Hiragana

*Hiragana* is a phonetic alphabet that was developed in the ninth century to simplify writing. It nowadays is mainly used for native Japanese words. *Hiragana* are derived from more complex *kanji* and each *hiragana* represents a syllable. A total of 46 *hiragana* is used in contemporary Japanese writing.

List of the 46 *hiragana* and their 25 diagritics (with ゛or ゜)

Click on the Hiragana to learn how to write and pronounce it.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **I** | **U** | **E** | **O** |
| [あ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%82/) (a) | [い](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%84/) (i) | [う](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%86/) (u) | [え](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%88/) (e) | [お](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%8A/) (o) |
| [か](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%8B/) (ka) が (ga) | [き](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%8D/) (ki) ぎ (gi) | [く](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%8F/) (ku) ぐ (gu) | [け](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%91/) (ke) げ (ke) | [こ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%93/) (ko) ご (go) |
| [さ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%95/) (sa) ざ (za) | [し](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%97/) (shi) じ (ji) | [す](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%99/) (su) ず (zu) | [せ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%9B/) (se) ぜ (ze) | [そ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%9D/) (so) ぞ (zo) |
| [た](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%9F/) (ta) だ (da) | [ち](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%A1/) (chi) ぢ (ji) | [つ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%A4/) (tsu) づ (zu) | [て](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%A6/) (te) で (de) | [と](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%A8/) (to) ど (do) |
| [な](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AA/) (na) | [に](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AB/) (ni) | [ぬ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AC/) (nu) | [ね](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AD/)(ne) | [の](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AE/) (no) |
| [は](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%AF/) (ha) ば (ba) ぱ (pa) | [ひ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%B2/) (hi) び (bi) ぴ (pi) | [ふ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%B5/) (fu) ぶ (bu) ぷ (pu) | [へ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%B8/) (he) べ (be) ぺ (pe) | [ほ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%BB/) (ho) ぼ (bo) ぽ (po) |
| [ま](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%BE/) (ma) | [み](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%81%BF/) (mi) | [む](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%80/) (mu) | [め](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%81/) (me) | [も](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%82/) (mo) |
| [や](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%84/) (ya) |  | [ゆ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%86/)(yu) |  | [よ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%88/) (yo) |
| [ら](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%89/) (ra) | [り](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%8A/) (ri) | [る](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%8B/)(ru) | [れ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%8C/)(re) | [ろ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%8D/) (ro) |
| [わ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%8F/) (wa) |  |  |  | [を](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%92/) (wo/o) |
| [ん](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/21/%E3%82%93/) (n) |  |  |  |  |

The combination of some of these hiragana is used to express a few additional sounds used in Japanese. The first character is written in normal size whereas the second character is written a little bit smaller. These combinations are called digraphs.

List of 21 *hiragana* digraphs and their 15 diagritics

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YA** | **YU** | **YO** |
| きゃ (kya) ぎゃ (gya) | きゅ (kyu) ぎゅ (gyu) | きょ (kyo) ぎょ (gyo) |
| しゃ (sha) じゃ (ja) | しゅ (shu) じゅ (ju) | しょ (sho) じょ (jo) |
| ちゃ (cha) ぢゃ (ja) | ちゅ (chu) ぢゅ (ju) | ちょ (cho) ぢょ (jo) |
| にゃ (nya) | にゅ (nyu) | にょ (nyo) |
| ひゃ (hya) びゃ (bya) ぴょ (pyo) | ひゅ (hyu) びゅ (byu) ぴゅ (pyu) | ひょ (hyo) びょ (byo) ぴょ (pyo) |
| みゃ (mya) | みゅ (myu) | みょ (myo) |
| りゃ (rya) | りゅ (ryu) | りょ (ryo) |

Katakana

*Katakana* is a phonetic alphabet covering syllables and consists of  46 different characters. It is mainly used for foreign loanwords and sometimes to replace *kanji* or *hiragana* for emphasis. *Katakana w*ere developed in the ninth century and are also derived from more complex *kanji.*

List of the 46 basic *katakana* and their 25 diagritics (with ゛or ゜)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **I** | **U** | **E** | **O** |
| [ア](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%A2/) (a) | [イ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%A4/) (i) | [ウ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%A6/) (u) | [エ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%A8/) (e) | [オ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%AA/) (o) |
| [カ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%AB/) (ka) ガ (ga) | [キ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%AD/) (ki) ギ (gi) | [ク](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%AF/) (ku) グ (gu) | [ケ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%B6/) (ke) ゲ (ke) | [コ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%B3/) (ko) ゴ (go) |
| [サ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%B5/) (sa) ザ (za) | [シ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%B7/) (shi) ジ (ji) | [ス](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%B9/) (su) ズ (zu) | [セ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%BB/) (se) ゼ (ze) | [ソ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%BD/) (so) ゾ (zo) |
| [タ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%82%BF/) (ta) ダ (da) | [チ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%81/) (chi) ヂ (ji) | [ツ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%84/) (tsu) ヅ (zu) | [テ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%86/) (te) デ (de) | [ト](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%88/) (to) ド (do) |
| [ナ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8A/) (na) | [二](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8B/) (ni) | [ヌ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8C/) (nu) | [ネ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8D/) (ne) | [ノ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8E/) (no) |
| [ハ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%8F/) (ha) バ (ba) パ (pa) | [ヒ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%92/) (hi) ビ (bi) ピ (pi) | [フ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%95/) (fu) ブ (bu) プ (pu) | [ヘ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%98/) (he) ベ (be) ペ (pe) | [ホ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%9B/) (ho) ボ (bo) ポ (po) |
| [マ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%9E/) (ma) | [ミ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%9F/) (mi) | [ム](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A0/) (mu) | [メ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A1/) (me) | [モ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A2/) (mo) |
| [ヤ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A4/) (ya) |  | [ユ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A6/) (yu) |  | [ヨ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A8/) (yo) |
| [ラ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%A9/) (ra) | [リ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%AA/) (ri) | [ル](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%AB/) (ru) | [レ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%AC/) (re) | [ロ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%AD/) (ro) |
| [ワ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%AF/) (wa) |  |  |  | [ヲ](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%B2/) (wo/o) |
| [ン](https://nihongoichiban.com/2011/03/27/%E3%83%B3/) (n) |  |  |  |  |

List of 21 *katakana* digraphs and their 15 diagritics.

As with hiragana there also are combinations to express the other sounds required for the Japanese language.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **YA** | **YU** | **YO** |
| キャ (kya) ギャ (gya) | キュ (kyu) ギュ (gyu) | キョ (kyo) ギョ (gyo) |
| シャ (sha) ジャ (ja) | シュ (shu) ジュ (ju) | ショ (sho) ジョ (jo) |
| チャ (cha) ヂャ (ja) | チュ (chu) ヂュ (ju) | チョ (cho) ヂョ(jo) |
| ニャ (nya) | ニュ (nyu) | ニョ (nyo) |
| ヒャ (hya) ビャ (bya) ピャ (pyo) | ヒュ (hyu) ビュ (byu) ピュ (pyu) | ヒョ (hyo) ビョ (byo) ピョ (pyo) |
| ミャ (mya) | ミュ (myu) | ミョ (myo) |
| リャ (rya) | リュ (ryu) | リョ (ryo) |

These 46 katakana and their variations are sufficient to express all sounds used for Japanese words. In order to get closer to the pronunciation of foreign words, a list of not so common extended *katakana* is used.

List of extended *katakana*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **I** | **U** | **E** | **O** |
|  | イィ (yi) |  | イェ (ye) |  |
| ウァ (wa) | ウィ (wi) | ウゥ (wu) | ウェ (we) | ウォ (wo) |
| ヴァ (va) | ヴィ (vi) | ヴ (vu) | ヴェ (ve) | ヴォ (vo) |
|  |  |  | ヴィェ (vye) |  |
|  |  |  | キェ (kye) |  |
|  |  |  | ギェ (gye) |  |
| クァ (kwa) | クィ(kwi) |  | クェ (kwe) | クォ (kwo) |
| グァ (gwa) | グィ (gwi) |  | グェ (gwe) | グォ (gwo) |
|  |  |  | シェ (she) |  |
|  |  |  | ジェ (je) |  |
|  | スィ (si) |  |  |  |
|  | ズィ (zi) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | チェ (che) |  |
| ツァ (tsa) | ツィ (tsi) |  | ツェ (tse) | ツォ (tso) |
|  | ティ (ti) | テゥ (tu) |  |  |
|  | ディ (di) | デゥ (du) |  |  |
|  |  |  | ニェ (nye) |  |
|  |  |  | ヒェ (hye) |  |
|  |  |  | ビェ (bye) |  |
|  |  |  | ピェ (pye) |  |
| ファ (fa) | フィ (fi) |  | フェ (fe) | フォ (fo) |
|  |  |  | フィェ (fye) |  |
|  |  | ホゥ (hu) |  |  |
|  |  |  | ミェ (mye) |  |
|  |  |  | リェ (rye) |  |
| ラ゜(la) | リ゜(li) | ル゜(lu) | レ゜(le) | ロ゜(lo) |