

## LESSON NOTES

# How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #3 The Hiragana S Column

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# VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
すし	すし	sushi	sushi	
お酒	おさけ	o-sake	alcohol	
象	ぞう	zō	elephant	noun
事故	じこ	jiko	accident	noun
お菓子	おかし	o-kashi	snacks, sweets	
想像	そうぞう	sōzō	imagination	
最後	さいご	saigo	last, final	
すき	すき	suki	like	na-adjective
咲く	さく	saku	to bloom	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>私はお酒が好きです。  <i>Watashi wa o-sake ga suki desu.</i></p> <p>I like alcohol.</p>	<p>動物園の赤ちゃん象が砂で遊んでいる。  <i>Dōbutsuen no aka-chan zō ga suna de asonde iru.</i></p> <p>"The baby elephant is playing with dirt in a zoo."</p>
<p>動物園で、象を見た。  <i>Dōbutsuen de zō o mita.</i></p> <p>I saw an elephant at the zoo.</p>	<p>事故で、道が込んでいる。  <i>Jiko de michi ga konde iru.</i></p> <p>The road is congested because of an accident.</p>
<p>最近、コンビニでお菓子を買う人が増えている。  <i>Saikin wa konbini de o-kashi o kau hito ga fuete iru.</i></p> <p>More and more people buy snacks at convenience stores recently.</p>	<p>20年後の自分が、想像できない。  <i>20-nen-go no jibun ga sōzō dekinai.</i></p> <p>I can't imagine myself in twenty years.</p>

いぬがすきです。でも、ねこがきらいで  
す。

*Inu ga suki desu. Demo, neko ga kirai desu.*

I like dogs. But I dislike cats.

桜の花が咲く。

*Sakura no hana ga saku.*

The cherry blossoms are blooming.

公園の片隅に一本花が咲いていた。

*Kōen no katasumi ni 1-pon hana ga saite ita.*

A flower was in bloom in the corner of the park.

## GRAMMAR

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

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

1. さ (sa), ざ (za)
2. し (shi), じ (ji)
3. す (su), ず (zu)
4. せ (se), ぜ (ze)
5. そ (so), ぞ (zo)

#### さ (sa)

The first hiragana character for this lesson is さ. Sa with a *dakuten* is pronounced za. Hiragana さ is written in 3 strokes. It's written the same way as き but without the first stroke. So it starts with this line written at an angle. Then the second stroke cuts through it and ends with a *hane*. And finally, draw half a smile. Remember, it looks connected in fonts but the right way to write it is to lift up your pen first before drawing the last stroke.

#### し (shi)

Next up is the Hiragana character

し. *Shi* with a dakuten is pronounced *ji*.

Hiragana し is written in 1 stroke. Start with a vertical line going down then at the bottom make it curve up. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke.

### す (*su*)

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The third one is the Hiragana す. *Su* with a dakuten is pronounced *zu*.

Hiragana す is written in 2 strokes. The first stroke is a horizontal line going from left to right. The second stroke starts from the top, goes down, makes a loop around here, continues going down, then finishes by curving to the left. Flick your pen at the end of this stroke. To have a good balance for this character, intersect the first stroke a bit right of the center when drawing the second stroke. This will give space for the loop. Also, try to draw the same line before and after making the loop to make your writing neat. Make sure there is a gap between the first stroke and the loop as well.

### せ (*se*)

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This is the Hiragana character せ. *Se* with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *ze*.

Hiragana せ is written in 3 strokes. This first stroke is a long horizontal stroke at the center. The second stroke is a short vertical line that ends with a "hane" going towards the upper left corner. Since the previous stroke ends with a "hane," continue the motion of your pen to this point and start drawing a vertical line that curves to the right at the bottom. Do not Flick your pen. Keep in mind that the third stroke should not be longer than the first stroke. Also, try to keep a balance where the 2nd and 3rd stroke intersect the first stroke.

### そ (*so*)

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The final character for this lesson is the Hiragana そ. *So* with a *dakuten* is pronounced as *zo*.

Hiragana そ is written in 1 stroke. The first stroke is kind of a zigzag line. First try writing a letter Z on the top half and then continue by writing a letter C on the bottom half without raising your pen. However don't make it curl up like a normal letter C. One thing to keep in mind is that this line in the middle should be longer than this line on top.

Hiragana そ actually has another way of writing, but this time with 2 strokes. This is used less often than the one before. The first stroke is a short slanted line. The second stroke is exactly the same as the more common way of writing it but without this part.