

The **Iroha** (いろは) is a Japanese poem. Originally the poem was attributed to the founder of the Shingon Esoteric sect of Buddhism in Japan, Kūkai, but more modern research has found the date of composition to be later in the Heian period (794–1179). The first record of its existence dates from 1079.

It is famous because it is **a perfect pangram, containing each character of the Japanese syllabary exactly once**. Because of this, it is also used as an ordering for the syllabary, in the same way as the A, B, C, D... sequence of the Latin alphabet. The iroha contains every kana only once, with the exception of ん (-n), which was not distinguished from む mu in writing until the early 20th century.

Structurally, the poem follows the standard 7–5 pattern of Japanese poetry (with one hypometric line), and in modern times it is generally written that way, in contexts where line breaks are used. The text of the poem is:

いろはにほへと	Iro ha nihoheto	色は匂えど	Iro wa nioedo
ちりぬるを	Chirinuru wo	散りぬるを	Chirinuru o
わかよたれそ	Wa ka yo tare so	我が世誰ぞ	Wa ga yo tare zo
つねならむ	Tsune naramu	常ならん	Tsune naran
うゐのおくやま	Uwi no okuyama	有為の奥山	Ui no okuyama
けふこえて	Kefu koete	今日越えて	Kyō koete
あさきゆめみし	Asaki yume mishi	浅き夢見じ	Asaki yume miji
ゑひもせす	Wehi mo sesu	酔いもせず	Ei mo sezu

Even the blossoming flowers [Colors are fragrant, but they]

Will eventually scatter

Who in our world

Is unchanging?

The deep mountains of karma—

We cross them today

And we shall not have superficial dreams

Nor be deluded

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroha>

つ わ と い

か か ら ろ

ち よ り は

ら た ぬ に

む れ る ほ

う そ を へ

あ	さ	け	ぬ
ひ	き	ふ	の
も	ゆ	こ	お
せ	め	え	く
す	み	て	や
ん	し	あ	ま