

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #5 The Hiragana N Column

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
なに	なに	nani	what	
いぬ	いぬ	inu	dog	
ねこ	ねこ	neko	cat	
にく	にく	niku	meat, flesh	
国	くに	kuni	country	noun
ねつ	ねつ	netsu	fever	noun
布	ぬの	nuno	cloth	noun
脳	のう	nou	brain	
なつ	なつ	natsu	summer	
のど	のど	nodo	throat	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>何について話しているのですか。 <i>Nani ni tsuite hanashite iru no desu ka.</i></p> <p>What are you talking about?</p>	<p>なにがすきですか。 <i>Nani ga suki desu ka.</i></p> <p>What do you like?</p>
<p>毛足の長い犬がボールを追いかけている。 <i>Keashi no nagai inu ga bōru o oikakete iru.</i></p> <p>"The shaggy dog is running after a ball."</p>	<p>黒猫が横切っていく <i>Kuroneko ga yokogitte iku.</i></p> <p>"The black cat is walking across the screen."</p>
<p>にくがだいすきです。 <i>Niku ga daisuki desu.</i></p> <p>I love meat.</p>	<p>ロシアは大きい国です。 <i>Roshia wa ōkii kuni desu.</i></p> <p>Russia is a big country.</p>
<p>ねつがあります。 <i>Netsu ga arimasu.</i></p> <p>I have a fever.</p>	<p>白い布のかばんです。 <i>Shiroi nuno no kaban desu.</i></p> <p>It's a white cloth bag.</p>

のどが痛いです。

Nodo ga itai desu.

I have a sore throat.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Hiragana N Column

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

1. な (*na*)
2. に (*ni*)
3. ぬ (*nu*)
4. ね (*ne*)
5. の (*no*)

な (*na*)

Are you confused between た and な? Just remember that な looks more complicated so it gets mixed up in a KNOT. Also, remember that the left side of た is TALLER.

Do you remember that *Hiragana* い is used as a suffix for MOST adjectives? These are called い-adjectives. The other kinds of adjectives are the な-adjectives. These use the *Hiragana* な as the particle to connect to nouns.

Hiragana な is written in 4 strokes. The first stroke is a short horizontal stroke. Next is a diagonal stroke that cuts through the first stroke. It only goes until the middle. The third stroke is a short curved stroke to the right and under of the first stroke. It ends with a hane and continues on to the next stroke. The final stroke goes downwards then makes a loop. Unlike the loop in す, this one doesn't need to follow the same line as when it started the loop.

に (*ni*)

Hiragana れ is written in 3 strokes. The first stroke is like that of the *Hiragana* れ. It is a vertical stroke with a slight outward curve and then it ends with a hane. The second and third stroke is like the *Hiragana* れ but smaller. Start with the curved line on top that ends with a hane. Then follow it with the bottom line curved in the opposite way.

ぬ (nu)

Hiragana ぬ is written in 2 strokes. First draw a curved, slanted line. The second stroke starts at the same height as the first stroke, but curves opposite it, makes a big curve, then finishes with a loop. Take a look at the proportions of the spaces. These two are small ones, this one is a bit larger, and this one has the biggest space.

ね (ne)

ね looks similar to ぬ doesn't it? Well, just remember that you need a pair of chopsticks to be able to hold your NOOdles so ぬ has two lines sticking out on top of the curve and ね just has ONE.

Hiragana ね is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a vertical line which goes from top to bottom. 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, then it retraces back, makes a big curve, and ends with a loop.

の (no)

の is also a widely used *Hiragana*. It is the particle used to denote possession.

Hiragana の is written in 1 stroke. It starts from this point, goes down then bends to the left and continues on to make a big curve that passes through the starting point. Make sure that the curve meets the starting point but try your best not to go too low and make the vertical line protrude.