

LESSON NOTES

Ultimate Japanese Pronunciation Guide #7

Combining Sounds in Japanese with the Y Group

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Combining Sounds with the Y-Group

In this lesson, you'll combine sounds with the Y-group や, ゆ, and よ.

Do you remember the syllables ending in an "i" sound?

They are き、し、ち、に、ひ、み、り

These syllables can be combined with や、ゆ、よ.

For example, when き is combined with や、ゆ、よ, it will become きゃ、きゅ、きょ.

In pronunciation, the "y" sound is called a glide. Take a look at this chart.

	+や	+ゆ	+よ
き	きゃ <i>kya</i>	きゅ <i>kyu</i>	きょ <i>kyo</i>
し	しゃ <i>sha</i>	しゅ <i>shu</i>	しょ <i>sho</i>
ち	ちゃ <i>cha</i>	ちゅ <i>chu</i>	ちょ <i>cho</i>
に	にゃ <i>nya</i>	にゅ <i>nyu</i>	にょ <i>nyo</i>
ひ	ひゃ <i>hya</i>	ひゅ <i>hyu</i>	ひょ <i>hyo</i>
み	みゃ <i>mya</i>	みゅ <i>myu</i>	みょ <i>myo</i>
り	りゃ <i>rya</i>	りゅ <i>ryu</i>	りょ <i>ryo</i>

When you write the y group, you write

や、ゆ、よ smaller.

Let's look at some words that use these sound combinations:

きゃく “customer”

きゅう “nine”

きょか “permission”

しゃしん “photo”

しゅみ “hobby”

しょくじ “meal”

ちゃいろ “brown”

ちゅうごく “China”

チョーク “chalk”

にゃーにゃー “meow, meow”

ニューヨーク “New York”

エルニーニョ “El Niño”

ひゃく “hundred”

ヒューストン “Houston”

ひょう “leopard”

みゃく “pulse”

ミュージック “music”

みょうじ “family name”

りゃく “abbreviation”

りゅう “dragon”

りょうり “cook”

As we learned in the previous lesson, we have more syllables ending in an “i” sound:
ぎ、じ、び、ぴ.

	+や	+ゆ	+よ
ぎ	ぎゃ <i>gya</i>	ぎゅ <i>gyu</i>	ぎょ <i>gyo</i>
じ	じゃ <i>ja</i>	じゅ <i>ju</i>	じょ <i>jo</i>
び	びゃ <i>bya</i>	びゅ <i>byu</i>	びょ <i>byo</i>
ぴ	ぴゃ <i>pya</i>	ぴゅ <i>pyu</i>	ぴょ <i>pyo</i>

Let's look at more example words:

ぎゃく “reverse”

ぎゅうにゅう “milk”

きんぎょ “goldfish”

ジャズ “jazz”

ジュース “juice”

じょうだん “joke”

さんびゃく “three hundred”

デビュー “debut”

びょういん “hospital”

*Don't confuse びょういん “hospital” with びよういん “beauty salon.” Remember you need to say the び and よ sounds together in one syllable, to say びょういん.

ろっぴゃく “six hundred”

ピュア “pure”

はっぴょう “announcement/presentation”

These are combinations of sounds that you've already learnt, so you're reviewing and learning at the same time!