

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #20 The Katakana W Column Plus N

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
コンビニ	コンビニ	konbini	convenience store (abbreviation)	noun
ワンワン	ワンワン	wanwan	dog's bark	
プレゼント	プレゼント	purezento	present	noun
エアコン	エアコン	eakon	air conditioner	noun
サラリーマン	サラリーマン	sararīman	salary man, company employee	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>コンビニはどこですか。 <i>Konbini wa doko desu ka.</i></p> <p>Where is the convenience store?</p>	<p>私はコンビニに行きます。 <i>Watashi wa konbini ni ikimasu.</i></p> <p>I'll go to the convenience store.</p>
<p>近所の犬がワンワン吠える。 <i>Kinjo no inu ga wanwan hoeru.</i></p> <p>A dog in the neighborhood barks.</p>	<p>おじいちゃん、おばあちゃんにプレゼントあげるなら何がいいかな。 <i>ojiichan, obaachanni purezentoo agerunara naniga iikana.</i></p> <p>What should I give my grandparents for presents?</p>
<p>これはプレゼントです。どうぞ。 <i>Kore wa purezento desu. Dōzo.</i></p> <p>This is a present. Here you are.</p>	<p>エアコンは夏の必需品です。 <i>Eakon wa natsu no hitsujuhin desu.</i></p> <p>An air conditioner is a must during summer.</p>
<p>私の夫はサラリーマンです。 <i>Watashi no otto wa sararīman desu.</i></p> <p>My husband is a businessman.</p>	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Katakana W Column Plus N

In this lesson, you'll learn the last three characters in basic Japanese writing.

1. ワ (wa)
2. オ (o)
3. ヌ (n)

ワ (wa)

Katakana ク and ワ looks similar doesn't it? Well, just remember that ワ is wider and ク has more curved lines.

Katakana ワ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a short vertical line in the upper left corner. It's important to keep this stroke vertical so it's easier to tell it apart from a *Katakana* ク. The second stroke starts where the first stroke starts, goes straight to the right, and then turns and makes a curved diagonal going down the bottom center.

オ (o)

Katakana オ is written in 3 strokes. The first two strokes are parallel, horizontal lines going from left to right. However, the second one starts a bit more to the left. The third stroke starts from where the first stroke ends then it curves diagonally towards the bottom left touching the second stroke along the way.

ヌ (n)

Many people confuse ヌ and ノ because they look very similar. One thing that could help distinguish the two is that ノ is slimmer.

Just like the *hiragana* ぬ, you can never start a word with a *katakana* ヌ. It can only be found in the middle or at the end of words.

Again, just like in *hiragana*, the pronunciation of ヌ varies a bit depending on the syllable that comes after it.

It sounds like an "mm" sound when it comes before a "b" or "p" sound. For example: ハンバーガー, and キャンプ.

It can also sound like an "ng" sound when it comes before a "g" sound like in シングル.
Katakana

ヷ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a short slanted line. The second stroke is a curved diagonal line starting from the bottom left going up to the top right. This character should be wider than your *katakana* ヱ to make them easy to tell them apart from each other.