

# LET'S READ

ひらがな

# HIRAGANA

An Introduction to Basic Japanese with Manga

Written By: David Eisenberg  
Art By: Alex Kobayashi



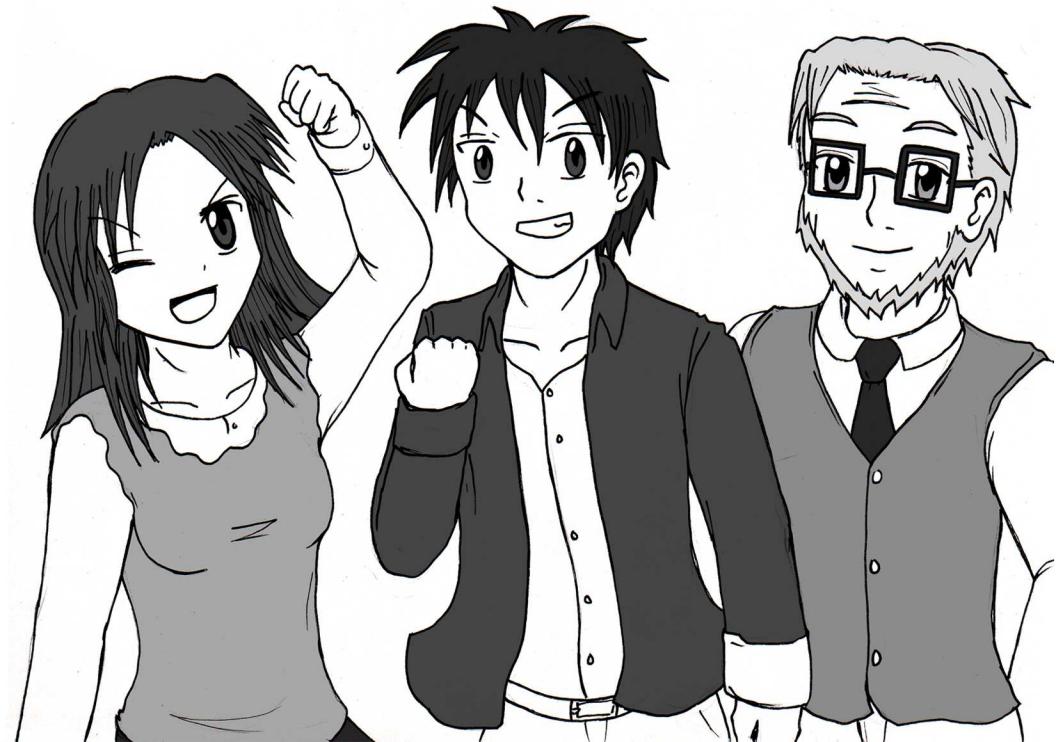
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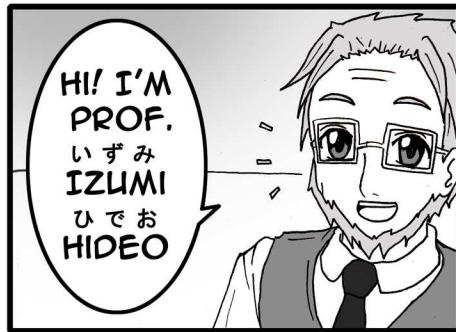
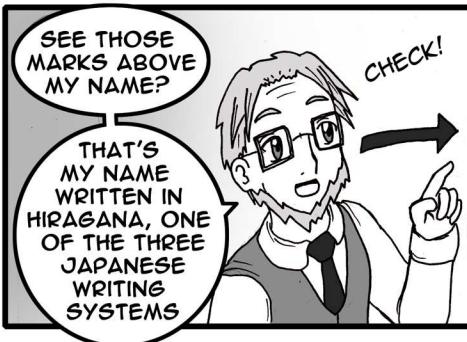
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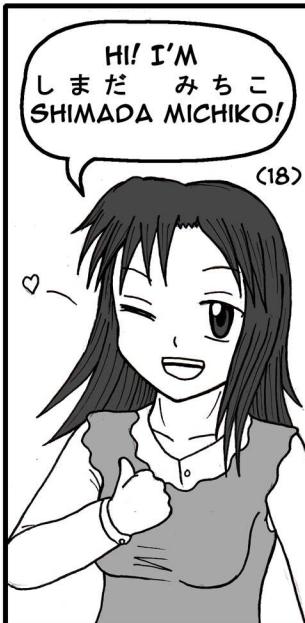
# LET'S READ ひ ら が な HIRAGANA

Script by: David Eisenberg

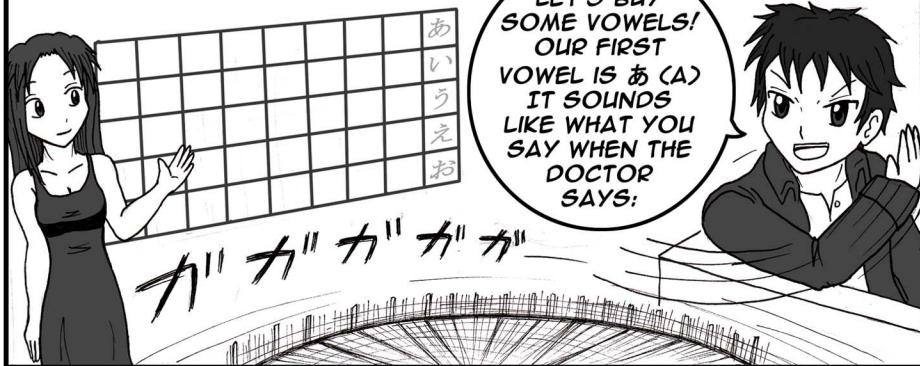
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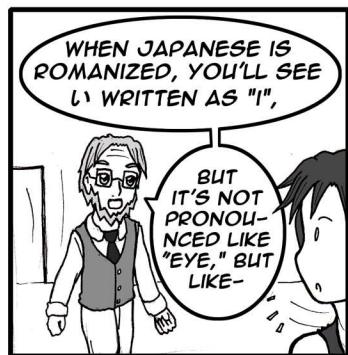
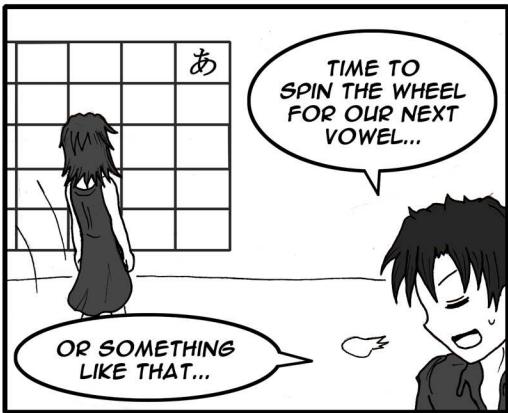
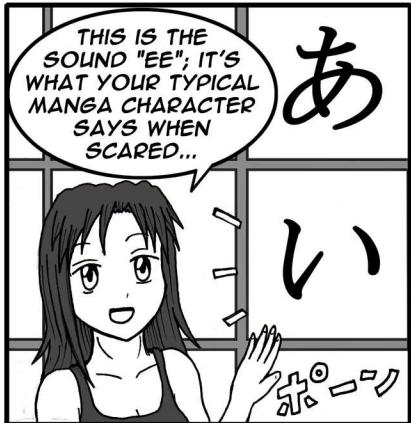


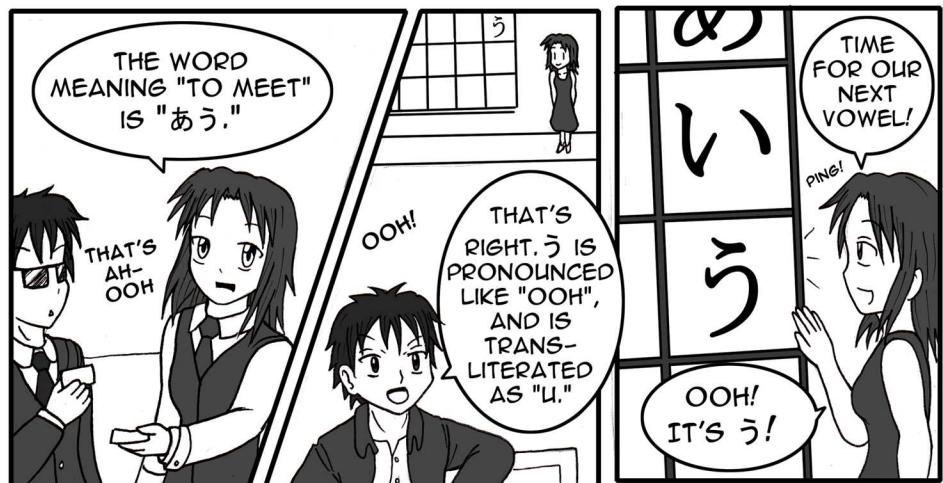


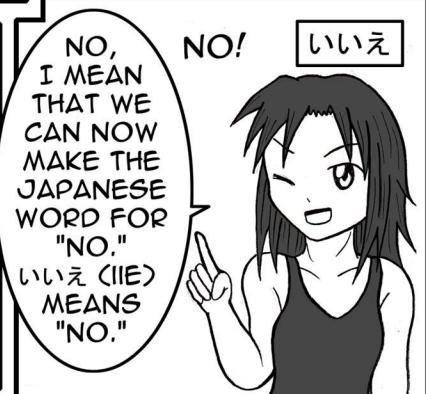
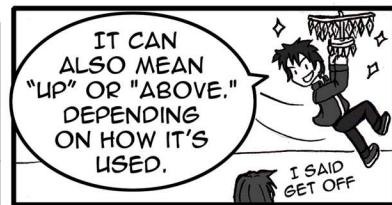
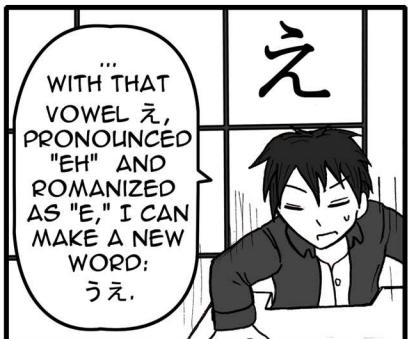


## WHEEL OF HIRAGANA









HAVEN'T WE SEEN THAT ONE BEFORE?

YES, お IS PRONOUNCED "OH." SOMETHING WRONG?

お!  
... OH!

お - BY THE WAY, WE CAN MAKE ANOTHER WORD: あお (AO, PRONOUNCED "AH-OH") WHICH MEANS THE COLOR BLUE.

あ

お

(A)

(O)

THEY DO LOOK SIMILAR, SO BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU READ AND WRITE THEM.

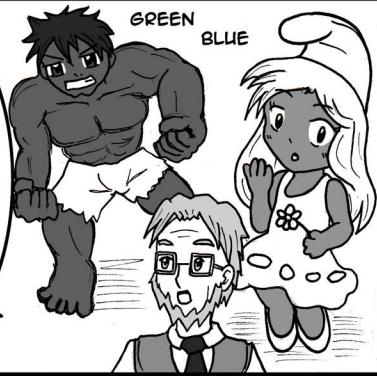
THE ONE ON TOP IS あ (A); THE ONE BELOW IS お (O)



GREEN TRAFFIC LIGHTS ACTUALLY HAVE SOME BLUE TO THEM. JAPANESE PEOPLE CALL THAT あお.



あお MEANS BLUE BUT ALSO ENCOMPASSES THE COLOR GREEN AT TIMES AS WELL.



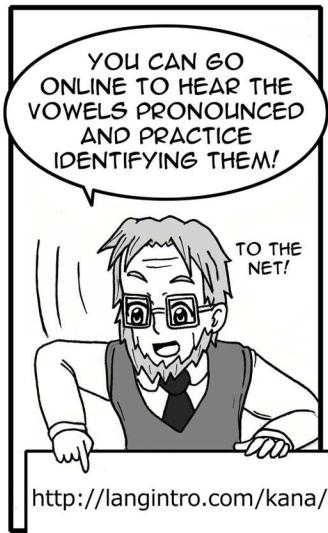
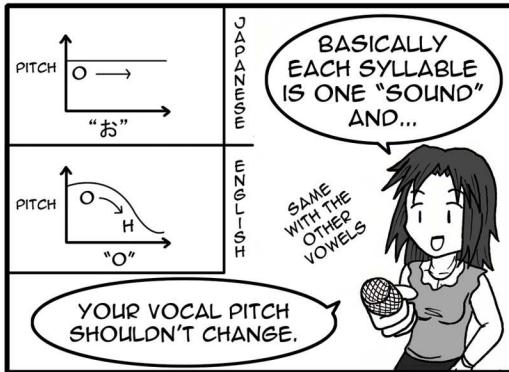
## Pronunciation☆Point:

お

"O"  
PRONOUNCED  
LIKE OH,  
WITHOUT THE  
"U" SOUNDS

OH O-  
OU O-

JAPANESE  
VOWELS ARE  
PRONOUNCED  
MUCH "SHORTER"  
THAN ENGLISH  
VOWELS.



IT'S TIME  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO  
WRITE THEM.

NOW THAT YOU  
KNOW HOW TO  
READ AND SAY  
THE HIRAGANA  
VOWELS...

LET'S READ HIRAGANA!

THE  
NEXT  
COLUMN  
SHOWS THE  
OUTLINE IN  
GRAY SO  
YOU CAN  
TRACE IT,  
AND THEN  
YOU GET  
SOME EMPTY  
SPACE FOR  
YOU TO  
TRY IT  
YOUR-  
SELF.

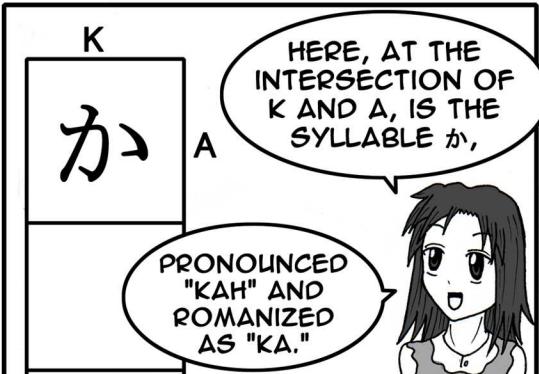
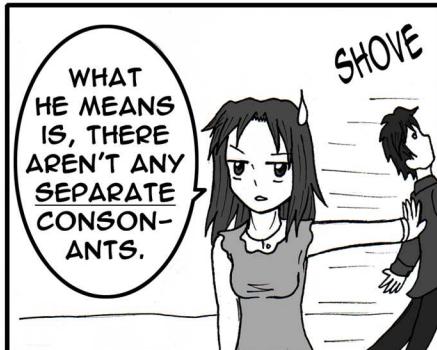
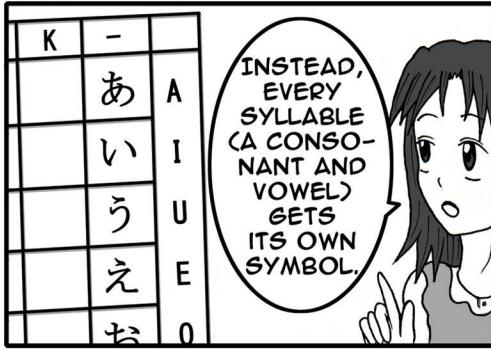
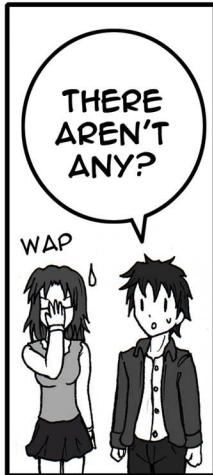
THE NEXT  
PAGE IS  
WHERE YOU  
WILL PRACTICE  
WRITING. THE  
COLUMN AT THE  
RIGHT SHOWS  
THE LETTER. THE  
NEXT COLUMN  
TO ITS LEFT  
SHOWS THE  
ORDER IN  
WHICH EACH  
STROKE IS  
DRAWN.

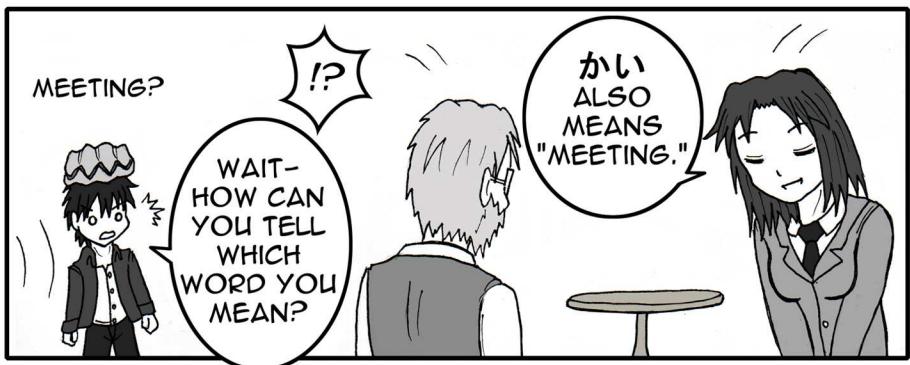
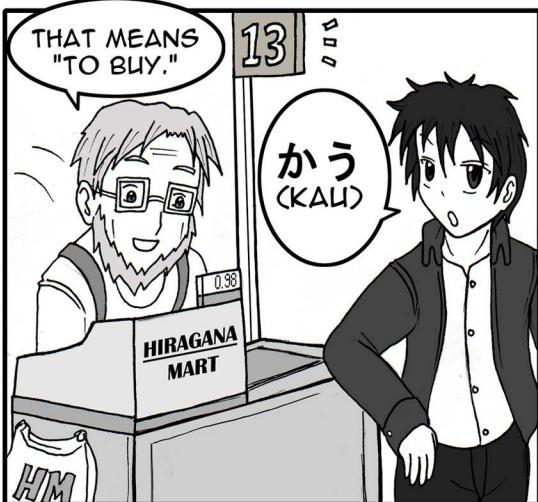


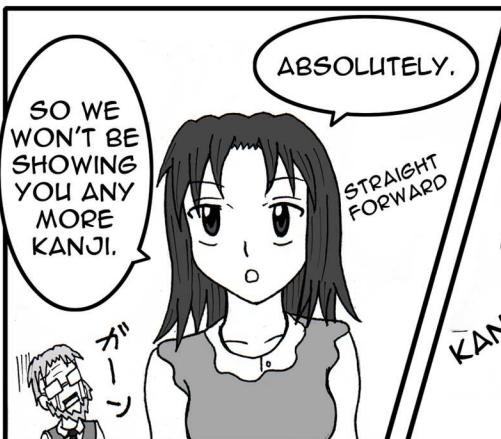
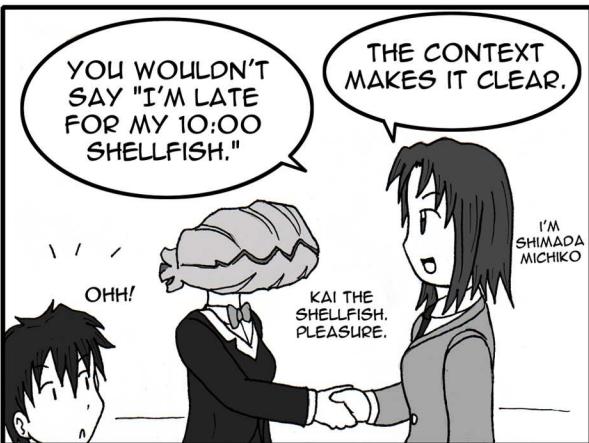
- a i u e o

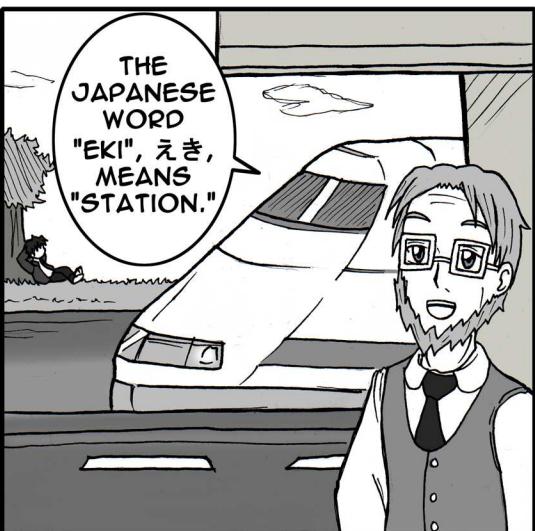
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お

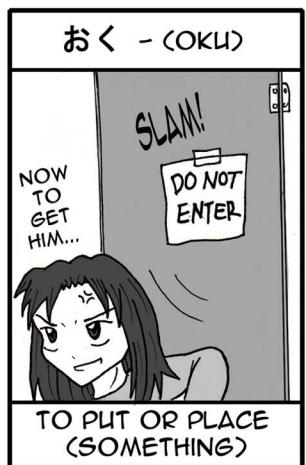
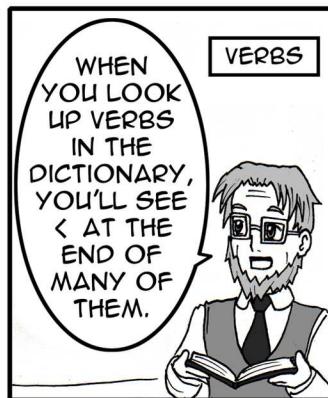
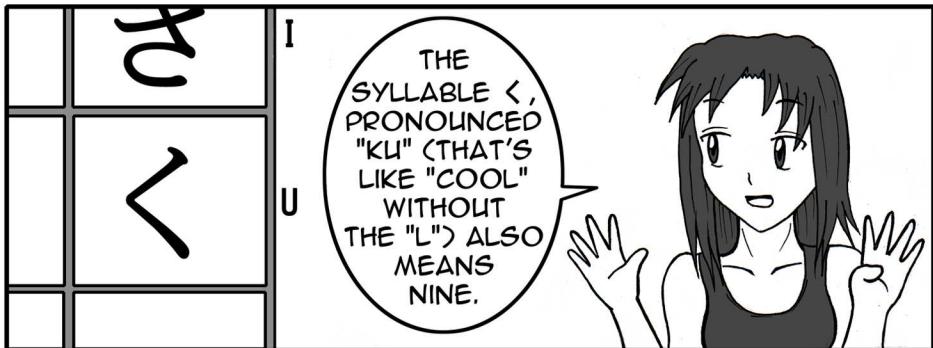
PRACTICE WRITING THE VOWELS オ-オ.  
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW THE LINES IN THE ORDER SHOWN.

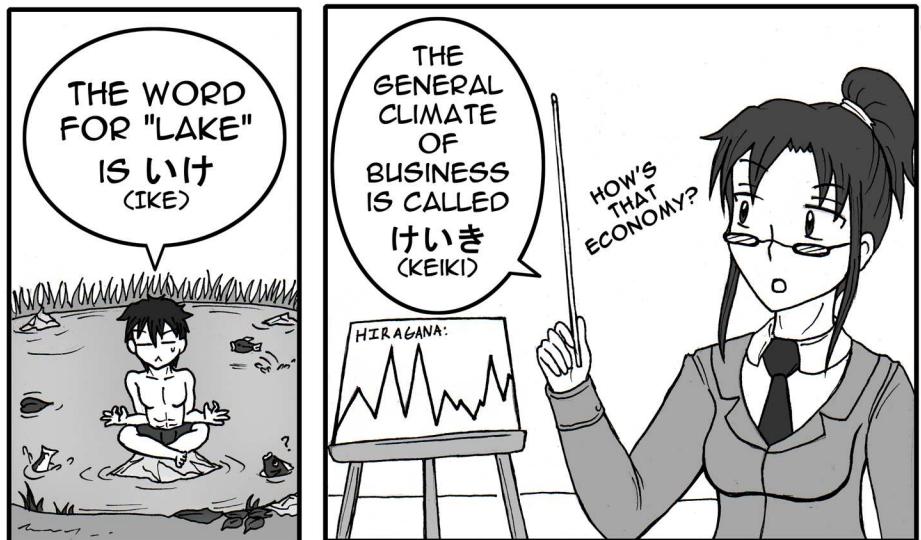
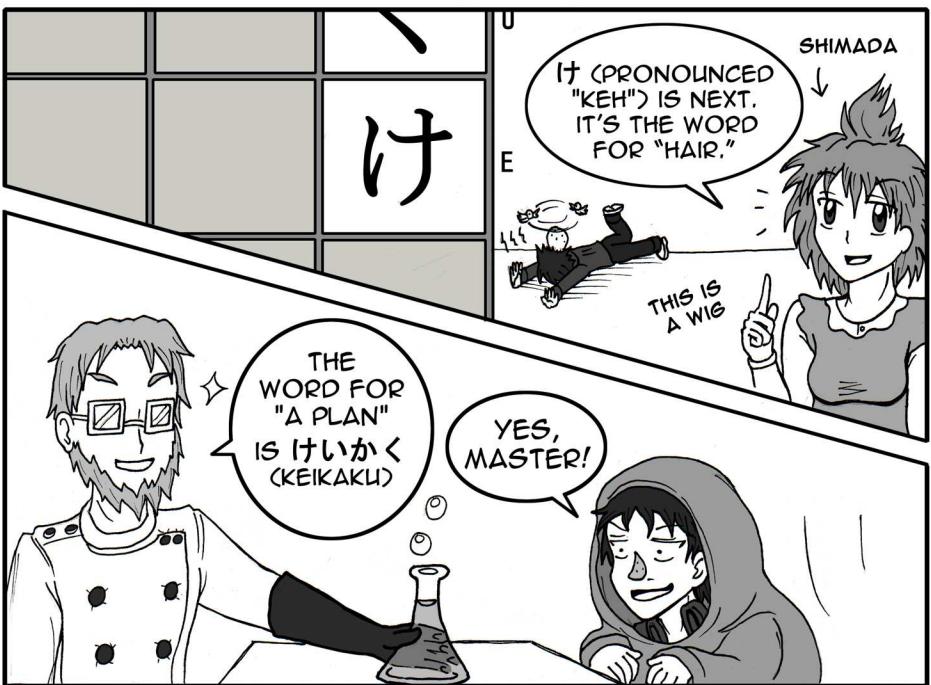


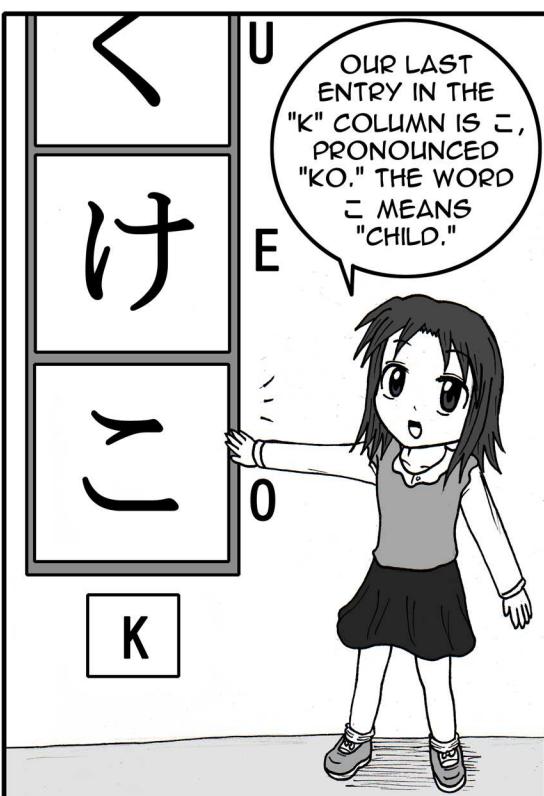












		ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
k	か	き	く	け	こ	
	か	き	く	け	こ	
	か	き	く	け	こ	
	か	き	く	け	こ	

PRACTICE WRITING THE LETTERS か-こ.  
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW THE LINES IN THE ORDER SHOWN.

			か	あ	A	
			き	い	I	
			く	う	U	
			け	え	E	
			こ	お	O	

AND  
NOW,  
LET'S  
MOVE  
ON TO...



か→が

"KA" CHANGES TO "GA", PRONOUNCED "GAH!"

き→ぎ

"KI" CHANGES TO "GI", PRONOUNCED AS IN "GEEK"

く→ぐ

"KU" CHANGES TO "GU", PRONOUNCED AS IN "GOO"

け→げ

"KE" CHANGES TO "GE", PRONOUNCED AS IN "GET"

こ→ご

AND "KO" CHANGES TO "GO".

B	D	Z	G
A	が		
I	ぎ		
U	ぐ		
E	げ		
O	ご		

A

I

U

E

O

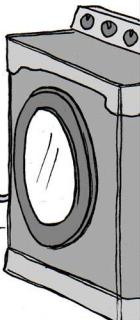
THAT  
USE OUR  
SEMI-  
NEW "G"  
SYLLABLES;



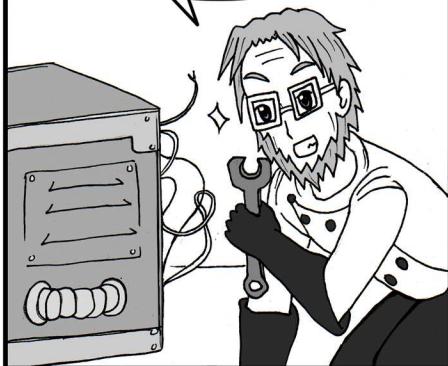
NOW  
FOR  
SOME  
NEW  
WORDS  
...

K	か	あ	A
き	き	い	I
く	く	う	U
け	け	え	E
こ	こ	お	O

AND きぐ (KIGU)  
MEANS APPLIANCE,  
LIKE THIS WASHING  
MACHINE.



THE WORD  
FOR "SCIENCE" IS  
かがく (KAGAKU).



AND  
THE  
WORD ご  
MEANS  
"FIVE."



THE  
WORD FOR  
THEATRE  
DRAMA  
OR PLAY  
IS げき  
(GEKI).



...BUT THAT  
WOULD BE  
INCREIDLBY  
BORING.



"S"  
CONSONANTS

S	さ
A	し
I	す
U	せ
O	そ

SO  
LET'S GET  
STARTED  
WITH THE  
SYLLABLES  
THAT USE  
THE "S"  
CONSONANT.  
(PLUS A FEW  
EXTRA  
SYLLABLES  
TO HELP US  
GET SOME  
USEFUL  
WORDS!)

WE  
COULD GO  
THROUGH  
THE REST  
OF THE  
SYLLABLES  
IN STRICT  
DICTIONARY  
ORDER  
...

HIRAGANA

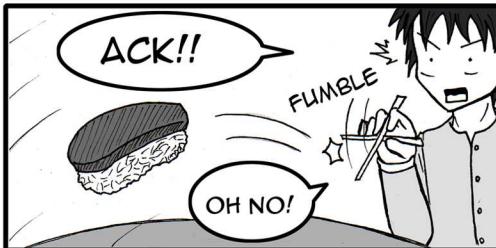


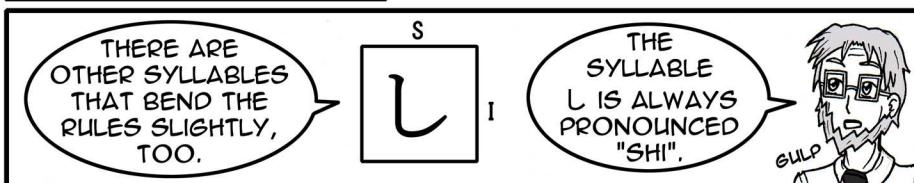
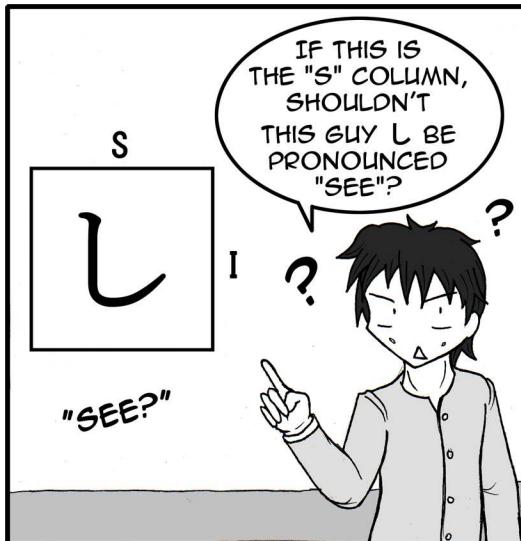
SO WE'LL  
PRESENT THE  
NEXT COUPLE  
OF COLUMNS  
IN ORDER...



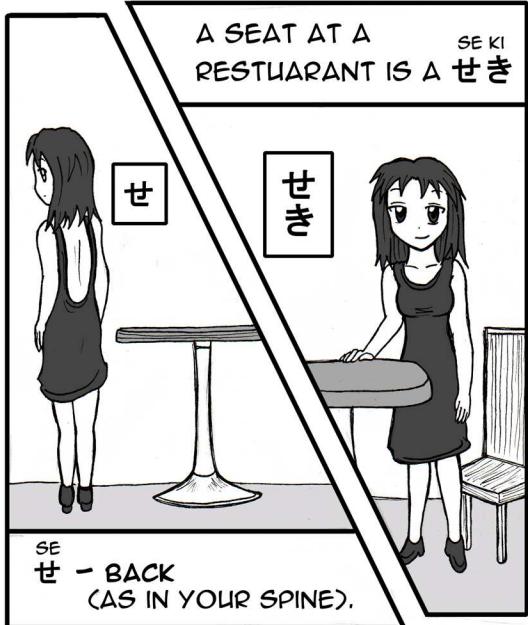
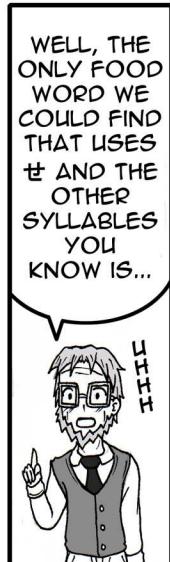
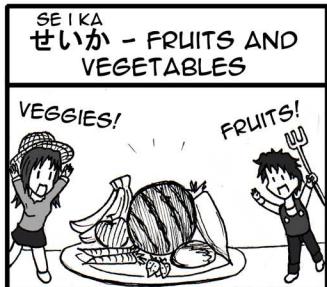
...BUT  
WE WON'T  
BE AFRAID TO  
SKIP AROUND  
JUST TO KEEP  
THINGS FUN.











s	sa	shi	su	se	so

PRACTICE WRITING THE SYLLABLES サ-チ.  
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW THE LINES IN THE ORDER SHOWN.

BY ADDING THIS MARK TO THE LETTERS  
さ-ぞ, YOU CHANGE THE  
"S" SOUND TO A "Z"  
SOUND.



IT'S TIME FOR  
FIVE MORE FREE  
SYLLABLES!

さ  
し  
す  
せ  
そ



さ → ザ

"SA" CHANGES TO "ZA",  
PRONOUNCED "ZAH"

し → ジ

"SHI" CHANGES TO "JI",  
PRONOUNCED AS IN "JEEP"

WELL, JUST  
LIKE U HAS A SPECIAL  
PRONUNCIATION, SO  
DOES ゾ.



HEY, IT DIDN'T  
CHANGE TO "ZI"!



そ → ゾ

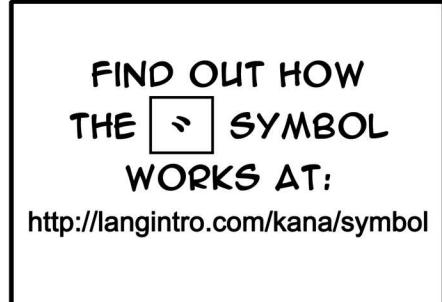
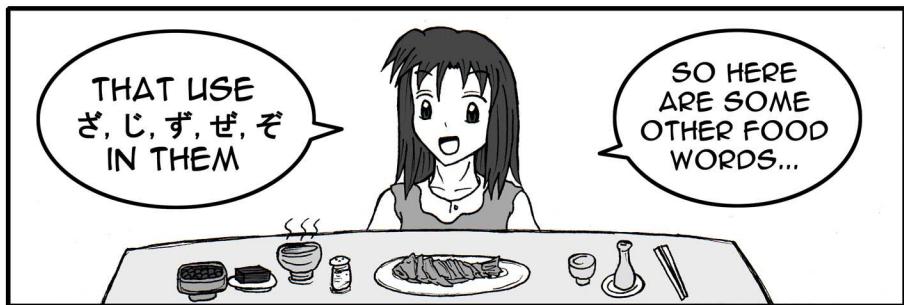
AND  
"SO" CHANGES  
TO "ZO".

せ → ゼ

"SE" CHANGES  
TO "ZE",  
PRONOUNCED  
AS IN "ZEPPELIN"

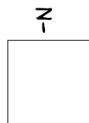
す → ズ

"SU" CHANGES  
TO "ZU"



HERE ARE THE SYLLABLES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR:

W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	-	A
			は			さ	か	あ		
						し	き	い	-	
						す	く	う	ん	
						て	せ	け	え	E
							そ	こ	お	o



WA RI BA SHI

わりばし\* OR  
DISPOSABLE はし IN A  
RESTAURANT ARE JOINED  
AT THE TOP.



\*WE'LL  
COVER THE  
SYLLABLES  
わ AND り  
LATER ON.

CULTURE CORNER: HASHI HINTS

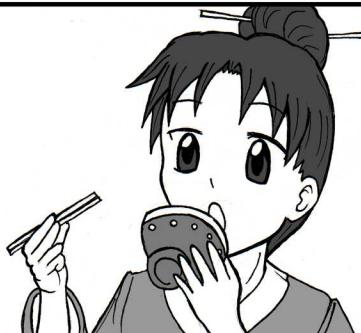
BEFORE WE  
CONTINUE,  
HERE ARE  
SOME HINTS  
ABOUT  
USING はし  
(CHOP  
STICKS)

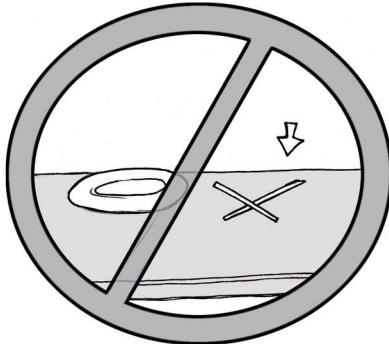


JUST  
SNAP THEM  
APART AND  
EAT AWAY!



IT'S OK TO  
BRING YOUR  
BOWL CLOSER  
TO GET EVERY  
LAST BIT OF  
THE FOOD.



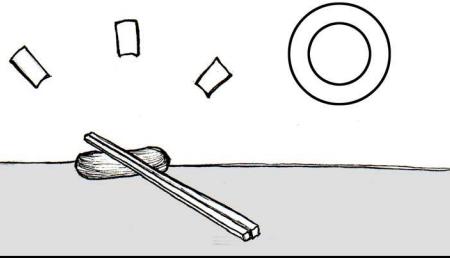


AND DON'T LET  
THEM CROSS OVER  
ONE ANOTHER.

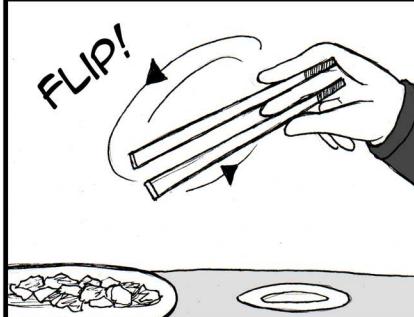


NEVER LEAVE YOUR  
箸 IN THE BOWL

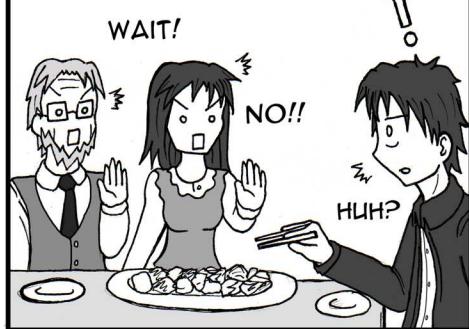
LEAVE THEM SIDE BY  
SIDE ON THE  
CHOPSTICK REST.

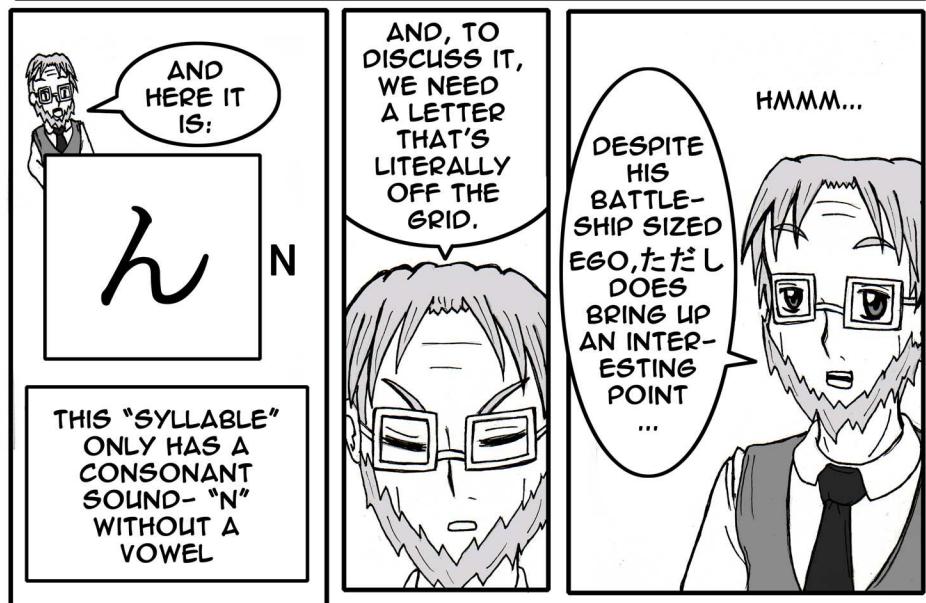
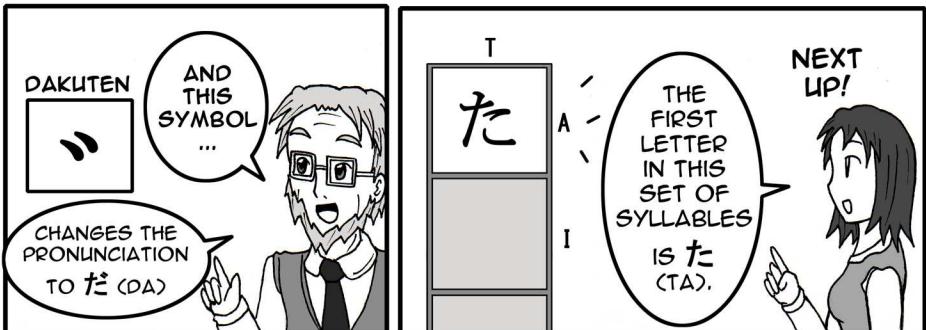


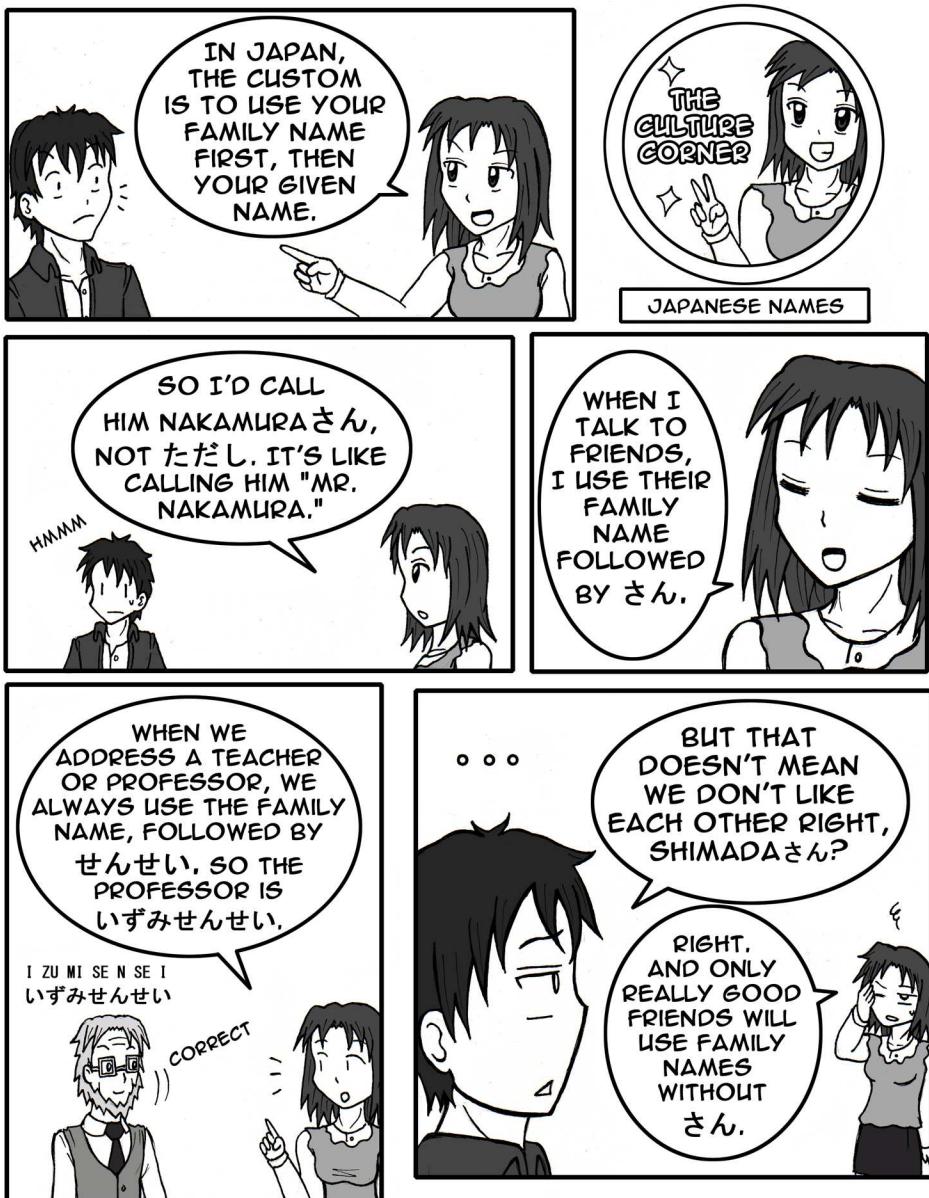
...ALWAYS USE  
THE HAND END, NOT THE  
MOUTH END, TO GET THE  
FOOD TO YOUR PLATE.



IF YOU'RE SHARING  
FROM A DISH...







TE	DE
て	で

AND YOU  
MAY REMEMBER TE  
AS THE WORD FOR  
"HAND" EARLIER.



TA	DA
た	だ

WE'VE  
ALREADY SEEN  
THESE TWO TO  
MAKE MY  
NAME.



SPECIAL	
し / \	SHI
じ / \	JI

JUST AS I  
HAD A  
SPECIAL  
PRONUNCIATION  
...



TO	DO
と	ど

THESE ARE  
PRONOUNCED LIKE  
"TOW" AND "DOH"  
(NOT "TO" OR "DO")  
THE SYLLABLE と  
MEANS "AND."

TSU	ZU
つ	づ

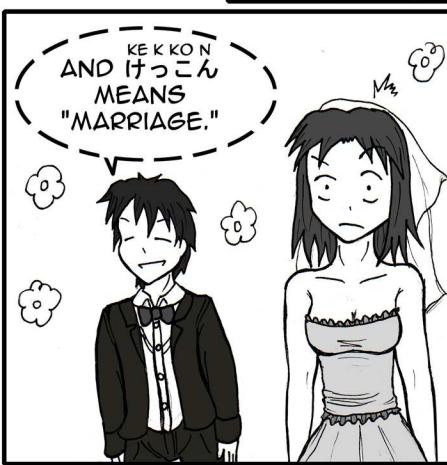
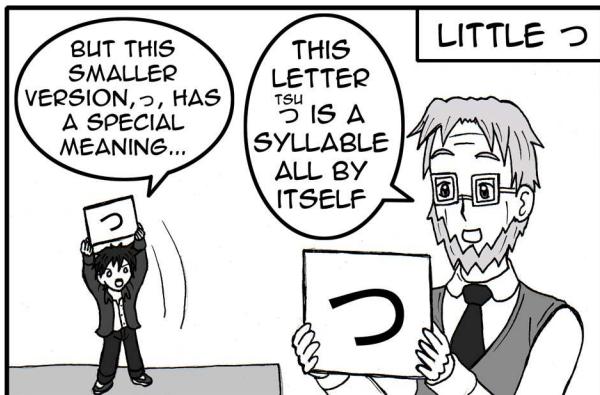
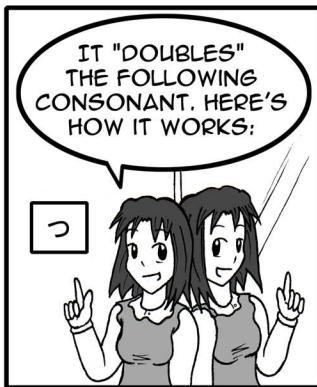
AND  
THESE TWO  
ARE ALSO  
SPECIAL.



CHI	JI
ち	ぢ

THIS PAIR IS  
SPECIAL: "CHI"  
AND "JI," NOT  
"TI" AND "DI"...





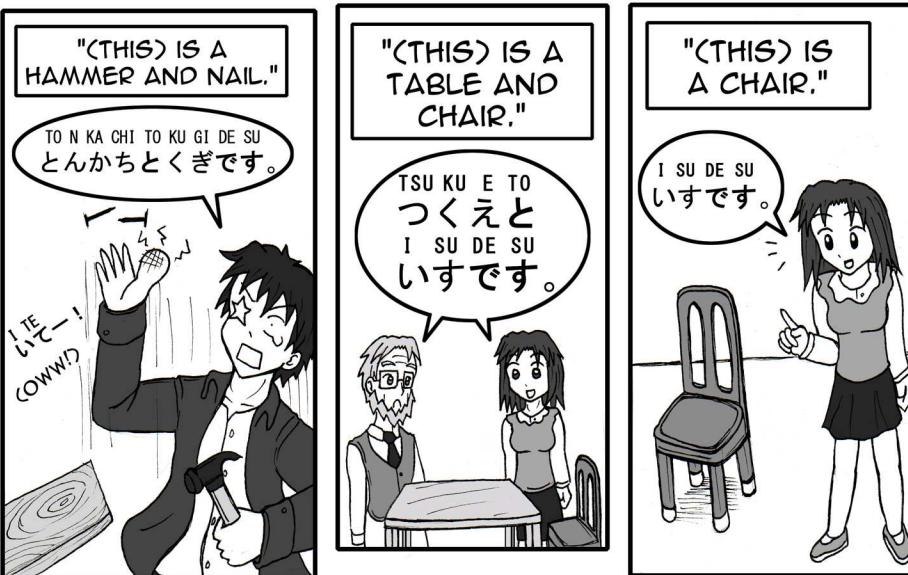
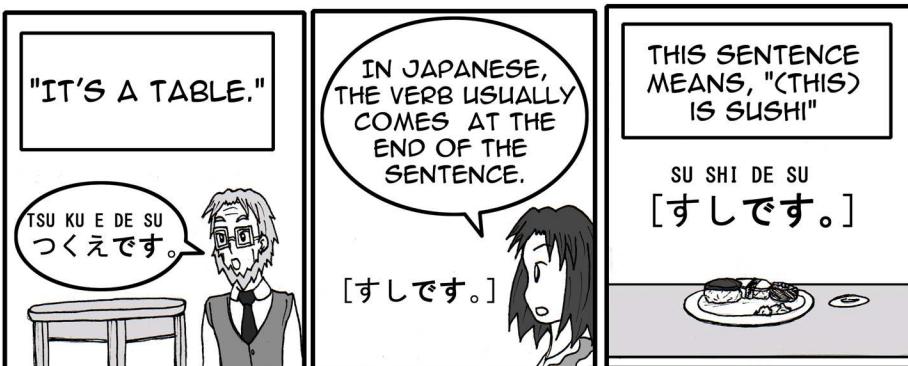
t	ta	chi	tsu	te	to
	た	ち	つ	て	と
	た <small>1↑ 2↓ 3→ 4↑</small>	ち <small>1↑ 2↓</small>	つ <small>1↑</small>	て <small>1↑ 2↓</small>	と <small>1↑ 2↓</small>

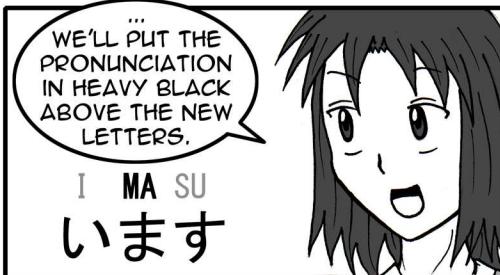
PRACTICE WRITING THE SYLLABLES た-と.  
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW THE LINES IN THE ORDER SHOWN.

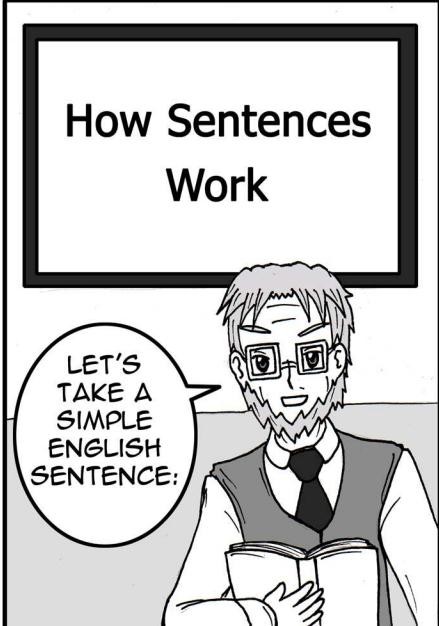
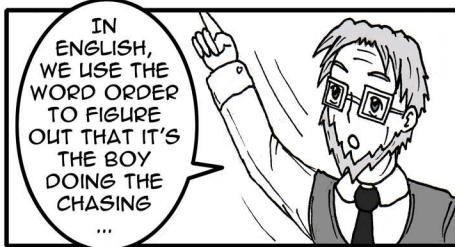
HERE ARE THE SYLLABLES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR:

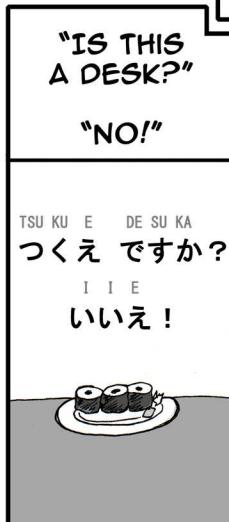
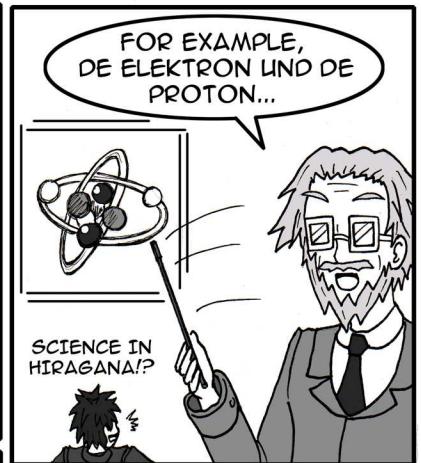
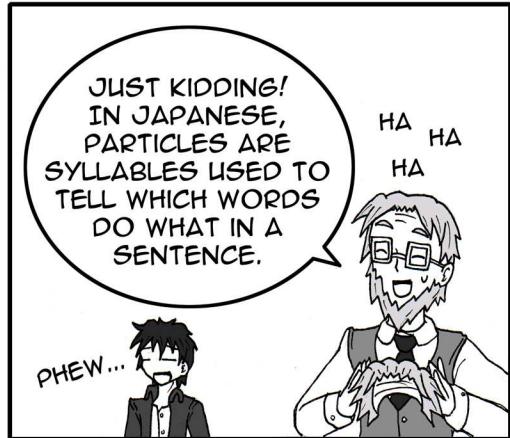
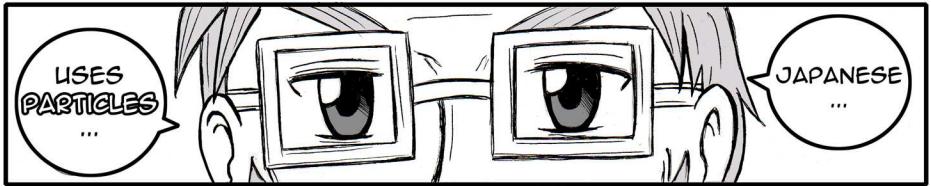
W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	-	A
			は		た	さ	か	あ		
			み		ち	し	き	い	-	
					つ	す	く	う	u	
					て	せ	け	え	E	
						そ	こ	お	o	
						と				

ん  
-n









FOR A VERB LIKE  
かく (TO WRITE),  
IN FUTURE TENSE  
YOU CHANGE THE  
く TO き AND ADD  
-ます. FOR PRESENT  
TENSE YOU CHANGE  
く TO いて AND  
ADD います

PRESENT-

かいています MA SU

FUTURE-

かきます MA SU



MY  
FAMILY NAME  
NEEDS THE  
ま (MA)  
SYLLABLE.

BY ADDING  
-ます (MASU)  
TO THE END OF  
A VERB, YOU  
MAKE IT EITHER  
PRESENT OR  
FUTURE  
TENSE.

SHI MA DA

しまだ

MI CHI KO

みちこ



かき  
かき



MA  
しまださんが  
MA  
かいています。  
[Present Tense]

"SHIMADA-  
SAN IS  
WRITING  
(IT)"

O

LATER!

MA  
しまださんが  
MA  
いきます。  
[Future Tense]

"SHIMADA-  
SAN WILL  
GO/ (OR WILL  
BE GOING)"

♪  
LA LA LA



MA  
しまださんが  
MA  
きいています。  
[Present Tense]

SHIMADA-SAN  
IS LISTENING.

が



IT MARKS THE "SECONDARY TOPIC," AND WHEN IT'S USED THAT WAY, IT'S PRONOUNCED "WA," NOT "HA!"

PARTICLE

は

(WA)

SYLLABLE

は

(HA)

REMEMBER  
HA  
は FROM はし?  
HASHI  
IT'S ALSO  
USED AS A  
PARTICLE,  
BUT IT'S  
A WEIRD  
ONE.

は

IT'S LOOSELY  
TRANSLATED  
"AS FOR"

AS FOR THE SUSHI,  
(IT) IS BIG!

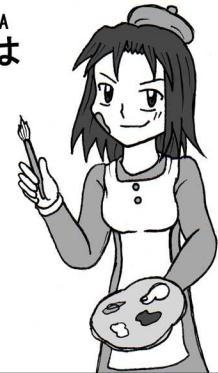
WA  
すしはおおきいです！



AS FOR SHIMADA-SAN,  
(SHE) IS A PAINTER.

WA  
しまださんは

がかです



YOU NEED  
THREE NEW  
SYLLABLES FOR  
MY FAMILY NAME,  
NAKAMURA.

NA KA MU RA

なかむら



...AND YOU  
SAW MINE,  
いすみ  
IZUMI, A  
FEW PAGES  
AGO.



YOU KNOW  
HOW TO READ  
しまださん's  
FAMILY  
NAME...



"[YOUR] NAME WHAT IS [IT]?"

NA NA  
おなまえはなんですか?



WITH THE  
SYLLABLE な,  
YOU CAN ASK  
"WHAT'S YOUR  
NAME?"

WHEN YOU REFER TO  
YOURSELF, YOU DON'T USE  
さん AFTER YOUR NAME!

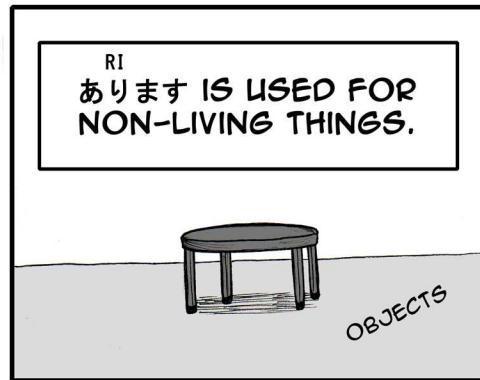
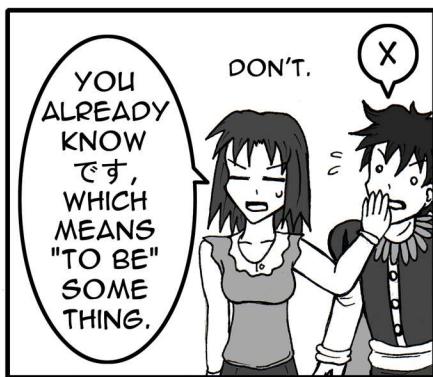
しまだです。

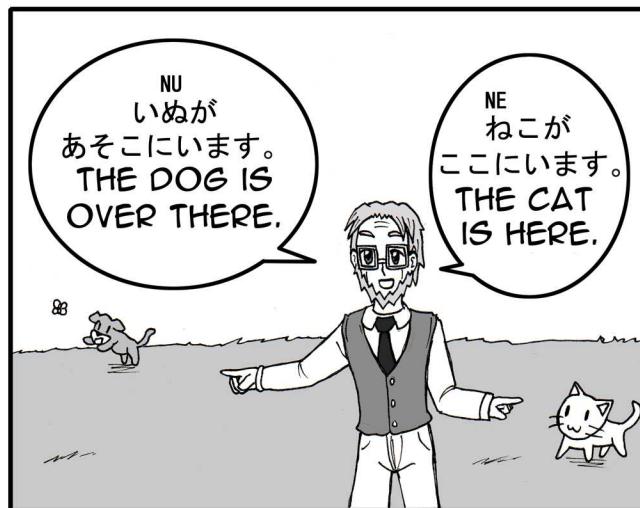
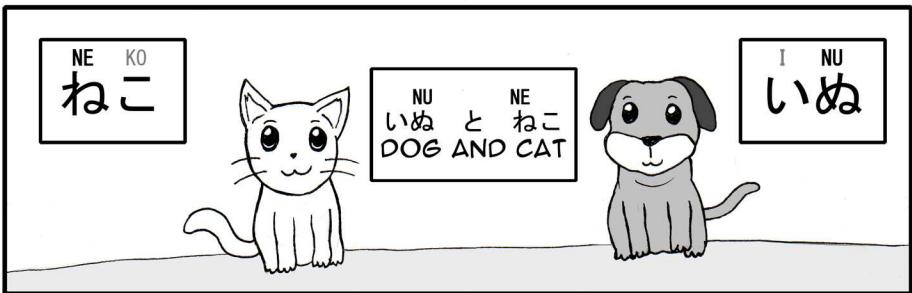
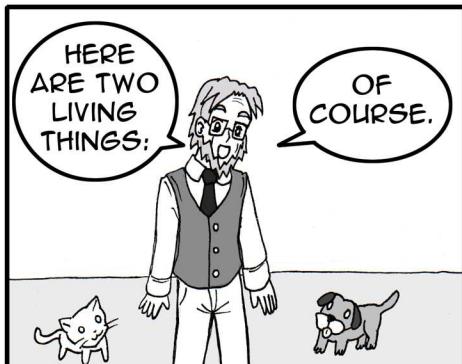


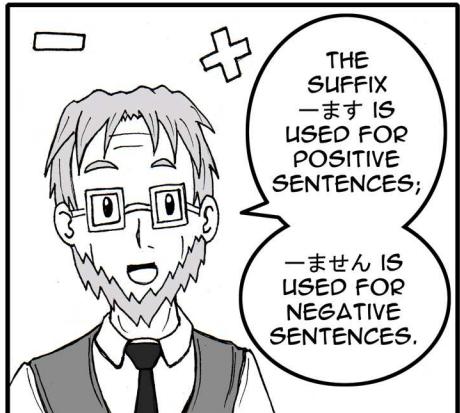
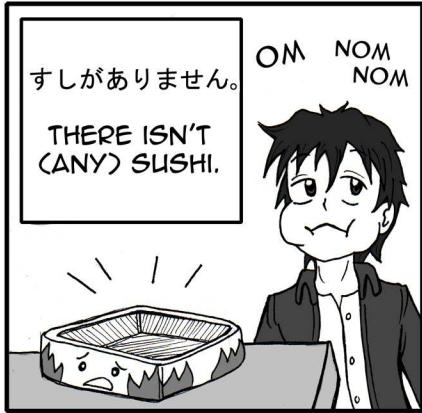
HERE ARE THE SYLLABLES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR:

W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	-	A
ら	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ			
	み			ち	し	き	い			
	む			つ	す	く	う			
					て	せ	け	え		
						そ	こ	お		

ん  
-n







おとこ です。

(THIS IS  
A MAN.)



NO  
おとこのいぬです。

LITERALLY:  
MAN-OF DOG IS.



N

な

に

ぬ

ね

の

A

I

U

E

O

AND THE  
SYLLABLE  
の (NO)  
ROUNDS OUT  
THIS COLUMN!  
YOU'LL USUALLY  
SEE の AS A  
PARTICLE  
MEANING  
"OF" OR  
"BELONGING  
TO."



BUT WE TRANSLATE  
IT AS "THIS IS THE  
MAN'S DOG."



NO  
おんなの  
ねこです。

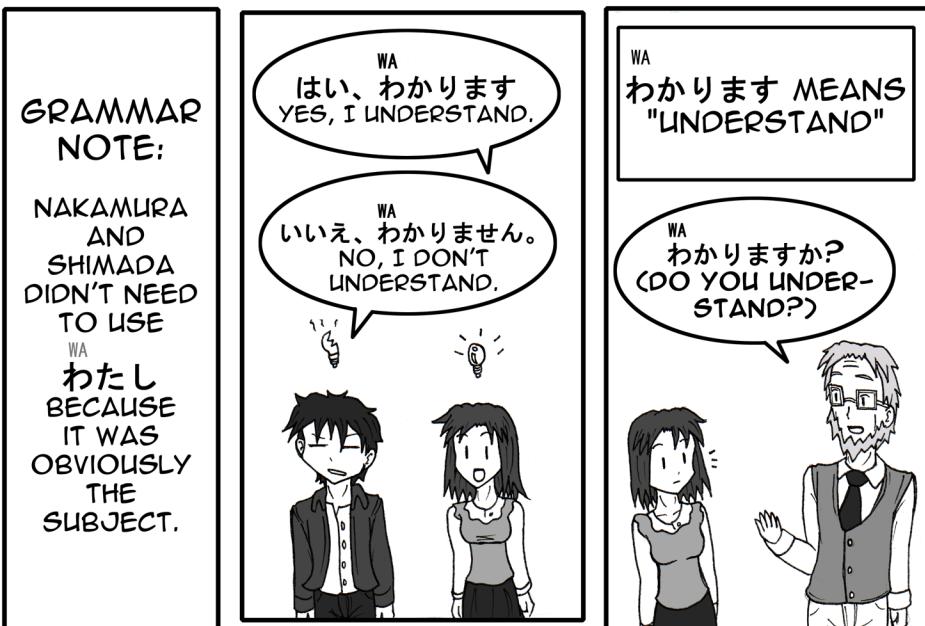
(THIS  
IS THE  
WOMAN'S  
CAT.)

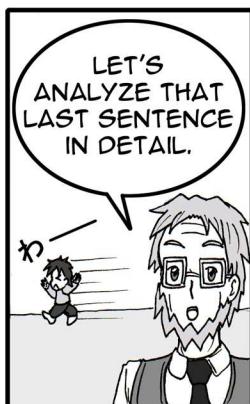
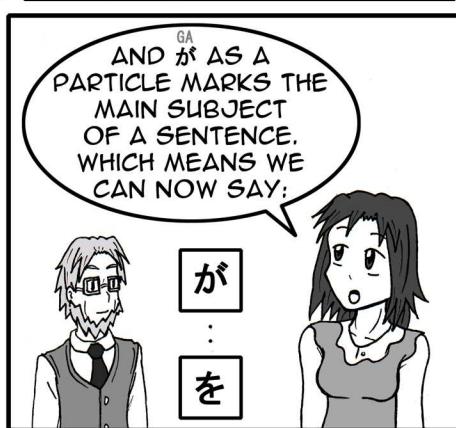
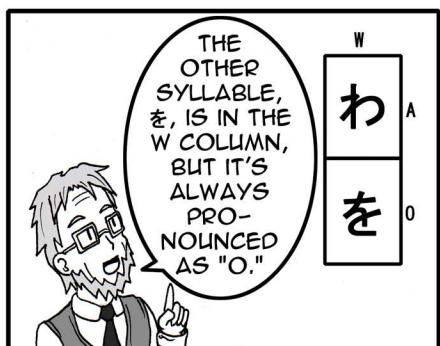
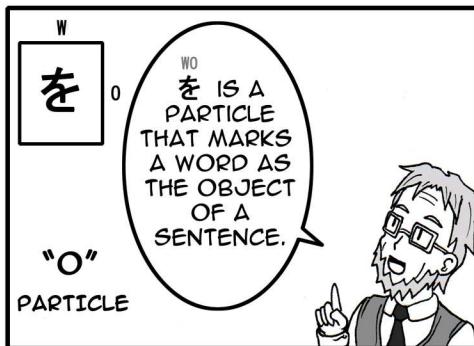


おんな  
です。

(THIS  
IS A  
WOMAN.)



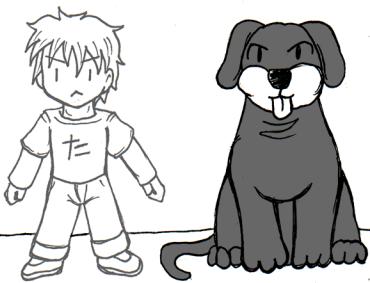




おとこのこ: おとこ  
MEANS "MAN", の  
MEANS "OF," AND THE  
LAST こ MEANS "CHILD"



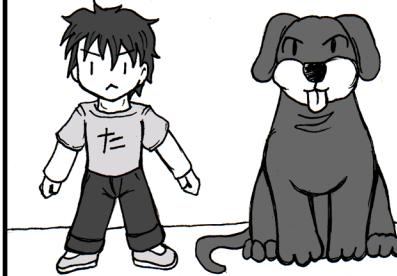
いぬが "DOG" (いぬ)  
IS THE MAIN SUBJECT,  
SO YOU USE  
THE PARTICLE が



AND THE  
VERB  
RU  
おいかける...  
GETS THE ます  
ENDING  
BECAUSE  
IT'S PRESENT  
TENSE.



おとこのこを: THE PARTICLE  
を TELLS US THAT THE  
BOY IS THE OBJECT  
OF THE SENTENCE.



SO  
THE WORD  
FOR "BOY"  
REALLY IS  
"CHILD OF  
MALE  
GENDER."



NO, WITH PRACTICE,  
BUILDING SENTENCES  
WILL COME  
NATURALLY.

REALLY?



DO I HAVE TO DO ALL  
THAT THINKING EVERY  
TIME I WANT TO SAY  
SOMETHING?



...TO SEE  
HOW THE  
ENGINE  
YOU'RE  
DRIVING WITH  
REALLY  
WORKS!

SCREEEEE



BUT IT'S IMPORTANT  
TO LOOK UNDER THE HOOD  
AT LEAST ONCE...



SURE, IF  
YOU WANT TO  
SEE A GRAMMAR  
SUMMARY, IT'S AT:

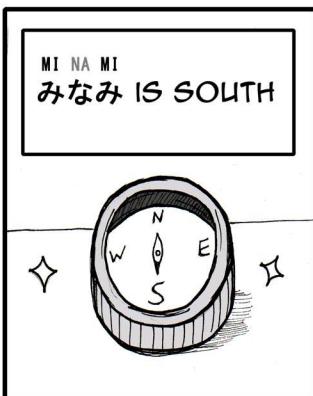
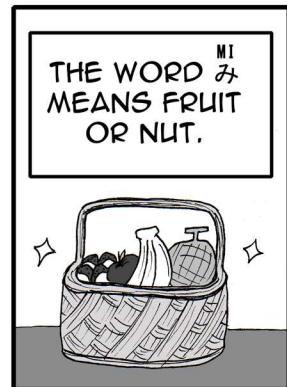
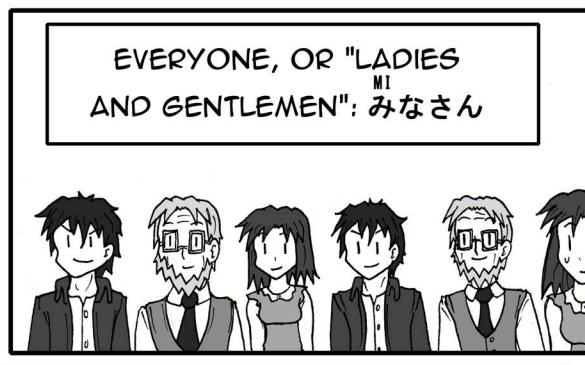
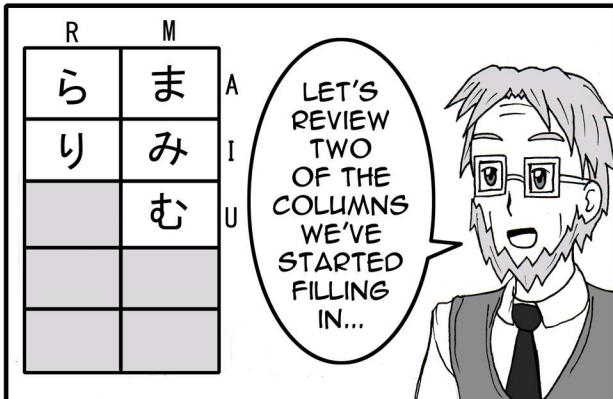
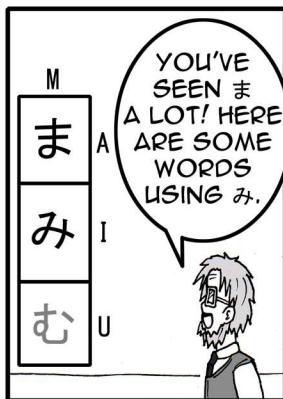
<http://langintro.com/kana>

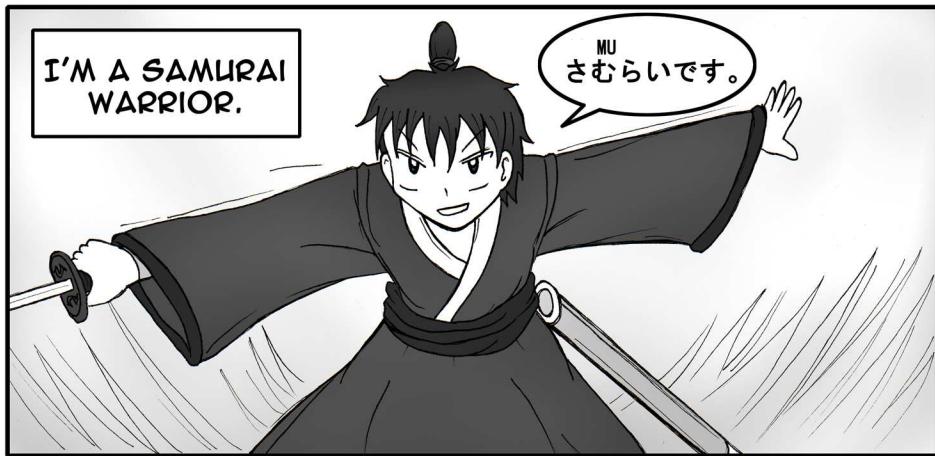
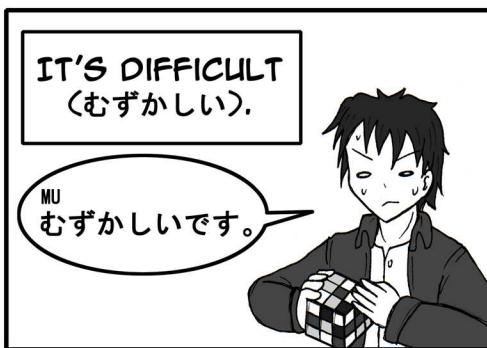
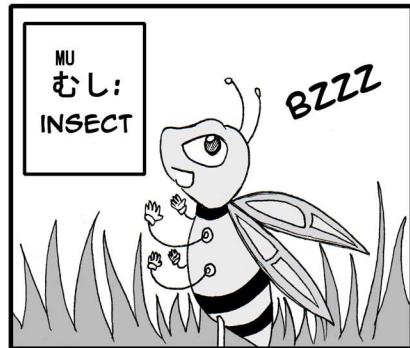
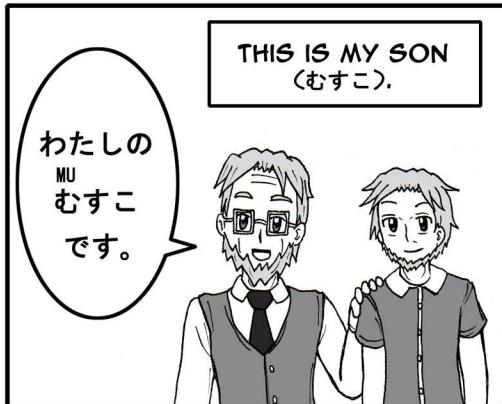
ONLINE!

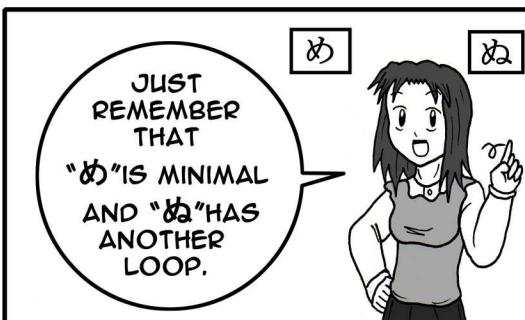
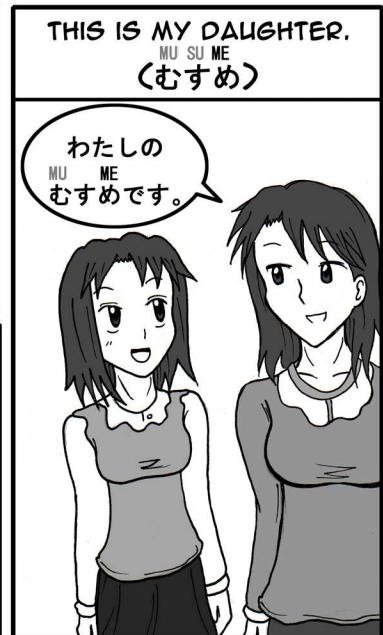
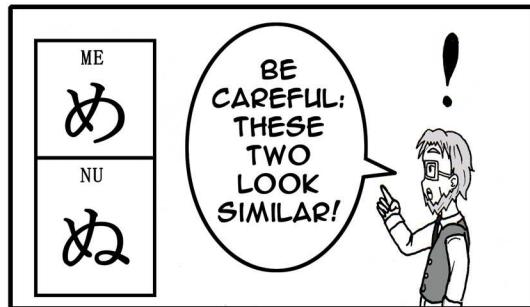
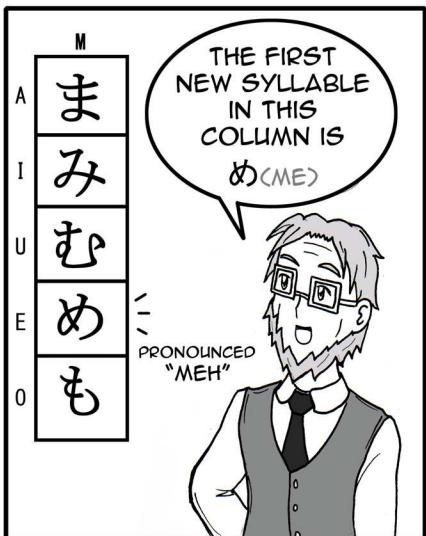


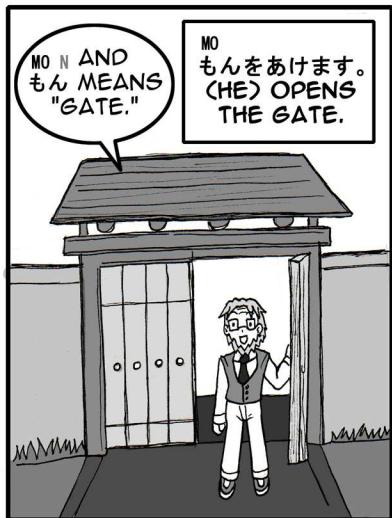
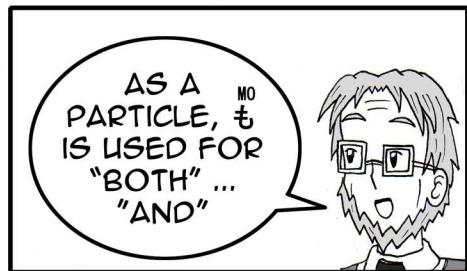
BUT CAN  
WE GET  
BACK TO  
SYLLABLES?

THANKS FOR  
THE RIDE...









PRONUNCIATION★POINTS

R  
L  
D

IT'S NOT PRONOUNCED LIKE AN ENGLISH "R"; SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S PRONOUNCED LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN AN L, R, AND D.



PROBABLY THE HARDEST SET OF SYLLABLES FOR NON-JAPANESE TO PRONOUNCE ARE THE ONES STARTING WITH "R."

R



TECHNICALLY, THE SOUND IS CALLED A "FLAP," BECAUSE YOUR TONGUE FLAPS AGAINST THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU PRONOUNCE THE SYLLABLE.



...BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP MUCH.

DLR?



???

BUT DON'T WORRY; IF YOU PRONOUNCE IT LIKE AN ENGLISH "R," PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND YOU.

THE BEST THING TO DO IS LISTEN TO THE SOUND AND DO YOUR BEST TO IMITATE IT.

R

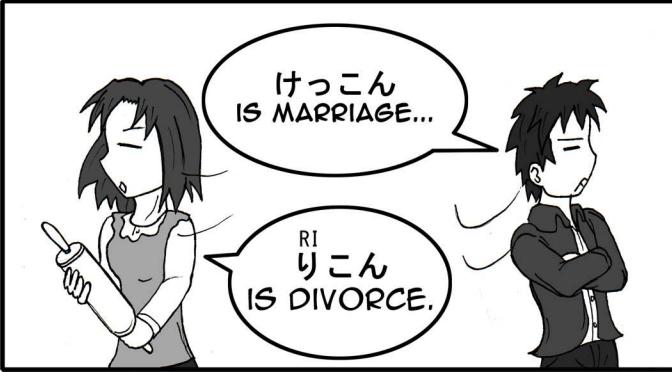
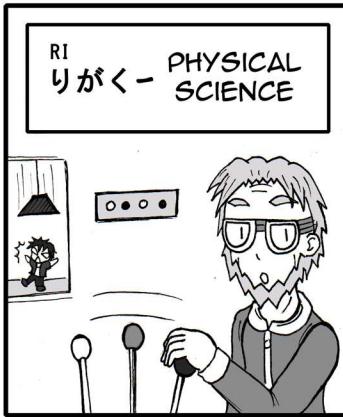
L



...BUT THAT MAY NOT HELP MUCH EITHER!

MNGL





る

(RU)

BE CAREFUL:

THESE TWO LOOK VERY  
SIMILAR. JUST REMEMBER  
THAT る (RU) HAS THE  
LOOP.

ろ

(RO)

ね

(NE)

ANOTHER  
SIMILAR PAIR: ね (NE)  
HAS ANOTHER LOOP.  
NOW SOME WORDS  
WITH THE NEW  
SYLLABLES!

れ

(RE)

AND HERE  
ARE THE REMAINING  
R-SYLLABLES.

る

U

れ

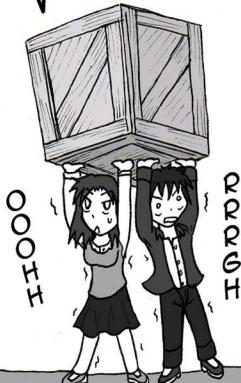
E

ろ

O

RE  
れんけい...

IS  
"COOPERATION"



RE  
きれい  
MEANS  
PRETTY,  
AND  
I AM!



RU  
にるい  
IS A  
"TWO-  
BASE"  
HIT

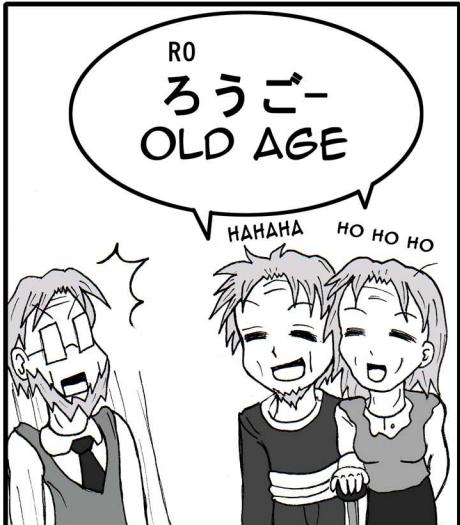


RU RO  
るろい  
MEANS  
WANDERING,  
VAGRANCY.





\*Apologies to George Herriman's "Krazy Kat"



-VERBS



LOTS OF  
VERBS ALSO  
END WITH  
RU  
る.

REMEMBER  
HOW WE TOLD  
YOU THAT LOTS  
OF VERBS END  
WITH る, LIKE かく  
(TO WRITE)  
AND いく  
(TO GO)?



WE CAN  
DO IT!



RU  
みる -

TO  
SEE,  
TO  
LOOK  
AT

じー

RU  
できる - TO BE ABLE TO

RU  
れいする -  
TO COMMAND

SU RU  
する - TO DO

SEE THE  
GRAMMAR  
SECTION  
ONLINE AT

<http://langintro.com/kana>

FOR MORE  
ABOUT  
する AND  
OTHER -る  
VERBS.



SERVE  
ME  
WELL.

HIRAGANA  
QUEEN

YES YOUR  
MAJESTY

IT'S THE  
BASE OF MANY  
OTHER VERBS.

HERE ARE THE SYLLABLES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR:

W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	-	A
わ	ら	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ		
	り	み		に	ち	し	き	い	-	
	る	む		ぬ	つ	す	く	う	u	
	れ	れ	れ	ね	て	せ	け	え	E	
を	ろ	も	の	と	そ	こ	お	。	o	

ん  
-n



PI BI HI

ぴ・び・ひ

\*PRONOUNCED LIKE PEA, BE, HE

PA BA HA

ぱ・ば・は

THIS ONE  
IS PRONOUNCED  
SPECIAL—"FU"  
RATHER THAN  
"HU"



ふ

FU

PU BU FU

ふ・ぶ・ふ

WHEN THIS  
SYLLABLE IS USED  
AS A PARTICLE, IT'S  
PRONOUNCED JUST  
"E," NOT "HE."



へ

"E"  
(EH)

PE BE HE

へ・べ・へ

\*PRONOUNCED PEH, BEH, HEH

PO BO HO

ぼ・ぼ・ほ

I LOVE TO  
COOK FU とうふ ON MY  
HI BA ひばち.



A POEM WITH FIVE  
SYLLABLES THEN SEVEN  
AND FIVE MORE IS HA はいく

HA  
はいく



I  
ENJOY  
WORKING  
WITH THE  
MINIATURE  
TREES IN  
BO MY ほんさい  
GARDEN.

SNIP  
SNIP



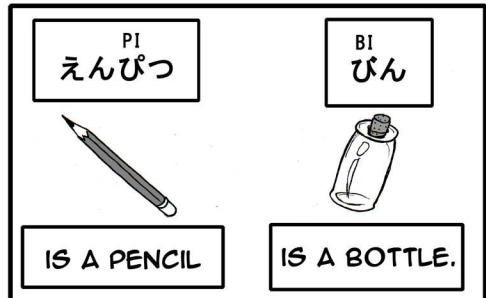
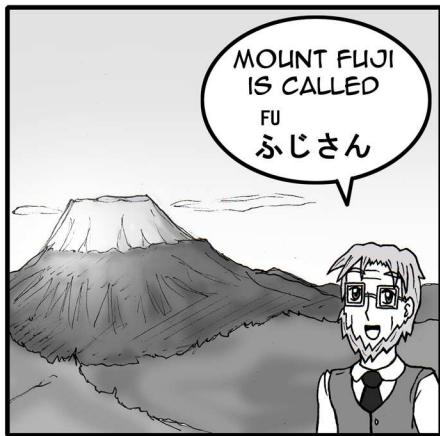
WHERE DID YOU THINK  
THE WORD TYPHOON  
COMES FROM?

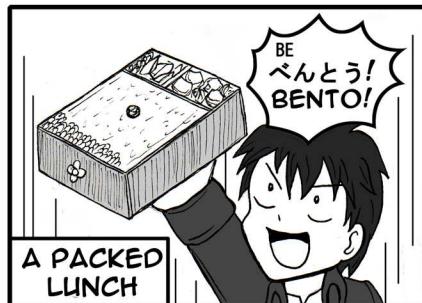
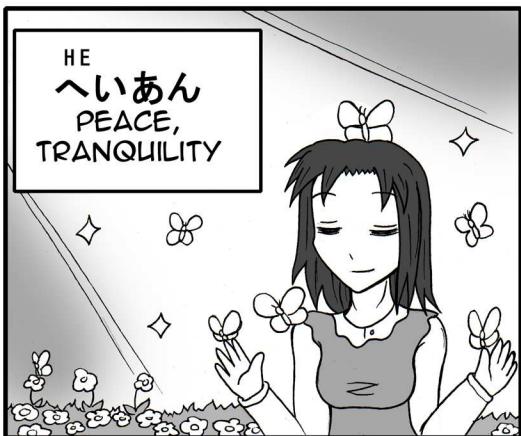
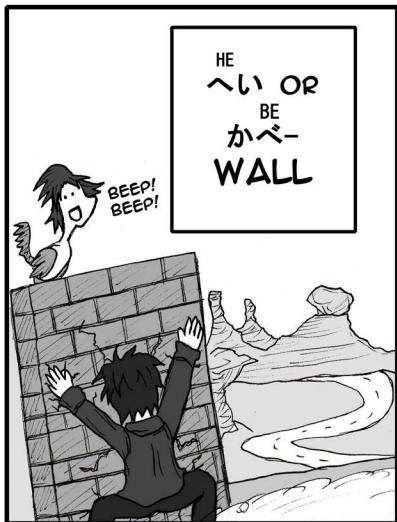


I'LL  
BET YOU  
DIDN'T  
KNOW  
THAT WE  
BORROWED  
SO MANY  
WORDS  
FROM  
JAPANESE!









BU PO  
ぶんぽう  
GRAMMAR

べんとうを  
なかむらが  
たべています。  
[VERB]

PE  
だんぺん- FRAGMENTS, BITS  
AND PIECES



HO  
ほん -  
YOU'RE  
READING  
ONE NOW-  
A BOOK!

本



あ  
い  
う  
え  
お

BO  
ぼいん  
MEANS  
"VOWEL"



TAKE A  
LOOK AT THE  
NEXT PAGE...

THE 1972  
WINTER OLYMPICS  
WERE HELD IN  
THE CITY OF

PO  
さっぽろ

...TO  
SEE HOW  
MANY  
SYLLABLES  
YOU'VE  
LEARNED!



PO  
I'M いっぽー<sup>PO</sup>  
ONE STEP

FROM A  
BO  
REAL ぼうけん-  
ADVENTURE!

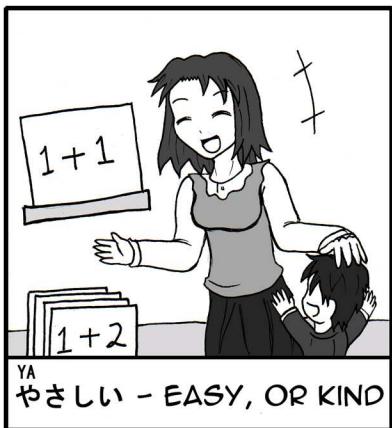
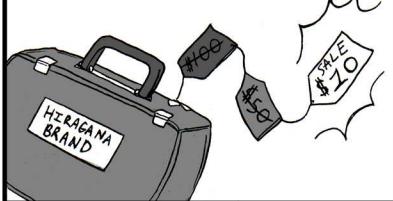


HERE ARE THE SYLLABLES YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR:

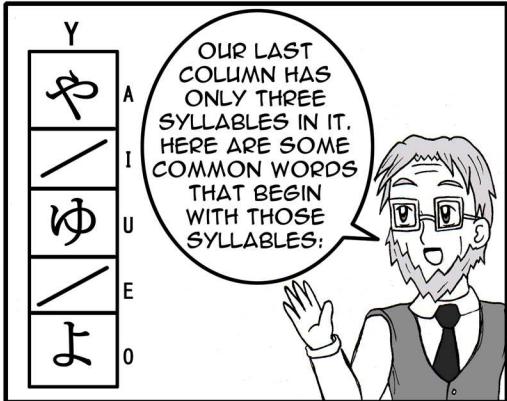
W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	-	A
わ	ら	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ		
	り	み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い	-	
	る	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う	u	
	れ	め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え	E	
を	ろ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お	o	

ん  
-N

YA  
やすい - CHEAP, INEXPENSIVE



YA  
やさしい - EASY, OR KIND



YU  
ゆかた - A LIGHTWEIGHT ROBE



YO YA  
よやく -  
A RESERVATION

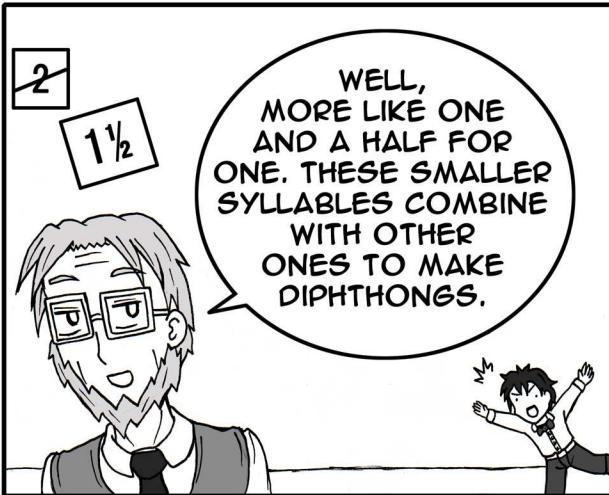
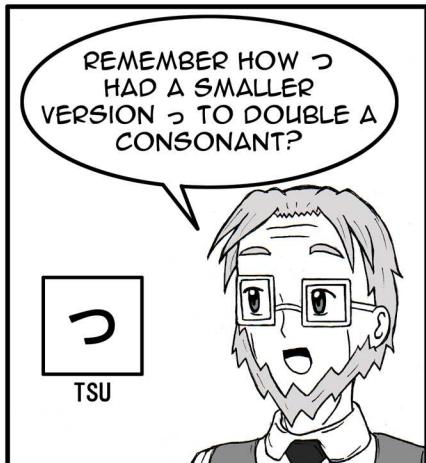
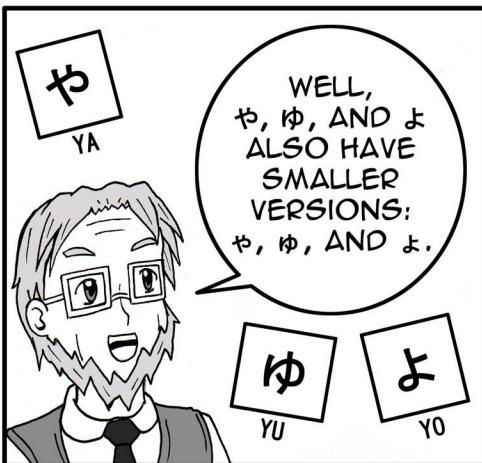


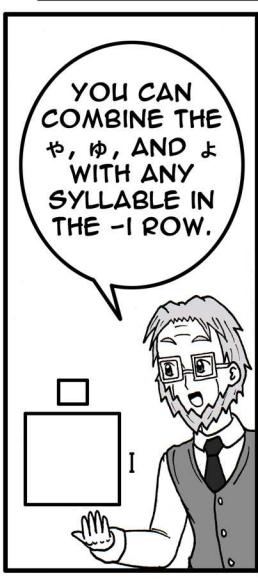
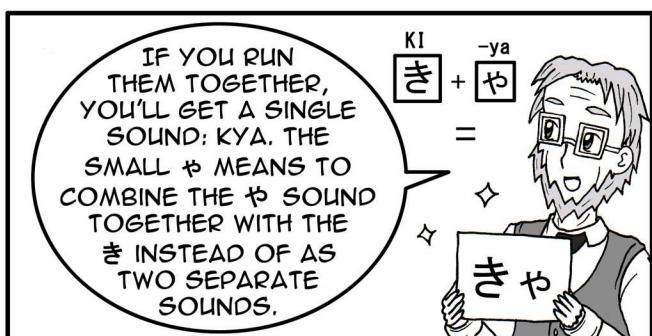
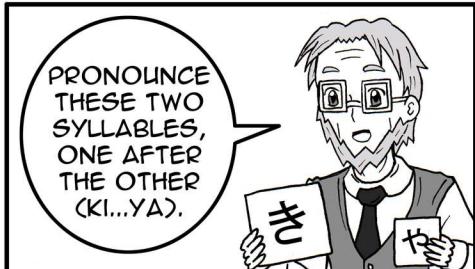
YO  
いすみせんせいがよみます。  
- PROF. IZUMI IS READING.  
(よむ MEANS "TO READ")



YU  
ゆき - SNOW







AND  
ちゃ, ちゅ,  
AND ちょ ARE  
PRONOUNCED  
"CHA," "CHU,"  
AND "CHO,"  
WITHOUT THE  
"Y" SOUND.



ちゃ-CHA  
ちゅ-CHU  
ちょ-CHO

じゃ, じゅ,  
AND じょ ARE  
PRONOUNCED  
"JA," "JU,"  
AND "JO,"  
WITHOUT  
THE "Y"  
SOUND.



じゃ-JA  
じゅ-JU  
じょ-JO

SPECIAL  
PRONUNCIATION  
RULE: しゃ, しゅ,  
AND しょ ARE  
PRONOUNCED  
"SHA," "SHU,"  
AND "SHO,"  
WITHOUT THE  
"Y" SOUND.

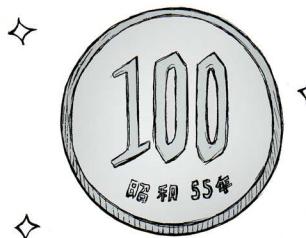
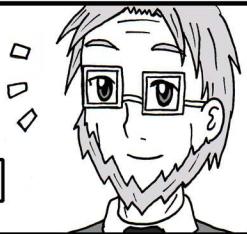
しゃ-SHA  
しゅ-SHU  
しょ-SHO

DIPHTHONGS

WORDS

USING

NOW, LET'S  
SEE SOME WORDS  
THAT USE THESE  
DIPHTHONGS.



¥100

HYA  
ひゃく - HUNDRED

RYO  
りょかん - A TRADITIONAL  
JAPANESE INN



WHEN I'M TALKING  
THIS FAST I BLAH  
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I'M SAYING  
OR EXACTLY WHAT I BLAH  
I'M TRYING TO  
ACTUALLY PROBLEMS  
BY DOING A THING LIKE THAT  
BLAH BUT IT'S CALLED  
BLAH BETTER THAN THAT



CHO  
ちょっと まって ください  
(PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT)

KYU SHU SOUTHERNMOST OF JAPAN'S FOUR MAIN ISLANDS.  
きゅうしゅう さつなんしょく にほんのよしりんとう



JO  
じょうず - SKILLFUL

JU じゅう - TEN



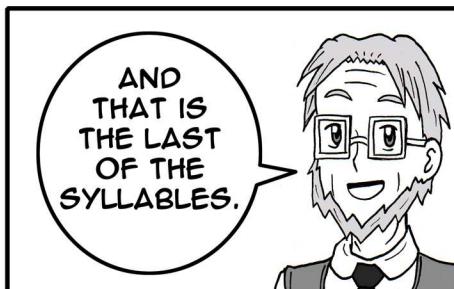
BYO びょうき - ILLNESS, DISEASE



YOU'VE LEARNED ALL THE SYLLABLES!

W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	A
わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ
	り	み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い	ー
	る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う
	れ	め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え	ー
を	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お

ん  
-n



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THE OXFORD BEGINNER'S JAPANESE DICTIONARY IS A GOOD CHOICE, BUT BY NO MEANS THE ONLY ONE.



NOW THAT YOU CAN READ HIRAGANA, YOU CAN USE A JI SHO じしょ DICTIONARY.



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FOR GRAMMAR, I RECOMMEND "ESSENTIAL JAPANESE GRAMMAR" BY EVERETT F. BLEILER. IT DOESN'T USE HIRAGANA, BUT IT'S A GREAT REFERENCE.



AND NAUSICAA IS  
NA U S I C A  
ナウシカ.



YOU WILL ALSO WANT TO LEARN THE KATAKANA SYLLABLES. THEY ARE USED FOR WORDS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN, SOME NAMES, AND FOR SOUND EFFECTS.



FOR EXAMPLE, NARUTO IS  
NA RU TO  
ナルト.

HERE ARE THE KATAKANA SYLLABLES.

W	R	Y	M	H	N	T	S	K	A
ワ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア
リ	ル	ミ	ム	ヒ	ヌ	チ	シ	キ	イ
レ	レ	メ	メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ
ヲ	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	オ	オ

ン  
ン

おめでとうございます!  
CONGRATULATIONS!

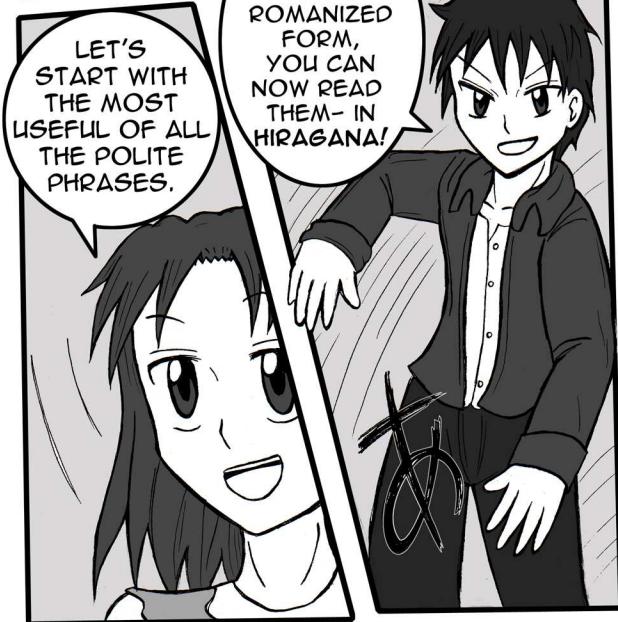


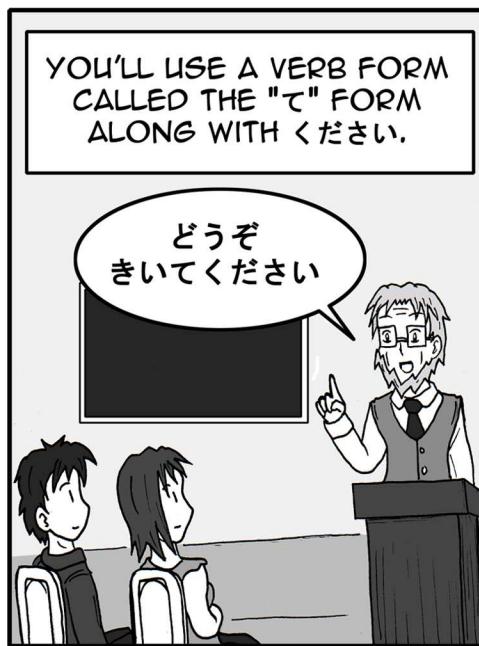
...TO  
INTRODUCE  
YOU TO  
ひらがな.

AND A  
PLEASURE...

IT HAS  
BEEN AN  
HONOR...







GOOD DAY.  
(NOON TO 5 PM)

こんにちは  
WA



GOOD MORNING. (USE UNTIL NOON)

おはよう  
ございます



IN  
こんにちは  
AND こんばんは,  
PRONOUNCE  
THE WA AS  
"WA."  
CHECK!

GOOD EVENING.  
(AFTER 5 PM)

こんばんは  
WA



A  
SIMPLE  
"GOODBYE"  
IS  
さようなら.



GOOD NIGHT.

おやすみ  
なさい



HERE'S THE "FORMULA"  
TO USE WHEN YOU MEET  
PEOPLE.

MEETINGS:

PLEASED  
TO MEET  
YOU.  
(LITERALLY:  
"IT IS THE  
FIRST  
TIME")

BOW

わたしのなまえは  
\_\_\_\_\_です

はじめまして

"MY NAME  
IS \_\_\_\_."

BOW

EXCUSE ME  
(WHEN  
INTERRUPT-  
ING  
SOMEONE).

しつれい  
します。

I'M SORRY  
(FOR A REAL OFFENSE).

ごめんなさい

すみません

HERE ARE  
EXPRESSIONS  
FOR LIFE'S  
LITTLE  
ERRORS.



PARDON ME\*

\*すみません CAN ALSO BE USED FOR  
"I'M SORRY" AND "EXCUSE ME"

FINE.  
(I'M WELL)

HOW ARE YOU?  
(ARE YOU WELL?)

FINALLY,  
SOME  
MISCELLANEOUS  
PHRASES

おげんき  
ですか?

げんき  
です

MISC.  
PHRASES

WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE \_\_\_\_ ?

\_\_\_\_ は  
いかが  
ですか?

WHERE IS \_\_\_\_?  
(PRONOUNCE THE  
"は" AS "WA.")

HOW MUCH  
IS IT?

いくら  
ですか?



WE COULD  
GO ON AND ON...



...AND IT'S  
TIME FOR YOU  
TO CONTINUE THE  
JOURNEY.

STILL  
A LONG  
ROAD  
AHEAD!

...BUT WE'VE  
REACHED OUR  
GOAL FOR THIS  
BOOK...

...BUT WE'VE  
REACHED OUR  
PAGE COUNT FOR  
THIS BOOK!

SO  
QUICK...

さようなら!!

またねー

ありがとう！

バイバイ！



## WRITING GRIDS

PRACTICE WRITING HIRAGANA SYLLABLES ON  
THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD THESE GRIDS  
AT <http://langintro.com/kana>

- a i u e o

	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お
	あ	あ	い	い	う	う	え	え	お	お

PRACTICE WRITING THE VOWELS あ-お.  
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW THE LINES IN THE ORDER SHOWN.

ka

立

ku

ke

ko

2

۲۷

十一

1

七

11

3  
2

11

1

9

J

sa

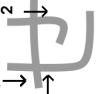
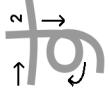
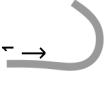
shi

su

se

so

s



ta chi tsu te to

t	た	ち	tsu	te	to
	た <small>1↑ 2↓ 3→ 4→</small>	ち <small>1↑ 2↓</small>	tsu	te	to
	た	ち	tsu	te	to

n	na	ni	nu	ne	no
な	な	に	ぬ	ね	の
	な	に	ぬ	ね	の

ha

ii

hu

he

ho

2

16

۲

三

1

16

3  
2

10

4  
2  
3

七

۲

13

1

16

ma

iii

mii

me

mo

iii

16

10

10

6

1

1 →  
2 →  
3 ↓

2

2  
1

16

2

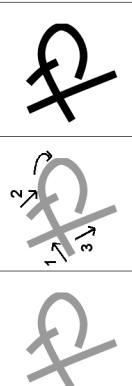
to

8

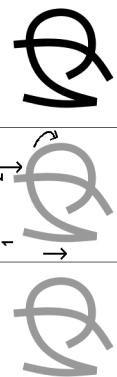
1

y

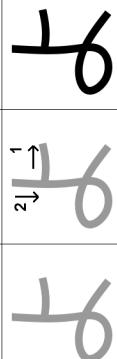
ya



yu



yo



८

三

ru

re

ro

1

12

2

No

۲

۲۷

A diagram consisting of two curved arrows. The top arrow starts at the top left and curves upwards and to the right. The bottom arrow starts at the bottom left, curves upwards and to the right, and then continues as a straight horizontal arrow pointing to the right. The two arrows meet at their midpoints. The number '1' is placed near the start of the top arrow, and the number '2' is placed near the start of the bottom arrow.

1  
2

19

11

wa

		わ	わ	.	.	.		
		わ	わ	.	.	.		
		わ	わ	.	.	.		
		わ	わ	.	.	.		
		わ	わ	.	.	.		

wo

	を	を	を				N-	
	を	を	を					
	を	を	を					
	を	を	を					
	を	を	を					

# JAPANESE-ENGLISH WORD LIST

	<b>あ</b>	
あい (愛)	love	6
あう (会う)	meet	6
あお (青)	blue	8
あかい (赤い)	red	13
あく (開く)	open	16
あさざけ (朝酒)	sake, morning drink	29
あづき (小豆)	beans (red)	29
あそこ	there (far away)	25
	<b>い</b>	
いいえ	no	7
いか (烏賊)	squid	13
いく (行く)	go	16
いけ (池)	pond	17
いす (椅子)	chair	39
いっぽ (一歩)	step (one)	71
いぬ (狗)	dog	48
	<b>う</b>	
うえ (上)	above, up	7
うすじお (薄塩)	lightly salted	29
	<b>え</b>	
えき (駅)	station	15
	<b>お</b>	
おいかける (追いかける)	chase (verb)	52
おおきい (大きい)	big	15
おく (置く)	put, place (verb)	16
おこぜ (虎魚)	weaver fish	29

	お (cont.)	
おとこ (男)	man	50
おとこのこ (男の子)	boy	52
おんな (女)	woman	50
	か	
かい (貝)	shellfish	13
かい (会)	meeting	13
かう (買う)	buy	13
かがく (科学)	science	21
かく (書く)	write	16
かべ (壁)	wall, barrier	70
	が	
がか (画家)	artist	44
がこう (画稿)	sketch	36
がっこう (学校)	school	36
	き	
き (気)	mood, spirit	15
き (木)	tree	15
きき (危機)	crisis	15
きく (聞く)	listen	16
きぐ (器具)	appliance	21
きゅうしゅう (九州)	Kyushu (island)	77
きれい (綺麗)	pretty, beautiful	61
	く	
くぎ (釘)	nail	39
	け	
け (毛)	hair	17
けいかく (計画)	plan	17

	<b>け (cont.)</b>	
けいき (景気)	climate of business	17
けつこん (結婚)	marriage	36
	<b>げ</b>	
げき (劇)	drama	21
	<b>こ</b>	
こ (子)	child	18
こい (鯉)	carp	18
こえ (声)	voice	18
こぎって (小切手)	check	36
ここ	here	18
	<b>ご</b>	
ご (五)	five	21
	<b>さ</b>	
さけ (酒)	sake	25
さす (注す)	to pour, to serve (a drink)	25
さっぽろ (札幌)	Sapporo (city)	71
さむらい (侍)	samurai	56
	<b>じ</b>	
じてんしゃ (自転車)	bicycle	77
じゅう (十)	ten	77
じょうず (上手)	skillful	77
	<b>す</b>	
すいか (西瓜)	watermelon	24
すし (寿司)	sushi	23
する	do	63

	せ	
せ (脊)	back (spine)	26
せいか (青果)	fruits and vegetables	26
せいせい (正西)	west (due)	26
せかい (世界)	world	26
せき (席)	seat (at restaurant)	26
	そ	
そば (蕎麦)	noodles (buckwheat)	24
そら (空)	sky	60
	ぞ	
ぞうすい (雑炊)	rice gruel	29
	た	
たいふう (台風)	typhoon	67
	だ	
だんぺん (断片)	bits and pieces	71
	ち	
ちょっと (一寸)	moment	77
	つ	
つくえ (机)	desk, table	39
	て	
て (手)	hand	23
	で	
できる (出きる)	can, be able to	63
	と	
とうきょう (東京)	Tokyo	75

	と (cont.)	
とうふ (豆腐)	tofu	67
とんかち	hammer	39
	な	
なまえ (名前)	name	45
	に	
にるい (二塁)	two-base hit	61
	ね	
ねこ (猫)	cat	48
ねまき (寝巻)	pajamas	49
	は	
はいく (俳句)	haiku poetry	67
はし (箸)	chopsticks	23
	ぱ	
ぱちんこ	pachinko	68
	ひ	
ひ (日)	sun, day	68
ひと (人)	person	68
ひやく (百)	hundred	76
	び	
びょうき (病気)	illness, disease	77
	ぶ	
ぶんぽう (文法)	grammar	71
	へ	
へい (堀)	wall, fence	70
へいあん (平安)	peace, tranquility	70

	べ	
べいこく (米国)	America	70
べんとう (弁当)	bento, box lunch	70
	ほ	
ほん (本)	book	71
	ぼ	
ぼいん (母音)	vowel	71
ぼうけん (冒険)	adventure	71
ぼんさい (盆栽)	bonsai	67
	み	
み (実)	nut	55
みなさん (皆さん)	everyone, ladies and gentlemen	55
みなみ (南)	south	55
みみ (耳)	ear	55
みる (見る)	see, look at	63
	む	
むし (虫)	insect	56
むすこ (息子)	son	56
むすめ (娘)	daughter	57
むずかしい (難しい)	difficult	56
	め	
めいし (名刺)	business card	57
めがね (眼鏡)	glasses, eyeglasses	57
	も	
も	also (particle)	58
もち (餅)	rice cake	58
もも (桃)	peach	58

	も (cont.)	
もん (門)	gate	58
	や	
やさしい (優しい)	kind	73
やさしい (易しい)	easy	73
やすい (安い)	cheap, inexpensive	73
	ゆ	
ゆかた (浴衣)	robe (lightweight)	73
ゆき (雪)	snow	73
	よ	
よむ (読む)	read (verb)	73
よやく (予約)	reservation	73
	ら	
らくらい (落雷)	lightning bolt	60
	り	
りがく (理学)	physical science	60
りこん (離婚)	divorce	60
りょかん (旅館)	inn (Japanese), Japanese inn	76
りんご (林檎)	apple	60
	る	
るろい	wandering, vagrancy	61
	れ	
れいする (令する)	command (verb)	63
れいぞうこ (冷蔵庫)	refrigerator	62
れつ (列)	line (queue)	62
れんが (煉瓦)	brick	62

れんけい (連携)	れ (cont.) cooperation	61
ろうご (老後)	ろ old age	62
ろく (六)	six	62
	わ	
わかる (解る)	understand	51
わたし	I	51
わりばし (割り箸)	chopsticks (disposable)	31

# **ENGLISH-JAPANESE WORD LIST**

## A

above	うえ (上)	7
adventure	ぼうけん (冒險)	71
also (particle)	も	58
America	べいこく (米国)	70
apple	りんご (林檎)	60
appliance	きぐ (器具)	21
artist	がか (画家)	44

## B

back (spine)	せ (脊)	26
barrier	かべ (壁)	70
be able to	できる (出きる)	63
beans (red)	あずき (小豆)	29
beautiful	きれい (綺麗)	61
bento	べんとう (弁当)	70
bicycle	じてんしゃ (自転車)	77
big	おおきい (大きい)	15
bits and pieces	だんぺん (断片)	71
blue	あお (青)	8
bonsai	ぼんさい (盆栽)	67
book	ほん (本)	71
box lunch	べんとう (弁当)	70
boy	おとこのこ (男の子)	52
brick	れんが (煉瓦)	62
business card	めいし (名刺)	57
buy	かう (買う)	13

## C

can	できる (出きる)	63
carp	こい (鯉)	18

## C (cont.)

cat	ねこ (猫)	48
chair	いす (椅子)	39
chase (verb)	おいかける (追いかける)	52
cheap	やすい (安い)	73
check	こぎって (小切手)	36
child	こ (子)	18
chopsticks	はし (箸)	23
chopsticks (disposable)	わりばし (割り箸)	31
climate of business	けいき (景気)	17
command (verb)	れいする (令する)	63
cooperation	れんけい (連携)	61
crisis	きき (危機)	15

## D

daughter	むすめ (娘)	57
day	ひ (日)	68
desk	つくえ (机)	39
difficult	むずかしい (難しい)	56
disease	びょうき (病気)	77
divorce	りこん (離婚)	60
do	する	63
dog	いぬ (狗)	48
drama	げき (劇)	21

## E

ear	みみ (耳)	55
easy	やさしい (易しい)	73
everyone	みなさん (皆さん)	55
eyeglasses	めがね (眼鏡)	57

	F	
fence	へい (柵)	70
five	ご (五)	21
fruits and vegetables	せいか (青果)	26
	G	
gate	もん (門)	58
glasses	めがね (眼鏡)	57
go	いく (行く)	16
grammar	ぶんぽう (文法)	71
	H	
haiku poetry	はいく (俳句)	67
hair	け (毛)	17
hammer	とんかち	39
hand	て (手)	23
here	ここ	18
hundred	ひゃく (百)	76
	I	
I	わたし	51
illness	びょうき (病気)	77
inexpensive	やすい (安い)	73
inn (Japanese)	りょかん (旅館)	76
insect	むし (虫)	56
	J	
Japanese inn	りょかん (旅館)	76
	K	
kind	やさしい (優しい)	73
Kyushu (island)	きゅうしゅう (九州)	77

	L	
ladies and gentlemen	みなさん (皆さん)	55
lightly salted	うすじお (薄塩)	29
lightning bolt	らくらい (落雷)	60
line (queue)	れつ (列)	62
listen	きく (聞く)	16
look at	みる (見る)	63
love	あい (愛)	6
	M	
man	おとこ (男)	50
marriage	けっこん (結婚)	36
meet	あう (会う)	6
meeting	かい (会)	13
moment	ちょっと (一寸)	77
mood	き (気)	15
morning drink	あさざけ (朝酒)	29
	N	
nail	くぎ (釘)	39
name	なまえ (名前)	45
no	いいえ	7
noodles	そば (蕎麦)	24
(buckwheat)		
nut	み (実)	55
	O	
old age	ろうご (老後)	62
open	あく (開く)	16
	P	
pachinko	ぱちんこ	68

	<b>P (cont.)</b>	
pajamas	ねまき (寝巻)	49
peace	へいあん (平安)	70
peach	もも (桃)	58
person	ひと (人)	68
physical science	りがく (理学)	60
place (verb)	おく (置く)	16
plan	けいかく (計画)	17
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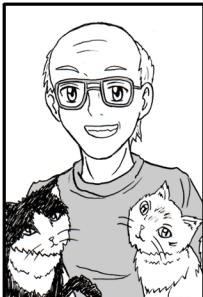
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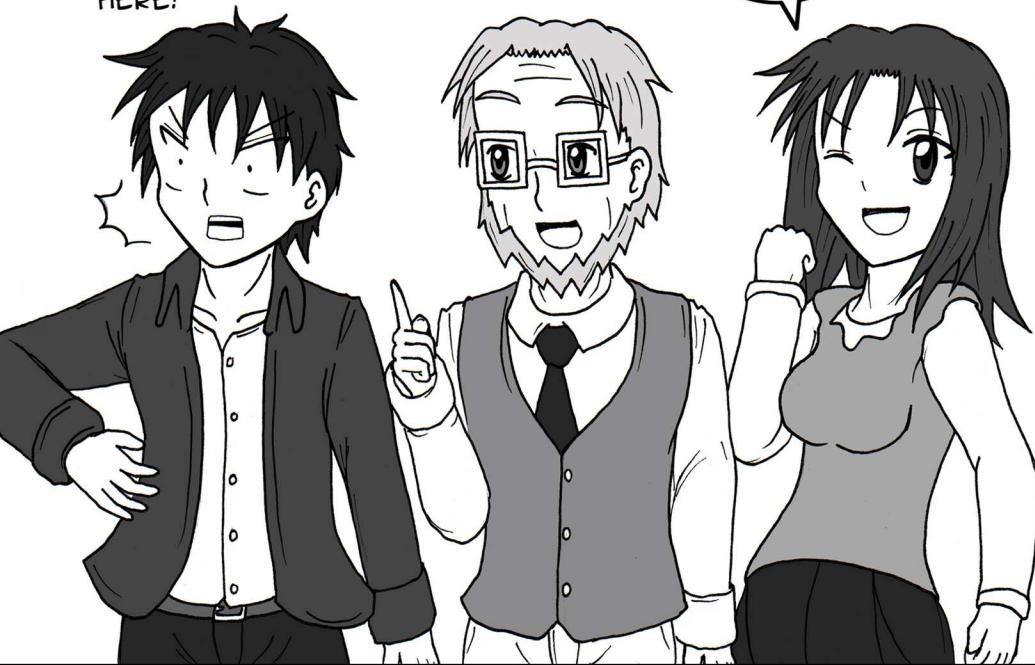


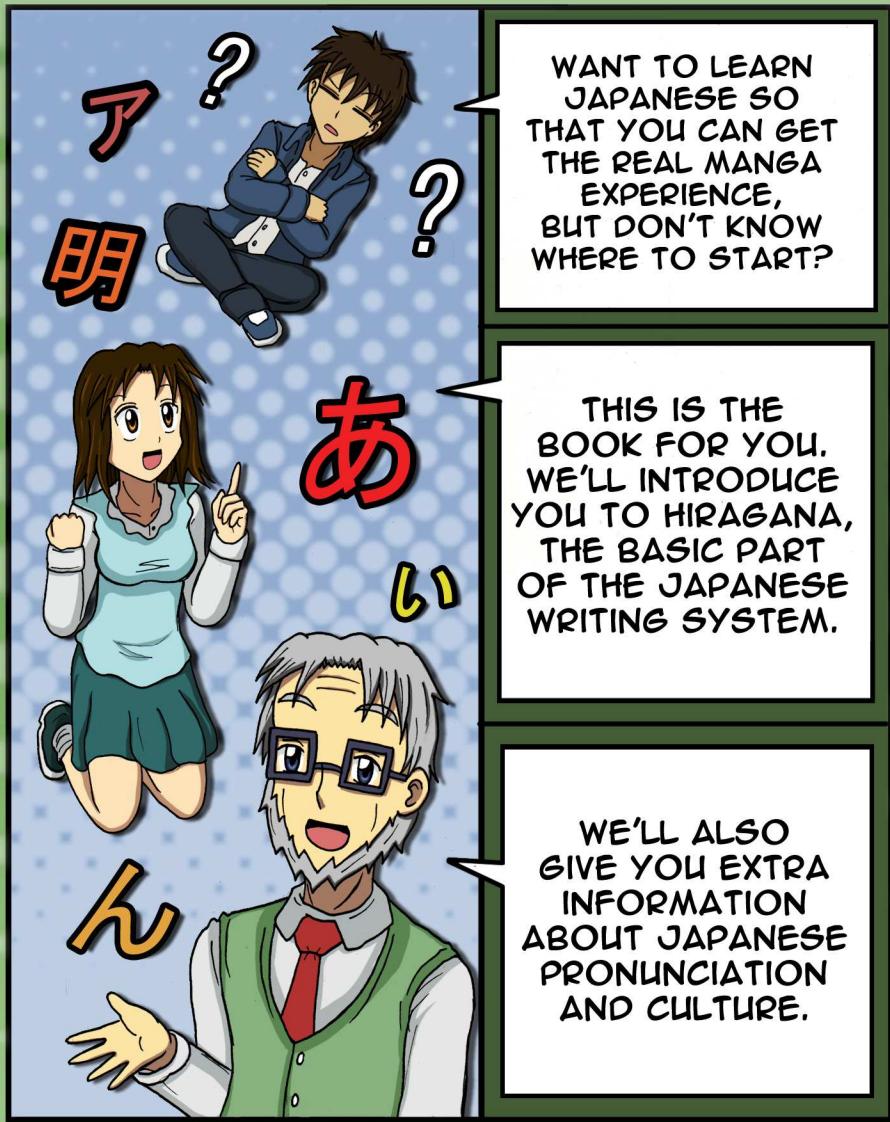
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LEFT.

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SIDE AND  
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START  
HERE!





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