

## LESSON NOTES

# How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #16 The Katakana H Column

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# 16

# VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
サボる	さぼる	saboru	to skip, to sabotage	
コーヒー	コーヒー	kōhī	coffee	noun
デパート	デパート	depāto	department store	noun
ビジネス	ビジネス	bijinesu	business	noun
パーティー	パーティー	pātī	party	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

授業をサボった。 <i>Jugyō o sabotta.</i>  I skipped class.	眠気を覚ますためにコーヒーを飲む <i>nemukewosamasutameni kohi iwonomu</i>  "I drink coffee to get rid of sleepiness"
コーヒーなしでは1日が始まらない。 <i>Kōhī nashi de wa ichi-nichi ga hajimaranai.</i>  I can't start the day without coffee.	コーヒーを飲みませんか。 <i>Kōhī o nomimasen ka.</i>  Would you like to drink some coffee?
そのパーティーは失敗でした。 <i>Sono pātī wa shippai deshita.</i>  The party was a failure.	たなかさんはパーティーにきますか。 <i>Tanaka-san wa pātī ni kimasu ka.</i>  Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka coming to the party?

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Katakana H Column

In this lesson, you'll learn the five katakana characters in the H column. We'll be using the dakuten and handakuten as well.

1. ハ (ha), バ (ba), パ (pa)
2. ヒ (hi), ビ (bi), ピ (pi)
3. フ (fu), ブ (bu), プ (pu)
4. ヘ (he), ベ (be), ペ (pe)
5. ホ (ho), ボ (bo), ポ (po)

## ハ (ha)

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Ha with a *dakuten* is pronounced as ba, バ. With a *handakuten* is pronounced as pa, パ. Katakana ハ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a curved diagonal going to the bottom left. The second stroke is another curved diagonal mirroring the first one. Make sure there is a gap between where the two strokes start.

## ヒ (hi)

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Hi with a *dakuten* is pronounced as bi, ビ. With a *handakuten* is pronounced as pi, ピ. Katakana ヒ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a slightly slanted horizontal stroke going from left to right. The second stroke goes from top to bottom then curves to the right. The angle on this corner is not as sharp as in other katakana characters. Make sure the second stroke only touches the first stroke and doesn't cross it.

## フ (fu)

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Remember, its pronunciation is not "hu" or "fu" but somewhat in between.

Fu with a *dakuten* is pronounced as bu, ブ. With a *handakuten* is pronounced as pu, プ. フ is special as it is the only syllable in Japanese to have a sound very close to an F sound. However, since it is not in the I row, you couldn't combine it with や, ゆ and よ to make digraphs. Instead, you combine フ with smaller versions of the katakana vowels to make a whole "F" column: ファ, フィ, フ, フェ and フォ. Take note that you don't combine a small ウ to フ since it already ends in an "u" sound.

Katakana フ is written in 1 stroke. You have done this stroke in other katakana characters. Start with a horizontal line then turn sharply to draw a curved diagonal line going to the bottom left.

## へ (he)

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へ looks exactly like its hiragana counterpart with no exceptions.

He with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *be*, べ. With a *handakuten* is pronounced as *pe*, ぺ.

*Katakana* へ is written in 1 stroke. Start from the middle and draw a diagonal line upwards then turn and make a longer diagonal line towards the bottom right. The "peak" of this character should not be in the center. Instead it's a bit to the left.

## ホ (ho)

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Ho with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *bo*, ぼ. With a *handakuten* is pronounced as *po*, ぽ.

*Katakana* ホ is written in 4 strokes. The first stroke is a long horizontal line. The second stroke is a long vertical line cutting through the middle of the first stroke. The third stroke is a diagonal which starts from here then goes down to the left. The fourth stroke is a mirrored version of the third stroke. Make sure the third and fourth strokes are not touching the other lines.