces the “rules” for making 89 more syllables—using the basic 46 katakana characters, including the special syllables for writing foreign words. Section [Three](#) provides more exercises designed not only to strengthen your newly acquired katakana skills, but also to increase your vocabulary. At the end of the book there are a set of katakana flashcards on perforated cardstock. Since it is easier to learn to read katakana than to write it, you may want to start with the katakana flashcards, and review them often while you work through Sections [One](#), [Two](#) and [Three](#). You will get the most out of this book by doing all of the activities. If you study for thirty minutes a day, in a few short weeks you will be a confident reader and writer of katakana.

Katakana Basics Katakana and hiragana characters—together called **kana**, are the two sets of 46 phonetic characters used in Japanese.

- **Hiragana** is used mainly for writing the grammatical parts of sentences and native Japanese words for which there are no kanji.
- **Katakana** is mainly used to write foreign “loan words” or **gairaigo**, such as **intānetto** (the internet).
- **Kanji** or “Chinese characters” compose the majority of written Japanese: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, or “content” words. Romaji are Roman (Latin) letters used to write Japanese.

ひらがな Hiragana	カタカナ Katakana	漢字 Kanji	Romaji
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You may be wondering why Japanese has “two” sets of phonetic characters. The main reason is that it makes reading easier—katakana words stand out in a text, like a highlighter. When you see a katakana word, you immediately know it falls into one of six categories: 1. **Gairaigo** or “loan words”

2. Foreign place names and personal names
3. Onomatopoeia (sound symbolic words), like “buzz,” “flip” and “bow wow,” which are much more numerous in Japanese than in English
4. Emphasis

words—normally written in hiragana or kanji, but that the writer wants to draw attention to 5. Dictionaries entries of **on-yomi** or the “Chinese readings” of kanji 6. Others, such as transcriptions of the Ainu language (indigenous to northern Japan), and some official documents of pre-modern Japan **Gairaigo** or “loan words,” such as **konpyūtā** (computer), **nyūsu** (news), and **resutoran** (restaurant), comprise the biggest category of katakana words, with tens of thousands in common use. Most **gairaigo** come from English, so even beginning learners can often correctly guess what a Japanese article is about just from scanning the text for **gairaigo**. Topics like sports, medicine, business, economy, technology, and science have numerous **gairaigo**.

Historically, katakana and hiragana characters were developed for very different purposes. Katakana characters were developed by Buddhist priests in the 9th century as pronunciation aids for ambiguous and difficult to read official and religious texts. Katakana means “parts of kana” or parts of the manyo-gana characters originally used to write Japanese. Hiragana characters were developed during this same period, but for the purpose of writing personal texts, such as diaries, letters and works of fiction. Hiragana characters were based on simplified versions of whole **manyo-gana** characters.

At first, katakana may seem to be as formidable as an opponent in martial arts, but if you stick at it, you will be the master, “I know katakana and I’m not afraid to use it. Hai ya!”



How to Pronounce Katakana

Katakana and hiragana are pronounced the same way. The first five characters are the five Japanese vowels. Japanese vowels are short and clipped compared to English vowels. (All of the examples in this book use Standard American English pronunciation).

a	as in father
i	as in easy
u	as in you
e	as in red
o	as in oak

The rest of the characters are consonant-vowel combinations, with the consonant always coming first (e.g., “ka,” “ki,” “ku,” “ke” and “ko”). The one exception is the single consonant syllable “n” that is pronounced by touching the back of the tongue to the roof of the mouth, as in “ink” and “sing.” Many Japanese consonants are commonly found in English and are easy to pronounce.

k	as in coat	g	as in goat (voiced version of k)
s	as in Sue	z	as in zoo (voiced version of g)
t	as in tie	d	as in dye (voiced version of t)
n	as in no		
h	as in house		
p	as in pig	b	as in big (voiced version of p)
m	as in man		

Several Japanese consonants, however, are not commonly found in English and require special attention. One is the Japanese “r.” In English “r” is pronounced by curling the tongue so the sides touch the upper teeth (not touching the tip of the tongue). In Japanese, “r” is pronounced by tapping the tongue against the ridge behind the upper teeth, as in

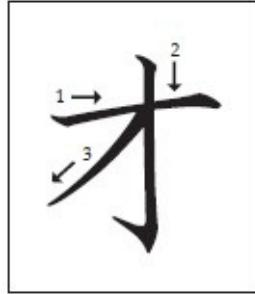
“paddle” and “ladder,” sounding like a combination of “l” and “d”; it is not a rolling trill as in Spanish. “tsu” is pronounced as in “tsunami” and “cat’s whiskers.” “fu” is pronounced without touching the upper teeth and lower lip. It almost sounds like “who” and “hooting owl,” except the lips are more pursed and air escapes more quickly.

The special consonant “y” as in “yarn” is paired with the vowels “a,” “u” and “o” to make the syllables “ya,” “yu” and “yo.” This consonant is special because Japanese uses it extensively in combination with all of the other consonants to form additional syllables, such as “kyā,” “kyū” and “kyō.” In order to accommodate more foreign syllables, many more character combinations are used in katakana (see Section [Two](#)).

Although katakana tries to represent **gairaigo** (“loan words”) as faithfully as possible, the words sound distinctly Japanese. In 1991 the Japanese government updated the official guidelines for writing **gairaigo**. The guidelines included 33 more combined characters for writing foreign words. These 33 combined characters are not the limit—the guidelines clearly state that other combinations can be made as needed. Still, all syllables must conform to the basics of Japanese phonology (see Section [Two](#)).

How to Write Katakana

Katakana characters are composed of three types of strokes: “stops,” “jumps” and “brushes.” With a stop, the pencil must come to a stop before it is removed from the paper. Jumps are written by removing the pencil from the paper as it moves to the next stroke. With a brush, the pencil is slowly removed from the paper as the stroke is written, giving it a tapered, sweeping appearance. In the following example, the character “o” as in “oak” is written with all three types of strokes. The first is a stop, the second a jump, and the third is a brush.



Compare the hiragana and katakana characters below. Hiragana characters are curved and looping, but katakana characters are straight and angled. Katakana also has fewer “jumps” and more “stops” and “brushes.”

a	i	ka	ki	sa	shi	ta	chi
あ	い	か	き	さ	し	た	ち
アイ	イ	カ	キ	サ	シ	タ	チ

Some hiragana and katakana characters look alike, like “ka” and “ki.” The picture mnemonics for these katakana characters are the same as the hiragana characters—another good reason you should master **Japanese Hiragana for Beginners** first.

Writing the correct stroke type in the correct order is important for forming balanced, legible characters. With practice you will get the hang of it. You can make your characters look more authentic by slightly tilting left-to-right strokes, as in stroke one in “o” (see above), rather than writing them straight across. Character strokes are generally written from left to right and top to bottom. Try to center each character in the middle of an imaginary box, not too far to the top, bottom, left, or right.

オ	オ	オ	オ	オ
Correct!	Wrong	Wrong	Wrong	Wrong

Writing Your Name in Japanese

Try to find your name in the following lists. The list is based on the Social Security Administration list published in 1998 (www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/babynames Viewed 8/2/2006). Only one Japanese spelling is given for all of the names with the same pronunciation, such as Amy, Ami, Amie and Aimee. The names are listed under the most common spelling. If you don't see your name in the list and your name is a nickname, try looking for the formal version (i.e., "Richard" instead of "Rick"). If you still can't find your name, it may not be one of the top 300 most common girls' and boys' names. Never fear, you can ask your teacher or a Japanese friend for help. Any name can be written in Japanese. Practice writing your name in the spaces provided (don't worry if you leave some boxes unused).

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Most beginning learners enjoy katakana because it is relatively simple to learn, and it is immediately useful. You write your name and your friends' names in katakana. You can guess many of the katakana words found in Japanese texts you read. Soon reading and writing katakana will become second nature, and all your hard work will begin to pay off.

300 Common Female Names

Aleah アリーヤ

Abby アビー

Abigail アビゲール

Adriana エイドリアナ

Adrienne エイドリエン

Aileen アイリーン

Aisha アイーシャ

Alana アラーナ

Alejandra アレハンドラ

Alexa アレクサ

Alexandra アレクサンドラ
Alexandria アレクサンドリア
Alexia アレクシア
Alexis アレクシス
Alicia アリシア
Allie アリー¹
Allison アリソン
Alondra アロンドラ
Alyssa アリッサ
Amanda アマンダ
Amber アンバー²
Amelia アメリア
Amy エイミー³
Anastasia アナスタシア
Andrea アンドリア
Angel エンジェル
Angela アンジェラ
Angelica アンジェリカ
Angelina アンジェリーナ
Anna アナ
Anne アン
April エイプリル
Ariana エリアナ
Ariel アリエル
Ashley アシュリー⁴
Ashlyn アシュリン
Ashton アシュトン
Asia アジア
Aubrey オーブリー⁵
Audrey オードリー⁶
Autumn オータム

Avery エイヴアリー
Ayanna アヤナ
Bailey ベイリー
Bethany ベサニー
Bianca ビアンカ
Brandi ブランディ
Brenda ブレンダ
Brenna ブレナ
Brianna ブリアナ
Brianne ブリアーン
Bridget ブリジット
Brooke ブルック
Brooklyn ブルックリン
Callie カリー¹
Cameron キャメロン
Camille カミール
Candace キャンディス
Carissa カリッサ
Carly カーリー
Carmen カーメン
Carolina キャロライナ
Caroline キャロライン
Carolyn キャロリン
Carrie キャリー
Casey ケイシー
Cassandra カサンドラ
Cassidy キャシディー¹
Cassie キャシー¹
Cecilia セシリア
Celeste セレスト
Charlotte シャーロット

Chelsey チェルシー
Cheyenne シャイアン
Chloe クロエ
Christina クリストイーナ
Christine クリストイーン
Christy クリストイ
Cindy シンディ
Claire クレア
Clarissa クラリッサ
Claudia クローディア
Courtney コートニー
Crystal クリスタル
Cynthia シンシア
Daisy デイジー
Dakota ダコタ
Dana デイナ
Daniela ダニエラ
Danielle ダニエール
Deanna ディアナ
Deja ディア
Delaney デイレイニ
Denise デニース
Desiree デザリー¹
Destiny デスティニー
Devin デヴィン
Diamond ダイアモンド
Diana ダイアナ
Dominique ドミニク
Elena エレーナ
Elise エリーズ
Elizabeth エリザベス

Emily エミリー
Emma エマ
Erica エリカ
Erin エリン
Esmeralda エスメラルダ
Esther エスター
Eva エヴァ
Evelyn エヴァリン
Faith フェイス
Francesca フランシスカ
Gabriela ガブリエラ
Gabrielle ガブリエル
Genesis ジェネシス
Gianna ジアナ
Gina ジーナ
Giselle ジゼル
Grace グレース
Guadalupe グアダルーペ
Haley ヘイリー^{ヘイリ}
Hallie ハリー
Hannah ハナ
Harley ハーリー
Heather ヘザー
Heidi ハイディ
Holly ホリー
Hope ホープ
Hunter ハンター
Imani イマニ
Isabel イザベル
Isabella イザベラ
Jacey ジェイシー

Jacqueline ジャクリーン

Jada ジェイダ

Jade ジェイド

Jaelyn ジェイリン

Jailene ジェイリーン

Jamie ジェイミー

Janae ジェネイ

Janelle ジャネル

Jasmine ジャスミン

Jenna ジェナ

Jennifer ジェニファー

Jenny ジェニー

Jessica ジェシカ

Jessie ジェシー

Jillian ジリアン

Joanna ジョアナ

Jocelyn ジョスリン

Jordan ジョーダン

Julia ジュリア

Julianna ジュリアナ

Julie ジュリー

Julissa ジュリッサ

Kaitlyn ケイトリン

Kara キャラ

Karen カレン

Karina カリーナ

Karla カーラ

Kate ケイト

Katherine キャサリン

Kathleen キャスリーン

Katie ケイティ

Katrina カトリーナ
Kayla ケイラ
Kaylee ケイリー
Kaylin ケイリン
Kelly ケリー¹
Kelsey ケルシー
Kendall ケンダル
Kendra ケンドラ
Kennedy ケネディ
Kiana キアナ
Kiara キアラ
Kimberly キンバリー
Kirsten カーステン
Krista クリストラ
Kristen クリストン
Kyla カイラ
Kylie カイリー
Kyra カイラ
Lacey レイシー
Laura ローラ
Lauren ローレン
Leah リア
Leann リアン
Leslie レスリー
Lexi レクシー
Lillian リリアン
Lily リリー
Linda リンダ
Lindsey リンジー
Lisa リサ
Lizette リゼット

Logan ロー・ガン
Lydia リディア
Mackenzie マッケンジー^ジ
Macy メイシー^シ
Madeline マデライン^{イン}
Madison マディソン^{ソン}
Maggie マギー^イ
Makayla マケイラ^ラ
Mallory マロリー^リ
Margaret マーガレット^ト
Maria マリア^ア
Mariah マライア^ア
Mariana マリアナ^ナ
Marissa マリッサ^サ
Mary メリー、メアリー^リ
Maya マイヤ^ヤ
McKenna マッケナ^ナ
Megan メーガン^ン
Melanie メラニー^ニ
Melissa メリッサ^サ
Mercedes メルセデス^ス
Meredith メレディス^ス
Mia ミア^ア
Michelle ミシェル^ル
Miranda ミランダ^ダ
Miriam ミリアム^ム
Molly モリー^リ
Monica モニカ^カ
Monique モニーケ^ク
Morgan モーガン^ン
Nadia ナディア^ア

Nancy ナンシー
Naomi ナオミ
Natalia ナタリア
Natalie ナタリー¹
Natasha ナターシャ
Nia ニア
Nicole ニコール
Nina ニーナ
Olivia オリビア
Paige ペイジ
Paola パオラ
Patricia パトリシア
Peyton ペイトン
Priscilla プリシラ
Rachel レーチエル
Raquel ラケル
Raven レイヴン
Reagan レーガン
Rebecca レベッカ
Renee レネー²
Reyna レイナ
Riley ライリー
Robyn ロビン
Rosa ローザ
Rose ローズ
Ruby ルビー
Sabrina サブリナ
Sadie セイディ
Samantha サマンサ
Sandra サンドラ
Sarah サラ、セーラ

Savannah サバンナ
Selena セレーナ
Serena セリーナ
Shania シャニア
Shannon シャノン
Shauna ショウナ
Shayla シエイラ
Shelby シエルビー
Sierra シエラ
Skylar スカイラー
Sophia ソフィア
Sophie ソフィー
Stacy ステイシー
Stephanie ステファニー
Summer サマー
Sydney シドニー¹
Tabitha タバサ
Talia タリア
Tamara タマラ
Tanya タニヤ
Tara タラ
Tatiana タチアナ
Tara タラ
Taya タヤ
Taylor ティラー
Teresa テレサ
Tessa テッサ
Tiana ティアナ
Tiara ティアラ
Tiffany ティファニー
Tori トーリ

Tyra タイラ
Valeria ヴァレリア
Valerie ヴァレリー¹
Vanessa ヴァネッサ
Veronica ヴェロニカ
Victoria ビクトリア
Whitney ホイットニー
Yasmine ヤスミン
Yesenia ヤセニア
Zoe ゾーイ

300 Common Male Names

Aaron アーロン

Abraham エイブラハム
Adam アダム
Adrian エイドリアン
Aidan エイダン
Alan アラン
Albert アルバート
Alberto アルバートー¹
Alec アレック
Alejandro アレハンドロ
Alex アレックス
Alexander アレクサンダー
Alexis アレクシス
Alfredo アルフレード
Andre アンドレ
Andres アンドレス
Andrew アンドリュー
Andy アンディ
Angel エンジェル
Angelo アンジェロ

Anthony アンソニー
Antonio アントニオ
Armando アルマンド
Arthur アーサー
Arturo アルツーロ
Ashton アシュトン
Austin オースティン
Avery エイヴェリー
Bailey ベイリー¹
Benjamin ベンジャミン
Blake ブレーク
Braden ブレーデン
Bradley ブラッドリー
Brady ブレイディ
Brandon ブランドン
Brendan ブレンダン
Brennan ブレナン
Brent ブレント
Brett ブレット
Brian ブライアン
Brock ブロック
Bryant ブライアント
Bryce ブライス
Bryson ブライソン
Cade ケイド
Caleb ケイレブ
Calvin カル빈
Cameron キャメロン
Carl カール
Carlos カーロス
Carson カーソン

Carter カーター
Casey ケイシー
Cesar シーザー¹
Chad チャッド
Chance チャンス
Chandler チャンドラー
Charles チャールズ
Chase チェイス
Christian クリストファー
Christopher クリストファー
Clayton ク莱頓
Cody コーディー²
Colby コルビー
Cole コール
Colin コリン
Colton コルトン
Connor コナー
Cooper クーパー
Corbin コービン
Corey コーリー³
Craig クレーグ
Curtis カーティス
Dakota ダコタ
Dallas ダラス
Dalton ダルトン
Damian デイミアン
Damon デイモン
Daniel ダニエル
Danny ダニー
Dante ダンテ
Darian ダリアン

Darius ダリアス
Darrell ダレル
Darren ダーレン
David デビッド、デイヴィッド
Dawson ダーソン
Deandre デアンドレ
Dennis デニス
Deonte デアンテ
Derek デレク
Deshawn デショーン
Devin デビン
Devonte デヴォンテ
Diego ディエゴ
Dominic ドミニク
Donald ドナルド
Donovan ドノヴァン
Douglas ダグラス
Drake ドレーク
Drew ドルー
Dustin ダスティン
Dylan ディラン
Eddie エディ
Edgar エドガー
Eduardo エドワルド
Edward エドワード
Edwin エドワイン
Eli イーライ
Elias イライアス
Elijah イライジャ
Elliot エリオット
Emmanuel イマニュエル

Enrique エンリケ
Eric エリック
Esteban エステバン
Ethan イーサン
Evan エバン
Fabian ファビアン
Fernando フェルナンド
Francisco フランシスコ
Frank フランク
Frederick フレドリック
Gabriel ガブリエル
Gage ゲイジ
Garrett ガレット
Gary ゲーリー¹
Gavin ギャビン
George ジョージ
Gerardo ジエラルド
Giovanni ジョバンニ
Grant グラント
Grayson グレイソン
Gregory グレゴリー
Griffin グリフィン
Harrison ハリソン
Hayden ヘイデン
Hector ヘクター
Henry ヘンリー
Hunter ハンター
Ian イアン
Isaac アイザック
Isaiah アイザーヤ
Ismael イシマイル

Israel イスラエル
Ivan アイヴァン
Jack ジャック
Jackson ジャクソン
Jacob ジェイコブ
Jaden ジェイデン
Jaime ジェイミー¹
Jake ジェイク
Jalen ジェイレン
James ジェイムス
Jared ジェレッド
Jarrett ジェレット
Jason ジェイソン
Javon ジャヴォン
Jay ジェイ
Jeffrey ジエフリー
Jeremiah ジエレマイヤ
Jeremy ジエレミー¹
Jerry ジエリー¹
Jesse ジエシー¹
Jesus ヘスース¹
Jimmy ジミー¹
Joe ジョー¹
Joel ジョエル¹
John ジョン¹
Johnny ジョニー¹
Jonah ジョナ¹
Jonathan ジョナサン¹
Jordan ジョルダン¹
Jorge ホルヘ¹
Jose ホゼ¹

Joseph ジョセフ
Joshua ジョシュア
Josiah ジョサイア
Josue ジョズエ
Juan ワン
Julian ジュリアン
Julio フリオ
Justice ジャスティス
Justin ジャステイン
Kaden ケイデン
Keegan キーガン
Keith キース
Kenneth ケネス
Kevin ケビン
Kobe コービー¹
Kylar カイラー
Kyle カイル
Landon ランドン
Lane レーン
Larry ラリー²
Lawrence ローレンス
Leonardo レオナルド
Levi リーバイ
Liam リアム
Logan ローガン
Lorenzo ロレンゾ
Louis ルイス
Lucas ルーカス
Luis ルイス
Luke ルーク
Malik マリク

Manuel マヌエル
Marco マルコ
Marcos マルコス
Marcus マーカス
Mario マリオ
Mark マーク
Martin マーティン
Mason メイソン
Matthew マシュー
Max マックス
Maxwell マックスウェル
Micah マイカ
Michael マイケル
Miguel ミゲール
Miles マイルズ
Mitchell ミッチャエル
Mohammad モハメッド
Morgan モーガン
Nathan ネーサン
Nathaniel ナサニエル
Nicholas ニコラス
Noah ノア
Nolan ノーラン
Omar オマー
Oscar オスカー
Owen オーエン
Pablo パブロ
Parker パーカー¹
Patrick パトリック
Paul ポール
Pedro ペドロ

Peter ピーター
Peyton ペイトン
Phillip フィリップ
Preston プレストン
Quentin クエンティン
Quinton クイントン
Rafael ラファエル
Ramon ラモン
Randy ランディ
Raul ラウル
Raymond レイモンド
Reece リース
Reid リード
Ricardo リカルド
Richard リチャード
Ricky リッキー¹
Riley ライリー
Robert ロバート
Roberto ロベルト
Ronald ロナルド
Ruben ルベン
Russell ラッセル
Ryan ライアン
Samuel サミュエル
Scott スコット
Sean ショーン
Sebastian セバスチャン
Sergio セルジオ
Seth セス
Shane シェーン
Skyler スカイラー

Spencer スペンサー
Steven スティーヴン
Tanner タナー
Taylor テイラー
Terrance テランス
Terrell テレル
Theodore セオドア
Thomas トマス
Timothy ティモシー
Tommy トミー^{トミー}
Tony トニー
Travis トラビス
Trent トレント
Trenton トレントン
Trevon トラヴォン
Trevor トレヴァー
Trey トレイ
Tristan トリスタン
Troy トロイ
Tucker タカー
Ty タイ
Tyler タイラー
Tyrek タイリク
Victor ヴィクター
Vincent ヴィンセント
Wesley ウェスリー
William ウィリアム
Wyatt ワイアット
Xavier ザビエル
Zachariah ザカライヤ
Zachary ザカリ一

Zane ゼイン

SECTION ONE

The Basic 46 Katakana

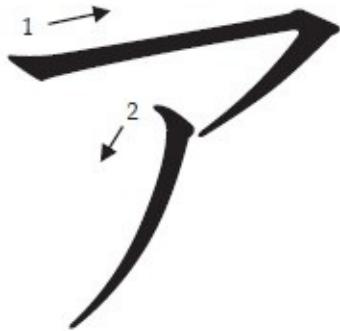
ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ so
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no
ハ ha (wa)*	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he (e)*	ホ ho
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo
ヤ ya		ユ yu		ヨ yo
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro
ワ wa				ヲ o**
ン n				

Characters



* These characters are pronounced differently when they are used as grammatical particles.

** This character is only used as a grammatical particle. It is not used to write words.

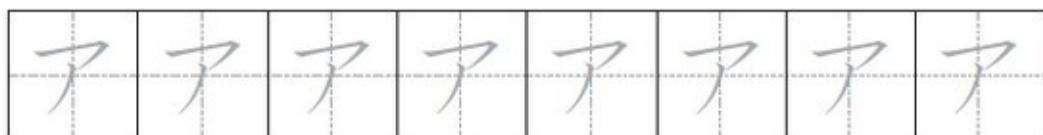


"a" as in father

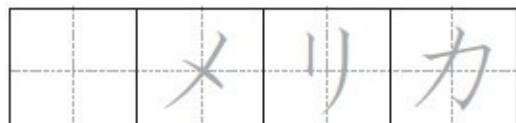
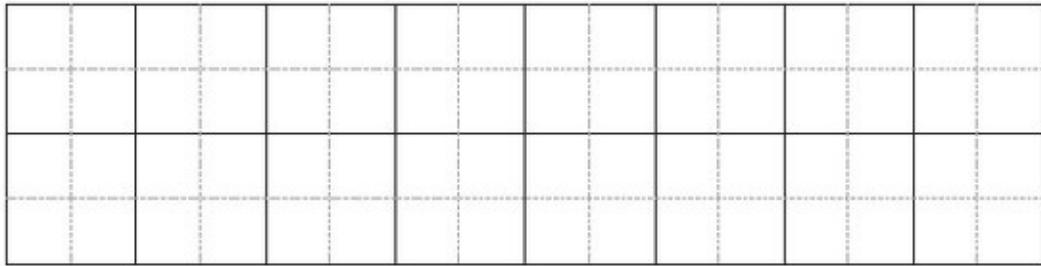


Writing Tip "a" has two strokes and both are brushes.

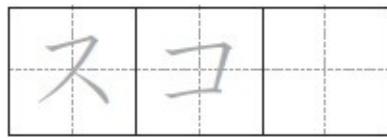
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **a me ri ka** (America; United States)



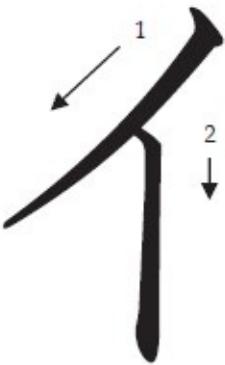
2. **su ko a** (score)



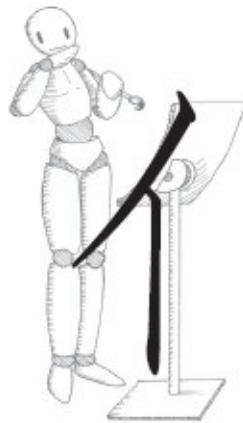
3. **e a ko n** (air conditioner; air conditioning)



4. **ā to** (art)



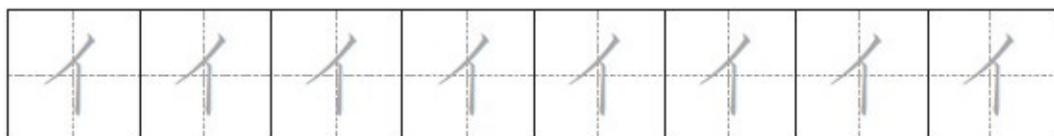
"i" as in easy



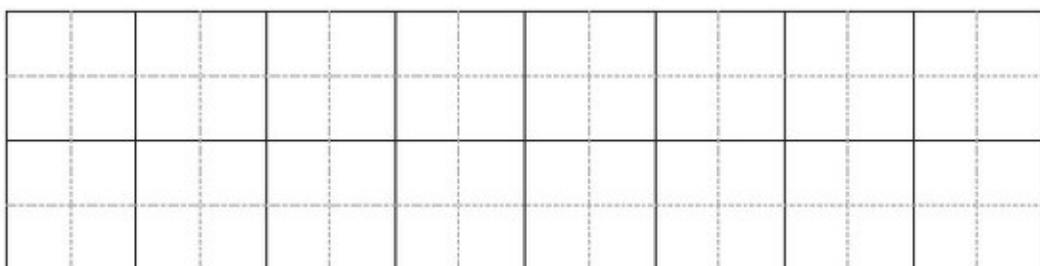
An easel holds your picture while you work on it or display it.

Writing Tip "i" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

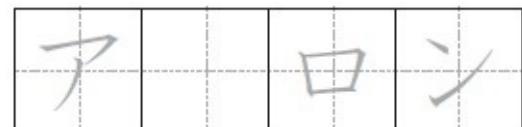
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **to i re** (toilet)



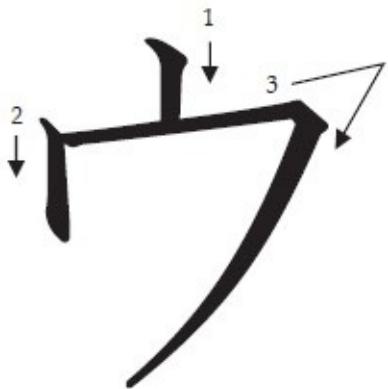
2. **a i ro n** (iron)



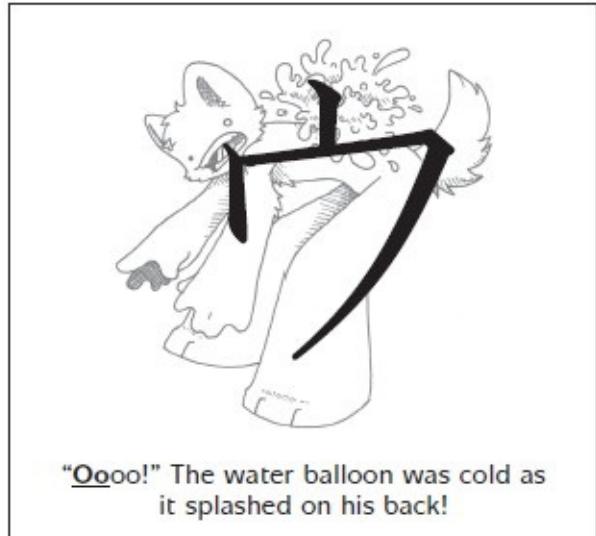
3. **na i fu** (knife)



4. **i gi ri su** (England)

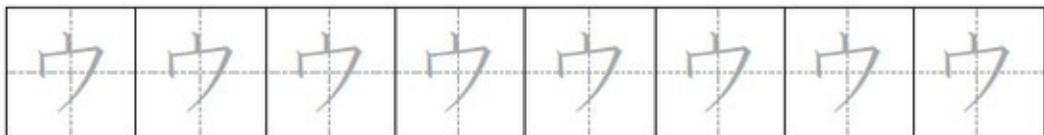


"u" as in you

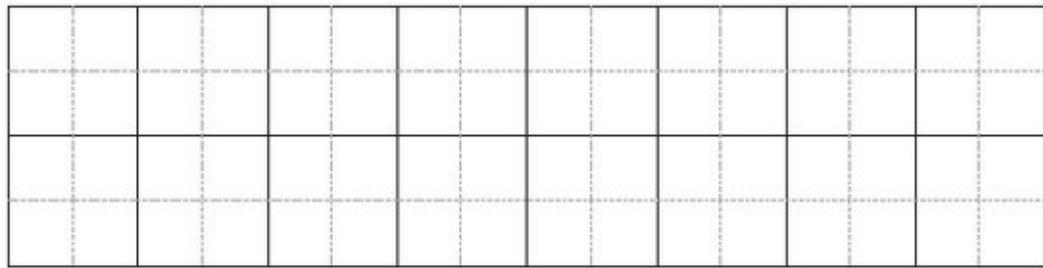


Writing Tip "u" has three strokes: 1) a stop, 2) stop and 3) brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



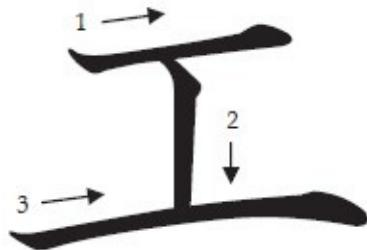
1. **u i ru su** ((computer) virus)

キ			イ

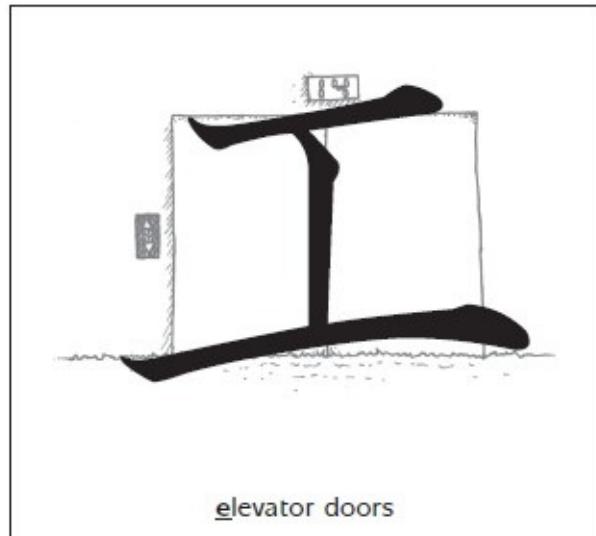
2. **ki u i** (kiwi)

3. **ma u su** ((computer) mouse)

4. **u ru** (wool)

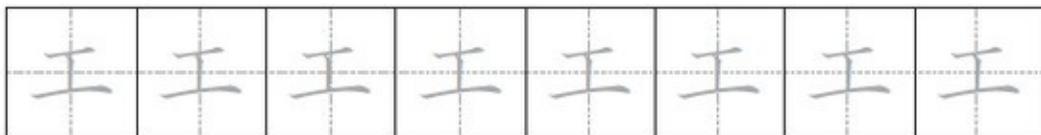


"e" as in red

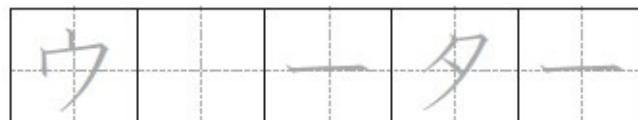
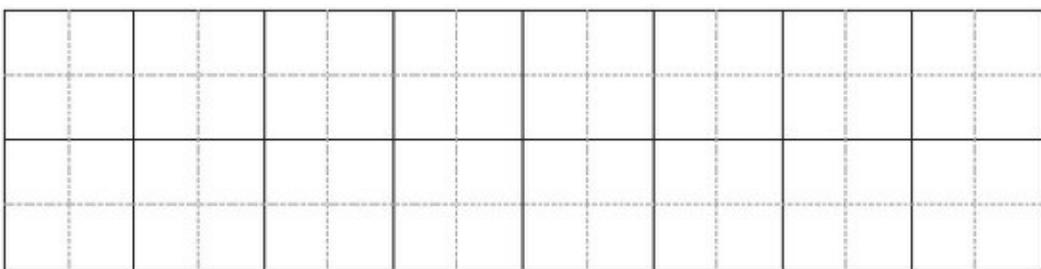


Writing Tip “e” has three strokes and they are all stops.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **う え たā** (waiter)

タ

2. **e rā** (computer) error

ラ

3. **e su sa i zu** (small; “S” size)

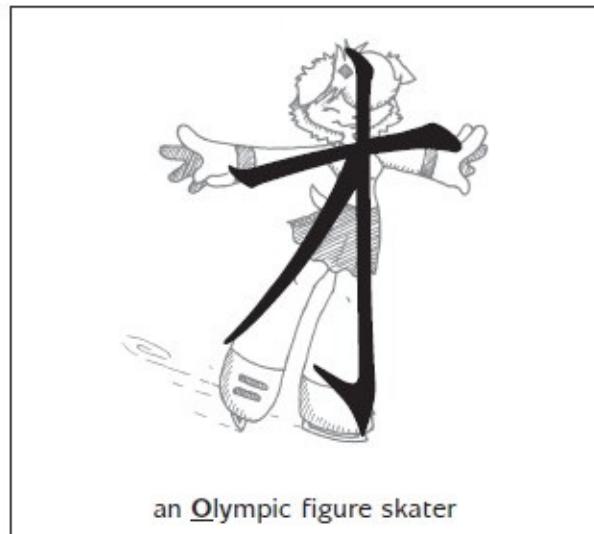
ス サ イ ズ

4. **e i zu** (AIDS)

イ ズ

才

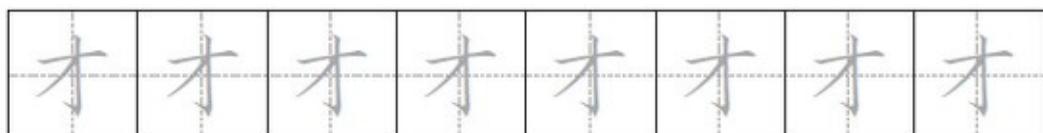
"o" as in oak



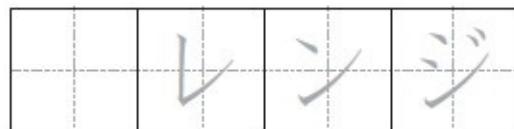
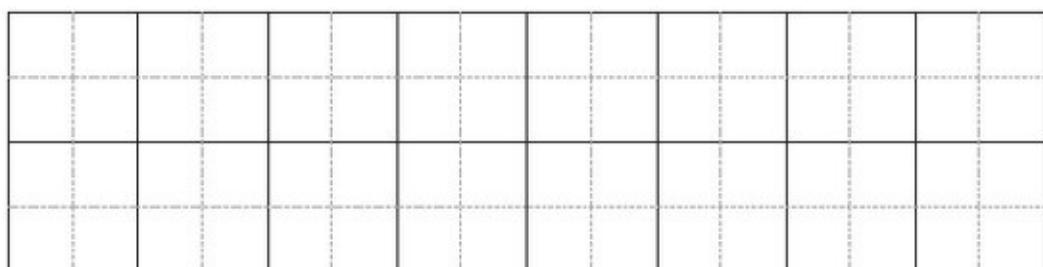
an Olympic figure skater

Writing Tip "o" has three strokes: 1) a stop, 2) jump and 3) brush.

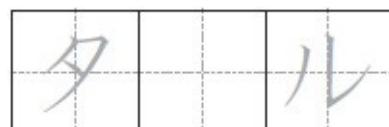
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. o re n ji (orange)



2. ta o ru (towel)

		ル	ガ	ン

3. o ru gan (organ – musical instrument)

		イ	ル	

4. o i ru (oil)

力

"ka" as in car

力 か

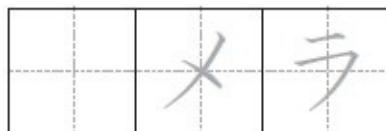
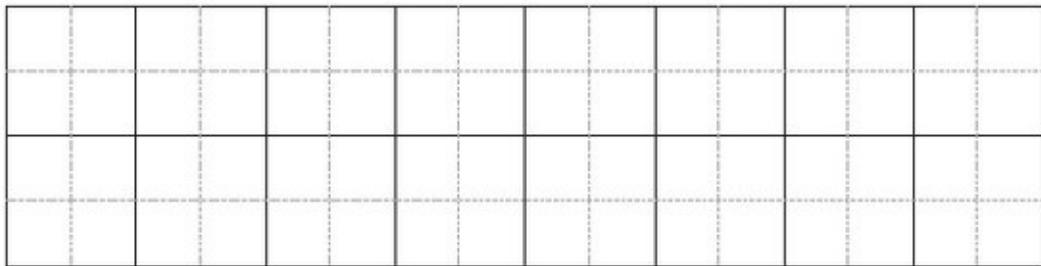
Katakana "ka" 力 and hiragana "ka" か look alike, except that katakana "ka" has one fewer stroke, and its lines are straighter and more angular.

Writing Tip "ka" has two strokes: 1) a jump and 2) brush.

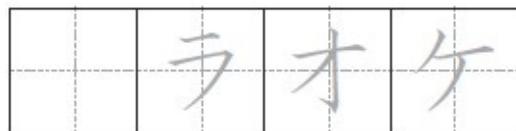
Trace these characters.

力	力	力	力	力	力	力	力
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

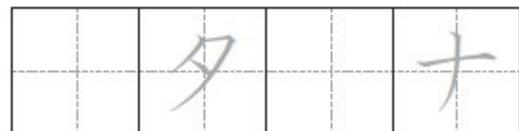
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



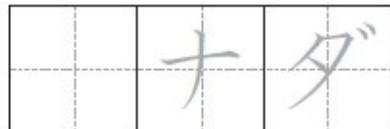
1. **ka me ra** (camera)



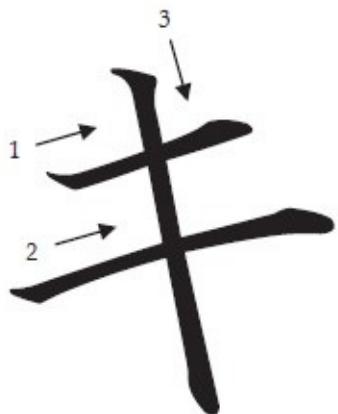
2. **ka ra o ke** (karaoke)



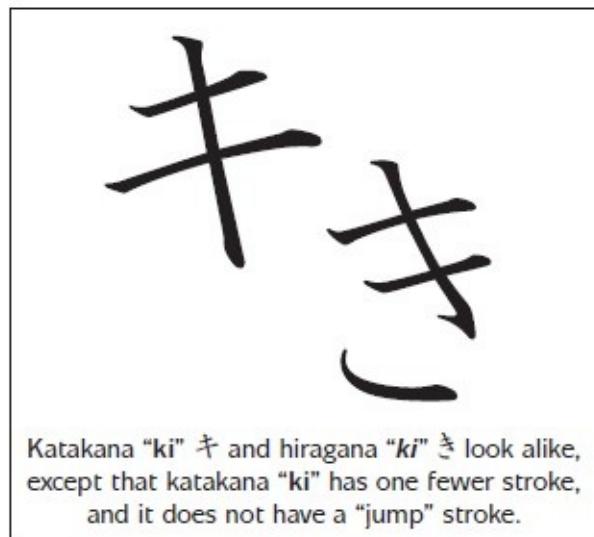
3. **ka ta ka na** (katakana characters)



4. **ka na da** (Canada)

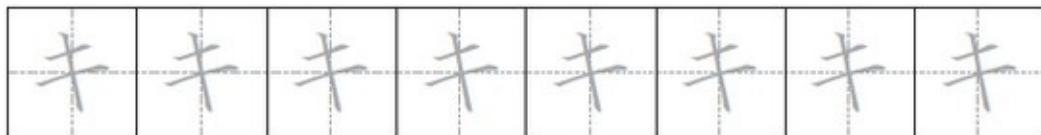


"ki" as in key

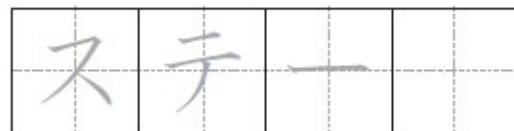
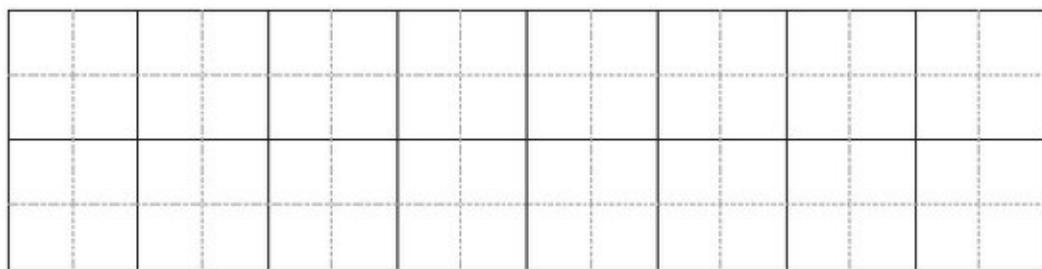


Writing Tip “ki” has three strokes and they are all stops.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. su tē ki (steak)



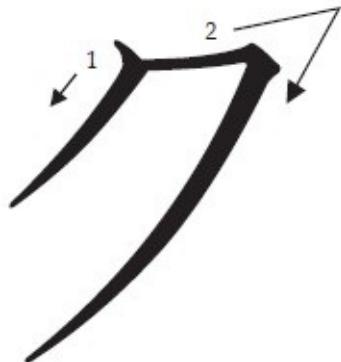
2. me ki shi ko (Mexico)



3. ho chi ki su (stapler – Hotchkiss)



4. su ki i (ski; skiing)



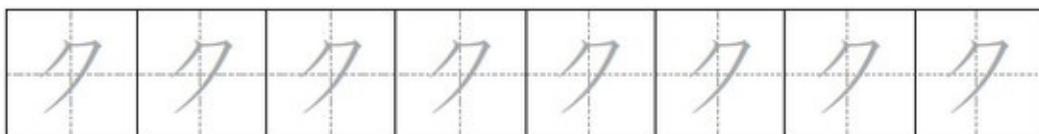
"ku" as in cuckoo



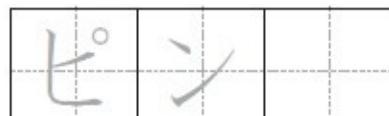
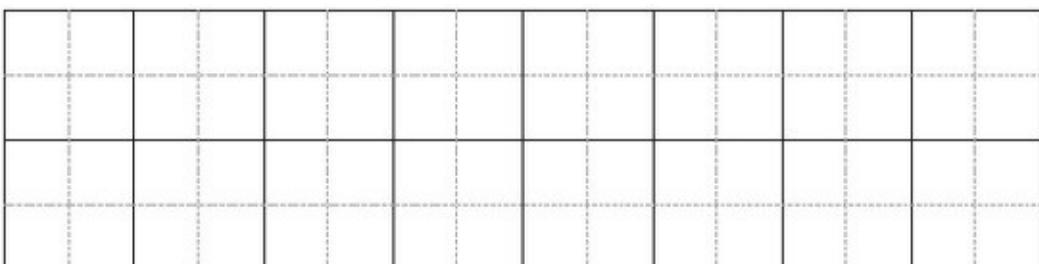
a cool way to write seven (7)

Writing Tip "ku" has two strokes and both are brushes.

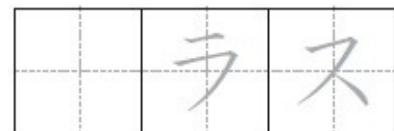
Trace these characters.



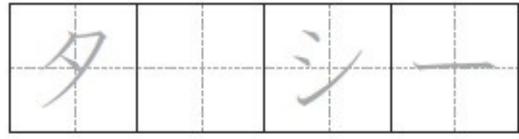
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. pi n ku (pink)



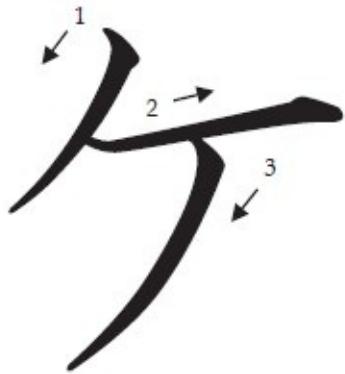
2. ku ra su (class)



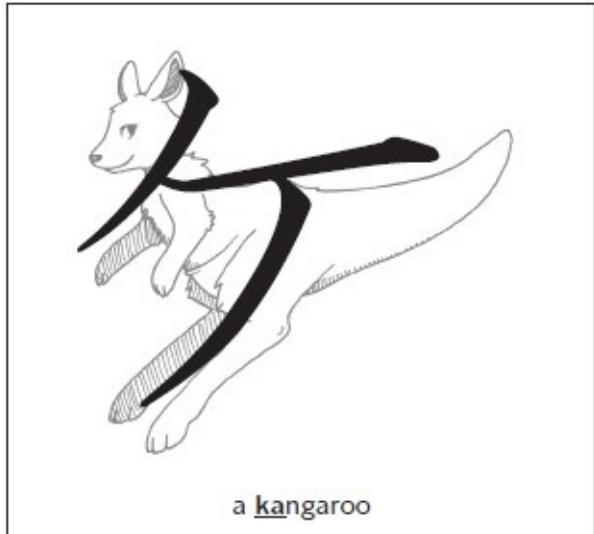
3. **ta ku shi i** (taxi)



4. **ba i ku** (motorcycle)

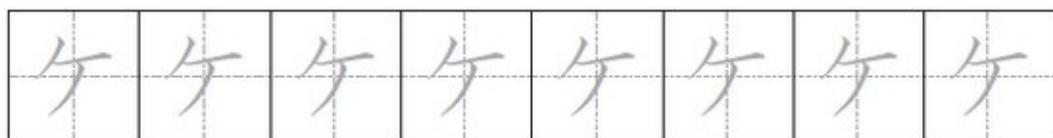


"ke" as in Kevin

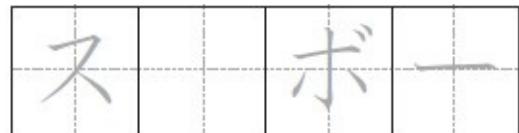
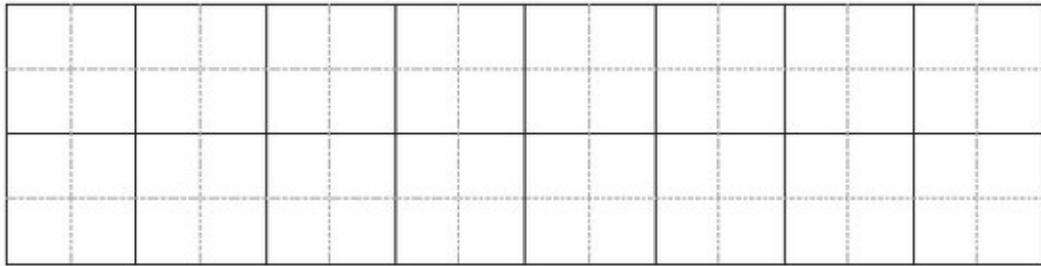


Writing Tip "ke" has three strokes: 1) a brush, 2) stop and 3) brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



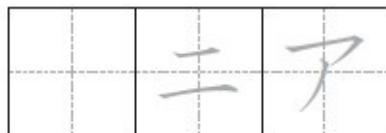
1. su ke bō (skateboard; to skateboard)



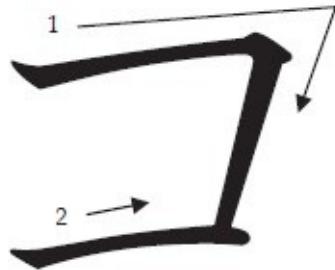
2. kē ki (cake)



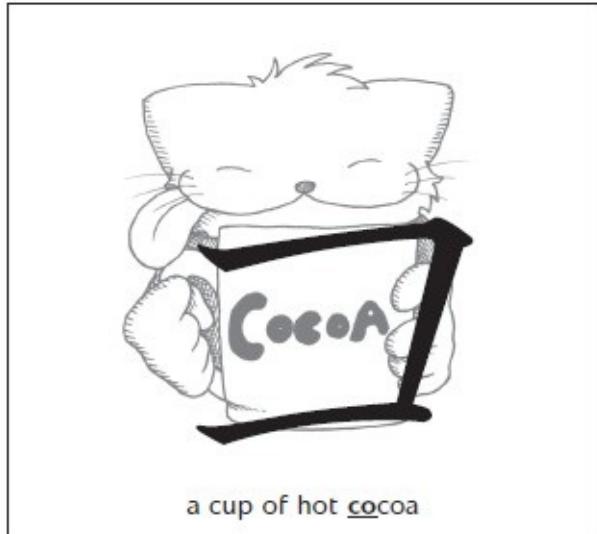
3. su kē to (skates; to skate)



4. ke ni a (Kenya)

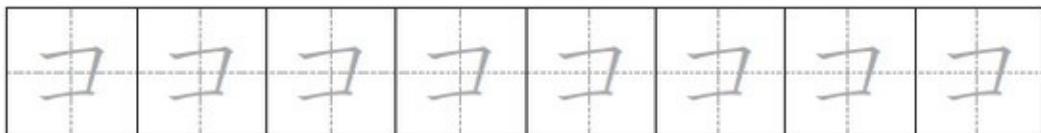


"ko" as in cocoa

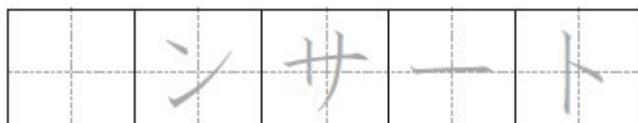
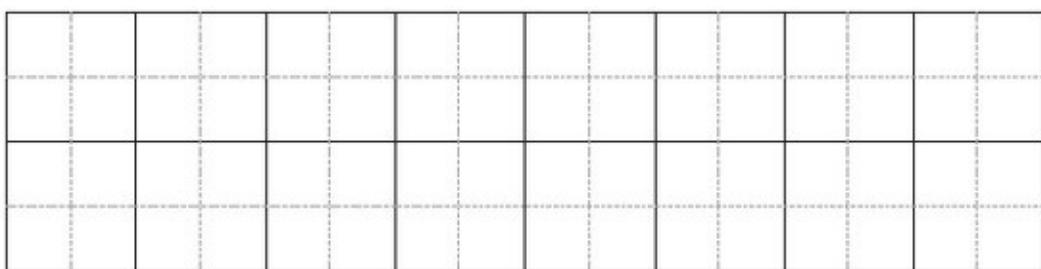


Writing Tip “ko” has two strokes and both are stops.

Trace these characters.



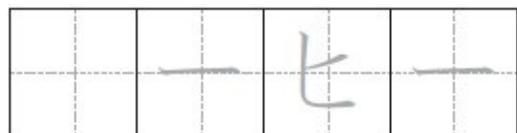
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **ko n sā to** (concert)



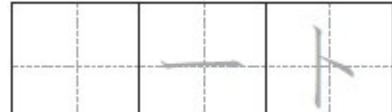
2. **kō chi** (coach)

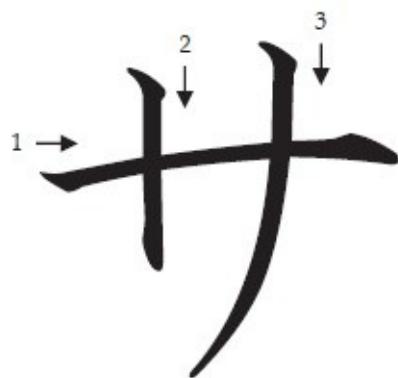


3. **kō hii** (coffee)



4. **kō to** (coat; (tennis) court)





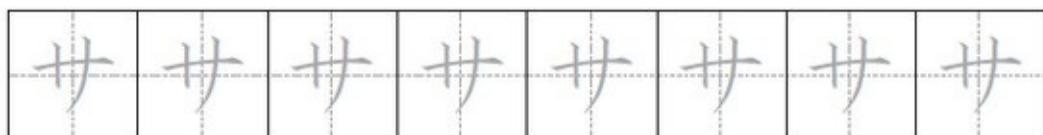
"sa" as in saw



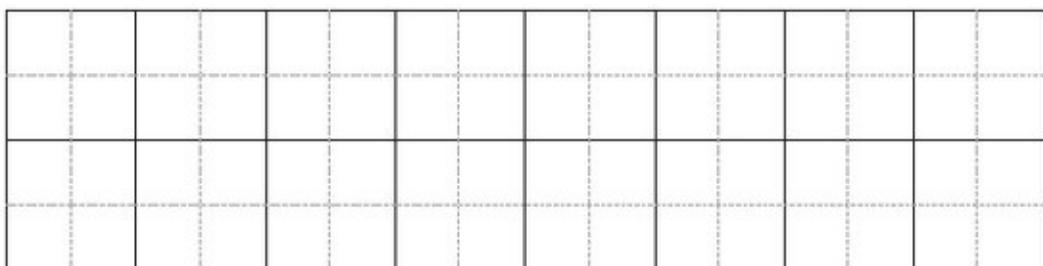
A sawhorse holds wood while you cut it.

Writing Tip "sa" has three strokes: 1) a stop, 2) stop and 3) brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **sa i n** (signature; autograph)



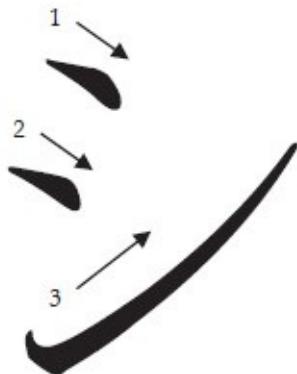
2. **sā ka su** (circus)



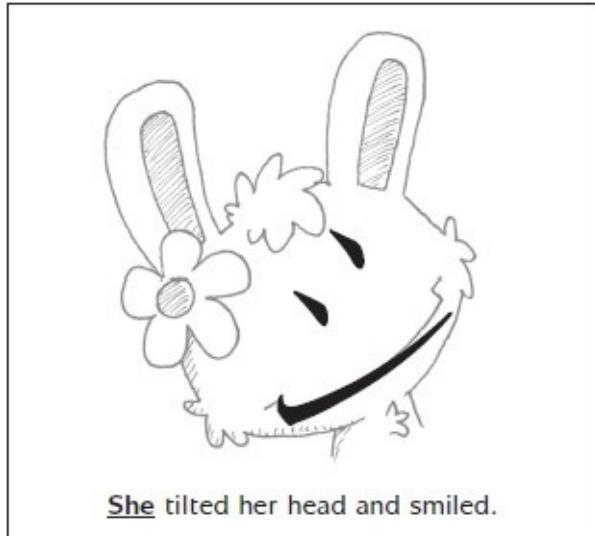
3. sā chi (search)



4. sa n da ru (sandals)



"shi" as in she

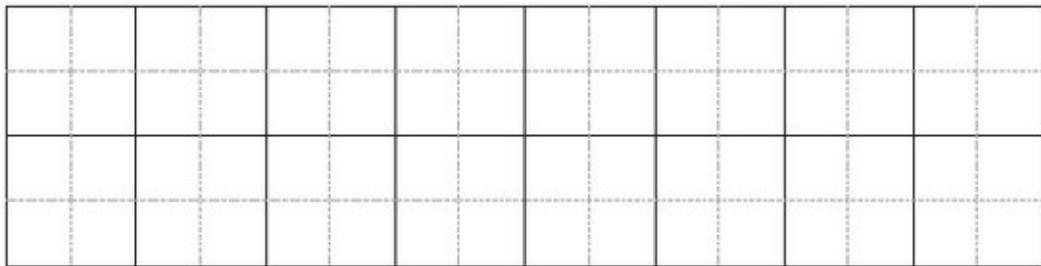


Writing Tip "shi" has three strokes: 1) a stop, 2) stop and 3) brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.

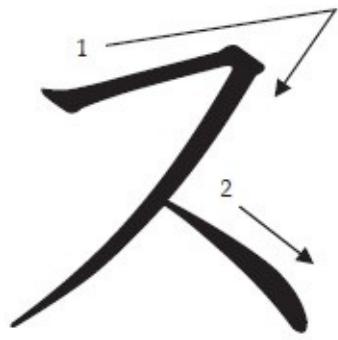
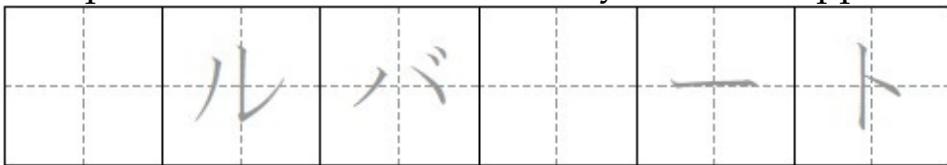


1. **shi ri a** (Syria)

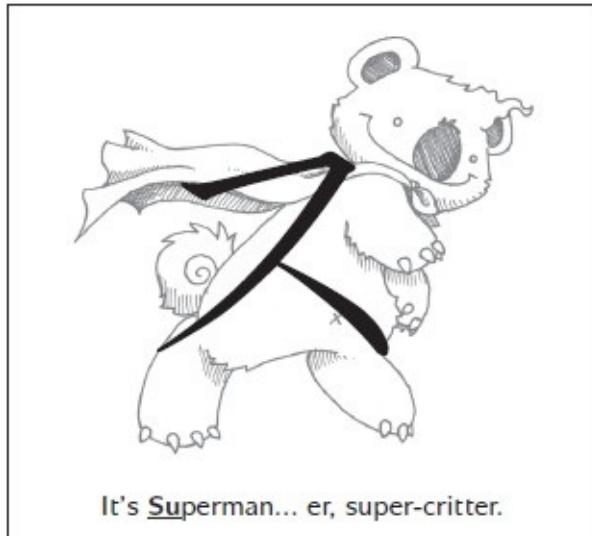


2. **mi shi n** (sewing machine)

3. **shi ru bā shi i to** (Silver Seat – reserved seating on public transportation for the elderly, handicapped, and so on.)



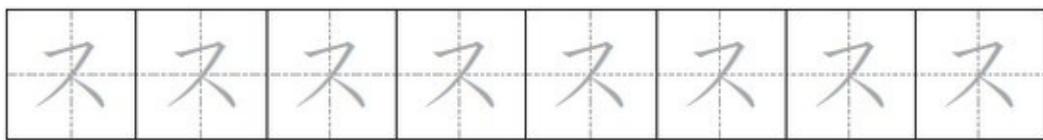
"su" as in super



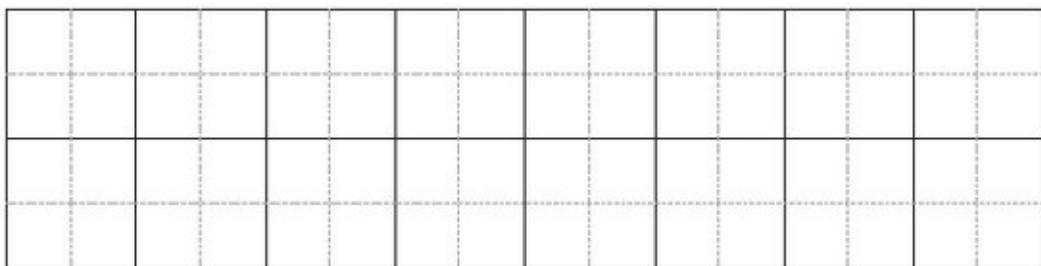
It's Superman... er, super-critter.

Writing Tip "su" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

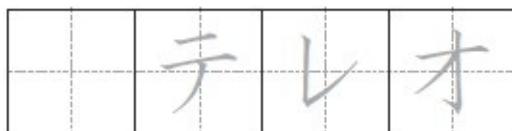
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



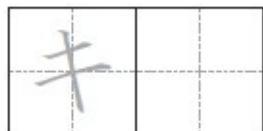
1. **su kā to** (skirt)



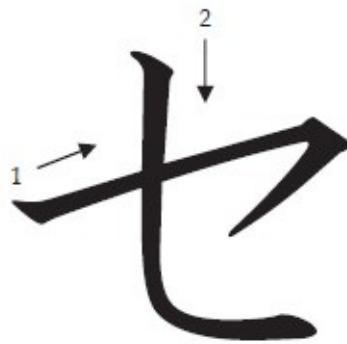
2. **su te re o** (stereo)



3. **ku ri su ma su** (Christmas)



4. **ki su** (kiss)



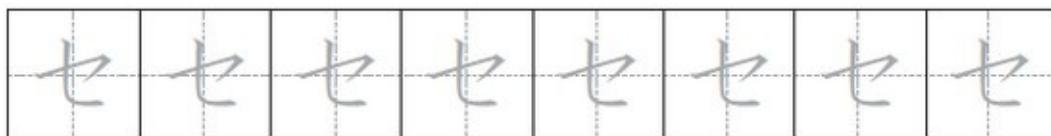
"se" as in set



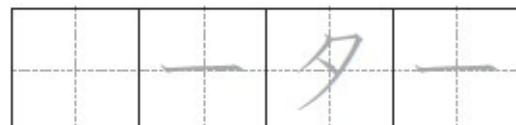
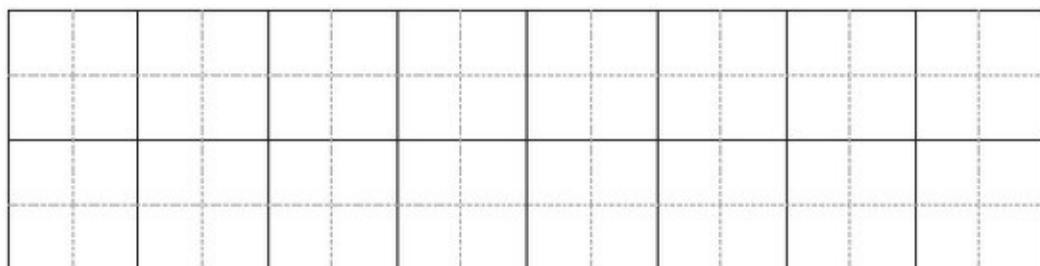
Katakana "se" and hiragana "se"
look a little alike.

Writing Tip "se" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

Trace these characters.



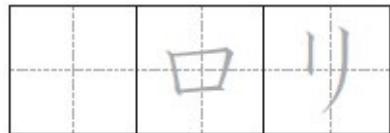
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. sē tā (sweater)



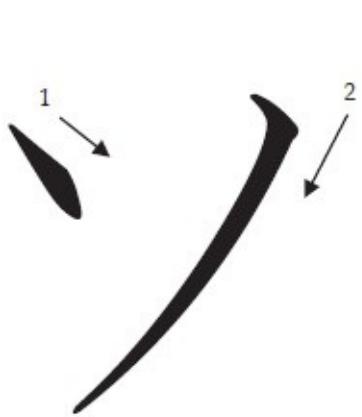
2. sē ru (sale)



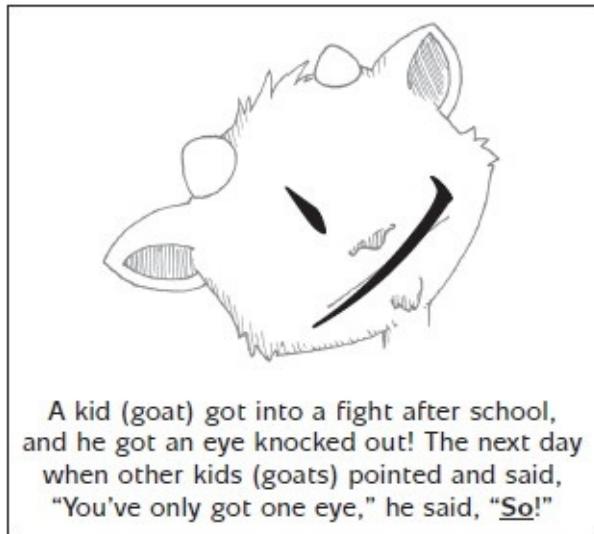
3. se ro ri (celery)



4. se i kō (Seiko watch corporation)

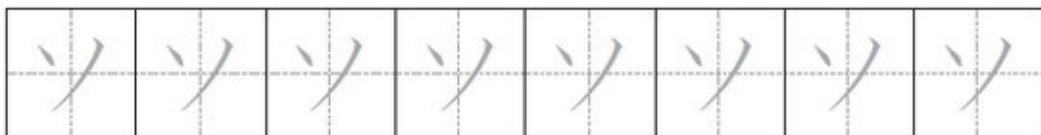


"so" as in so

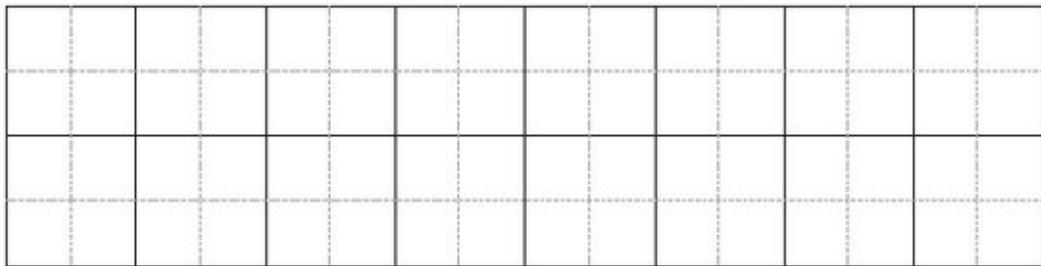


Writing Tip "so" has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush.

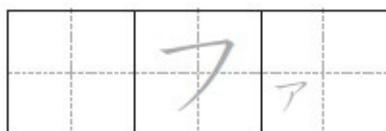
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



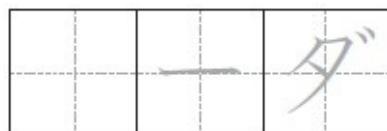
1. **shi i sō** (seesaw)



2. **so fa** (sofa)



3. **so u ru** (Seoul, Korea; soul)



4. **sō da** (soda)

READING PRACTICE 1: ソ ~ ゾ

You should be able to read the words below now. Fold the page lengthwise (or cover it with your hand) so you can only see the katakana words on the left hand side. Try reading them aloud and then check with the words on the right. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge try reading the Japanese and saying the English word before checking.

Note: In katakana long vowels are written with a line (—) called **bō**, rather than writing one of the five vowels as in hiragana. In this way, katakana writing is simpler than hiragana writing. Several of the example words below have long vowels. In order to improve your

pronunciation, be sure to pronounce the long vowels with approximately twice the length of a single syllable.

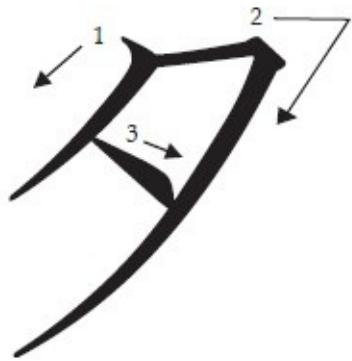
アイス	a i su (ice)
スコア	su ko a (score)
アクセス	a ku se su (access)
イカ	i ka (squid)
サイ	sa i (rhino)
キウイ	ki u i (kiwi)
エキス	e ki su (extract)
オスカー	o su kā (the Oscar)
オアシス	o a shi su (oasis)
サーカス	sā ka su (circus)
キス	ki su (kiss)
スイス	su i su (Switzerland)
カーキ	kā ki (khaki color)
スキー	su ki i (to ski; skiing)
サクセス	sa ku se su (success)
ケーキ	kē ki (cake)
オーケー	ō kē (okay)
ココア	ko ko a (cocoa)
セイコー	se i kō (Seiko company)
シーソー	shi i sō (seesaw)

コソコソ

ko so ko so (sneakily; stealthily)

Romaji pronunciation guide:

- a** as in father and bother
- i** as in Hawaii and beat
- u** as in glue and youth
- e** as in red and bed
- o** as in oak and bone



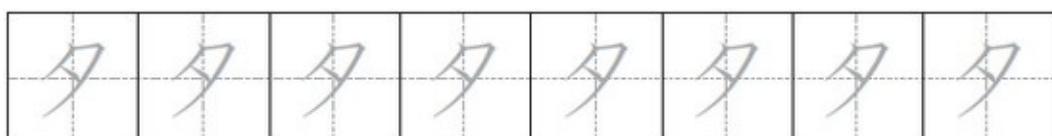
"ta" as in tall



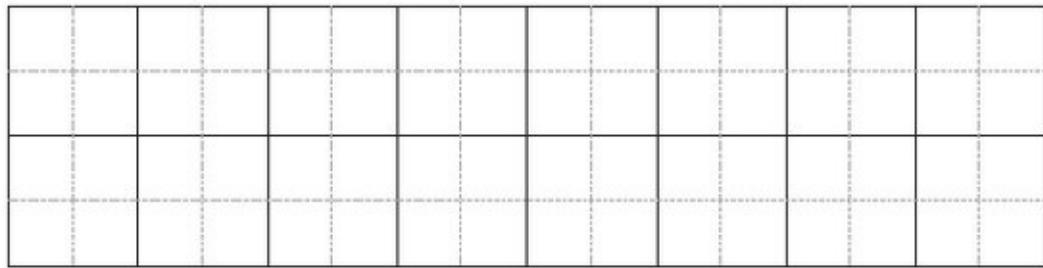
the leaning **tower** of Pisa (In Japanese
"tower" is pronounced with a "ta" as in tall).

Writing Tip "ta" has tree strokes: 1) a brush, 2) brush and 3) stop.

Trace these characters.



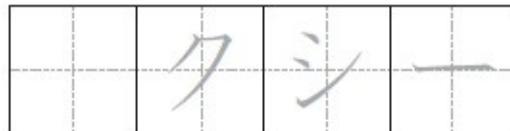
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **ta i** (Thailand; tie)



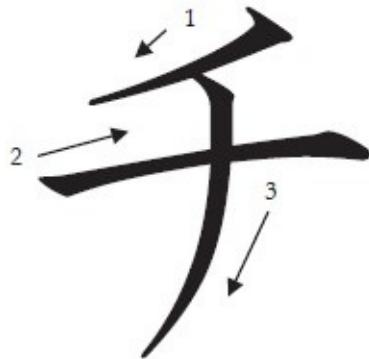
2. **sē tā** (sweater)



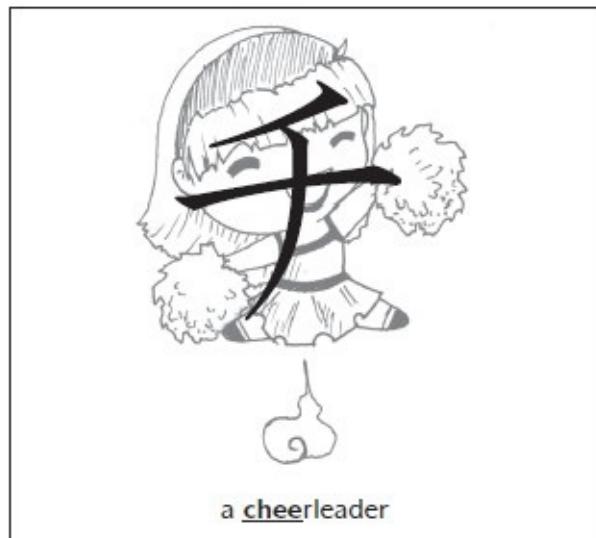
3. **ta ku shi i** (taxi)



4. **ta ko su** (taco)



"chi" as in cheer

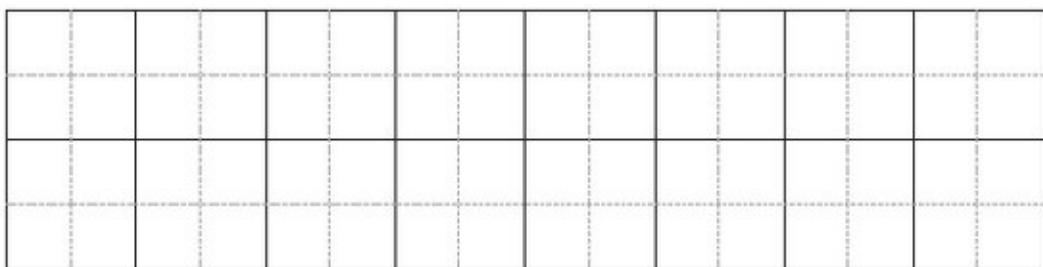


Writing Tip “chi” has three strokes: 1) a brush, 2) stop and 3) brush.

Trace these characters.



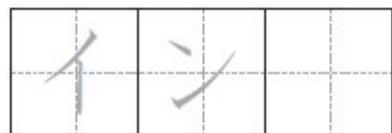
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



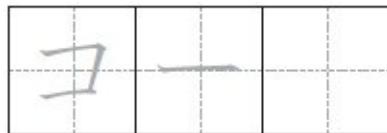
1. **chi ki n** ((cooked) chicken)



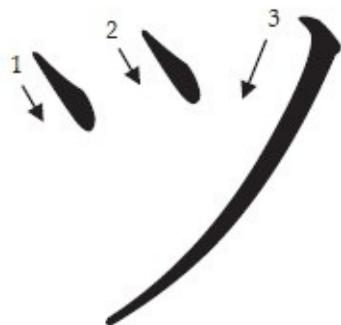
2. **se n chi** (centimeter)



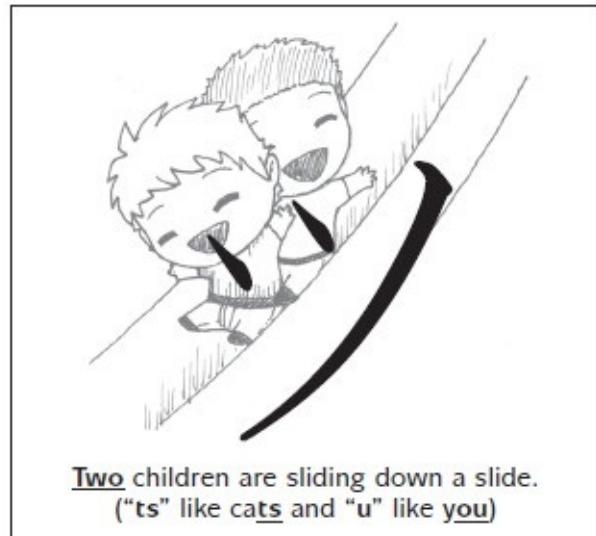
3. **i n chi** (inch)



4. **kō chi** (coach)

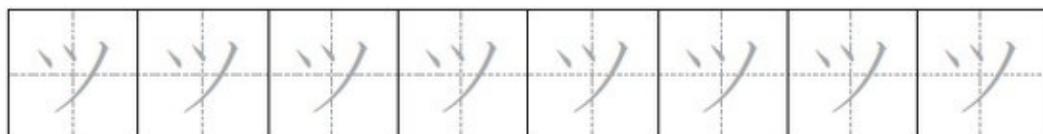


"tsu" as in cats

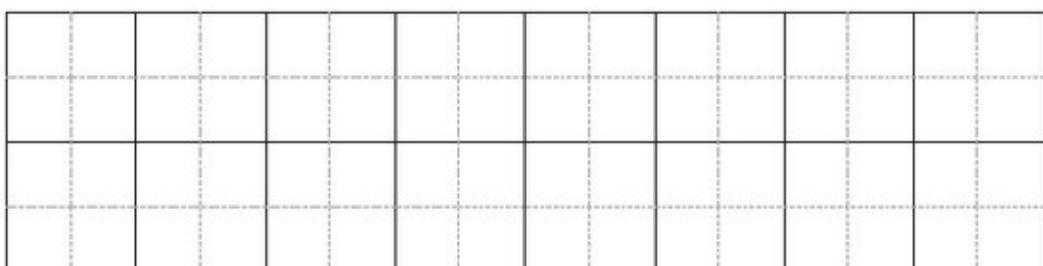


Two children are sliding down a slide.
("ts" like cats and "u" like you)

Writing Tip "tsu" has three strokes: 1) a stop 2) stop and 3) brush. (Note: **tsu** ツ and **shi** シ look alike, but the strokes in **tsu** go downward, and the strokes in **shi** go more to the right.) Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **sū tsu** (suit)



2. **tsu ā** (tour)



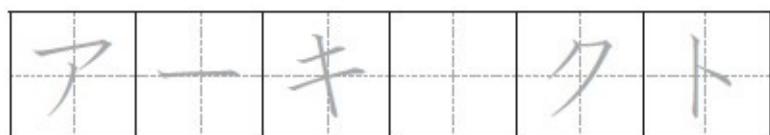
1. kā te n (curtains)



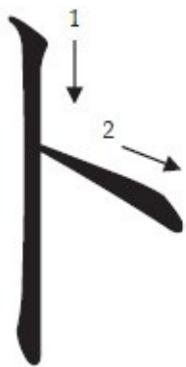
2. te ki su to (textbook)



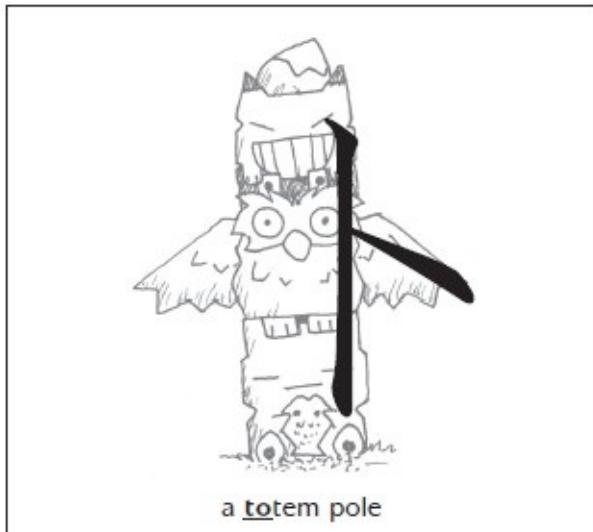
3. te ku (tech – abbr.)



4. **ā ki te ku to** (architect)



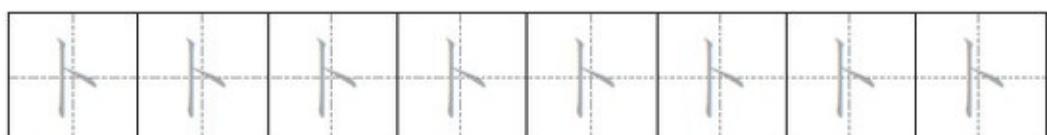
“to” as in totem



a totem pole

Writing Tip “to” has two strokes and they are both stops.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



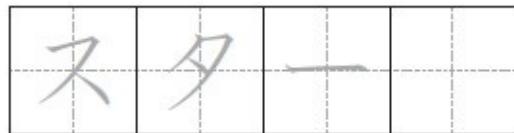
1. **su kā to** (skirt)



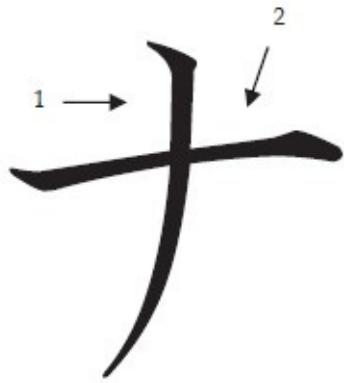
2. **te su to** (test)



3. **sa i to** ((web or real) site)



4. **su tā to** (start)



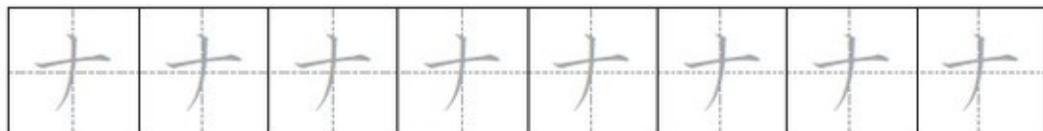
"na" as in not



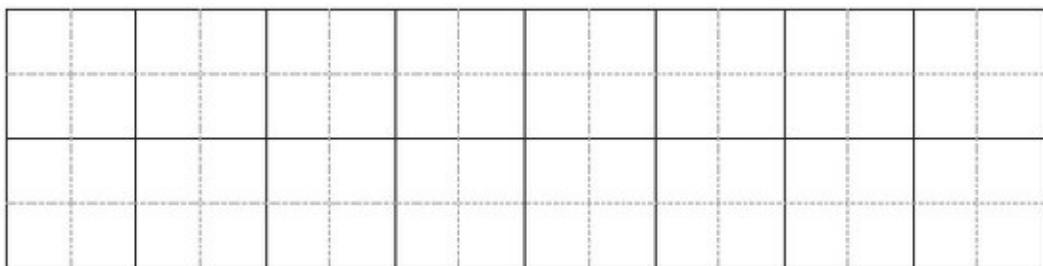
a knife

Writing Tip "na" has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush.

Trace these characters.



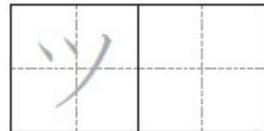
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



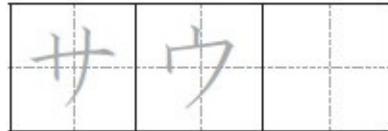
1. **na i fu** (knife)



2. **na rē tā** (narrator)



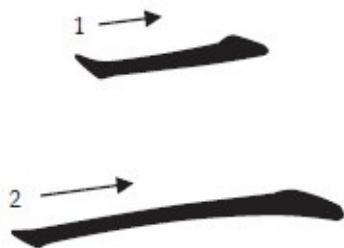
3. **tsu na** (tuna)



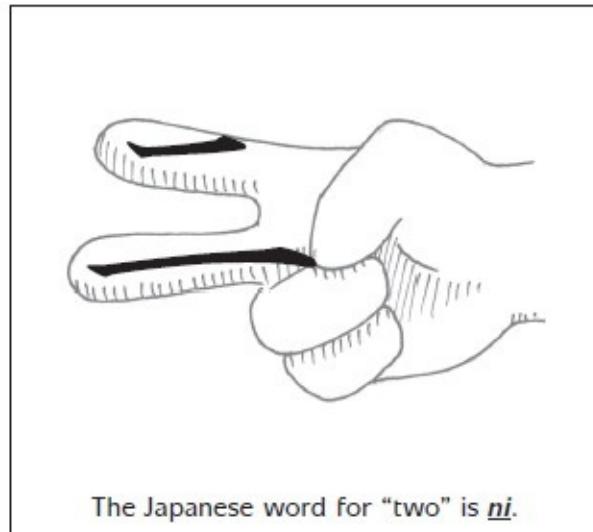
4. **sa u na** (sauna)



5. **na sa** (NASA)

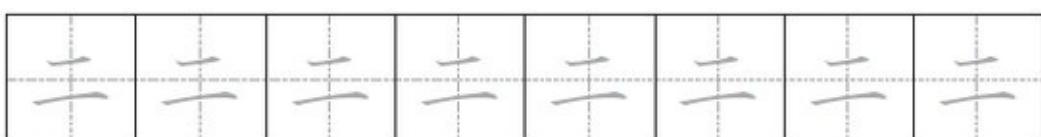


"ni" as in need

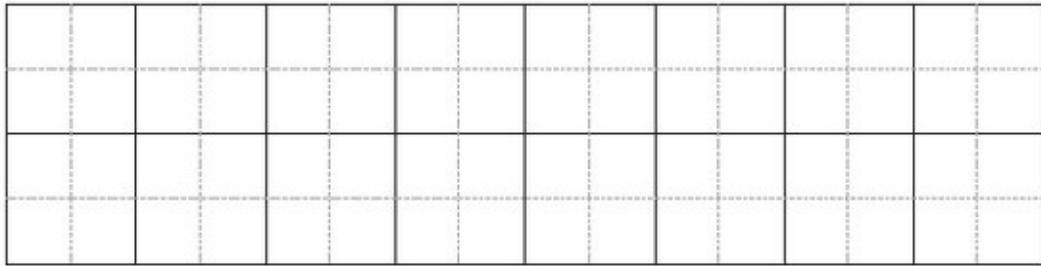


Writing Tip "ni" has two strokes and they are both stops.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



テ			ス
---	--	--	---

1. **te ni su** (tennis)

エ	ス	ト			ア
---	---	---	--	--	---

2. **e su to ni a** (Estonia)

ソ			
---	--	--	--

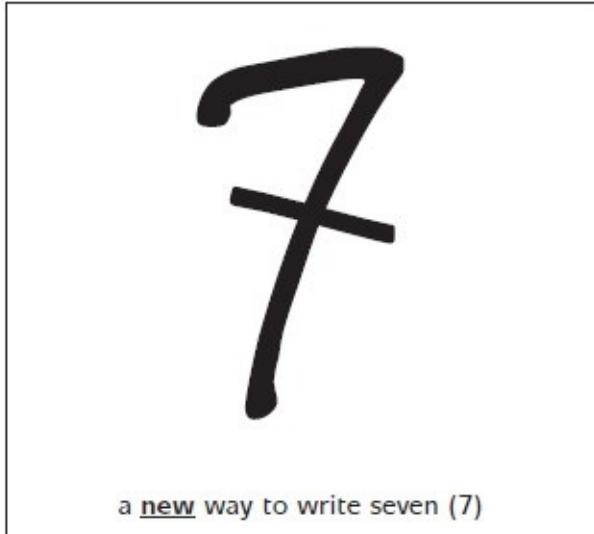
3. **so ni i** (Sony company)

ス			カ	
---	--	--	---	--

4. **su ni i kā** (sneakers)

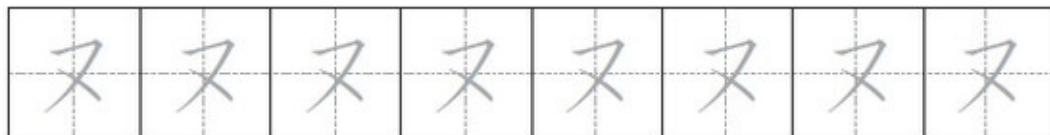
A handwritten Japanese character 'ヌ' is shown. Two arrows indicate the stroke order: arrow 1 points from the top right towards the center, and arrow 2 points from the bottom left towards the center.

"nu" as in new



Writing Tip “nu” has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

Trace these characters.



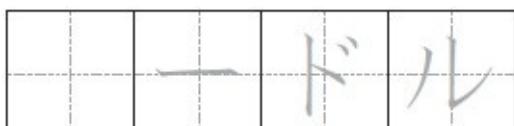
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **a i nu** (Ainu – indigenous people of Japan)



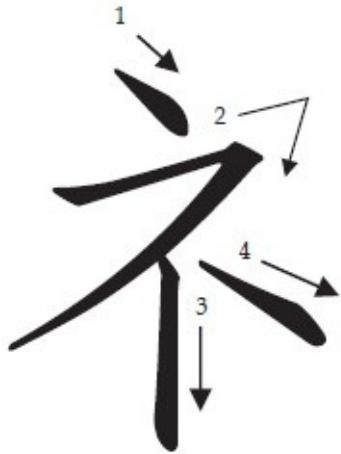
2. **su nū pi i** (Snoopy)



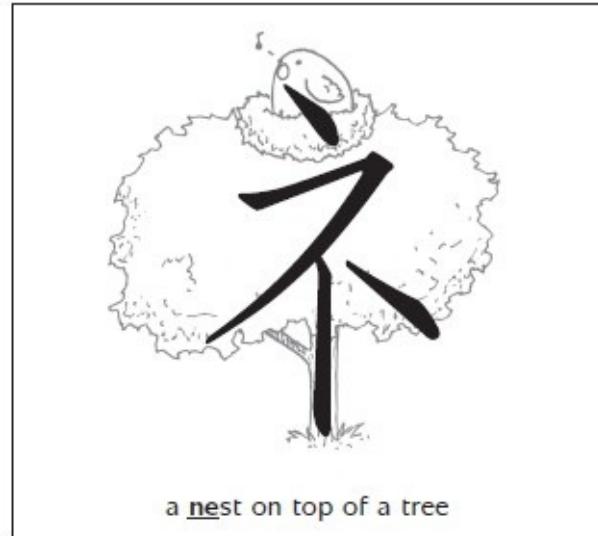
3. **nū do ru** (noodles)



4. **ka nū** (canoe)

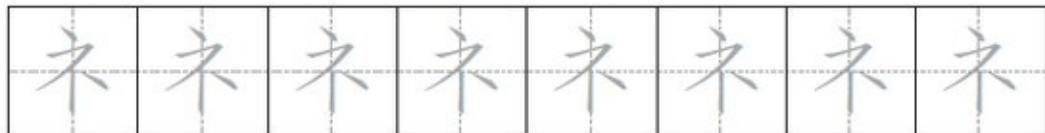


"ne" as in nest

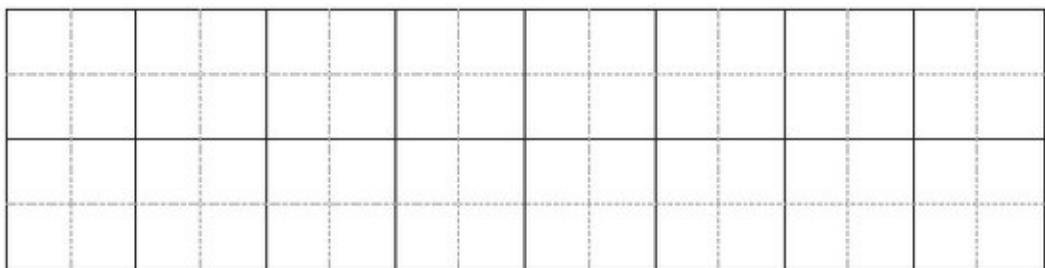


Writing Tip "ne" has four strokes: 1) a stop, 2) brush, 3) stop and 4) stop.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. i n tā ne tto (internet)





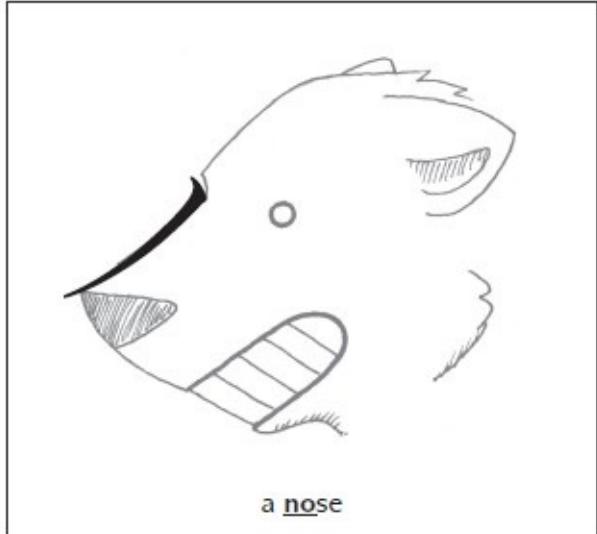
2. ne ga ((photo) negatives)



3. to n ne ru (tunnel)

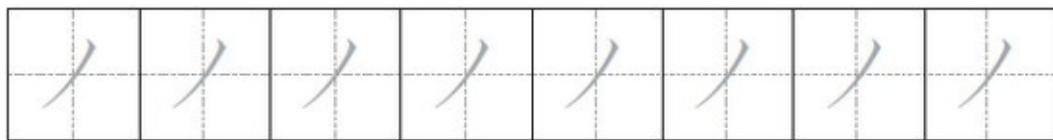


"no" as in nose

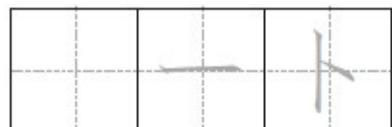
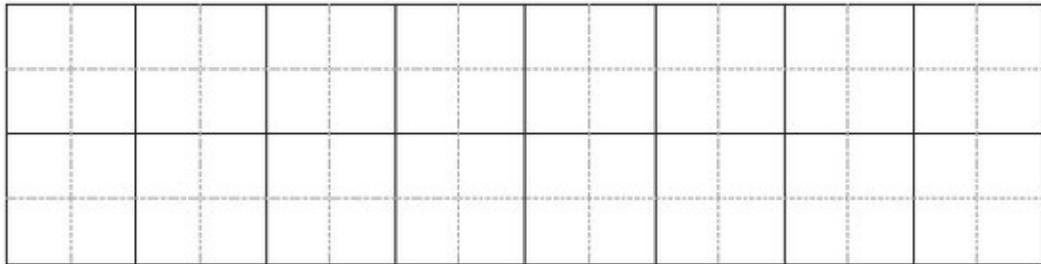


Writing Tip "no" has only one stroke and it is a brush.

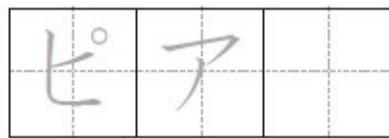
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **nō to** (notebook)

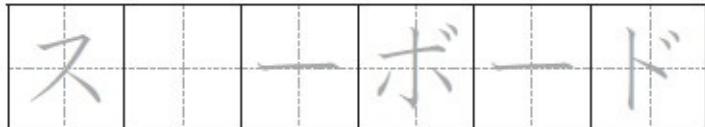


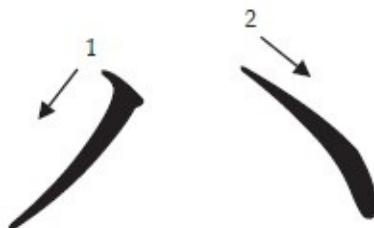
2. **pi a no** (piano)



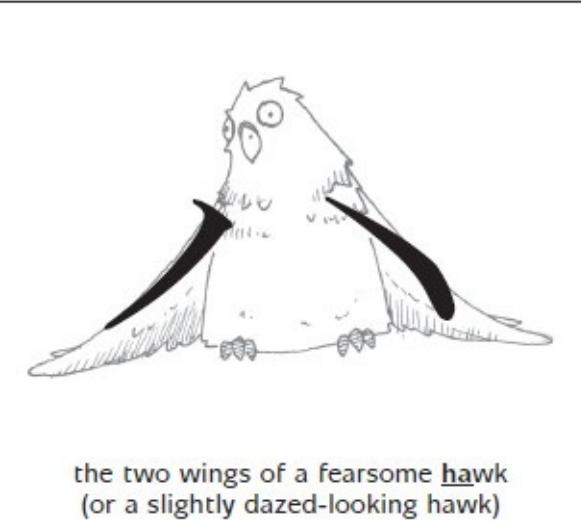
3. **ka ji nō** (casino)

4. su nō bō do (snowboard; snowboarding)

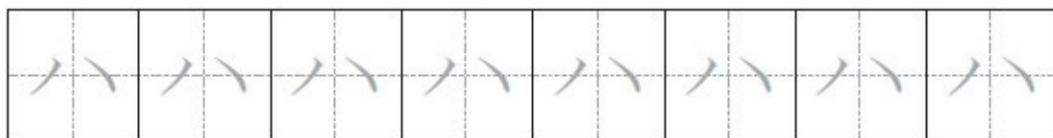




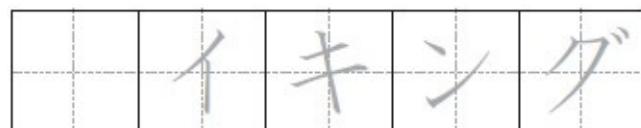
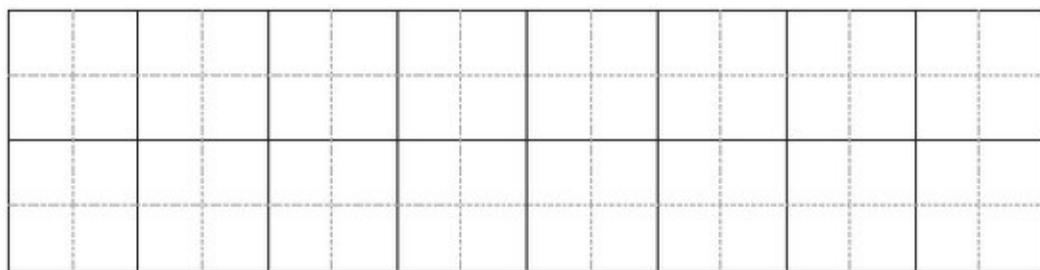
"ha" as in hawk



Writing Tip "ha" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop Trace these characters.



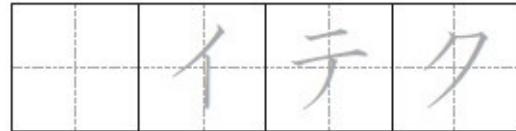
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. ha i ki n gu (hiking)



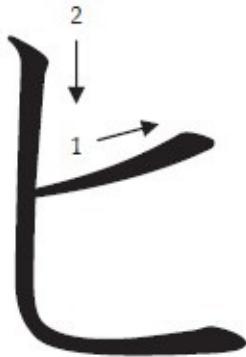
2. ha i chi (Haiti)



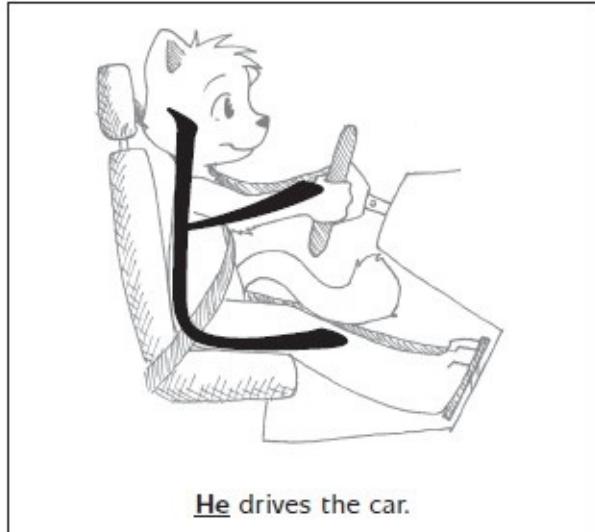
3. ha i te ku (high tech)



4. ha su ki i (Husky – dog)

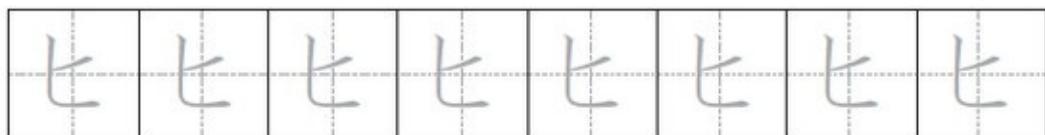


"hi" as in he

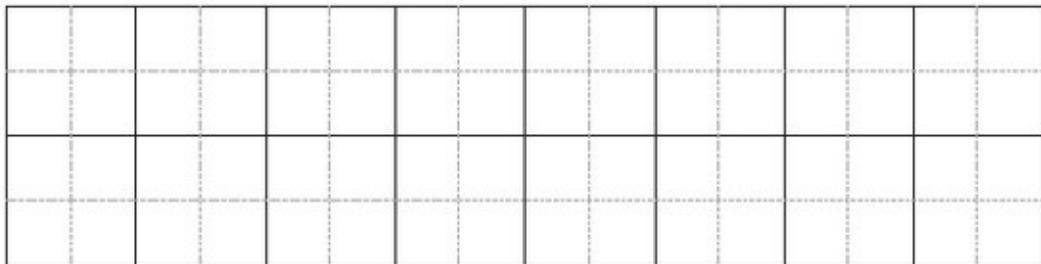


Writing Tip "hi" has two strokes and they are both stops.

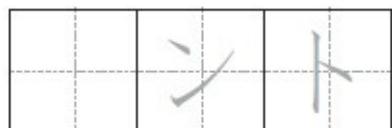
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. kō hi i (coffee)



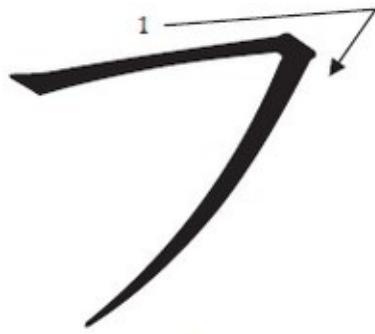
2. hi n to (hint)



3. hi i tā (heater)

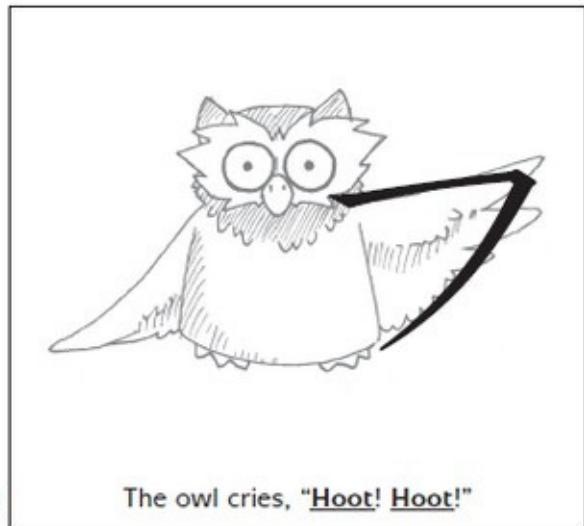


4. hi i rō (hero)



"fu" as in Hoot!

(except the lips are less rounded,
and more air escapes from the mouth)

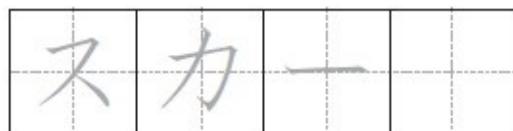
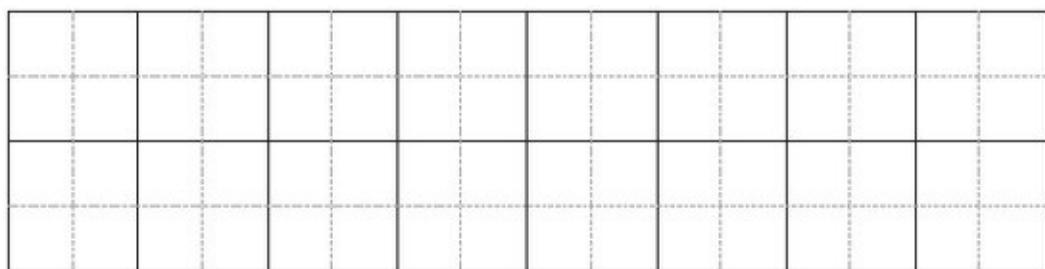


Writing Tip “fu” has only one stroke and it is a brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



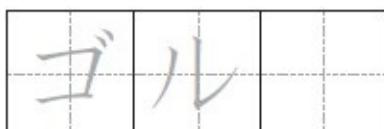
1. **su kā fu** (scarf)



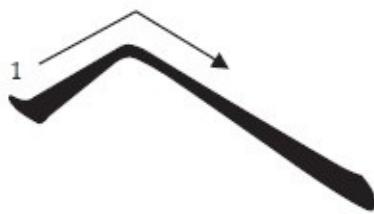
2. **fu ra n su** (France)



3. **so fu to** (software)



4. **go ru fu** (golf)



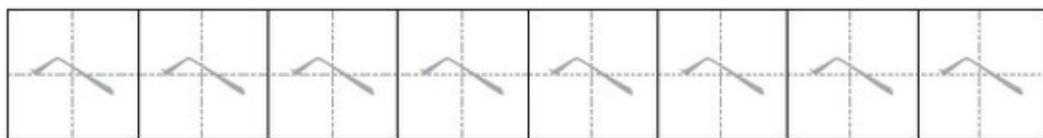
"he" as in help



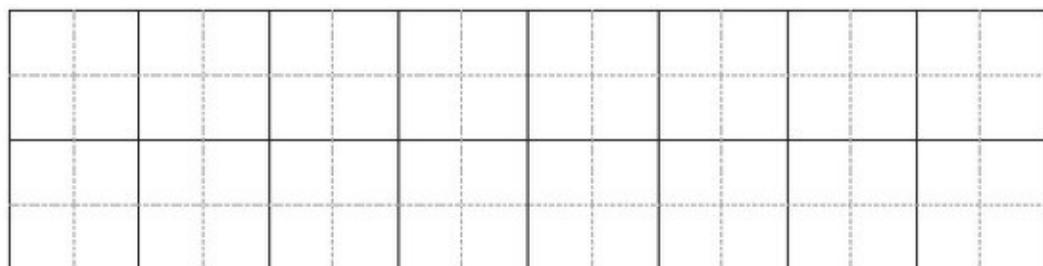
There are no significant differences between katakana "he" and hiragana "he."

Writing Tip "he" has only one stroke and it is a stop.

Trace these characters.



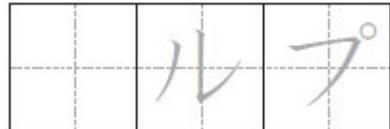
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **he ri** (helicopter)

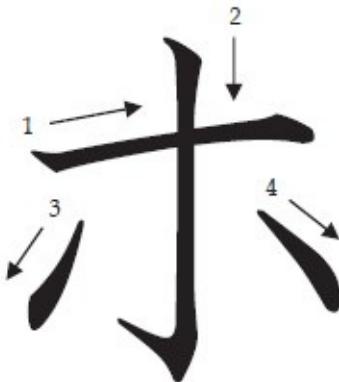


2. **he ddo ho n** (headphones)

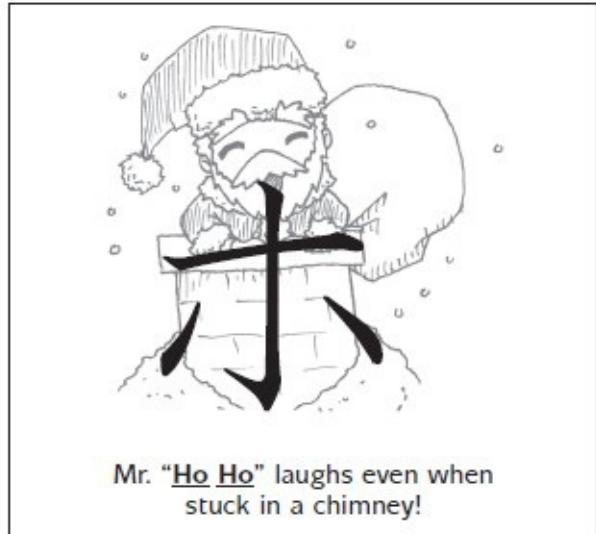


3. he ru pu (help)

4. he a ka rā (hair dye; hair coloring)

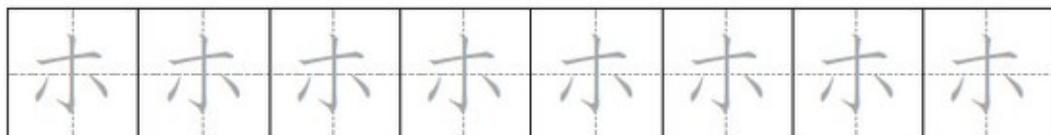


"ho" as in Ho! Ho!

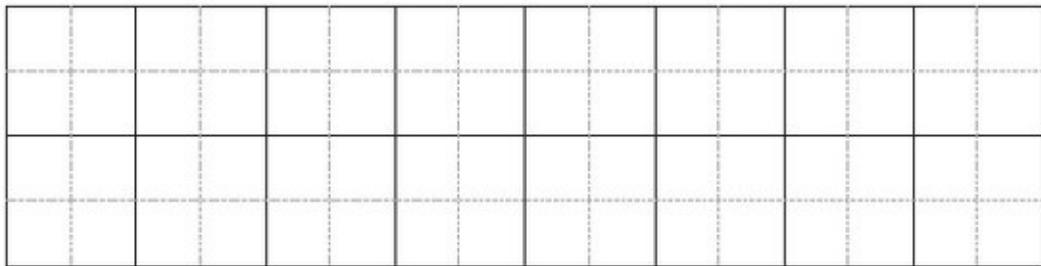


Writing Tip "ho" has four strokes: 1) a stop, 2) jump, 3) stop and 4) stop.

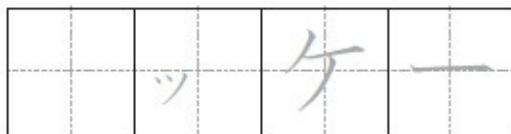
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



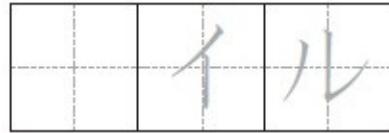
1. ho te ru (hotel)



2. ho kkē (hockey)



3. hō mu ((train station) platform)



4. ho i ru (foil)

READING PRACTICE 2: タ ~ ハ

You should be able to read the words below now. Fold the page lengthwise (or cover it with your hand) so you can only see the katakana words on the left hand side. Try reading them aloud and then check with the words on the right. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge try reading the Japanese and saying the English word before checking.

Note: In katakana long vowels are written with a line (—) called **bō**, rather than writing one of the five vowels as in hiragana. In this way, katakana writing is simpler than hiragana writing. Several of the example words below have long vowels. In order to improve your

pronunciation, be sure to pronounce the long vowels with approximately twice the length of a single syllable.

タクシー	ta ku shi i (taxi)
タコス	ta ko su (taco)
コーチ	kō chi (coach)
スーツ	sū tsu (suit)
ツアー	tsu ā (tour)
テキスト	te ki su to (textbook)
スカート	su kā to (skirt)
テスト	te su to (test)
ナイフ	na i fu (knife)
ツナ	tsu na (tuna)
カタカナ	ka ta ka na (katakana)
テニス	te ni su (tennis)
スニー	su ni i kā (sneakers)
カ一	
カヌー	ka nū (canoe)
アイヌ	a i nu (Ainu - indigenous people of northern Japan)
ノート	nō to (notebook)
ハスキー	ha su ki i (Husky - dog)
コーヒー	kō hi i (coffee)

ヒント

hi n to (hint)

ソフト

so fu to (software)

Romaji pronunciation guide:

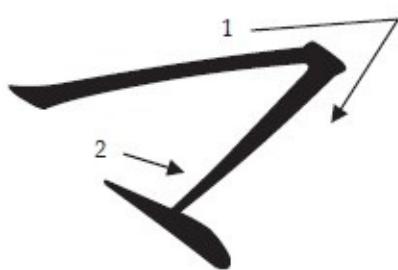
a as in father and bother

i as in Hawaii and beat

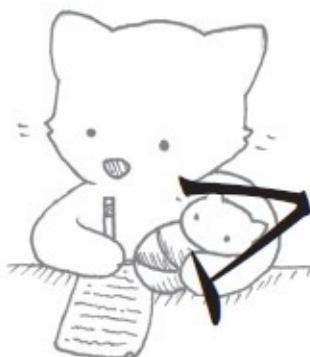
u as in glue and youth

e as in red and bed

o as in oak and bone



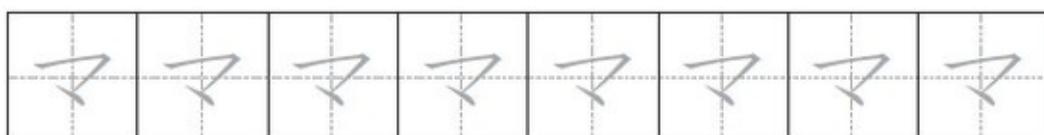
"ma" as in mom



Mom holds Baby while
she attends to some work.

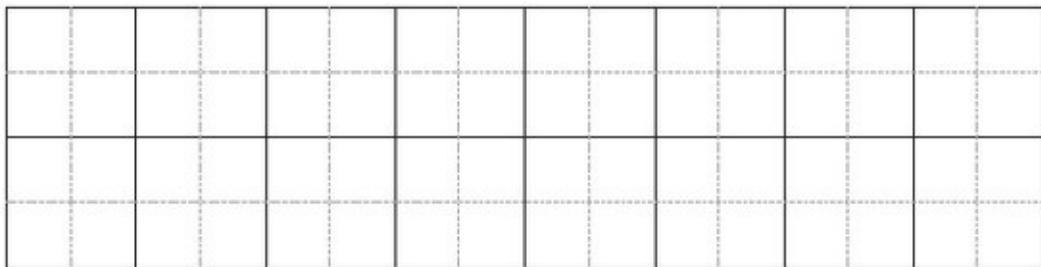
Writing Tip "ma" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think

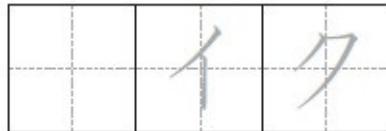
is best.



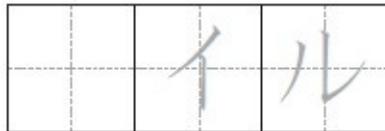
1. **to** **ma** **to** (tomato)



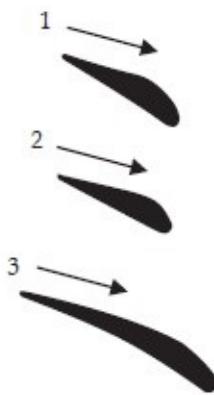
2. **mā** **kā** (marker)



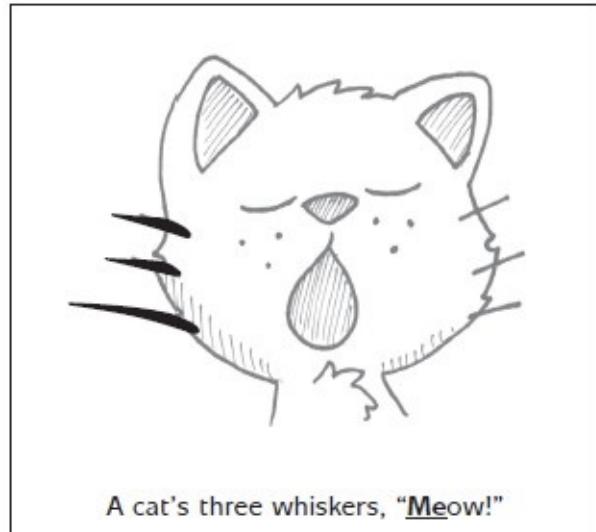
3. **ma** **i** **ku** (microphone)



4. **ma** **i** **ru** (mile)

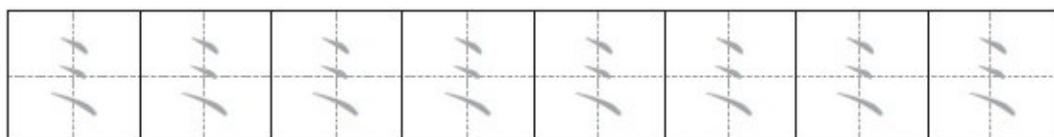


"mi" as in meow

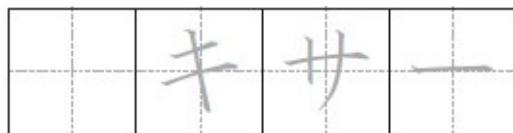


Writing Tip "mi" has three strokes and all three are stops.

Trace these characters.



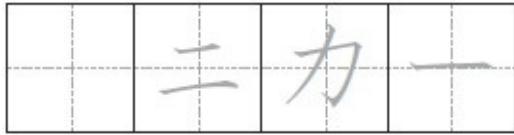
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



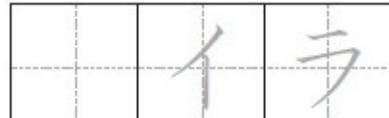
1. **mi ki sā** (blender)



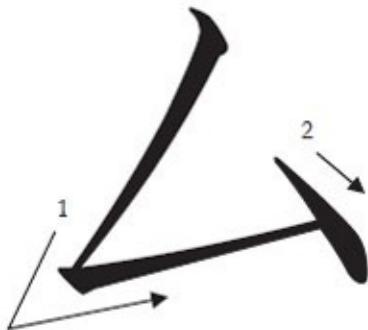
2. **sa ra mi** (salami)



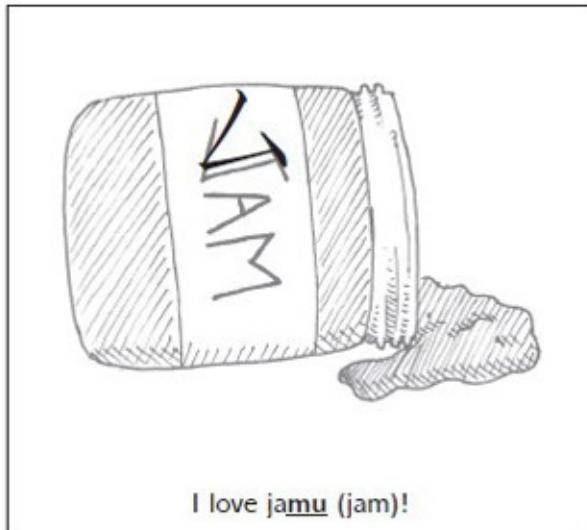
3. mi ni kā (toy car)



4. mi i ra (mummy; from Portuguese)

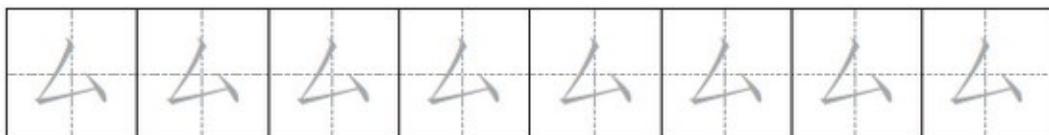


"mu" as in moo

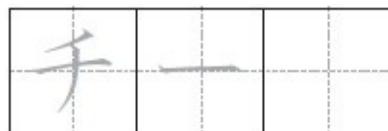
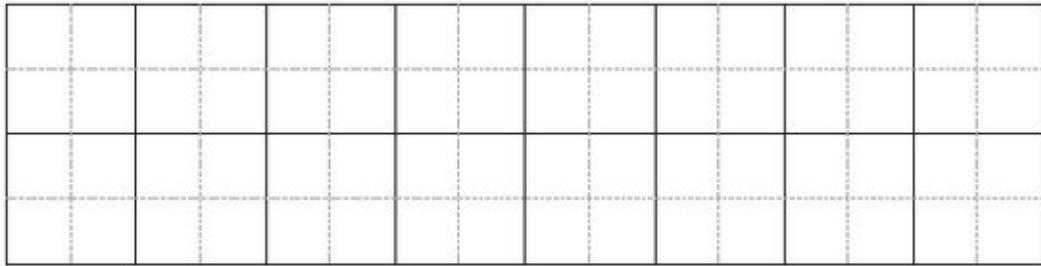


Writing Tip "mu" has two strokes and both are stops.

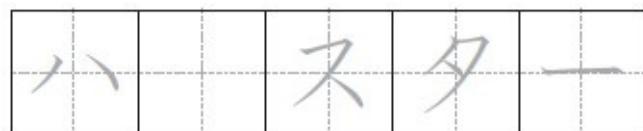
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.

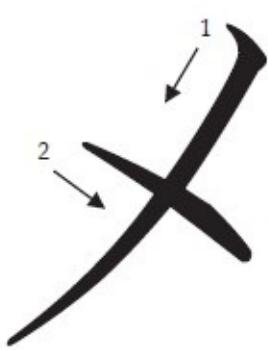
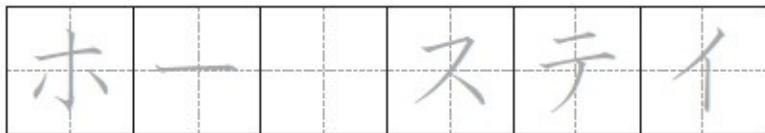


1. chi i mu (team)



2. ha mu su ta (hamster)

3. hō mu su te i (home stay)



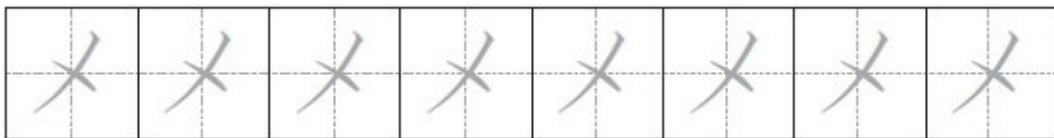
"me" as in Mexico



the "X" in Mexico

Writing Tip "me" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

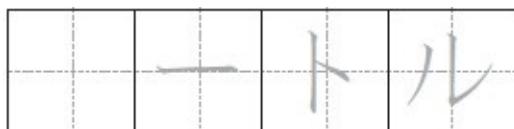
Trace these characters.



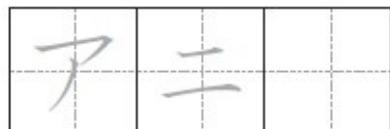
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



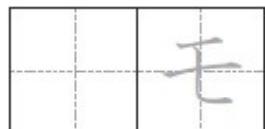
1. **me ki shi ko** (Mexico)



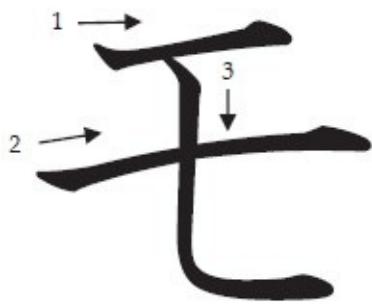
2. **mē to ru** (meter)



3. **a ni me** (Japanese cartoons)



4. **me mo** (memo; notes)



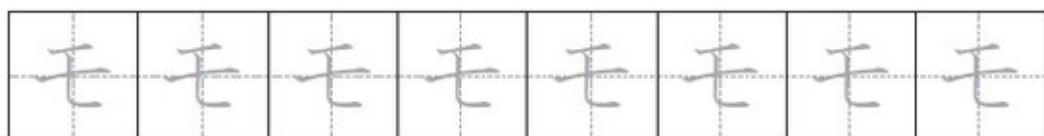
"mo" as in more



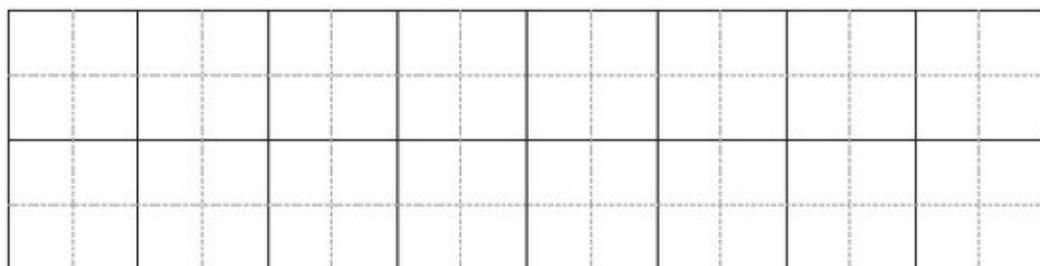
Hiragana "mo" and katakana "mo" look a bit alike. Note that stroke #3 does not go through stroke #1.

Writing Tip "mo" has three strokes and they are all stops.

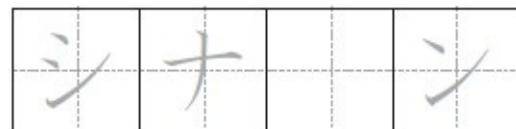
Trace these characters.



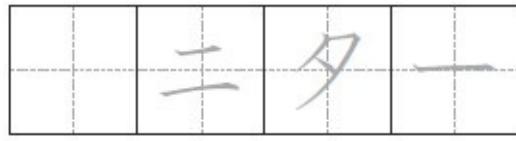
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



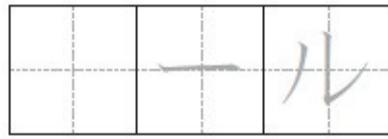
1. sā mo n (salmon – fish)



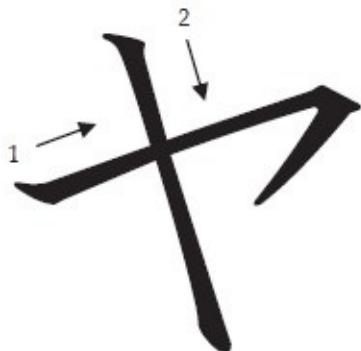
2. shi na mo n (cinnamon)



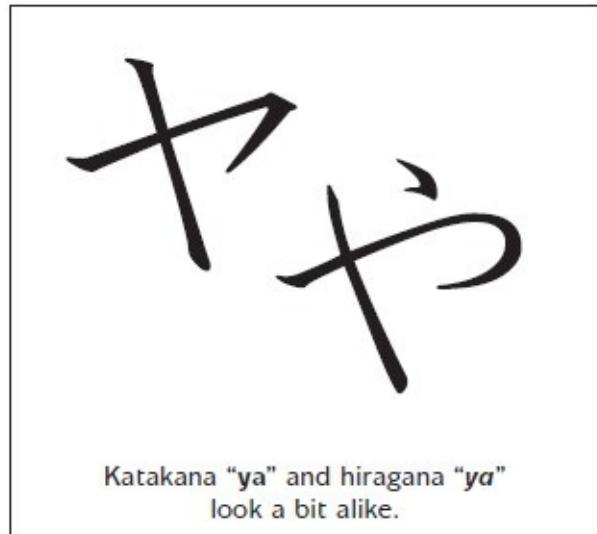
3. mo ni tā (monitor)



4. mō ru (mall)

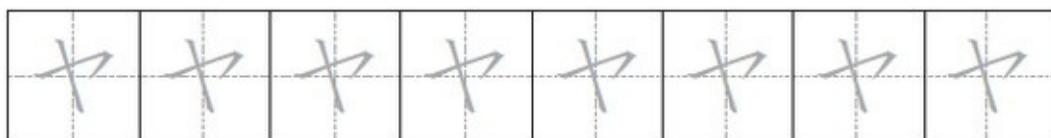


"ya" as in yarn

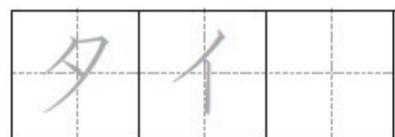
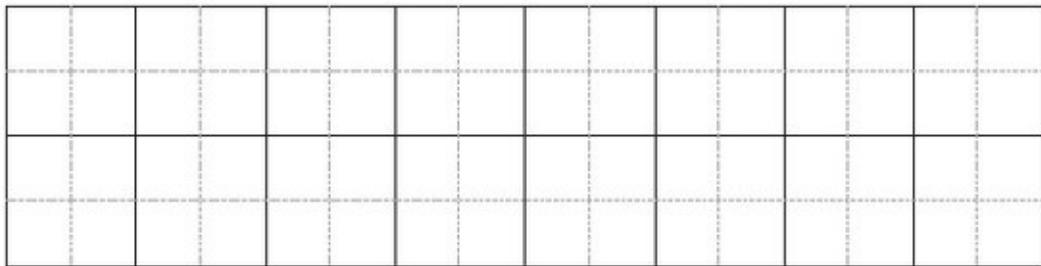


Writing Tip "ya" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

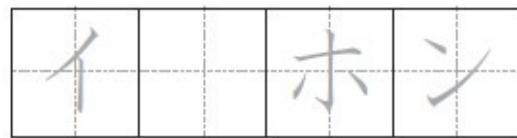
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



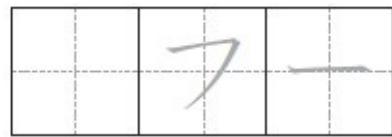
1. **ta i ya** (tire)



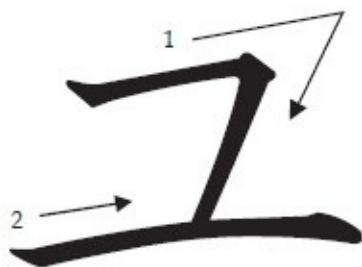
2. **i ya ho n** (earphones)



3. **da i ya** (diamond)



4. **ya fū** (Yahoo - company)



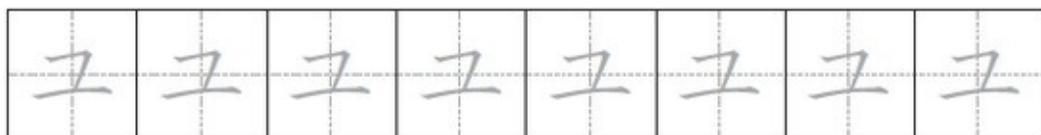
"yu" as in you



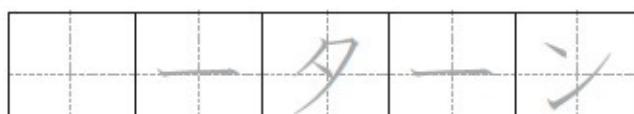
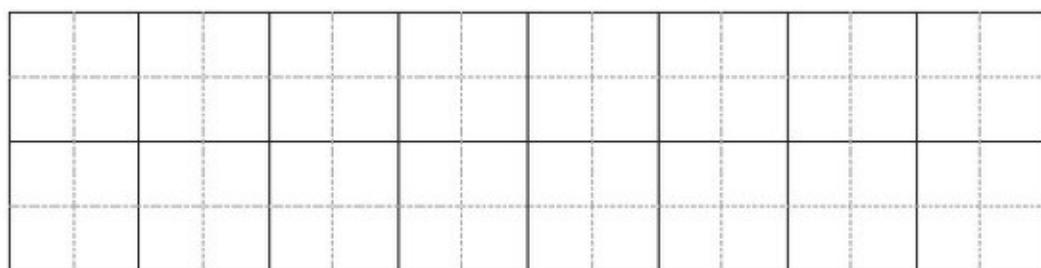
You won the "hangman" game!

Writing Tip “yu” has two strokes and both are stops.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. yū tā n (u-turn)



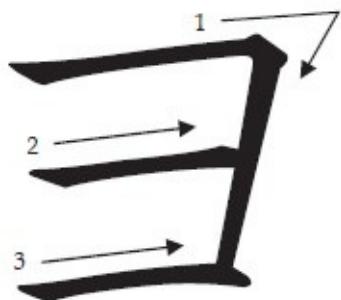
2. yū ro (Euro)



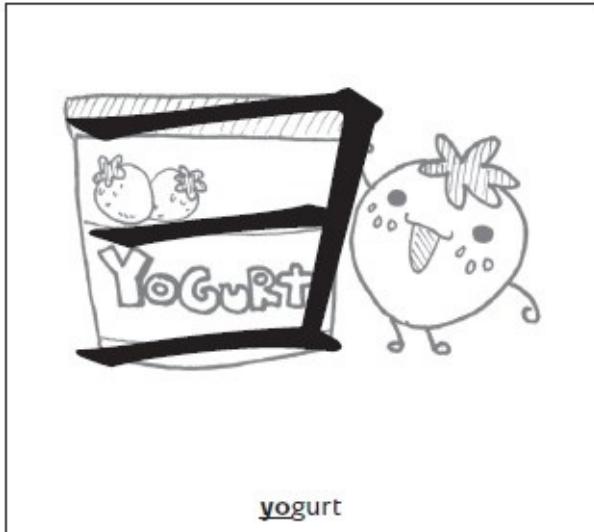
3. yū mo a (humor)



4. yū zā (user)

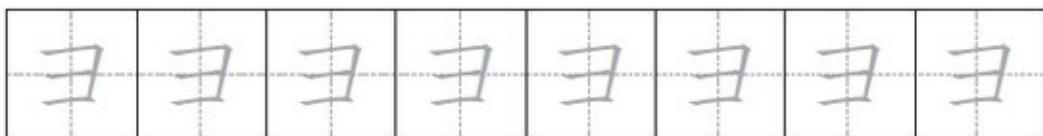


"yo" as in yogurt

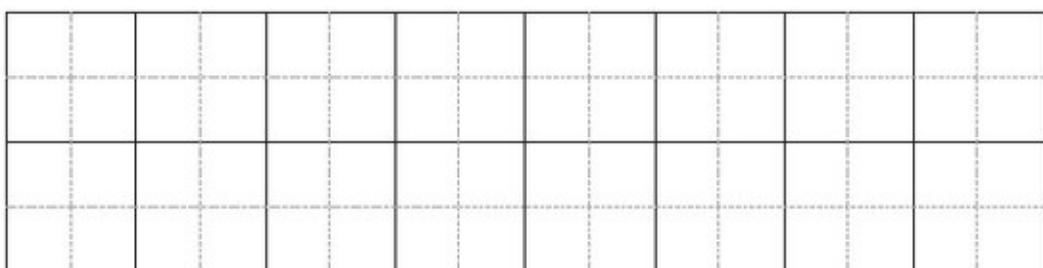


Writing Tip "yo" has three strokes and they are all stops.

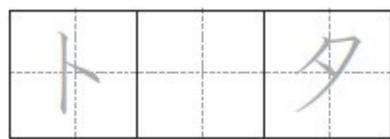
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



1. **ku re yo n** (crayon)

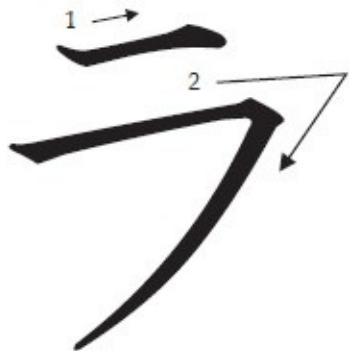
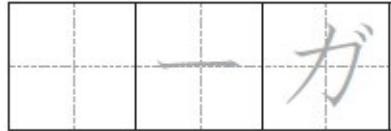


2. **to yo ta** (Toyota - company)

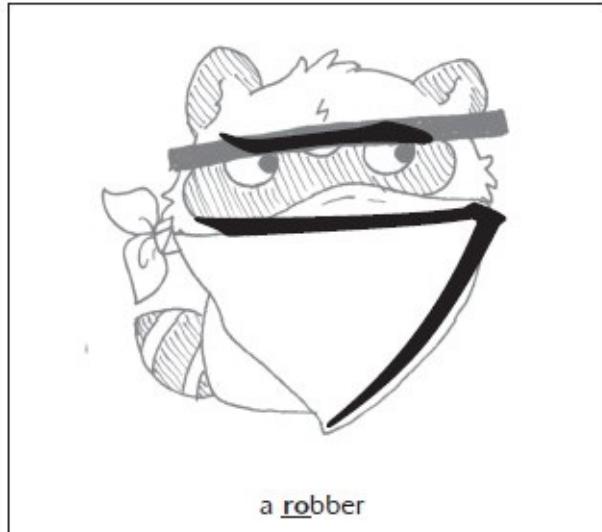
3. yō yō (yo-yo)



4. yō ga (yoga)



"ra" as in robber



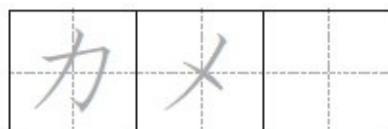
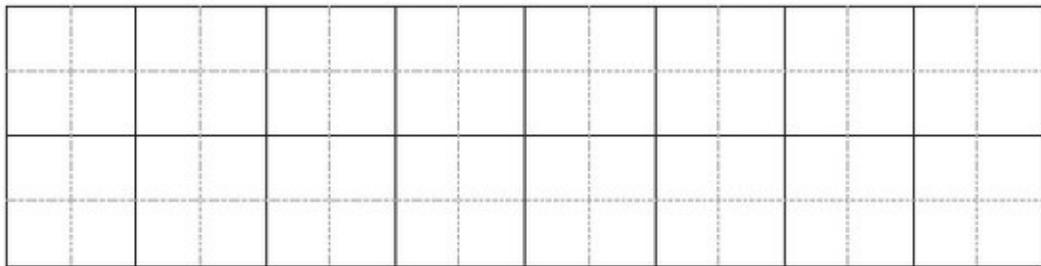
a robber

Writing Tip "ra" has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush.

Trace these characters.



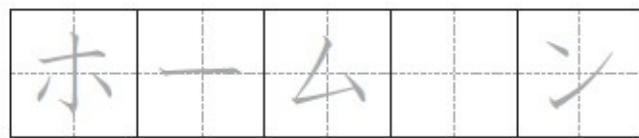
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



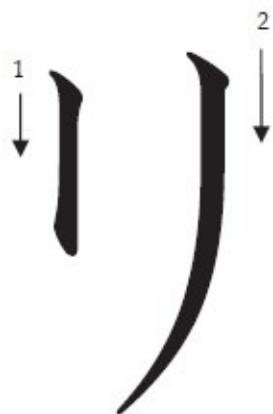
1. **ka me ra** (camera)



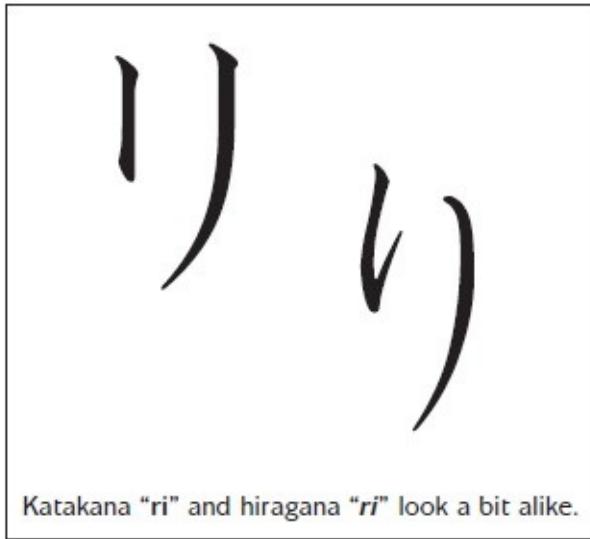
2. **ku ra su** (school class)



3. **hō mu ra n** (homerun)



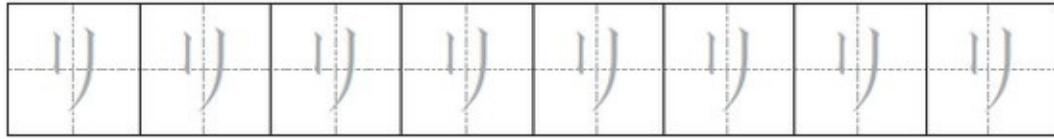
"ri" as in ring



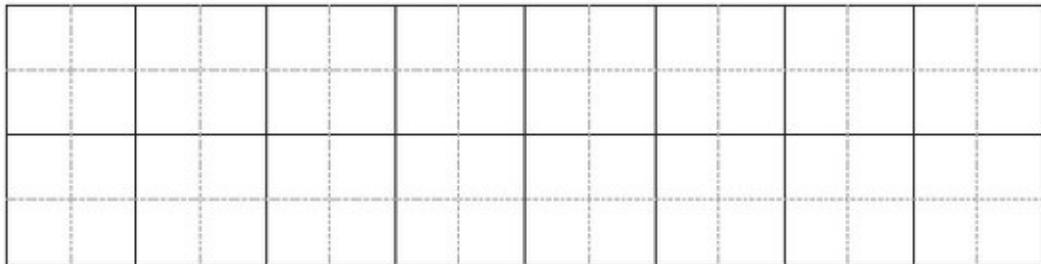
Katakana "ri" and hiragana "ri" look a bit alike.

Writing Tip "ri" has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



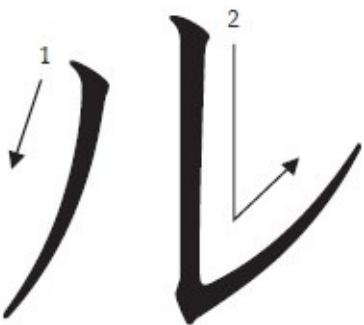
1. **a fu ri ka** (Africa)



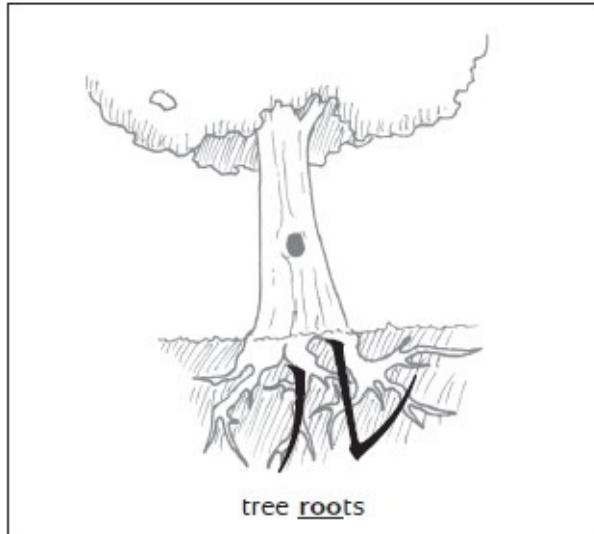
2. **i ta ri a** (Italy)

3. a i su ku ri i mu (ice cream)



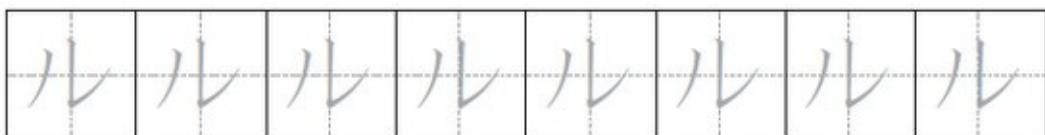


"ru" as in roots

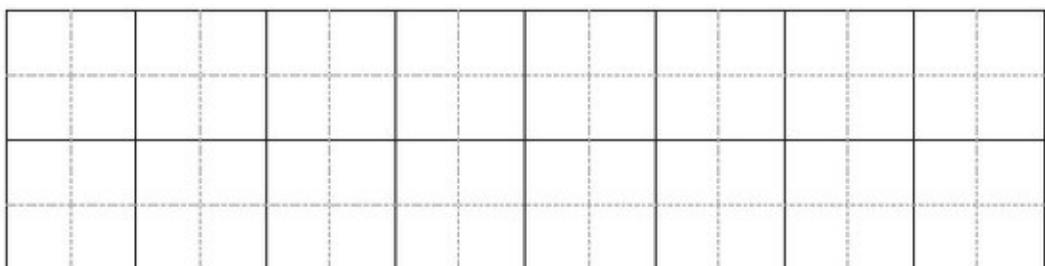


Writing Tip "ru" has two strokes and both are brushes.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.

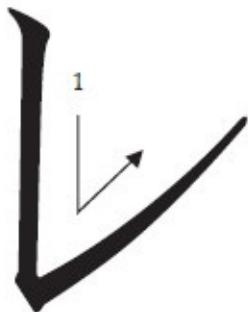
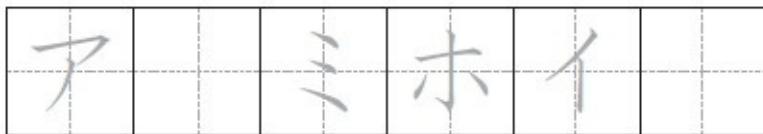


1. ho te ru (hotel)

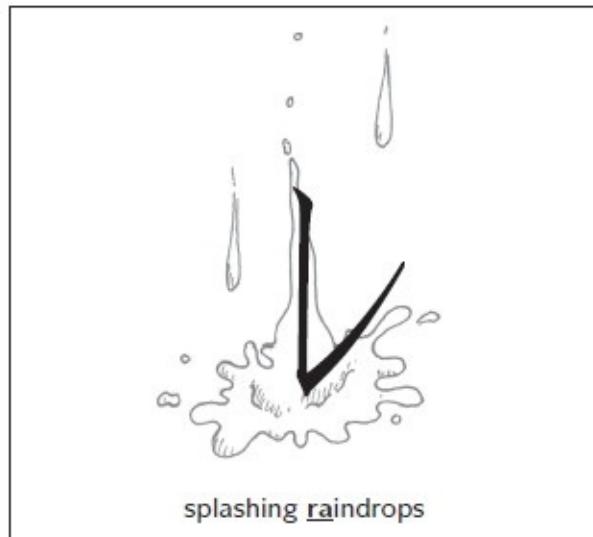


2. mi ru ku ((cow's) milk)

3. a ru mi ho i ru (aluminum foil)



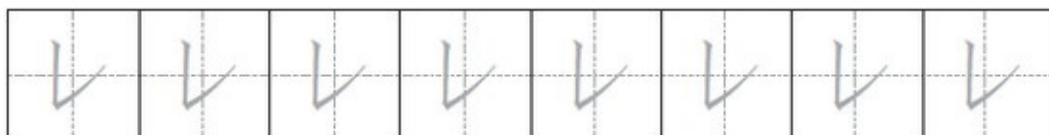
"re" as in rain



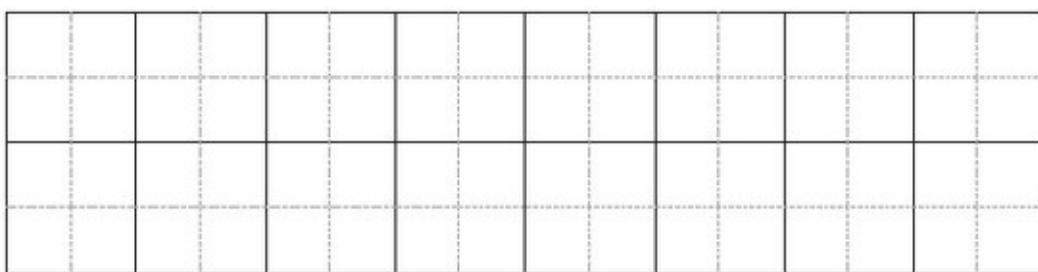
splashing raindrops

Writing Tip "re" has one stroke: a brush.

Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



			ス	ト	ラ	シ
--	--	--	---	---	---	---

1. **re su to ra n** (restaurant)

			シ	ト
--	--	--	---	---

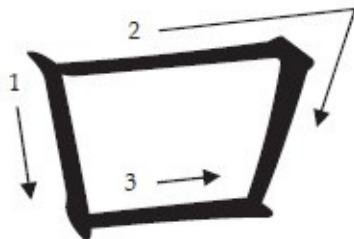
2. **re shi i to** (receipt)

エ		キ
---	--	---

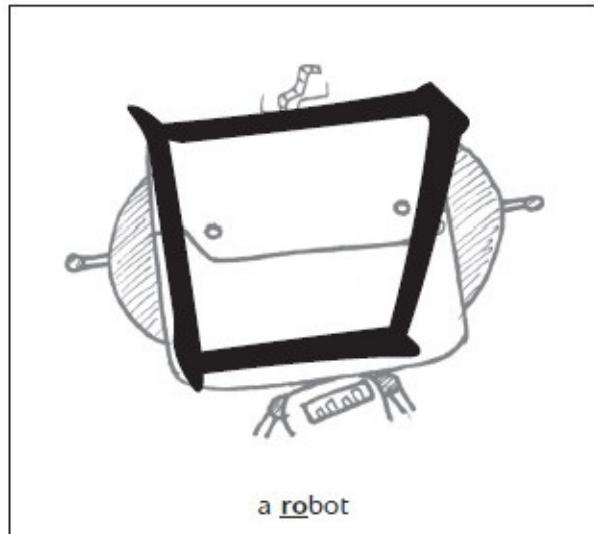
3. **e re ki** (electric guitar)

カ			ライ	ス
---	--	--	----	---

4. **ka rē ra i su** (curry rice)



"ro" as in robot



a robot

Writing Tip "ro" has three strokes and all three are stops.

Trace these characters.

ロ	ロ	ロ	ロ	ロ	ロ	ロ	ロ
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.

1. **ki** **ro** (kilogram; kilometer)

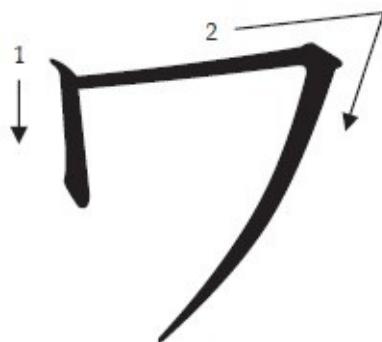
2. **su** **to** **rō** (drinking straw)

3. **te** **ro** (terrorism)

4. **ro** **shi** **a** (Russia)



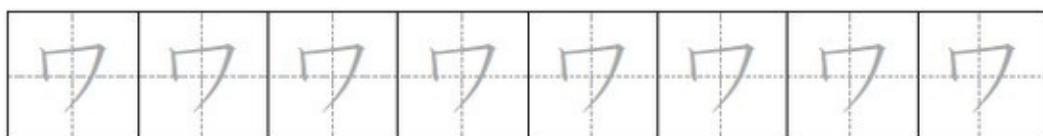
"wa" as in water



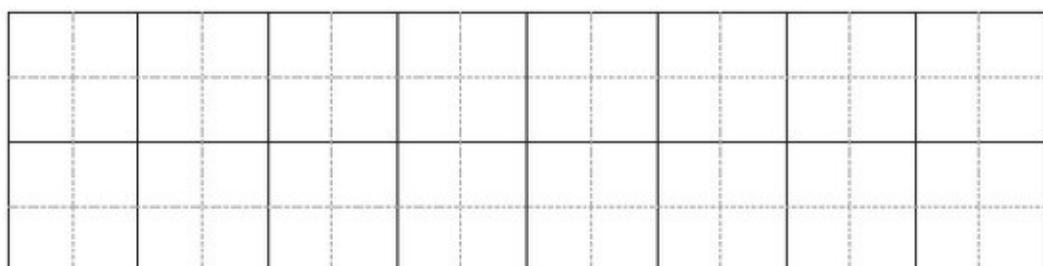
"I want a cookie!"

Writing Tip "wa" has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush.

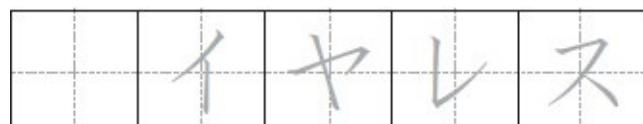
Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.

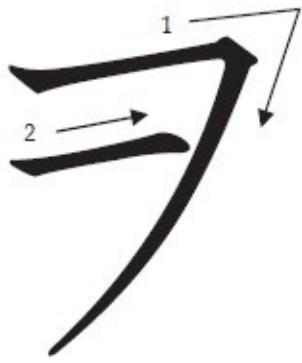


1. ha wa i (Hawaii)



2. wa i ya re su (wireless)

3. wā ku shi i to (worksheet)

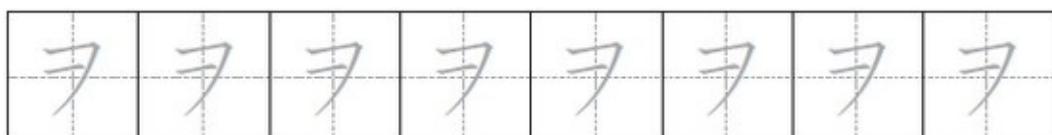


"o" as in oak
(same pronunciation as 才)

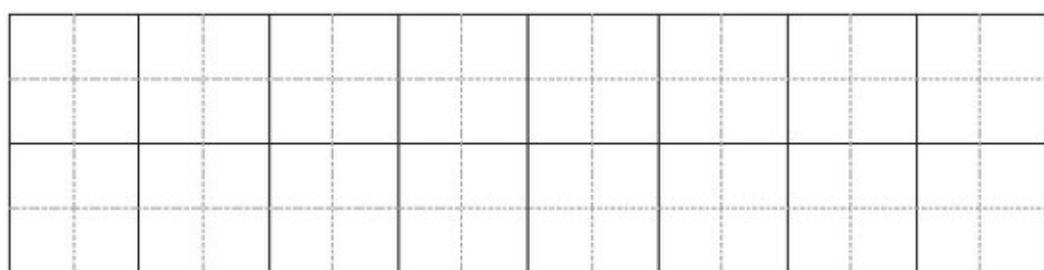


Writing Tip "o" has two strokes: 1) a brush and 2) stop.

Trace these characters.



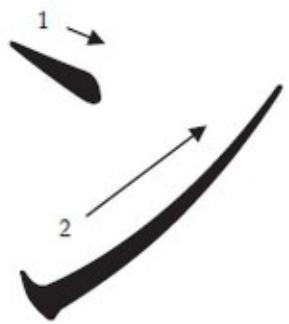
Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



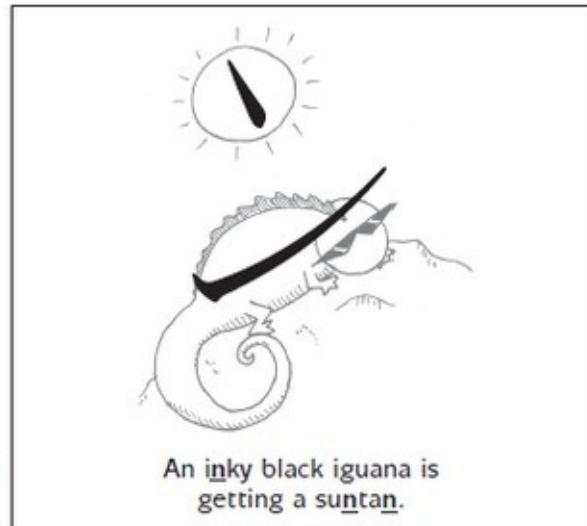
As a grammatical object marker, ヲ "o" is rarely used to write sentences, except in telegrams and some video games. Trace the light gray

characters and write the character by yourself.

su tā to bo ta n o o shi te ku da sa i (Push the start button.)

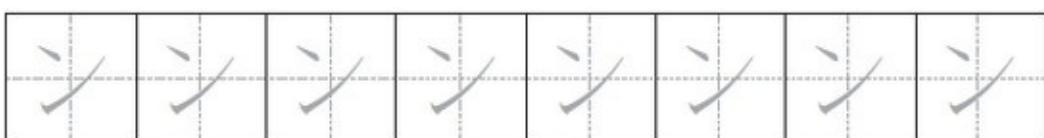


"n" as in ink
(pronounced by touching the back of
the tongue to the roof of the mouth)

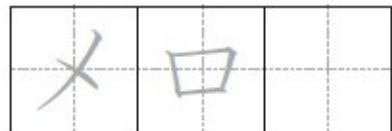
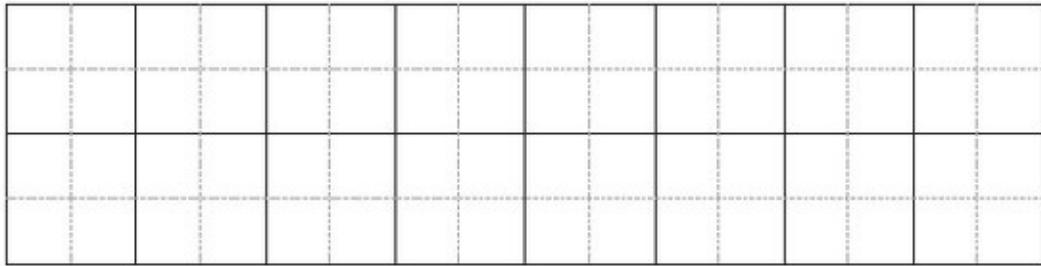


An inky black iguana is
getting a suntan.

Writing Tip “n” has two strokes: 1) a stop and 2) brush. (Note: ソ “n” and ゾ “so” look similar. A big difference is that “n” is written more from left to right, and “so” is written more from top to bottom.) Trace these characters.



Write the character in the boxes below, and then circle the one you think is best.



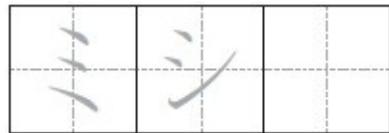
1. **me ro n** (melon)



2. **ma ra so n** (any running race)



3. **rā me n** (ramen noodles)



4. **mi shi n** (sewing machine)

READING PRACTICE 3: マ ~ ヌ

You should be able to read the words below now. Cover the right hand side of the page so you can only see the katakana words on the left. Try reading them aloud, and then check with the romaji on the right hand side. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge try saying the English words before you check.

トマト

to ma to (tomato)

マイク

ma i ku (microphone)

ミキサー

mi ki sā (blender)

チーム	chi i mu (team)
ホームステイ	hō mu su te i (home stay)
アニメ	a ni me Japanese cartoons)
シナモン	shi na mo n (cinnamon)
モニター	mo ni tā (monitor)
タイヤ	ta i ya (tire)
イヤホン	i ya ho n (earphones)
ユーモア	yū mo a (humor)
クレヨン	ku re yo n (crayon)
ヨーク	yō yō (yo-yo)
カメラ	ka me ra (camera)
クラス	ku ra su (school class)
アイスクリーム	a i su ku ri i mu (ice cream)
ホテル	ho te ru (hotel)
ミルク	mi ru ku (cow's milk)
レストラン	re su to ran (restaurant)
レシート	re shi i to (receipt)
ストロー	su to rō (drinking straw)
キロ	ki ro (kilogram; kilometer)
ワークシート	wā ku shi i to (worksheet)
ワイヤレス	wa i ya re su (wireless)

メロン

me ro n (melon)

ラーメン

rā me n (ramen noodles)

ミシン

mi shi n (sewing machine)

マラソン

ma ra so n (any running race)

Romaji pronunciation guide:

a as in father and bother

i as in Hawaii and beat

u as in glue and youth

e as in red and bed

o as in oak and bone

SECTION TWO

Katakana Usage Rules



Katakana has a few basic rules to keep in mind. This section introduces the four katakana rules with simple explanations and many useful example words. Pay close attention to these example words; they will illustrate the rules and make them easier to understand and remember.

Although some of the rules are the same as hiragana, katakana has different uses than hiragana so its rules are a bit different too. First, the hiragana rule for changing the pronunciation of は, へ, and を when using them as grammatical particles does not apply to katakana since katakana characters are not used as particles (except in telegraphs, video games, and so on). Second, instead of the complicated rule for making long vowels in hiragana, you simply add a long dash — called a **chōon** (long vowel) mark in katakana. For example, “cake” is written ケーキ (kē ki) with a **chōon** mark after the ケ (ke).

Katakana has one new rule that describes how to make 33 additional syllables for writing foreign words (see Rule 4). As you master the four rules of katakana usage you will be able to write any katakana word you like. After this chapter all you will need is practice, and you will be a proficient reader and writer of katakana.

RULE 1 TENTEN (`) AND MARU (°) The first katakana rule describes how certain characters change pronunciations when the marks called **tenten** (`) and **maru**

(°) are added to them. There are 18 characters that take the tenten (‘) mark, and there are 5 characters that take the maru (°) mark. The chart below summarizes the changes when these marks are added.

23 Tenten and Maru Characters

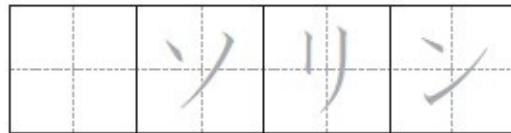
ガ ga	ギ gi	グ gu	ゲ ge	ゴ go
ザ za	ジ ji	ズ zu	ゼ ze	ゾ zo
ダ da			デ de	ド do
バ ba	ビ bi	ブ bu	ベ be	ボ bo
パ pa	ピ pi	ブ pu	ペ pe	ボ po

Trace the gray characters and marks, and try writing them on your own in the blank boxes.

ガ ga	ガ	ガ					
ギ gi	ギ	ギ					
グ gu	グ	グ					
ゲ ge	ゲ	ゲ					
ゴ go	ゴ	ゴ					



1. **ga mu** (gum)



2. **ga so ri n** (gasoline)



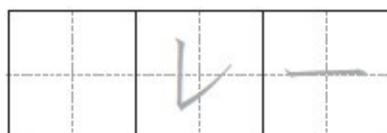
3. **a re ru gi i** (allergy)



4. **gi tā** (guitar)



5. **sa n gu ra su** (sunglasses)



6. **gu rē** (grey)



7. **gē mu** (game)



8. **re ge e** (Reggae)

け	し		ム
---	---	--	---

9. ke shi * go mu (eraser)

	ル	フ
--	---	---

*hiragana 10. go ru fu (golf)



ラ			ニア
---	--	--	----

11. ra za ni a (lasagna)

レ			
---	--	--	--

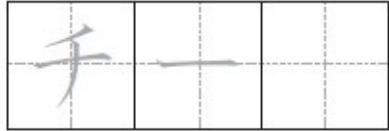
12. rē zā (laser)

オ	レ	ン		
---	---	---	--	--

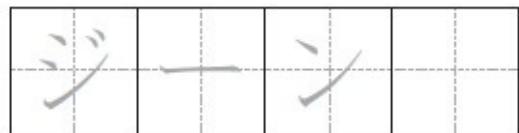
13. o re n ji (orange)



14. **ra ji o** (radio)



15. **chi i zu** (cheese)



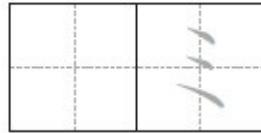
16. **ji i n zu** (jeans)



17. **gā ze** (gauze)



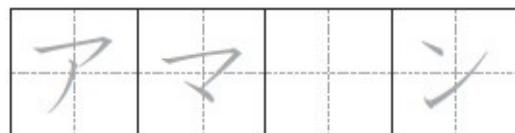
18. **zero** (zero)



19. **ze mi** (seminar)



20. **ri zō to** (resort)

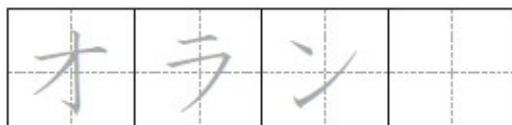


21. **a ma zo n** (Amazon)

ダ	ダ	ダ				
da						
デ	デ	デ				
de						
ド	ド	ド				
do						



22. dō na tsu (doughnuts)



23. o ra n da (Holland)



24. sa ra da (salad)



25. do a (door)

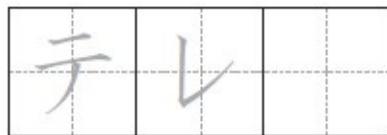


26. de zā to (dessert)



27. de za i n (design)

バ ba	バ	バ					
ビ bi	ビ	ビ					
ブ bu	ブ	ブ					
ベ be	ベ	ベ					
ボ bo	ボ	ボ					



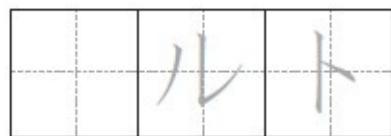
28. **te re bi** (TV; television)



29. **ba su** (bus)



30. **ha n bā gā** (hamburger)



31. **be ru to** (belt)



32. **zu bo n** (pants; trousers)

キ					ド
---	--	--	--	--	---

33. **ki i bō do** (keyboard)

		ラ	ジ	ル
--	--	---	---	---

34. **bu ra ji ru** (Brazil)

テ	+		ル
---	---	--	---

35. **tē bu ru** (table)

イ			ント
---	--	--	----

36. **i be n to** (event)

ヨ	シ		ニ
---	---	--	---

37. **ko n bi ni** (convenience store)

パ [°] pa	パ [°]	パ [°]					
ピ [°] pi	ピ [°]	ピ [°]					
ブ [°] pu	ブ [°]	ブ [°]					
ペ [°] pe	ペ [°]	ペ [°]					
ボ [°] po	ボ [°]	ボ [°]					

デ
ト

38. de pā to (department store)

ス
タ

39. pa su ta (pasta)

ザ

40. pi za (pizza)

ア
ノ

41. pi a no (piano)

ロ

42. pu ro (professional)

ル

43. pū ru (pool)

レ
ゼ
シ
ト

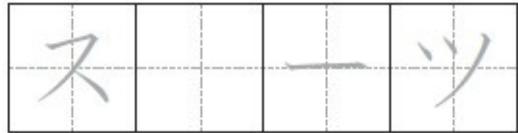
44. pu re ze n to (present)

ス
イ
シ

45. su pe i n (Spain)

シ
ギ
ン

46. pe n gi n (penguin)



47. **su pō tsu** (sports)



48. **re pō to** (report)

READING PRACTICE 4: TENTEN AND MARU

You should be able to read the words below now. Try covering the answers on the right hand side and reading the katakana words on the left. Try to guess the English meaning of each word before looking at the answers.

ガム	ga mu (gum)
ギター	gi tā (guitar)
サングラス	sa n gu ra su (sunglasses)
ゲーム	gē mu (game)
ゴルフ	go ru fu (golf)
ラザニア	ra za ni a (lasagna)
チーズ	chi i zu (cheese)
ヤロ	ze ro (zero)
リゾート	ri zō to (resort)
サラダ	sa ra da (salad)
デザート	de zā to (dessert)
ドア	do a (door)

バス	ba su (bus)
テレビ	te re bi (TV; television)
テーブル	tē bu ru (table)
ベルト	be ru to (belt)
キーボード	ki i bō do (keyboard)
パスタ	pa su ta (pasta)
ピアノ	pi a no (piano)
プール	pū ru (pool)
スペイン	su pe i n (Spain)
スポーツ	su pō tsu (sports)

RULE 2 COMBINED CHARACTERS

There are three special katakana characters that are used extensively in combination with 11 consonants to form 33 additional sounds. When combined in this way “ya,” “yu” and “yo” are written in half-size characters at the bottom left corner, as in the examples below. The chart below illustrates these 33 blended sounds, called **yō’on**.

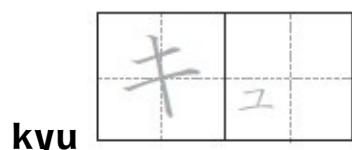
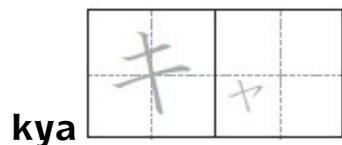
33 Combined Characters

ky _a	キヤ	ky _u	キュ	ky _o	キヨ
sha	シャ	shu	シュ	sho	ショ
cha	チャ	chu	チュ	cho	チヨ
nya	ニヤ	nyu	ニユ	nyo	ニヨ
hya	ヒヤ	hyu	ヒュ	hyo	ヒヨ
mya	ミヤ	myu	ミュ	myo	ミヨ
rya	リヤ	ryu	リュ	ryo	リヨ

gy _a	ギヤ	gy _u	ギュ	gy _o	ギヨ
ja	ジャ	ju	ジュ	jo	ジョ

by _a	ビヤ	by _u	ビュ	by _o	ビヨ
pya	ピヤ	pyu	ピュ	pyo	ピヨ

Trace the light gray characters, and then try to complete the example words with the correct combined characters.



ky_o*



*ky_o キヨ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.



1. kya n pu (camp)

ス				ナ	+
---	--	--	--	---	---

2. su kya nā (scanner)

バ	ー	ベ				
---	---	---	--	--	--	--

3. bā be kyū (barbecue)

ギ	
	ヤ

gya

ギ	
	ユ

gyu

ギ	
	ヨ

gyo

				ラ	リ	+
--	--	--	--	---	---	---

4. gya ra ri i (gallery)

5. gya n bu ru (to gamble; gambling)

			ン	ブル	
--	--	--	---	----	--

レ					ラ	+
---	--	--	--	--	---	---

6. re gyu rā (regular (gasoline))



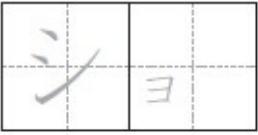
7. **gyō za** (pot stickers)



sha



shu



sho

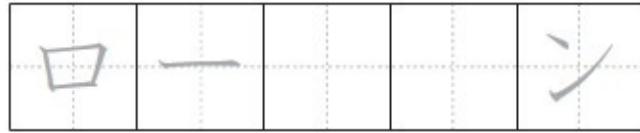
8. **shā pe n** (mechanical pencil) (sharp + pencil))



9. **sha wā** (shower)



10. **shū zu** (shoes)



11. **rō sho n** (lotion)

ja

ジ	ヤ
---	---

ju

ジ	ュ
---	---

jo

ジ	ヨ
---	---

12. ja mu (jam)

			ム
--	--	--	---

13. jo gi n gu (jogging)

			ギ	ン	グ
--	--	--	---	---	---

14. jū su (juice)

			ス
--	--	--	---

15. pa ja ma (pajama)

ハ	。			マ
---	---	--	--	---

cha

チ	ヤ
---	---

chu

チ	ュ
---	---

cho

ち	ょ
---	---

16. cha n ne ru (channel)

		ン	ネ	ル
--	--	---	---	---

17. shi chū (stew)

シ			一
---	--	--	---

18. cho ko rē to (chocolate)

			コ	レ	ト
--	--	--	---	---	---

19. chō ku (chalk)

		一	ク
--	--	---	---

nya*

ニ	ヤ
---	---

nyu

ニ	ユ
---	---

nyo*

ニ	ヨ
---	---

*nya ニヤ and nyo ニヨ are only used in less common words, which are not included here.

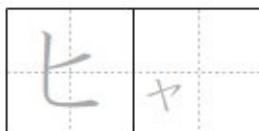


20. **me nyū** (menu)

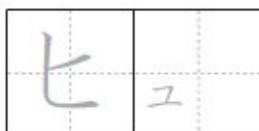


21. **nyū su** (news)

hya*



hyu*

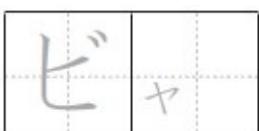


hyo*

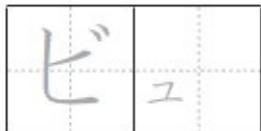


*These character combinations are only used in less common words, which are not included here.

bya*



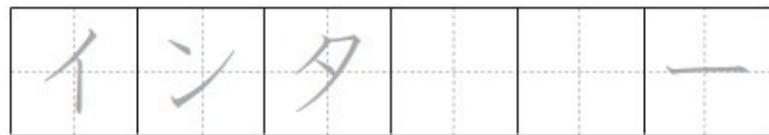
byu



byo*



***bya** ピヤ and **byo** ピヨ are only used in less common words, which are not included here.

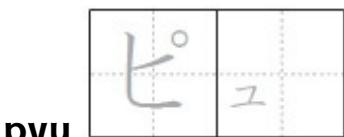
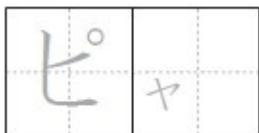


22. **i n ta byū** (interview)

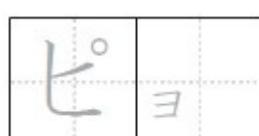


23. **re byū** (review)

pya*



pyo*



***pya** ピヤ and **pyo** ピヨ are only used in less common words, which are not included here.

24. **ko n pyū tā** (computer)



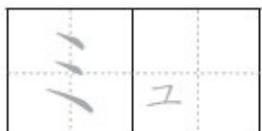


25. **pyū ma** (puma)

mya*



myu



myo*



*mya ミヤ and myo ミヨ are only used in less common words, which are not included here.

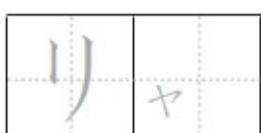


26. **myū ji ka ru** (musical)

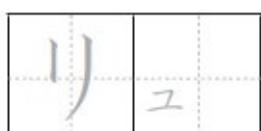


27. **myū to** (mute – volume)

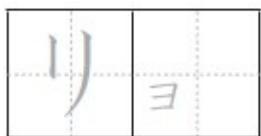
rya*



ryu



ryo*



*rya リヤ and ryo リヨ are only used in less common words, which are not included here.



28. **ba ryū** (value)



29. **bo ryū mu** (volume)

READING PRACTICE 5: COMBINED CHARACTERS

You should be able to read the words below now. Try covering the answers on the right hand side and reading the katakana words on the left. Try to guess the English meaning of each word before looking at the answers.

キャンプ

kya n pu (to camp; camping)

スキャナー

su kya nā (scanner)

バーベキュー

bā be kyū (barbecue)

ギャラリー

gya ra ri i (gallery)

レギュラー

re gyu rā (regular)

ギョーザ

gyō za (pot stickers)

シャワー

sha wā (shower)

シューズ

shū zu (shoes)

ローション	rō sho n (lotion)
シャム	ja mu (jam)
ジャズ	ja zu (jazz)
ジュース	jū su (juice)
ジョギング	jo gi n gu (jogging)
チャンネル	cha n ne ru (channel)
シナニー	shi chū (stew)
チョコレート	cho ko rē to (chocolate)
チョーク	chō ku (chalk)
メニュー	me nyū (menu)
ニュース	nyū su (news)
インタビュー	i n ta byū (interview)
コンピューター	ko n pyū tā (computer)
ミュージカル	myū ji ka ru (musical)
バリュー	ba ryū (value)

RULE 3 **SMALL “TSU” (ツ)**

A small “TSU” (ツ) is pronounced as a short, silent pause. In romaji it is usually indicated by doubling the following consonant (see examples below). Small “tsu” is written in the bottom left hand corner, like small “ya,” “yu” and “yo.” Complete the example words by tracing the light gray characters and writing a small “tsu” in the appropriate area of the blank boxes.

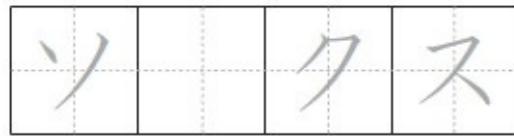
Example of regular-sized “tsu”



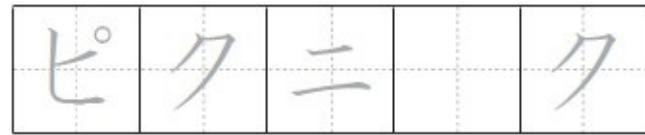
Example of small “tsu”



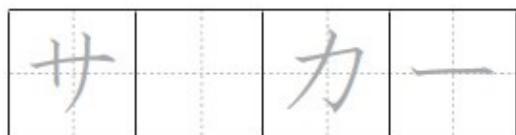
1. **ba ggu** (bag)



2. **so kku su** (socks)



3. **pi ku ni kku** (picnic)



4. **sa kkā** (soccer)

5. sa n do i cchi (sandwich)



6. **ki cchi n** (kitchen)

ホ			ト	ド		グ
---	--	--	---	---	--	---

7. ho tto do ggu (hotdog)

チ	ケ		ト
---	---	--	---

8. chi ke tto (ticket)

9. pa i na ppu ru (pineapple)

パ	イ	ナ		プ	ル
---	---	---	--	---	---

カ		プ
---	--	---

10. ka ppu (cup)

READING PRACTICE 6: SMALL “tsu” (ツ) You should be able to read the words below now. Try covering the answers on the right hand side and reading the katakana words on the left. Remember that a small “tsu” ツ is read as a short, silent pause. Try to guess the English meaning of each word before looking at the answers.

シャケット

ja ke tto (jacket)

バッグ

ba ggu (bag)

サンドイッチ

san n do i cchi (sandwich)

カップ

ka ppu (cup)

コップ

ko ppu (drinking glass)

キッチン

ki cchi n (kitchen)

ベッド	be ddo (bed)
クローゼット	ku rō ze tto (closet)
カセットテープ	ka se tto tē pu (cassette tape)
ペット	pe tto (pet)
サッカー	sa kkā (soccer)
クリップ	ku ri ppu (paper clip)
スケッチ	su ke cchi (sketch)
キット	ki tto (kit)
セット	se tto (set)
ダイエット	da i e tto (diet)
ポテトチップ	po te to chi ppu (potato chips)
クラシック	ku ra shi kku (classic)
コック	ko kku (cook)
ロッカー	ro kkā (locker)
ネックレス	ne kku re su (necklace)
キャッチボール	kyā cchi bō ru (playing catch)
ブレスレット	bu rē su re tto (bracelet)

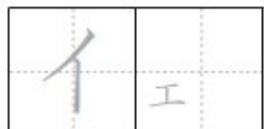
RULE 4 ADDITIONAL COMBINED CHARACTERS

As Japan has become more international, the need to better approximate the foreign names and words from various countries around the world has increased. In 1991 the Japanese government adopted an official list of

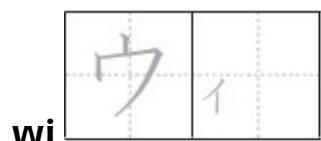
32 additional character combinations, and one new character “vu” ヴ, for the express purpose of writing foreign words. It also clarified that other additional combinations, as needed, may be used.

You may occasionally see new character combinations as you read books, magazines and web pages. Don't be alarmed, all character combinations follow the same basic principles of pronunciation: the first character indicates the initial sound and it combines with the whole sound of the second character. For example, トウ takes the initial sound “t” and the final sound “u” to make “tu.” Since many of the new character combinations are used to write words of foreign languages other than English, and because these words are uncommon in Japanese, the character combination will be introduced, but the unusual examples will not.

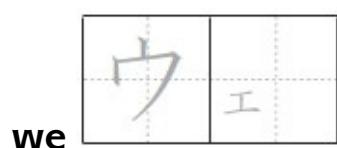
ye*



*ye イエ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.



1. ha ro wi i n (Halloween)



--	--	--

ブ

2. we bu (world wide web)

ク				ート
---	--	--	--	----

3. ku wē to (Kuwait)

ウ	オ
---	---

wo

4. su to ppu wo cchi (stopwatch)

ス	ト	ッ	プ	。		ツ	チ
---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---

ヴ	ア
---	---

va

5. va i o ri n (violin, also written バイオリン ba i o ri n)

			イ	オ	リ	ン
--	--	--	---	---	---	---

ヴ	イ
---	---

vi

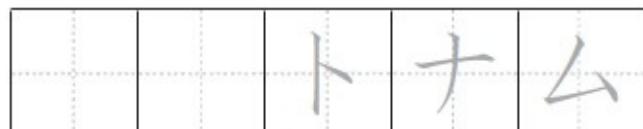
			サ
--	--	--	---

6. vi sa (visa, also ビサ bi sa)

vu*



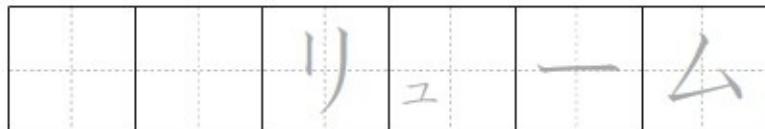
***vu** ヴ is only used in less common words, which are not included here. Perhaps the main purpose of **vu** ヴ is writing the additional character combinations **va** ヴア, **vi** ヴイ, **ve** ヴエ, **vo** ヴオ.



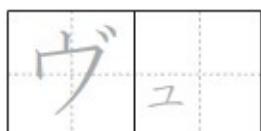
7. **ve to na mu** (vietnam)



8. **vo ryū mu** (volume, also written ボリューム **bo ryū mu**)

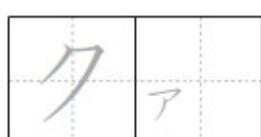


vyu*



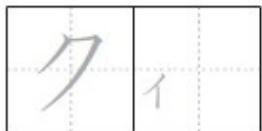
***vyu** ヴュ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

kwa*



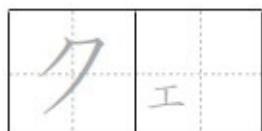
***kwa** クア is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

kwi*



***kwi** クイ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

kwe*



***kwe** クエ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

kwo



9. **kwō** **tē** **sho** **n** **mā** **ku** (quotation marks)

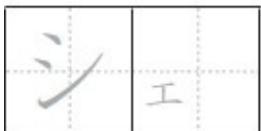


gwa*



***gwa** グア is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

she



10. **she fu** (chef)

		
--	--	---

11. **shē bā** (electric shaver)

				
--	--	--	--	--

je

	
---	---

12. **je tto ki*** (jet airliner)

					
--	--	--	---	---	---

***ki** would be written in kanji.

tsa*

	
---	---

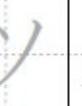
***tsa** ツア is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

tsi*

	
---	---

***tsi** ツイ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

tse*

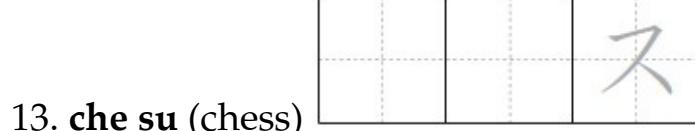
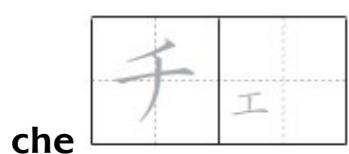
	
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***tse** ツエ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

tso*



***tso** ツオ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.



13. **che su** (chess)



14. **che kku** (check; to check)



15. **pā ti i** (party)



キ	ヤ	シ				
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16. **kya n di i** (candy)

tyu*

テ	ュ
---	---

***tyu** テュ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

dyu

デ	ュ
---	---

			エ	ツ	ト
--	--	--	---	---	---

17. **dyu e tto** (duet)

tu

ト	ウ
---	---

タ				
---	--	--	--	--

18. **ta tū** (tattoo)

du*

ド	ウ
---	---

***du** ドウ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

fa

フ	ア
---	---

19. so fa (sofa)

ソ			
---	--	--	--

20. fa kku su (fax)

			ツ	クス
--	--	--	---	----

fi

フ	イ
---	---

21. sā fi n (to surf; surfing)

サ	ル			ン
---	---	--	--	---

22. fi ru mu (film)

		ル	ム
--	--	---	---

fe

フ	エ
---	---

23. ka fe (café)

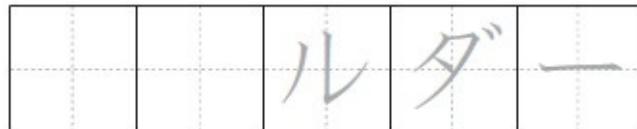
カ			
---	--	--	--

24. ka fe te ri a (cafeteria)

カ				テ	リ	ア
---	--	--	--	---	---	---



fo

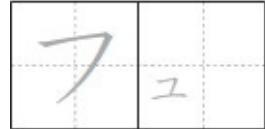


25. **fo ru dā** (folder)



26. **fō ku** (fork)

fyu*



***fyu** フュ is only used in less common words, which are not included here.

READING PRACTICE 7: ADDITIONAL COMBINED CHARACTERS

You should be able to read the words below now. Try covering the answers on the right hand side and reading the katakana words on the left. Try to guess the English meaning of each word before looking at the answers.

ハロ ウイーン

ha ro wi i n (Halloween)

ウェブ

we bu (world wide web)

ウォークマン

wō ku ma n (Walkman)

ヴァイオリン

va i o ri n (violin)

ヴィサ

vi sa (visa)

ヴェトナム	ve to na mu (Vietnam)
クオーテーションマーク	kwō te sho n mā ku (quotation marks)
トップウォッチ	su to ppu wo cchi (stopwatch)
タトゥー	ta tū (tattoo)
シェフ	she fu (chef)
シェットコースター	je tto kō su tā (rollercoaster)
チェス	che su (chess)
スペゲッティ	su pa ge tti (spaghetti)
ティッシュ	ti sshu (tissue)
シーディー	shi i di i (CD)
デュエット	du e tto (duet)
ソファ	so fa (sofa)
サーフィン	sā fi n (to surf; surfing)
カフェテリア	ka fe te ri a (cafeteria)
フォルダー	fo ru dā (folder)
フォーク	fō ku (fork)

SECTION THREE

Reading and Writing

Practice



**Commonly Mistaken Katakana
Commonly
Mistaken Combined Characters In My Home
Family Restaurant (Food, Part A) Picnic Lunch
(Food, Part B) Computers and Technology Sports
and Athletics Sound Symbolic Words World Map:
Africa World Map: Asia and the Middle East
World Map: Europe World Map: North and South
America World Map: Oceania**

なまえ _____

Commonly Mistaken Katakana

Part A:

Circle the correct katakana character.

- a マワヤアケヌフ
1. ko ヒコロヨクタワ
2. na トノイネキナメ
3. nu タノナヌメクケ
4. su スネスクタメヲ
5. tsu シソンリツサミ
6. so リンシツサメソ
7. te ニテチメヲナミ
8. u クワヌフラウヲ
9. ku ケヲクウタヲワ
10. ni テニユナヲミヨ
11. to ナイノリテオト
12. shi ツソンシリサレ
13. chi テオチイホナム
14. ke ケワフクタヲマ
15. sa リシツンソサル
16. ka ヤフラカタクケ
17. ta タスクワヲラメ

Part B:

Circle the correct katakana character.

- ho ハオモネホサナ
1. no タクメノナソン
2. mu マヒモスワムフ
3. ri ソリルシハンホ
4. mo ヒセニミシサモ
5. ne フネラホハウラ
6. ha ルリハソホニム
7. yo コユヲラヨワニ
8. ro コヒモロヨニエ
9. ya ヤカマメムメヌ
10. me ノナメヌタクケ
11. hi エセムヨコモヒ
12. ru レリルハニノナ
13. ma ムアウマヌメク
14. mi ニミツンソキシ
15. ra テラウモフワヲ
16. fu クワヲケフタナ
17. yu コヨラワニヲユ

Time _____ : _____

Time _____ : _____

なまえ _____

Commonly Mistaken Combined Characters

Part A:

Circle the correct combined character.

ju	シユ	ジョ	ジユ	ショ
1. gya	ギャ	キャ	ギュ	キュ
2. sha	シュ	ショ	ジョ	シャ
3. nyō	ミョ	ニョ	ニヤ	ミュ
4. myu	ミョ	ニュ	ミュ	ミヤ
5. jo	ショ	ジュ	シユ	ジョ
6. pyu	ピヤ	ピュ	ヒュ	ピョ
7. kyo	キャ	ギャ	キョ	ギョ
8. chu	チャ	チュ	ショ	シユ
9. bya	ビヤ	ヒヤ	ピヤ	ビュ
10. hya	ヒュ	ヒヤ	ピヤ	ビヤ
11. ryo	リュ	ジュ	ニョ	リョ
12. kya	ギャ	キュ	キャ	ギョ
13. byo	ピョ	ヒュ	ピョ	ヒョ
14. gyo	キョ	ギュ	ギャ	ギョ
15. ryu	リュ	リョ	ニュ	リヤ

Part B:

Circle the correct combined character.

di*	ティ	テュ	デュ	ディ
1. wi	ヴィ	ウイ	ウェ	ウォ
2. du*	トウ	テュ	ドウ	デュ
3. fo	フィ	フェ	ファ	フォ
4. vo	ヴォ	ウォ	ヴュ	ヴィ
5. qwo*	グオ	クア	クオ	クイ
6. va	ウイ	ヴァ	ヴェ	ヴィ
7. ti*	ディ	デュ	テュ	ティ
8. tu*	ドウ	トウ	テュ	ティ
9. je	ジェ	シェ	チエ	クエ
10. qwa*	ジャ	ファ	ツア	クア
11. ve	ウェ	ヴェ	クエ	シェ
12. gwa*	クア	ファ	グア	ヴァ
13. ye	クエ	イエ	ヴェ	ツエ
14. dyu*	デュ	ヴュ	ツア	ツオ
15. che	ウェ	フェ	チエ	ヴエ

*These spellings indicate the pronunciation. When typing, however, the "x" key is used to type small characters, rather than using these spellings.

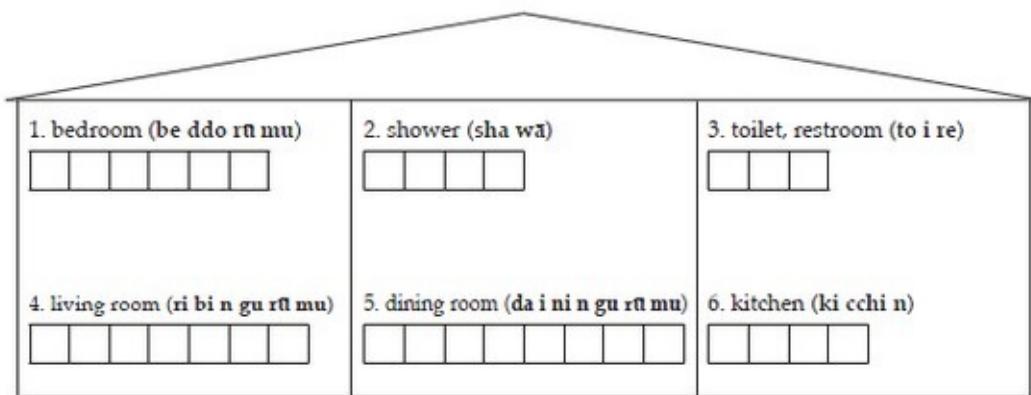
Time _____ : _____

Time _____ : _____

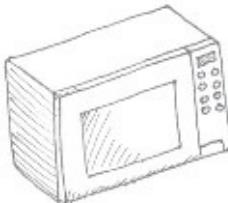
なまえ _____

In My Home

Part A: Label the places in this home with katakana characters.



Part B: Complete the sentences below by describing where each household item is located.



1. The blender (**mi ki sā**) is in the kitchen.

ミキサーはキッチンに あります。

2. The sofa (**so fa**) is in the living room.

_____。

3. The slippers (**su ri ppā**) are in the restroom.

_____。

4. The microwave (**de n shi * re n ji**) is in the kitchen.

でんし _____ は _____ に あります。

5. The sewing machine (**mi shi n**) is in the closet (**ku rō ze tto**).
_____o

6. The desk lamp (**de n ki * su ta n do**) is in the bedroom.
でんき_____o

7. The table (**tē bu ru**) is in the dining room.
_____o



8. The iron (**a i ro n**) is in the closet (**ku rō ze tto**).
_____o

なまえ _____

Family Restaurant (Food, Part A)

menu (me nyū)

--	--	--	--



1. sandwich (sa n do i cchi) _____	¥400	13. melon soda float (ku ri i mu sō da) _____	¥400
2. cheese pizza (chi i zu pi za) _____	¥400	14. tomato juice (to ma to jū su) _____	¥300
3. hamburger (ha n bā gā) _____	¥450	15. orange juice (o re n ji jū su) _____	¥300
4. hotdog (ho tto do ggu) _____	¥350	16. cola (kō ra) _____	¥350
5. spaghetti (su pa ge tti) _____	¥550	17. milk (mi ru ku) _____	¥300
6. ramen noodles (rā me n) _____	¥400	18. coffee (kō hi i) _____	¥350
7. curry rice (ka rē ra i su) _____	¥550	19. ice tea (a i su ti i) _____	¥350
8. hamburger steak (ha n bā gu) _____	¥750	20. pudding (pu ri n) _____	¥350
9. steak (su tē ki) _____	¥950	21. ice cream (a i su ku ri i mu) _____	¥350
10. French fries (po te to fu ra i) _____	¥350	22. sherbet (shā be tto) _____	¥350
11. salad (sa ra da) _____	¥400	23. cheese cake (chi i zu kē ki) _____	¥400
12. soup (sū pu) _____	¥350		



*hiragana

なまえ _____

Picnic Lunch (Food, Part B)

Taro has almost finished packing a picnic lunch.

He wants a few more fruits, snacks, utensils and condiments.

Write in katakana below the choices he could consider.



1. oranges (o re n ji)

--	--	--	--

2. bananas (ba na na)

--	--	--

3. melon (me ro n)

--	--	--

4. pineapple (pa i na ppu ru)

--	--	--	--	--

5. mango (ma n gō)

--	--	--	--

6. kiwi fruit (ki u i fu rū tsu)

--	--	--	--	--	--

7. grapefruit (gu rē pu fu rū tsu)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. cherries (che ri i)

--	--	--	--

9. olives (o ri i bu)

--	--	--	--

10. avocado (a bo ka do)

--	--	--	--

11. tomato (to ma to)

--	--	--

12. lettuce (re ta su)

--	--	--

13. celery (se ro ri)

--	--	--

14. peanuts (pi i na ttsu)

--	--	--	--	--

15. potato chips (po te to chi ppu su)

--	--	--	--	--	--

16. cookies (ku kki i)

--	--	--	--

17. crackers (ku ra kkā)

--	--	--	--	--

18. candy (kyan di i)

--	--	--	--	--

19. chocolate (cho ko rē to)

--	--	--	--	--

20. gum (ga mu)

--	--

21. popsicles (a i su kyan di i)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

22. cheese (chi i zu)

--	--	--

23. yogurt (yō gu ru to)

--	--	--	--	--

24. salad dressing (do re sshi n gu)

--	--	--	--	--

25. ketchup (ke cha ppu)

--	--	--	--	--

なまえ _____

Computers and Technology

1. computer (ko n pyū tā)

--	--	--	--	--	--

2. personal computer (pa so ko n)

--	--	--	--

3. notebook computer (nō to pa so ko n)

--	--	--	--	--	--

4. mouse (ma u su)

--	--	--

5. keyboard (ki i bō do)

--	--	--	--	--

6. monitor (mo ni tā)

--	--	--	--

7. printer (pu ri n tā)

--	--	--	--	--

8. software (so fu to)*

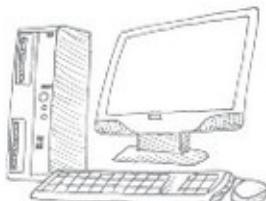
--	--	--

9. modem (mo de mu)

--	--	--

10. web (we bu)

--	--	--



11. internet (i n tā ne tto)

--	--	--	--	--	--

12. home page (hō mu pē ji)

--	--	--	--	--	--

13. email (mē ru)*

--	--	--

14. camera (ka me ra)

--	--	--

15. digital camera (de ji ka me)*

--	--	--	--

16. video camera (bi de o ka me ra)

--	--	--	--	--	--

17. lens (re n zu)

--	--	--

18. film (fi ru mu)

--	--	--	--



19. TV; television (te re bi)

--	--	--

20. remote control (ri mo ko n)

--	--	--	--

21. video tape (bi de o tē pu)

--	--	--	--	--	--

22. DVD player (DVD pu rē yā)

D	V	D				
---	---	---	--	--	--	--

23. MP3 player (MP3 pu rē yā)

M	P	3				
---	---	---	--	--	--	--

24. earphones (i ya ho n)

--	--	--	--

25. radio (ra ji o)

--	--	--

26. cell phone (kē ta i)**

--	--	--	--



* Although commonly abbreviated, "software" is also written ソフトウェア (so fu to we a); "email" is also 電子メール (de n shi mē ru) or イーメール (i i mē ru); "digital camera" is also デジタルカメラ (de ji ta ru ka me ra).

** "Cell phone" is commonly written in katakana, but is still officially written in kanji 携帯電話 (ke i ta i de n wa).

なまえ _____

Sports and Athletics

1. sports (su pō tsu)

--	--	--	--

2. Olympics (o ri n pi kku)

--	--	--	--	--	--

3. basketball (ba su ke tto bō ru)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. volleyball (ba rē bō ru)

--	--	--	--	--	--

5. golf (go ru fu)

--	--	--

6. football (a me fu to)*

--	--	--	--

7. lacrosse (ra ku ro su)

--	--	--	--

8. tennis (te ni su)

--	--	--

9. rugby (ra gu bi i)

--	--	--	--

10. soccer (sa kkā)

--	--	--	--

11. score (su ko a)

--	--	--

12. goal (gō ru)

--	--	--

13. team (chi i mu)

--	--	--



14. uniform (yu ni fō mu)

--	--	--	--	--	--

15. skiing (su ki i)

--	--	--

16. snowboarding (su nō bō do)

--	--	--	--	--

17. ice skating (a i su su kē to)

--	--	--	--	--	--

18. ice hockey (a i su ho kkē)

--	--	--	--	--	--

19. surfing (sā fi n)

--	--	--	--

20. diving (da i bi n gu)

--	--	--	--

21. skateboarding (su ke bō)*

--	--	--

22. wrestling (re su ri n gu)

--	--	--	--

23. boxing (bo ku shi n gu)

--	--	--	--

24. taekwondo (te ko n dō)

--	--	--	--

25. marathon (ma ra so n)

--	--	--	--



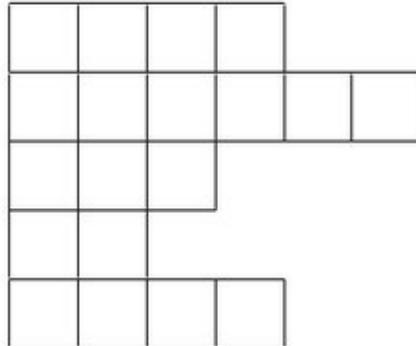
* Although commonly abbreviated, "(American) football" is also written アメリカンフットボール (a me ri ka n fu tto bō ru); "skateboarding" is also written スケートボーディング (su kē to bō do).

なまえ _____

Sound Symbolic Words

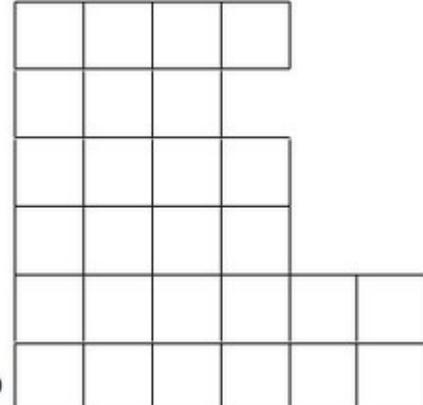
General Sounds

1. The rain is pouring down.
あめが()ふっている。 (zā zā)
2. The wind is howling.
かぜが()と ふいている。 (hyū hyū)
3. The phone is ringing.
でんわが()と なっている。 (ri i n)
4. The microwave timer rang.
でんしレンジが()と なった。 (chi n)
5. The children made a lot of noise.
こどもが()さわいた。 (wa i wa i)



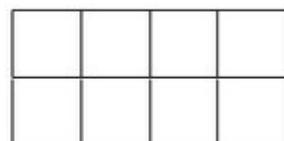
Animal Sounds

6. Dogs say "Woof! Woof!"
いぬは()と なく。 (wan wan)
7. Cats say "meow."
ねこは()と なく。 (nyā)
8. Crows say "kah kah."
カラスは()と なく。 (kā kā)
9. Frogs say "ribbit."
かえるは()と なく。 (ke ro ke ro)
10. Mice say "squeak!"
ねずみは()と なく。 (chū chū)
11. Roosters say "cock-a-doodle-doo!"
にわとりは()と なく。 (ko ke ko kkō)



Psychological States

12. I'm excited (nervous/anxious; lit. my heart is pounding).
むねが()する。 (do ki do ki)
13. I'm excited (positive sense; lit. my heart is fluttering).
むねが()する。 (wa ku wa ku)



なまえ

World Map: Africa

1. Algeria (a ru je ri a)

--	--	--

2. Angola (a n go ra)

--	--	--

3. Uganda (u ga n da)

--	--	--

4. Egypt (e ji pu to)

--	--	--

5. Ethiopia (e chi o pi a)

--	--	--

6. Eritrea (e ri to ri a)

--	--	--

7. Ghana (gā na)

--	--	--

8. Cape Verde (kā bo be ru de)

--	--	--

9. Canary Islands (ka na ri a shō tō)*

--	--	--

諸島

10. Gabon (ga bo n)

--	--	--

11. Cameroon (ka me rū n)

--	--	--

12. Gambia (ga n bi a)

--	--	--

13. Guinea (gi ni a)

--	--	--

14. Guinea-Bissau (gi ni a bi sa u)

--	--	--

15. Ivory Coast (kō to ji bo wā ru)

--	--	--

16. Sao Tome and Principe (sa n to me pu ri n shi pu)

--	--	--

17. Republic of the Congo (ko n go kyō wa ko ku)*

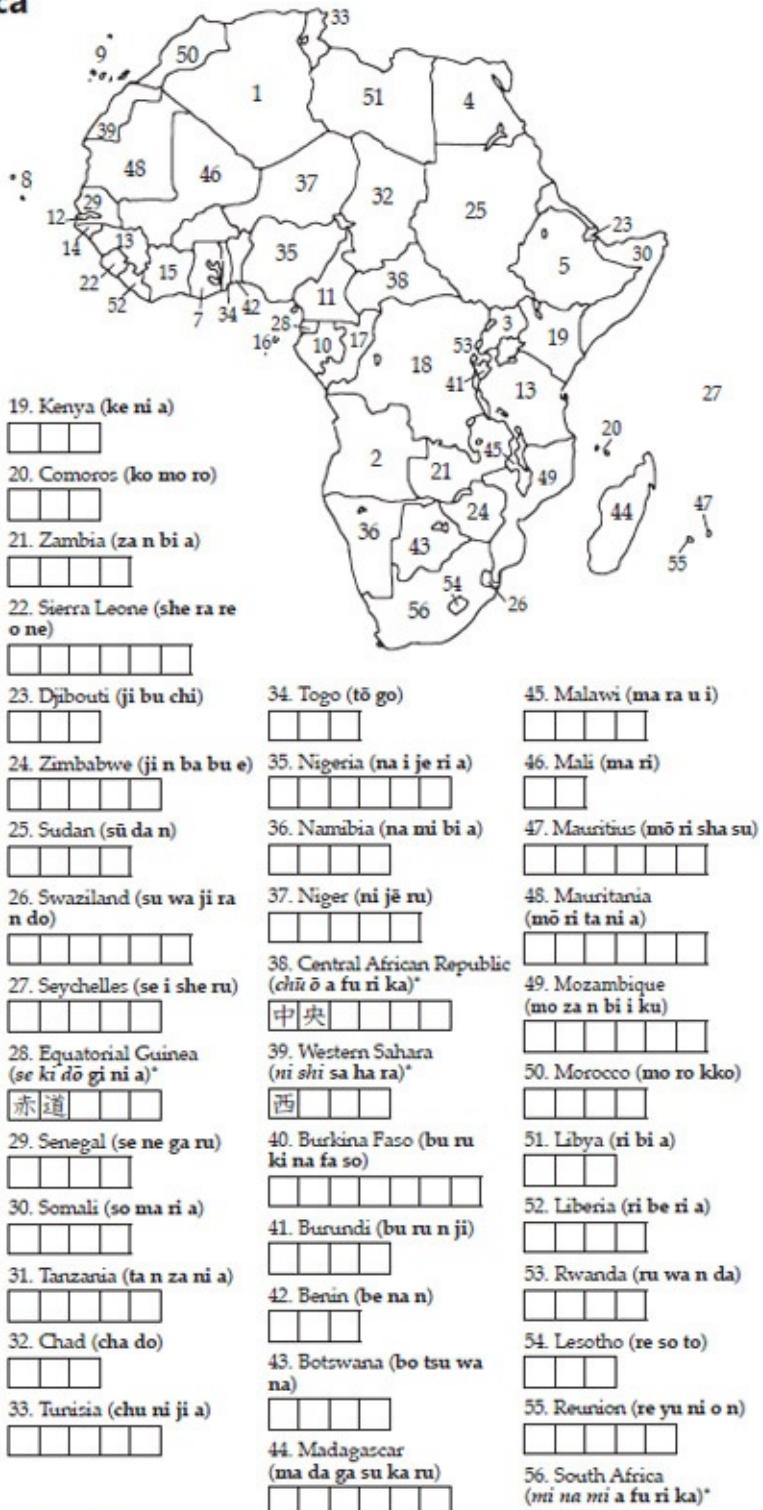
--	--	--

共和国

18. Democratic Republic of the Congo (ko n go mi n shu kyō wa ko ku)*

--	--	--

民主共和国



* Italic letters indicate the kanji pronunciation.

なまえ

World Map: Asia and the Middle East

(In Asia most country names are written in katakana, except for Japan 日本; North Korea 北朝鮮; South Korea 韓国; China 中国 and Taiwan 台湾.)



1. Cyprus (ki pu ro su)

--	--	--

2. Lebanon (re ba no n)

--	--	--

3. Palestine (pa re su chi na)

--	--	--	--

4. Israel (i su ra e ru)

--	--	--	--

5. Jordan (yo ru da n)

--	--	--	--

6. Mongolia (mo n go ru)

--	--	--	--

7. Macao (ma ka o)

--	--	--

8. Philippines (fi ri pi n)

--	--	--	--

9. Vietnam (be to na mu)

--	--	--	--

10. Laos (ra o su)

--	--	--

11. Cambodia (ka n bo ji a)

--	--	--	--

12. Brunei (bu ru ne i)

--	--	--	--

13. Malaysia (ma rē shi a)

--	--	--	--

14. Singapore (shi n ga pō ru)

--	--	--	--

15. Indonesia (i n do ne shi a)

--	--	--	--	--

16. Thailand (ta i)

--	--

17. Myanmar (mya n mā)

--	--	--	--

23

18. Bangladesh (ba n gu ra de shu)

--	--	--	--	--

19. Bhutan (bū ta n)

--	--	--	--

20. Nepal (ne pā ru)

--	--	--	--

21. India (i n do)

--	--	--

22. Sri Lanka (su ri ra n ka)

--	--	--	--

23. Maldives (mo ru di vu)

--	--	--	--

24. Pakistan (pa ki su ta n)

--	--	--	--

25. Afghanistan (a fu ga ni su ta n)

--	--	--	--	--

26. Iran (i ra n)

--	--	--

27. Tajikistan (ta ji ki su ta n)

--	--	--	--	--

28. Kyrgyz (ki ru gi su)

--	--	--	--

29. Kazakhstan (ka za fu su ta n)

--	--	--	--	--

30. Uzbekistan (u zu be ki su ta n)

--	--	--	--	--

31. Turkmenistan (to ru ku me ni su ta n)

--	--	--	--	--

32. Azerbaijan (a ze ru ba i ja n)

--	--	--	--	--

33. Georgia (gu ru ji a)

--	--	--	--

34. Turkey (to ru ko)

--	--	--	--

35. Armenia (a ru me ni a)

--	--	--	--

36. Syria (shi ri a)

--	--	--	--

37. Iraq (i ra ku)

--	--	--	--

38. Saudi Arabia (sa u ji a ra bi a)

--	--	--	--	--

39. Oman (o mā n)

--	--	--	--

40. Yemen (i e me n)

--	--	--	--

41. UAE* (a ra bu shu chō koku ren pō)

--	--	--	--	--	--

* (United Arab Emirates, italic letters indicate the kanji pronunciation.)

なまえ _____

World Map: Europe

1. Iceland (a i su ra n do)

--	--	--	--	--

2. Ireland (a i ru ra n do)

--	--	--	--	--

3. Albania (a ru ba ni a)

--	--	--	--	--

4. Andorra (a n do ra)

--	--	--	--	--

5. England (i gi ri su)

--	--	--	--	--

6. Italy (i ta ri a)

--	--	--	--	--

7. Ukraine (u ku ra i na)

--	--	--	--	--

8. Estonia (e su to ni a)

--	--	--	--	--

9. Austria (ö su to ri a)

--	--	--	--	--

10. Holland (o ra n da)

--	--	--	--	--

11. Greece (gi xi sha)

--	--	--	--	--

12. Croatia (ku ro a chi a)

--	--	--	--	--

13. San Marino (sa n ma ri no)

--	--	--	--	--

14. Gibraltar (gi bu za ru ta ru)

--	--	--	--	--

15. Switzerland (su i su)

--	--	--	--	--

16. Sweden (su wē de n)

--	--	--	--	--

17. Spain (su pe i n)

--	--	--	--	--

18. Slovakia (su ro ba ki a)

--	--	--	--	--

19. Slovenia (su ro be ni a)

--	--	--	--	--



20. Czech Republic (che ko)

--	--	--	--	--

21. Denmark (de n mā ku)

--	--	--	--	--

22. Germany (do i tsu)

--	--	--	--	--

23. Norway (no ru wē)

--	--	--	--	--

24. Vatican City (ba chi ka n)

			市	国
--	--	--	---	---

25. Hungary (ha n ga ri i)

--	--	--	--	--

26. Finland (fi n ra n do)

--	--	--	--	--

27. Faroe Islands (fe rō shō tō)*

			諸	島
--	--	--	---	---

28. France (fu ra n su)

--	--	--	--	--

29. Russia (ro shi a)

--	--	--	--	--

30. Bulgaria (bu ru ga ri a)

--	--	--	--	--

31. Belarus (be ra rū shi)

--	--	--	--	--

32. Belgium (be ru gi i)

--	--	--	--	--

33. Poland (pō ra n do)

--	--	--	--	--

34. Portugal (po ru to ga ru)

--	--	--	--	--

35. Macedonia (ma ke do ni a)

--	--	--	--	--

36. Malta (ma ru ta)

--	--	--	--	--

37. Serbia and Montenegro (se ru bi a * mo n te ne gu ro)

			•	
--	--	--	---	--

38. Monaco (mo na ko)

--	--	--	--	--

39. Moldova (mo ru do ba)

--	--	--	--	--

40. Latvia (ra to bi a)

--	--	--	--	--

41. Lithuania (ri to a ni a)

--	--	--	--	--

42. Liechtenstein (ri hi te n shu ta i n)

43. Romania (rū ma ni a)

--	--	--	--	--

44. Luxembourg (ru ku se n bu ru ku)

45. Bosnia and Herzegovina (bo su ni a * he ru tse go bi na)

			•	

* Italic letters indicate the kanji pronunciation.

なまえ _____

World Map: North and South America

1. Greenland (gu ri i n ra n do)

--	--	--	--	--

2. Canada (ka na da)

--	--

3. United State of America
(a me ri ka ga sshū koku)*

			合	衆	國
--	--	--	---	---	---

4. Mexico (me ki shi ko)

--	--	--

5. Guatemala (gu a te ma ra)

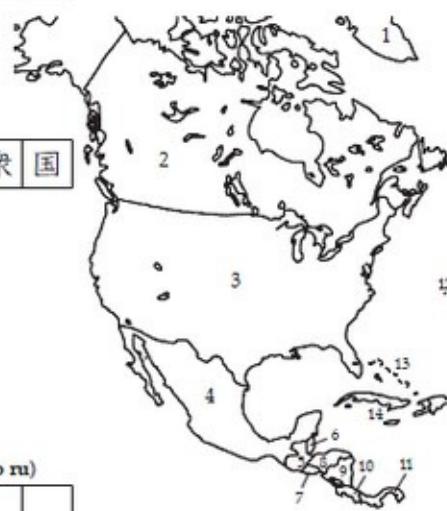
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6. Belize (be ri i zu)

--	--	--

7. El Salvador (e ru sa ru ba do ru)

--	--	--	--	--



8. Honduras (ho n ju ra su)

--	--	--	--

9. Nicaragua (ni ka ra gu a)

--	--	--

10. Costa Rica (ko su ta ri ka)

--	--	--

11. Panama (pa na ma)

--	--	--

12. Bermuda Islands (ba myū da)

--	--	--

13. The Bahamas (ba ha ma)

--	--	--

14. Cuba (kyū ba)

--	--	--

15. Venezuela (be ne zu e ra)

--	--	--	--

16. Colombia (ko ro n bi a)

--	--	--	--

17. Ecuador (e ku a do ru)

--	--	--	--

18. Guyana (ga i a na)

--	--	--

19. Suriname (su ri na mu)

--	--	--

20. French Guiana (fu ra n su ryō gi a na)*

			領		
--	--	--	---	--	--

21. Peru (pe riū)

--	--	--



22. Brazil (bu ra ji ru)

--	--	--

23. Bolivia (bo ri bi a)

--	--	--

24. Paraguay (pa ra gu a i)

--	--	--

25. Chile (chi ri)

--	--

26. Argentina (a ru ze n chi n)

--	--	--	--

27. Uruguay (u ru gu a i)

--	--	--	--

28. Falkland Islands (fō ku ra n do sho tō)*

				諸	島
--	--	--	--	---	---

なまえ _____

World Map: Oceania

1. American Samoa

(*a me ri ka ryō sa mo a*)*

			領			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

2. Australia (*ō su to ra ri a*)

--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Northern Mariana Islands

(*ki ta ma ri a na sho tō*)*

北				諸島
---	--	--	--	----

4. Kiribati (*ki ri ba su*)

--	--	--

5. Guam (*gu a mu*)

--	--

6. Cook Islands (*ku kku sho tō*)*

	諸島
--	----

7. Samoa (*sa mo a*)

--	--

8. Solomon Islands (*so ro mo n sho tō*)*

	諸島
--	----

9. Tuvalu (*tsu ba ru*)

--	--

10. Tonga (*to n ga*)

--	--

11. Nauru (*na u ru*)

--	--

12. New Caledonia (*nyū ka re do ni a*)

--	--	--	--	--	--

13. New Zealand (*nyū ji i ra n do*)

--	--	--	--	--	--

14. Vanuatu (*ba nu a tsu*)

--	--	--

15. Papua New Guinea (*pa pu a nyū gi ni a*)

--	--	--	--	--	--

16. Palau (*pa ra o*)

--	--

17. Fiji (*fi ji i*)

--	--	--

18. Marshall Islands (*mā sha ru sho tō*)*

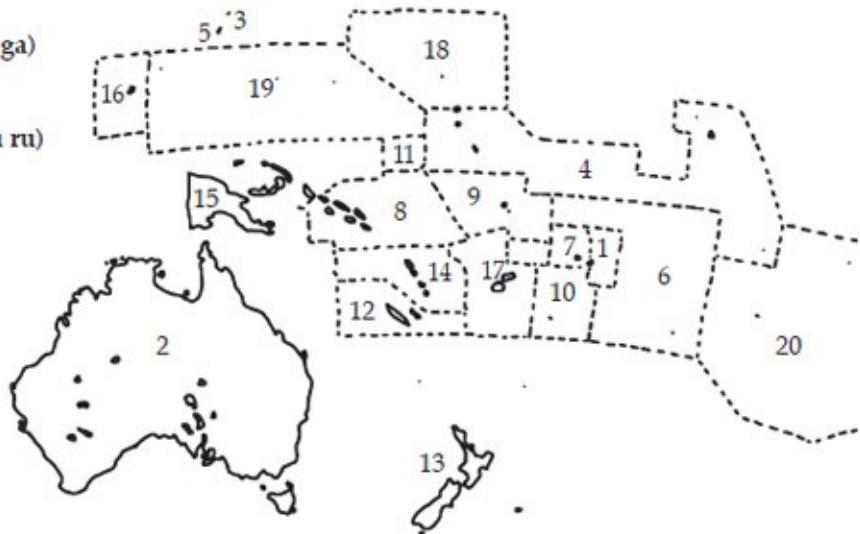
			諸島
--	--	--	----

19. Micronesia (*mi ku ro ne shi a*)

--	--	--	--

20. French Polynesia (*fu ra n su ryō po ri ne shi a*)*

			領		
--	--	--	---	--	--



*Italic letters indicate the kanji pronunciation.

Answers Commonly Mistaken Katakana (page 80) Part A

1. コ 2. ナ 3. ヌ 4. ス 5. ツ 6. ソ 7. テ 8. ウ 9. ク 10. ニ 11. ト 12. シ 13. チ 14. ケ 15. サ 16. カ 17. タ
Part B 1. ノ 2. ム 3. リ 4. モ 5. 不 6. ハ 7. ョ 8. 口 9. ヤ 10. メ 11. ヒ 12. ル 13. マ 14. ミ 15. ラ 16. フ 17. ュ

Commonly Mistaken Combined Characters (page 81) Part A

1. キヤ 2. シヤ 3. ニヨ 4. ミュ 5. ジョ 6. ピュ 7. キョ 8. チュ 9. ビヤ 10. ヒヤ 11. リヨ
12. キャ 13. ビョ 14. ギョ 15. リュ
Part B 1. ウイ 2. ドウ 3. フオ 4. ヴオ 5. クオ 6. ヴア 7. ティ 8. トウ 9. ジエ 10. クア 11. ヴエ 12. グア 13. イエ 14. デュ 15. チエ

In My Home (page 82) Part A

1. ベッドルーム 2. シャワー 3. トイレ 4. リビングルーム 5. ダイニングルーム 6. キッチン
Part B 2. ソファ、リビングルーム 3. スリッパ、トイレ 4. レンジ、キッチン 5. ミシン、クローゼット 6. スタンド、ベッドルーム 7. テーブル、ダイニングルーム 8. アイロン、クローゼット

Family Restaurant (Food, Part A) (page 83)

メニュー 1. サンドイッチ 2. チーズピザ 3. ハンバーガー 4. ホットドッグ 5. スpagetti 6. ラーメン 7. カレーライス 8. ハンバーグ 9. ステーキ 10. ポテトフライ 11. サラダ 12. スープ 13. クリームソーダ 14. トマトジュース 15. オレンジジュース 16. コーラ 17. ミルク 18. コーヒー 19. アイスティー 20. プリン 21. アイスクリーム 22. シャーベット 23. チーズケーキ

Picnic Lunch (Food, Part B) (page 84)

1. オレンジ 2. バナナ 3. メロン 4. パイナップル 5. マンゴー 6. キウифルーツ 7. グレープフルーツ 8. チェリー 9. オリーブ 10. アボカド 11. トマト 12. レタス 13. セロリ 14. ピーナッツ 15. ポテトチップス 16. クッキー 17. クラッカー 18. キャンディー 19. チョコレート 20. ガム 21. アイスキャンディー 22. チーズ 23. ヨーグルト 24. ドレッシング 25. ケチャップ

Computers and Technology (page 85)

1. フンピューター 2. バソコソ 3. ノートパソコン 4. マウス 5. キーボード 6. モニター 7. プリンター 8. ソフト 9. モデム 10. ウェブ 11. インターネット 12. ホームページ 13. メール 14. カメラ 15. デジカメ 16. ビデオカメラ 17. レンズ 18. フィルム 19. テレビ 20. リモコン 21. ビデオテープ 22. プレーヤー 23. プレーヤー 24. イ

ヤホン 25. ラジオ 26. ケータイ

Sports and Athletics (page 86) 1. スポーツ 2. オリンピック 3. パスケットボール 4. バレーボール 5. ゴルフ 6. アメフト 7. ラクロス 8. テニス 9. ラグビー 10. サッカー 11. スコア 12. ゴール 13. チーム 14. ユニフォーム 15. スキー 16. スノーボード 17. アイススケート 18. アイスホッケー 19. サーフィン 20. ダイビング 21. スケボー 22. レスリング 23. ボクシング 24. テコンドー 25. マラソン

Sound Symbolic Words (page 87) 1. ザーザー 2. ヒューヒュー 3. リーン 4. チン 5. ワイワイ 6. ワンワン 7. ニヤー 8. カーカー 9. ケロケロ 10. チューチュー 11. コケ コッコー 12. ドキドキ 13. ワクワク

World Map: Africa (page 88) 1. アルジェリア 2. アンゴラ 3. ウガンダ 4. エジプト 5. エチオピア 6. エリトリア 7. ガーナ 8. カーボベルデ 9. カナリア 10. ガボン 11. カメルーン 12. ガンビア 13. ギニア 14. ギニアビサウ 15. コートジボワール 16. サントメプリンシペ 17. コンゴ 18. コンゴ 19. ケニア 20. コモロ 21. ザンビア 22. シエラ レオネ 23. ジブチ 24. ジンバブエ 25. スーダン 26. スワジランド 27. セイシェル 28. ギニア 29. セネガル 30. ソマリア 31. タンザニア 32. チャド 33. チュニジア 34. トーゴ 35. ナイジェリア 36. ナミビア 37. ニジェール 38. アフリカ 39. サハラ 40. ブルキナファソ 41. ブルンジ 42. ベナン 43. ボツワナ 44. マダガスカル 45. マラウイ 46. マリ 47. モーリシャス 48. モーリタニア 49. モザンビーク 50. モロッコ 51. リビア 52. リベリア 53. ルワンダ 54. レソト 55. レユニオン 56. アフリカ

World Map: Asia and the Middle East (page 89) 1. キプロス 2. レバノン 3. パレスチナ 4. イスラエル 5. ヨルダン 6. モンゴル 7. マカオ 8. フィリピン 9. ベトナム 10. ラオス 11. カンボジア 12. ブルネイ 13. マレーシア 14. シンガポール 15. インドネシア 16. タイ 17. ミャンマー 18. バングラデシュ 19. ブータン 20. ネパール 21. インド 22. スリランカ 23. モルディブ 24. パキスタン 25. アフガニスタン 26. イラン 27. タジキスタン 28. キルギス 29. カザフスタン 30. ウズベキスタン 31. トルクメニスタン 32. アゼルバイジャン 33. グルジア 34. トルコ 35. アルメニア 36. シリア 37. イラク 38. サウジアラビア 39. オマーン 40. イエメン 41. アラブ

World Map: Europe (page 90) 1. アイスランド 2. アイルランド 3. アルバ

ニア 4. アン ドラ 5. イギリス 6. イタリア 7. ウクライナ 8. エストニア 9. オーストリア 10. オランダ 11. ギリシャ 12. クロアチア 13. サンマリノ 14. ジブラルタル 15. スイス 16. スウェー デン 17. スペイン 18. スロバキア 19. スロベニア 20. チェコ 21. デンマーク 22. ドイ ツ 23. ノルウェー 24. バチカン 25. ハンガリー 26. フィンランド 27. フエロー 28. フラ ンス 29. ロシア 30. ブルガリア 31. ベラルーシ 32. ベルギー 33. ポーランド 34. ポルトガル 35. マケドニア 36. マルタ 37. セルビア・モンテネグロ 38. モナコ 39. モ ルドバ 40. ラトビア 41. リトアニア 42. リヒテンシュタイン 43. ルーマニア 44. ルタセ ンブルク 45. ボスニア・ヘルツェゴビナ

World Map: North America and South America (page 91) 1. グ、リーン ランド 2. カナダ 3. アメリカ 4. メキシコ 5. グアテマラ 6. ベリーズ 7. エル サルバドル 8. ホンジ ュラス 9. ニカラグア 10. コスタリカ 11. パナマ 12. バミューダ 13. バハマ 14. キュ ーバ 15. ベネズエラ 16. コロンビア 17. エ タードル 18. ガイアナ 19. スリナム 20. フランス、ギアナ 21. ペルー 22. ブラジル 23. ボリビア 24. パラグアイ 25. チリ 26. アルゼンチン 27. ウル グアイ 28. フォークリンド

World Map: Oceania (page 92) 1. アメリカ、サモア 2. オーストラリア 3. マリアナ 4. キリバス 5. グアム or グアム 6. クック 7. サモア 8. ソロモン 9. ツバル 10. トン ガ 11. ナウル 12. ニューカレドニア 13. ニュージーランド 14. バヌアツ 15. パプア ニューギニア 16. ハラオ 17. フィジー 18. マー シャル 19. ミクロネシア 20. フランス、ポリネシア

FLASH CARDS

Suggested Activities As mentioned in the Introduction it is much easier to learn to read katakana than to write it. With the right kinds of activities, diligent students can learn to read the basic 46 katakana in a few hours. You will more readily learn the writing once you have mastered katakana reading recognition, so it is suggested you begin with the flash cards at the end of the book.

Separate the flash cards by tearing or cutting along the perforated lines. If you are unfamiliar with katakana take the time to read the front and back of each flash card, paying close attention to the number and type of strokes used in each character. Many katakana characters look similar, and it is the number and type of strokes that will help to tell them apart.

Katakana Flash Card Drills (alone or with a partner): It is helpful to start with a few, perhaps 10, flash cards. Shuffle the flash cards and look at them one at a time. Say the name of the character on the top flash card, then look at the back to see if you got it right. Start two piles of flash cards. If correct, place it in one pile. If not, place it in another pile, to be reviewed again. Continue looking at the flash cards one at a time and placing them in the appropriate pile. When you are finished, you will know which characters you can read and which ones need more practice. Now put aside the ones you already know and study the flash cards you had difficulty with. When ready, repeat the activity with the difficult ones. As you gain mastery add more flash cards, until you know all 46 hiragana and all 46 katakana. Then, shuffle both groups of cards together to do a challenge round! You can repeat this simple activity from time to time to refresh your basic hiragana and katakana reading skills.



Katakana Chart Activity (alone or with a small group): This is an excellent activity to improve your hiragana/katakana recognition skills and become familiar with **gojūon** order—the way dictionaries, web searches, etc., are organized. Place all the flash cards on a large surface (the floor works well) face up, in random order. Then, try to put them into order as quickly as possible. For an extra challenge use a stopwatch.

Katakana Pick-up (small group): Place all the flash cards on a large surface face up, in order or mixed up. One person calls the name of a hiragana/katakana character and the other players try to quickly put their hand on it. The first one gets to keep it. Continue playing, and when all the flash cards are gone, count to see who has the most. The winner gets to be the “caller” for the next game!

Acknowledgments

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3 "u" as in you



"Ooooh!" The water balloon was cold as it splashed on his back!

2 "i" as in easy



An easel holds your picture while you work on it or display it.

1 "a" as in father



"AAAaaa!" cried the critter as he fell off the edge of the cliff.

6 "ka" as in car



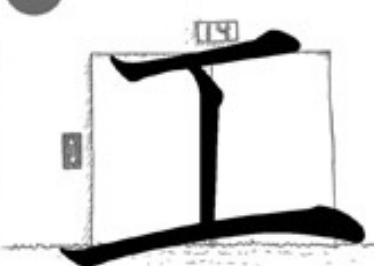
Katakana "ka" カ and hiragana "ka" か look a bit alike.

5 "o" as in oak



an Olympic figure skater

4 "e" as in red



elevator doors

9 "ke" as in Kevin



a kangaroo

8 "ku" as in cuckoo



a cool way to write seven (7)

7 "ki" as in key



Katakana "ki" キ and hiragana "ki" き look a bit alike.

12 "shi" as in she



She tilted her head and smiled.

11 "sa" as in saw



A sawhorse holds wood while you cut it.

10 "ko" as in cocoa



a cup of hot cocoa

ス

セ

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15

"so" as in so



When other kid said,
"You only have one eye."
he said, "So!"

14

"se" as in set



Katakana "se" and hiragana "se"
look a little alike.

13

"su" as in super



It's Superman, er super-critter.

18

"tsu" as in cats



Two children are
sliding down a slide.
("ts" like cats and "u" like you)

17

"chi" as in cheer



a cheerleader

16

"ta" as in tall



the leaning tower of Pisa
(In Japanese "tower" is pronounced
with a "ta" as in tall).

21

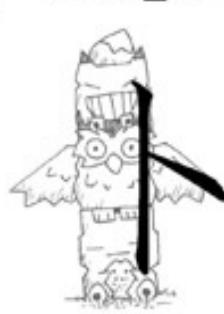
"na" as in not



a knife

20

"to" as in totem



a totem pole

19

"te" as in telephone



a telephone pole and wires

24

"ne" as in nest



a nest on top of a tree

23

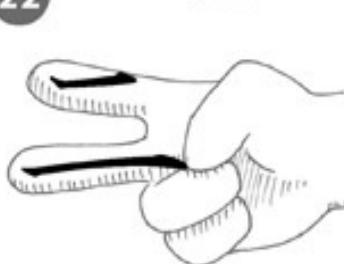
"nu" as in new



a new way to write seven (7)

22

"ni" as in need



The Japanese word for "two" is ni.

ノ

ハ

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フ

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マ

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メ

モ

ヤ

27 "hi" as in he



He drives the car.

26 "ha" as in hawk



the two wings of a fearsome hawk (or a slightly dazed looking hawk)

25 "no" as in nose



a nose

30 "ho" as in Ho! Ho!



Mr. "Ho Ho" laughs even when stuck in a chimney!

29 "he" as in help



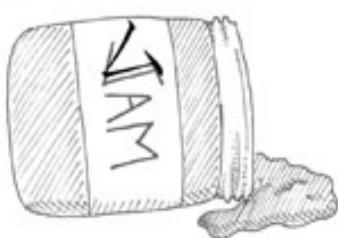
No significant differences between katakana "he" and hiragana "he."

28 "fu" as in Hoot!



The owl cries, "Hoot! Hoot!" (Pronounce "fu" without touching the upper teeth and lower lip).

33 "mu" as in moo



I love jamu (jam)!

32 "mi" as in meow



A cat's three whiskers, "Meow!"

31 "ma" as in mom



Mom holds Baby while she attends to some work.

36 "ya" as in yarn



Hiragana "ya" and katakana "ya" look a bit alike.

35 "mo" as in more



Hiragana "mo" and katakana "mo" look a bit alike.

34 "me" as in Mexico

Mexico

the "X" in Mexico

ユ

ヨ

ラ

リ

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レ

ロ

ワ

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ン



a robber



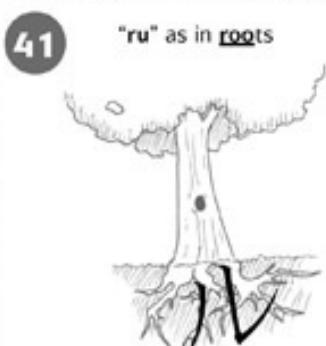
yogurt



You won the "hangman" game!



splashing raindrops



tree roots



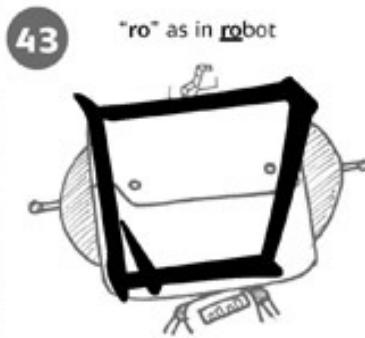
Hiragana "ri" and katakana "ri" look a bit alike.



"Oh, this cookie is oishii (delicious)!"
(the "w" is dropped in modern Japanese)



"I want a cookie!"

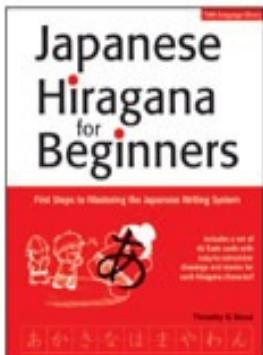


a robot

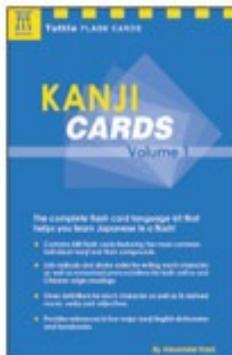


An inky black iguana
is getting a suntan.

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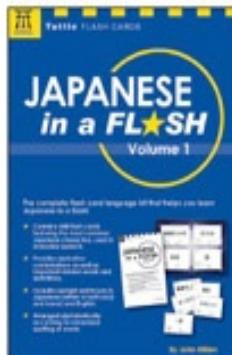
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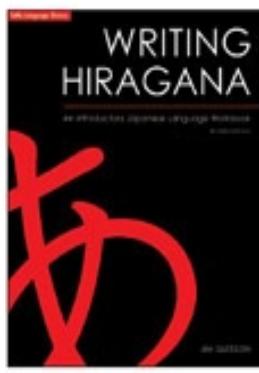
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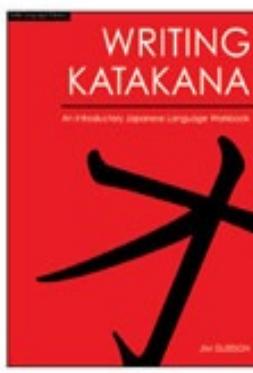
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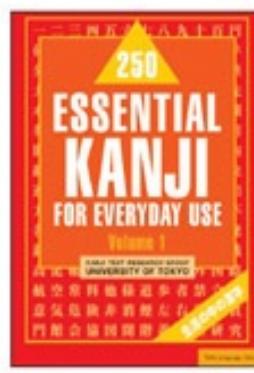
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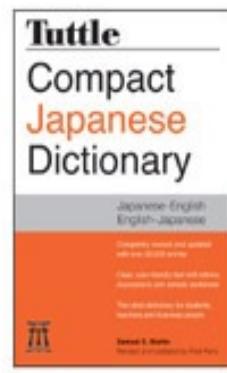
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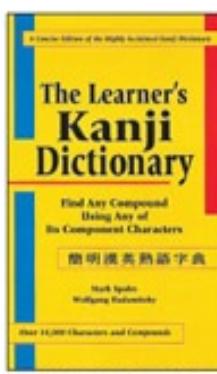
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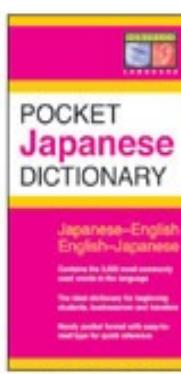
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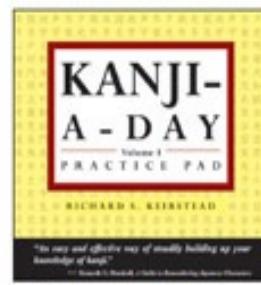
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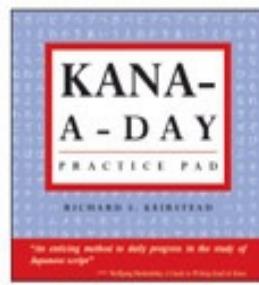
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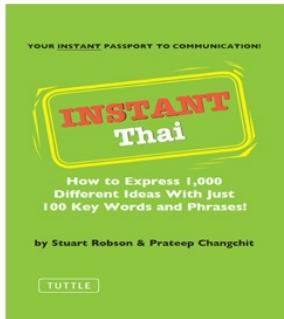


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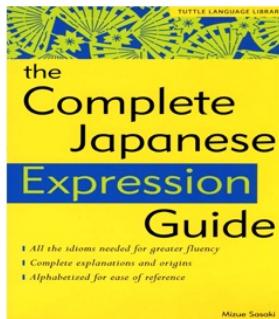


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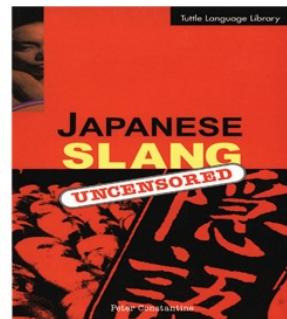
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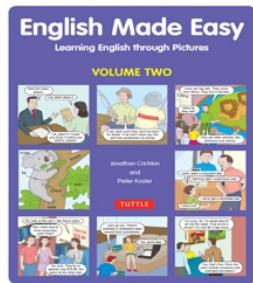
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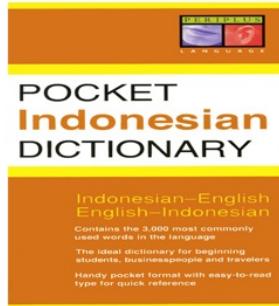
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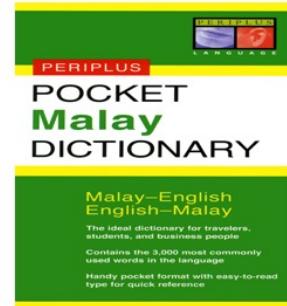
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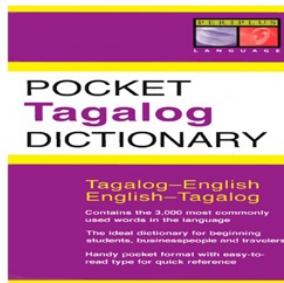
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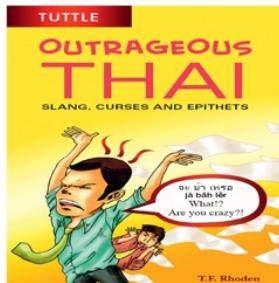
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Language

Japanese Katakana for Beginners makes learning of katakana fast and effective by using memorable picture mnemonics, along with clear explanations, examples and lots of fun exercises—a method that has helped thousands of students learn katakana successfully in the United States and Japan. Picture mnemonics enhance memory by associating the shape and sound of each katakana character with combinations of images and English words already familiar to students.

This book is organized into three main sections. The first introduces the basic 46 katakana characters along with writing tips and opportunities to practice writing them. The second teaches the usage rules that allow students to write all Japanese sounds, providing more opportunities for practice. The third strengthens students' skills through a wide range of exercises (word searches, crossword puzzles, fill in the blanks, visual discrimination, timed recognition quizzes, etc) designed to both increase the knowledge of the Japanese language and reinforce newly acquired writing skills. A set of flash cards printed on perforated cardstock and a list of suggested flash card activities, are also provided at the end of the book. Each of these cards introduces a katakana character along with the picture mnemonic that helps to recognize and remember it.

Author

Timothy G. Stout (MA, Japanese Pedagogy, Columbia University 2002; BA, Japanese Teaching, Brigham Young University 1994) has lived in Japan for 20 years, and he has taught Japanese language in public and private schools in the United States and Japan for 13 years. While working at the American School in Japan he conducted original research on the use of keyword mnemonics in the instruction of Japanese. Stout currently teaches Japanese at Waterford School in Sandy Utah. He lives in Lehi, Utah with his wife and five children.

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