

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #8 The Hiragana R Column

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
空	そら	sora	sky	noun
ろうそく	ろうそく	rōsoku	candle	noun
くすり	くすり	kusuri	medicine	noun
からい	からい	karai	spicy	i-adjective
うるさい	うるさい	urusai	noisy, annoying	
すっきり	すっきり	sukkiri	refreshed, clear	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>青い空はきれいです。 <i>Aoi sora wa kirei desu.</i></p> <p>The blue sky is beautiful.</p>	<p>ろうそくをつけよう。 <i>Rōsoku o tsukeyō.</i></p> <p>Let's light the candle(s).</p>
<p>液体のくすりを飲むのは苦手です。 <i>Ekitai no kusuri o nomu no wa nigate desu.</i></p> <p>I hate drinking liquid medicines.</p>	<p>いしゃからくすりをもらいました。 <i>Isha kara kusuri o moraimashita.</i></p> <p>I got some medicine from my doctor.</p>
<p>これは、からいですか。 <i>Kore wa karai desu ka.</i></p> <p>Is this spicy?</p>	<p>隣の部屋がうるさいです。 <i>Tonari no heya ga urusai desu.</i></p> <p>The room next door is really noisy.</p>
<p>寝たので、頭がすっきりした。 <i>Neta node atama ga sukkiri shita.</i></p> <p>I felt refreshed because I had slept.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Hiragana R Column

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

1. ゃ (ra)
2. り (ri)
3. る (ru)
4. れ (re)
5. ろ (ro)

ゃ (ra)

Is it hard to tell between ゃ and ぢ? Just remember that ぢ has the top part crossing over. *Hiragana ゃ* is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a short slanted line at the top. The second stroke is similar to writing the second stroke of the number 5. It starts here, goes down diagonally to the left, then turns and makes a big curve. Finish this stroke by flicking your pen.

り (ri)

い and り looks very similar, especially when written. One way to remember the difference is that the right stroke of り is longer.

Hiragana り is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a vertical stroke going down and finishes up with a hane. Without putting away your pen, go to where the second stroke starts, then draw a long stroke going down, curving to the left. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke.

Hiragana り is also commonly depicted as one whole connected stroke in some fonts. However the correct way of writing it is in two strokes.

る (ru)

Hiragana る is written in 1 stroke.

First, start with a short horizontal line, then turn and make a diagonal line to the left. Retrace a bit, make a big curve, and end with a small loop inside. The end of the stroke doesn't go past this line, unlike the loops for は and ま.

れ (re)

Hiragana れ is written in 2 strokes. れ is written like れ except for this part. So it starts with a vertical line that goes from top to bottom.

Then the second stroke starts with a short horizontal line that passes the first stroke. It then goes diagonally to the left passing the first stroke again and retraces back, but this time it makes a squiggly line instead of making a big curve with a loop. Another difference is that you flick your pen at the end of the second stroke.

ろ (ro)

Hiragana ろ is written in 1 stroke. Writing ろ is the same as writing ろ but without the loop. Start by drawing a short horizontal line, followed by a diagonal line to the left. Retrace a bit, then finish it off by making the big curve at the end. Remember, this should all be written in one stroke.