

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #17 The Katakana M Column

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar

17

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
ゲーム	ゲーム	gēmu	video game	
イメージ	イメージ	imēji	impression, self-image	
デジカメ	デジカメ	dejikame	digital camera	
メキシコ	メキシコ	Mekishiko	Mexico	proper noun
メール	メール	mēru	e-mail	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

わたしはメキシコ系アメリカ人です。 <i>Watashi wa Mekishikokei Amerika-jin desu.</i> I'm Mexican-American.	メールアドレスは何ですか。 <i>Mēru adoresu wa nan desu ka.</i> What's your e-mail address?
--	---

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Katakana M Column

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

1. マ (*ma*)
2. ミ (*mi*)
3. ム (*mu*)
4. メ (*me*)
5. モ (*mo*)

マ (ma)

Katakana マ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke starts as a horizontal line then it turns sharply and makes a diagonal line going towards the center. The second stroke is a short diagonal line touching the tip of the first stroke. Make sure the second stroke is short and slanted so your マ won't be confused for a *katakana* マ

ミ (mi)

Katakana ミ is written in 3 strokes. It's basically 3 parallel diagonal lines, each going from the upper left down to the bottom right.

ム (mu)

Could you tell マ from ム? Here's an easy way to do it. Just look for the horizontal line. If it's above then it's a マ and if it's under then it's a ム!

Katakana ム is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a straight diagonal line going to the bottom left. It then turns sharply and makes a shallower diagonal line going here. The second stroke is a short diagonal line touching the end of the first stroke.

メ (me)

Katakana メ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a long curved diagonal line going from the upper right down to the lower left. The second stroke is a short diagonal line cutting through the middle of the first stroke.

モ (mo)

モ looks very similar to its *hiragana* counterpart. The only difference is that the third stroke doesn't intersect the first one.

Katakana モ is written in 3 strokes. モ is also written in a similar way to the *hiragana* も but without the top sticking out. Also, take note that their stroke order is different. First, draw the two parallel, horizontal strokes.

For the third stroke, draw a line starting from the first stroke, cutting only through the second stroke. When it reaches the bottom, it bends to the right. In order to make your writing look neat, make the second stroke a bit longer than the first stroke.