

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

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

#7

Hi everyone! Welcome to BASIC JAPANESE WRITING. The fastest, easiest, and most fun way to master the Japanese alphabet!

BASIC JAPANESE WRITING

You've learned these 30 hiragana characters from the previous lessons.

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

まみむめも

The first hiragana character for this lesson is ま. ま.

Try looking at it as a MAN in a MASK and you'll remember ま.

Hiragana ま is written in 3 strokes.

Start with this 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.

Ok, let's see it again.

Ok, next up is the hiragana character み. み.

Think of it as the musical note MI. Do, re, み! [sing this one]

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.

Ok, let's see it again.

The third one is the hiragana む. む.

む looks like a cow and what do cows say? MOOOO~

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.

Ok, let's see it again.

This is the hiragana character め. め.

Does め remind you of this character? The one where the chopsticks are holding some NOODLES?

But look! This part is now missing. This means that the chopsticks dropped some noodles and made a MESS!

Hiragana め is written in 2 strokes.

め is written just like め 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 め, flick your pen at the end of this stroke.

To have a good balance make sure the proportions of the spaces are correct.

Ok, let's see it again.

And our final character for this lesson is the hiragana も. も.

To remember も, just imagine it as a MONITOR lizard. This part is its huge, long tail.

ま and も might be confusing because they look similar, but just remember that ま is the one with the MOUTH.

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.

Ok, let's see it again.

Let's see all the characters again. ま, み, む, め, も.

Quiz time!

Now, let's review what you've learned. I'll show you a character or a word and give you time to say them. Ready?

め. め actually means "eye."

む

ば

Which one is the hiragana め? [pause 3 sec] It's this one holding more NOODLES.

か.

つ. Just like a tsunami.

さ. Remember not to mistake it for ち.

まち. This means "town" or "city."

This could be あめ which means "rain" or あめ which means "candy."

あたま. It's an important part of your body. It means "head."

This is きもの. It literally means "something you wear."

ためいき. [make a sighing noise] It means "sigh."

まいにち. まいにち means "every day." Speaking of which, I hope you're practicing every day!

Try saying this long one: (pause 3 sec) Was it difficult? Yes, it is. むずかしい means "difficult."

Great job! Do you have other mnemonic suggestions to make remembering hiragana easier? Share them in the comments below!

Ok, let's wrap up this lesson by recapping what you've learned.

In this lesson, you learned the hiragana characters ま, み, む, め, and も.

よくできました！ You've now mastered 35 characters and 61 Japanese syllables:

Do you know what a めいぐるみ is? You're going to find out what this cute word means next time when we tackle the R column.

Before you go, practice writing the following words on your own!

[pause]

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See you in the next lesson! またね！