

## LESSON NOTES

# How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #2 The Hiragana K Column

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar

#2

# VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
蚊	か	ka	mosquito	noun
記憶	きおく	kioku	memory	
聞く	きく	kiku	to listen, to hear, to ask; V1	
こえ	こえ	koe	voice	
かく	かく	kaku	write	
かぎ	かぎ	kagi	key	noun
おおきい	おおきい	ōkī	big	
映画	えいが	eiga	movie	noun
影	かげ	kage	shadow	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>蚊に刺されるとかゆい。 <i>Ka ni sasareru to kayui.</i></p> <p>It is itchy when you have a mosquito bite.</p>	<p>よく日本の歌をききますか。 <i>Yoku Nihon no uta o kikimasu ka.</i></p> <p>Do you often listen to Japanese songs?</p>
<p>窓のかぎも、閉めてください。 <i>Mado no kagi mo, shimete kudasai.</i></p> <p>Please also lock the window.</p>	<p>高校以来、いい映画にめぐり会えていない。 <i>Kōkō irai, ii eiga ni meguri aete inai.</i></p> <p>We haven't watched a good movie since high school.</p>
<p>彼は新しいウディ・アレンの映画にいます。 <i>Kare wa atarashii Udi Aren no eiga ni imasu.</i></p> <p>He's in the new Woody Allen movie.</p>	<p>私は映画が好きです。 <i>Watashi wa eiga ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like movies.</p>

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Hiragana K Column

---

In this lesson, you'll learn five new characters and 10 new sounds.

1. か (ka), が (ga)
2. き (ki), ぎ (gi)
3. く (ku), ぐ (gu)
4. け (ke), げ (ge)
5. こ (ko), ご (go)

### か (ka)

---

The first *hiragana* character for this lesson is か.

か is actually a *hiragana* character that is used a lot since it is the question-marking particle in Japanese. So if you see a sentence ending in か it is most probably a question. The *hiragana* か also has another reading once we add this mark. This mark is called *dakuten* or *ten ten*. It is made up of two lines that look a bit like a quotation mark symbol and it's put on the upper right corner of the character. The *dakuten* makes the consonant of the syllable voiced. So *ka* with a *dakuten* will be pronounced as *ga*. Voicing a consonant simply means that you create a vibration in your vocal cords when you say it.

*Hiragana* か is written in 3 strokes. The first stroke starts as a horizontal line, then bends down into a vertical curved line. Finally it ends with a *hane* release. The second stroke is a downward diagonal line with a slight curve inwards. Make sure that this stroke intersects the first stroke around here. The final stroke is a curved slanted stroke to the right of where the first stroke bends. Make the last stroke slightly longer than the other small slanted strokes in previous characters to distinguish it from the *dakuten*.

### き (ki)

---

Next up is the *hiragana* character き.

Just like the *hiragana* か, all of the characters in this column can be altered by a *dakuten*. *Ki* with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *gi*.

*Hiragana* き is written in 4 strokes. The first two strokes are two parallel lines both starting from left to right. They are written at a bit of an angle. The third stroke cuts through the first two strokes and ends with a *hane* release. Because the third stroke ends with a *hane*, don't put down your pen yet. When you get to this point, make a small curve like half of a

smile. Even though you see the fourth stroke connected to the third stroke in most fonts, the correct way to write ㇿ is to lift your pen up before making the final stroke.

## ㇼ (ku)

---

The third one is the *hiragana* ㇼ.

*Ku* with a *dakuten* to ㇽ will be pronounced as *gu*.

*Hiragana* ㇼ is written in 1 stroke. It is written just like an open angle bracket but with a slight inward bend. To make your handwriting neat, make sure that the start and end points are aligned.

## ㇾ (ke)

---

This is the *hiragana* character ㇾ.

Just like the first three characters, ㇾ can be modified by a *dakuten*.

*Ke* with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *ge*. *Hiragana* ㇾ is written in 3 strokes. The first stroke is a vertical stroke with a slight outward curve and then ends with a *hane*. After the *hane*, continue on to the next stroke. It is a short horizontal line. The third stroke is another vertical stroke that curves opposite to the first stroke but starts a bit higher and ends lower. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke.

## ㇿ (ko)

---

Our final character for this lesson is the *hiragana* ㇿ. *Ko* with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *go*. *Hiragana* ㇿ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a curved horizontal line that ends with a *hane*. Go down to this point and make a longer horizontal line that curves opposite from the first one. Just like the *hiragana* い, ㇿ should look like it is enclosing a circle.