

Katakana Practice Sheet

Katakana is used for foreign words, such as:

- **People's names** (トム - Tom, スミス - Smith, メアリ - Mary...),
- **Corporation names** (ソニー - Sony™),
- Words with a **foreign origin** (バナナ - banana, パン - bread, カメラ - camera...),
- **Onomatopoeia** (ニヤン - meow, ワンワン - woof, woof),
- **Foreign verbs** (コピー - copy, スキャン - scan...)

Katakana:

ア	a	イ	i	ウ	u	エ	e	オ	o
カ	ka	キ	ki	ク	ku	ケ	ke	ゴ	ko
サ	sa	シ	shi	ス	su	セ	se	ソ	so
タ	ta	チ	chi	ツ	tsu	テ	te	ト	to
ナ	na	ニ	ni	ヌ	nu	ネ	ne	ノ	no
ハ	ha	ヒ	hi	フ	fu	ヘ	he	ホ	ho
マ	ma	ミ	mi	ム	mu	メ	me	モ	mo
ヤ	ya			ユ	yu			ヨ	yo
ラ	ra	リ	ri	ル	ru	レ	re	ロ	ro
ワ	wa							ヲ	wo
ン	n								

Voiced and semi-voiced sounds:

Adding “ or ° to the characters with **s-**, **t-** and **h-** sounds changes them to **z-/j-**, **d-** and **b-** (voiced sounds) or **p-** (semi-voiced sound):

Original	Voiced	Semi-voiced
サ sa	ザ	za
シ shi	ジ	ji
ス su	ズ	zu
セ se	ゼ	ze
ソ so	ゾ	zo
タ ta	ダ	da
テ te	デ	de
ト to	ド	do

Original	Voiced	Semi-voiced
ハ ha	バ ba	バ pa
ヒ hi	ビ bi	ビ pi
フ fu	ブ bu	ブ pu
ヘ he	ベ be	ベ pe
ホ ho	ボ bo	ボ po

You can combine two different characters to create a new sound. For instance, ジュ (ju), ジヤ (ja), ジヨ (jo), チヤ (cha)...

Other sounds include テイ (ti), フア (fa), ヴオ (vo), ウエ (we), イエ (ye)...

In order to make an elongated vowel sound, it's used “ー”. Example: コーヒー (cōhī) -> Coffee.

Lastly, ツ (a smaller version of ‘tsu’) is used to indicate a double consonant sound, which is pronounced as a brief and abrupt pause between the vowel and consonant.

How to distinguish similar characters:

ツ (tsu) vs シ (shi): The main difference in writing is stroke order. However, when reading, シ (shi) is wider and the 2 smaller strokes are more horizontal when compared with ツ (tsu).

ン (n) vs ソ (so): ヌ (n) is wider and the smaller stroke at the top is more diagonal. The second stroke, and also the longest, is written from top to bottom when writing ヌ (n), while in ソ (so) it's written from the bottom up.

Exercises:

1. Write all the katakana characters. Tip: follow the correct stroke order (available on my video).

A	I	U	E	O
Ka	Ki	Ku	Ke	Ko
Sa	Shi	Su	Se	So
Ta	Chi	Tsu	Te	To
Na	Ni	Nu	Ne	No
Ha	Hi	Fu	He	Ho
Ma	Mi	Mu	Me	Mo
Ya		Yu		Yo

Ra	Ri	Ru	Re	Ro
Wa				Wo
N				

2. Read These Words in Katakana Out Loud (Romanji on the last page)

I- パン

Bread

II- スープ

Soup

III- ケーキ

Cake

IV- チェロ

Cello

3. Try to guess what these katakana words mean.

I- ドア

II- ゲム

III- バス

IV- ソファー

V- テレビ

VI- アメリカ

ANSWER KEYS:

2. I- pan

II- sūpu

III- kēki

IV- chero

3. I- Romanji: doa Meaning: **door**

II- Romanji: gemu Meaning: **game**

III- Romanji: basu Meaning: **bus**

IV- Romanji: sofaa Meaning: **couch/sofa**

V- Romanji: terebi Meaning: **TV**

VI- Romanji: amerika Meaning: **US/America**