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How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #12 The Katakana K Column

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
エコ	えこ	eko	eco-friendly	
カカオ	カカオ	kakao	cacao	
ケーキ	ケーキ	kēki	cake	noun
ガーガー	ガーガー	gāgā	duck's quack	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本は、エコな国だ。
Nihon wa eko na kuni da.

Japan is an eco-friendly country.

誕生日にケーキを食べる
tanjyoubinikeekiwotaberu

eat a cake on his/her birthday

彼の誕生日にケーキを準備しましょうか。
Kare no tanjōbi ni kēki o junbi shimashō ka.

Shall we prepare a cake for his birthday?

ケーキが大好きです。
Kēki ga daisuki desu.

I love cake.

アヒルがガーガー鳴いている。
Ahiru ga gāgā naite iru.

A duck is quacking.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Mastering the Katakana K Column

In this lesson, you'll learn five new characters. Remember the dakuten? We'll see it appear again in this lesson.

1. カ (*ka*), ガ (*ga*)

2. キ (*ki*), ギ (*gi*)

3. ク (*ku*), グ (*gu*)

4. ケ (*ke*), ゲ (*ge*)

5. コ (*ko*), ゴ (*go*)

カ (*ka*)

Katakana カ looks like a more angular version of hiragana か.
Just like in the K column of hiragana, the K column of *katakana* can also be modified by the "dakuten" or "ten ten" mark. Again, we put it in the upper right corner so now it will be pronounced *ga*, ガ.
Katakana カ is written in 2 strokes. It is written in a similar way to hiragana か but is more angular.The first stroke starts with a long horizontal line going to the right then it turns sharply downwards to make a slightly curved diagonal line. Finally it ends with a hane. Since *katakana* characters are more angular, the hane stroke also gets a sharper angle. The second stroke is a curved diagonal just like in hiragana か. Then that's it. No more third stroke like its *hiragana* counterpart.

キ (ki)

キ also looks like its hiragana counterpart but without this part at the bottom. Just like the *katakana* カ, we could also put a *dakuten* on it.
Ki with a dakuten is pronounced as *gi*, ギ.
Katakana キ is written in 3 strokes. This one is also written in a similar way to its hiragana counterpart without this part. The first two strokes are parallel diagonal lines both going from the lower left to the upper right.
The third stroke is another diagonal which cuts through the first two strokes. And that's it. No need for the hane and the half smile curve.

ク (ku)

Ku with a *dakuten* is now pronounced as *gu*, グ.
Katakana ク is written in 2 stroke. The first stroke is a curved diagonal.
The second stroke starts where the first stroke starts. It's a short horizontal line which turns sharply into a longer curved diagonal than the first stroke. To make your writing neat, try

to make these two curves parallel.

ケ (ke)

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

Ke with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *ge*, ゲ.

Katakana ケ is written in 3 strokes. This character starts the same way as *katakana* ク - with this curved diagonal line. This time the second stroke starts from the middle of the first stroke. It's also a longer horizontal line going to the right. The third stroke also starts from the middle of the second stroke. It's a curved diagonal line that goes to the lower left.

コ (ko)

Ko with a dakuten is pronounced *go*, ゴ.

Katakana コ is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke starts as a horizontal stroke which turns sharply downwards. The second stroke is a horizontal stroke at the bottom meeting the first stroke where it ends.

To avoid confusion with other characters, make the length of the second stroke the same as the horizontal line of the first stroke.