

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #4 The Hiragana T Column

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
くつ	くつ	kutsu	shoes	
地図	ちず	chizu	map	noun
とおい	とおい	tōi	distant, far away;Adj(i)	
あさって	あさって	asatte	the day after tomorrow	phrase
続く	つづく	tsuzuku	to continue	
だいがく	だいがく	daigaku	university	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

まささんのうちはとおいです。 <i>Masato-san no uchi wa tōi desu.</i> Masato's house is far away.	あさって大きな計画があります。 <i>Asatte ōki na keikaku ga arimasu.</i> He had big plans for the day after tomorrow.
不景気が続いている。 <i>Fukeiki ga tsuzuite iru.</i> We're in a recession.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Hiragana T Column

In this lesson, you'll learn five new characters, 10 new syllable sounds, and an extra character function.

1. た (ta), だ (da)
2. ち (chi), ぢ (ji)

3. つ (*tsu*), づ (*zu*), っ (*chiisai tsu*)
4. て (*te*), で (*de*)
5. と (*to*), ど (*do*)

た (*ta*)

All of the Hiragana in this group can be altered by a *dakuten* as well. *Ta* with a *dakuten* is pronounced *da*, だ.

Hiragana た is written in 4 strokes. The first and second stroke is written like a small letter T but the second stroke goes diagonally to the bottom left. This should be a bit left of the center to make space for the following strokes. The third stroke is a small curved stroke to the right of the T. Then the fourth stroke is also a small curved stroke with an opposite curve to the previous stroke.

ち (*chi*)

Chi with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *ji*, ぢ. It's just like a し with a *dakuten*.

Hiragana ち is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke goes from left to right. It is written at an angle. The second stroke starts as a diagonal stroke that intersects the first stroke then continues into a semi-circle. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke. Even though it's like a mirror image of さ, you don't need to lift your pen for this part to write it correctly.

っ (*tsu*)

Tsu with a *dakuten* is pronounced *zu*, づ. It's similar to す with a *dakuten*: ず.

っ has also a smaller version called 小さいっ, literally "small っ".

It's actually just a smaller sized っ. The 小さいっ is used to prolong the consonant after it. Take a look at the following examples and listen to how I say them: かつこいい (cool), じっか (one's family home), かった (bought).

When found at the end of the word, the 小さいっ acts like a glottal stop. For example: あっ!

Hiragana っ is written in 1 stroke. It's written just like a big wave. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke.

て (*te*)

Te with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *de*.

Hiragana **ㇿ** is written in 1 stroke. First, draw a line from left to right and then, go back and make a huge curve.

と (to)

To with a *dakuten* is pronounced *do*.

Hiragana **ㇽ** is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a small slanted stroke that goes to the middle.

The second stroke is a big curved line, meeting the first stroke in the middle then bends back almost near the bottom.

Try to keep the start and end of the second stroke aligned to ensure your handwriting is neat. Also, make sure the second stroke doesn't cross the first stroke.