

LESSON NOTES

How to Write in Japanese: Hiragana and Katakana #10 The Hiragana W Column Plus N

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VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English	Class
にわ	にわ	niwa	garden	noun
かわ	かわ	kawa	river	
を	を	o	indicates direct object of action	particle
くすりをのむ	くすりをのむ	kusuri o nomu	to take medicine	
満足	まんぞく	manzoku	satisfaction	
残念	ざんねん	zannen	a shame, regrettable	adjective (na)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

にわをそうじする。 <i>Niwa o sōji suru.</i> I clean the garden.	あなたを愛してます。 <i>Anata o aishite masu.</i> I love you.
5月にお休みをください。 <i>Go-gatsu ni o-yasumi o kudasai.</i> Please give me the day off in May.	残念ですね。 <i>Zannen desu ne.</i> That's too bad.

GRAMMAR

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

In this lesson, you'll learn three new characters:

1. わ (wa)
2. を (o)

3. ん (n)

わ (wa)

Do you remember that the *hiragana* character は is pronounced as "wa" if it's a particle? Well, the "wa" sound is actually signified by this character as well, わ.

Hiragana わ is written in 2 strokes. It starts the same way as the characters similar to it, so it starts with a vertical line that goes from top to bottom. The second stroke starts with a short horizontal line that passes the first stroke. It then goes diagonally to the left passing the first stroke again and retraces back, but this time it makes a big curve and you're done.

Ok, let's see it again.

を (o)

It is also commonly said as "o."

を is a very distinct character. It is never used in a word but instead it functions as the object marking particle. So whenever you see it, that means that the word before it is the object of the sentence.

Hiragana を is written in 3 strokes. The first stroke is a horizontal line going from left to right. The second stroke starts as a diagonal line that crosses the first stroke then turns and makes a hump. It should end lower than where it turned. The third stroke is a curved line that starts from here and intersects the second stroke on the humped part.

ん (n)

Hiragana ん is also special because you can never start a word with it. It could only be found in the middle or end of words.

One more thing that's special about ん is that its pronunciation varies a bit depending on the syllable that comes after it.

It can sometimes have an "mm" sound when it comes before a B or P-sound. For example: こんぶ, and かんぱい. And sometimes it can have an "ng" sound when it comes before a "g" sound, like in はんがく.

Hiragana ん is written in 1 stroke. It starts out as a diagonal line going down to the left. Then it turns and retraces a bit before making a wave. Flick your pen at the end.