

## LESSON NOTES

# How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #13 The Katakana S Column

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# 13

# VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
スキー	スキー	sukī	ski	noun
ソース	ソース	sōsu	sauce	noun
カサカサ	カサカサ	kasakasa	sound of rustling	
ウイスキー	ウィスキー	uisukī	whiskey	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

私はスキーが大好きです。 <i>Watashi wa sukī ga suki desu.</i>  I like skiing.	ソースはどこにありますか？ <i>Sōsu wa doko ni arimasu ka.</i>  Where is the sauce?
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## GRAMMAR

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

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

1. サ (sa), ザ (za)
2. シ (shi), ジ (ji)
3. ス (su), ズ (zu)
4. セ (se), ゼ (ze)
5. ソ (so), ゾ (zo)

### サ (sa)

Hiragana せ and katakana サ might get you confused, so to differentiate the two, just look at where the second and third strokes end. The ones for せ end at the center and the ones for サ end at the sides.

All of the characters in this column can also be altered by a dakuten. Sa with a dakuten sounds like za, ザ.

Katakana サ is written in 3 strokes. The first stroke is a long horizontal line. The second stroke is a vertical line cutting through the left side of the first stroke. The third stroke is a longer vertical line that curves at the bottom. It cuts through the first stroke on the right side. To have a good balance, the second and third stroke should cut the first stroke into thirds.

## シ (shi)

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Shi with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *ji*, ジ.

シ (し, シ) is the only Japanese character that produces the S-H sound and the only original Japanese syllable sounds available are しゃ, し, しゅ and しょ. The digraph シエ is then created by adding a small katakana エ to シ. This enables Japanese people to say words like "chef," (シェフ) and "share" (シェア.)

Also since shi with a dakuten is the only sound in Japanese to produce a J sound, the same is done to ji creating the je digraph. This allows Japanese people to say words like "jelly," (ジェリー) or "widget," (ウィジェット.)

Katakana シ is written in 3 strokes. The first and second strokes are two parallel short slanted strokes on the upper left. The third stroke starts below the first two strokes and curves upward. To maintain the balance, try to have the same spacing between where the three strokes start.

## ス (su)

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Su with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *zu*, ズ.

Katakana ス is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke starts as a horizontal stroke on top then sharply turns and makes a curve going diagonally to the left. The second stroke is a short slanted stroke that starts from the middle of the curved part of the first stroke.

## セ (se)

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Katakana せ is also another character that looks like an angular version of its hiragana counterpart. It's also just missing this part on the top right.

With a dakuten, it's now pronounced as *ze*, ゼ.

Katakana セ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke starts as a long horizontal line then it turns sharply inwards and down. The second stroke goes from top to bottom then turns to

the right at the bottom. Take note that the angle of this corner on ㇿ is not as sharp as that of the other katakana characters you've learned.

## ソ (so)

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So with a *dakuten* is pronounced as zo, ソ.

*Katakana* ソ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a short slanted stroke going down. It's more vertical than most short slanted strokes in other characters. The second stroke is a curved stroke starting from the same height as the first stroke. It goes downwards to the bottom left.