

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #7 The Hiragana M Column

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#7

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
道	みち	michi	road, street, way	
無駄	むだ	muda	waste, uselessness; Adj(na)	
荷物	にもつ	nimotsu	luggage, baggage	
まぶた	まぶた	mabuta	eyelid	noun
むしあつい	むしあつい	mushiatsui	humid, muggy ; Adj (i)	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

無駄にお金を使わないようにしている。 <i>Muda ni o-kane o tsukawanai yō ni shite iru.</i> I'm trying not to waste money.	荷物、いくつありますか。 <i>Nimotsu, ikutsu arimasu ka.</i> How many pieces of luggage do you have?
まぶたが重い。 <i>Mabuta ga omoi.</i> I have a heavy feeling in eyelids.	日本のなつはむしあついです。 <i>Nihon no natsu wa mushiatsui desu.</i> It's humid in Japanese summer.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Hiragana M Column

In this lesson, you'll learn five new hiragana characters.

1. ま (ma)
2. み (mi)

3. む (*mu*)

4. め (*me*)

5. も (*mo*)

ま (*ma*)

Hiragana ま is written in 3 strokes. Start with two parallel horizontal lines. Both of them go from left to right. The first horizontal line is slightly longer than the second one. The third stroke starts from the top, cuts through the first two strokes, then makes a loop at the bottom. To keep a good balance, try not to make these two horizontal lines too long. They should be just a little bit wider than the loop at the bottom.

み (*mi*)

Hiragana み is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke starts with a short horizontal line, goes down, makes a loop at the bottom, and finishes off with an arc. The second stroke is a curved vertical line that cuts through the end of the arc of the first stroke.

む (*mu*)

Hiragana む is written in 3 strokes. む starts in a similar way to the character す. First, draw a horizontal line. But unlike す, this should be a bit to the left. Next, starting from the top, cut through the first stroke, then make a loop towards the bottom. After the loop, retrace the same line but unlike す do not flick your pen yet. Instead turn to the right, make a horizontal line, then turn upwards and stop right here. Do not pass the first stroke. The third stroke is a short slanted line above where the second stroke stops.

め (*me*)

Hiragana め is written in 2 strokes. め is written just like む except for this loop at the end. So first, draw a curved, slanted line. The second stroke starts at the same height as the first stroke, but curves opposite it, then finishes with a big wave. Instead of the loop in む, flick your pen at the end of this stroke. To have a good balance make sure the proportions

of the spaces are correct.

も (*mo*)

ま and も might be confusing because they look similar. Hiragana も is written in 3 strokes. First, draw a fishing hook shape starting from the top and ending with a flick. It looks like a Hiragana し, right? The second and third strokes are two parallel horizontal lines intersecting the first stroke.