

EASY

AND

FUN

HIRAGANA

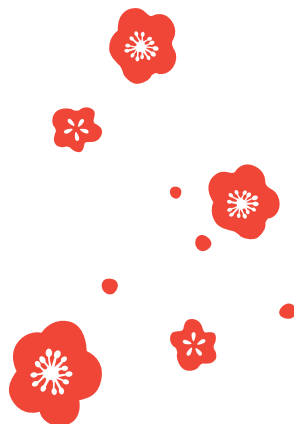
FIRST STEPS TO BASIC JAPANESE WRITING

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- A complete guide to mastery, history, and usage
- stroke orders and writing
- reading practice
- workbook exercises
- real-world examples

KIYOMI OGAWA

EDITED BY ORRIN CUMMINS



EASY AND FUN HIRAGANA

First Steps to Basic Japanese Writing

Kiyomi Ogawa

Edited by Orrin Cummins

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Preface

This book is written for people who wish to have fun while learning how to read and write hiragana characters. It has many illustrations, but don't think that it is just for children—I have included many phrases that are widely used in everyday adult life so that the reader can learn not only hiragana but also some useful things to use in conversational Japanese as well.

The Japanese language consists of three different writing systems: hiragana, katakana, and kanji. Hiragana is learned first in school, followed by katakana and then kanji. Difficult kanji characters often have their pronunciations written directly above them to assist readers, a technique known as furigana. This book will show you how to read the furigana that appears in manga, newspapers, and other text.

If writing hiragana is not a priority for you, try the reading exercises. Being able to read literature or manga on your own is a great motivator for advancing your Japanese study. So whatever your immediate goals may be, let's enjoy learning some hiragana!

Kiyomi Ogawa

まえがき

本書は、ひらがなの読み書きを楽しく勉強したいという方のために書きました。沢山のイラストがあり、一見、子供用の教科書のように、大人が日常でよく使う表現の例文をたくさん載せましたので、ひらがなの習得だけではなく日常会話の例文も一緒に学ぶことができますでしょう。

日本語には3つの文字（ひらがな、カタカナ、漢字）があり、学校ではひらがなを最初に勉強します。次にカタカナ、漢字と学んでいくわけですが、難しい漢字などにはひらがなをふって読みます（振り仮名）。本書では、その振り仮名を使った文章や漫画の読み方も学べるようになっています。

書くのが苦手な人は読む練習だけでもいいかもしれません。文章や漫画を自分で読めた時の感動は大きいと思います。ぜひ本書で、ひらがなを楽しみながら勉強してくださいね。

おがわきよみ
小川清美

How to Use This Book

For chapters 2 and 3, practice writing the characters using the correct stroke order.

Lesson 1

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

あ行 あ iow

あ	い	う	え	お
あ	い	う	え	お

か行 か iow

か	き	く	け	こ
か	き	く	け	こ

あいうえお かきくけこ

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">a i</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">あ</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">い</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">love</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">ka ku</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">か</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">く</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">to write</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">i u</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">い</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">う</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">to say</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">e ki</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">え</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">き</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">train station</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">u e</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">う</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">え</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">up</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">ki ku</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">き</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">く</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">to listen / to hear</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">i e</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">い</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">え</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">house</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">i ke</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">い</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">け</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">pond</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">a o</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">あ</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">お</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">blue</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">ko ko</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">こ</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">こ</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 20px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin-top: 5px;">here</p>

2

Read and write these words that contain the new characters you just learned.

Learn how to use specific hiragana terms in a sentence in chapter 4.

Lesson 21

Particles 2: て, に, と, から, まで

[Particles 2] て, に, と, から, まで

1 Place **て** **Verb**

えき **で** あい **ます**。
Eki **de** ai **masu**. (We) will meet at the station.

This particle has several uses. It marks the place where an action occurs, similar to at or in in English. て can also be used to mark the thing that is used to perform an action or task, a usage which corresponds closely to with or by.

2 Person **の** **Noun**

わたし **の** ほん **を** みます。
watashi **no** hon **o** mimasu. *my book*

かれ **の** お母さん **の** くるま **を** みます。
kare **no** okāsan **no** kuruma **o** mimasu. *his mother's car*

When used between a person and a noun, の indicates possession.

3 Person **と** **Verb** / **Noun** **と** **Noun**

ともだち **と** えいが **を** みます。
Tomodachi **to** eiga **o** mimasu. (I'm) going to see a movie with my friend.

ほん **と** DVD **を** 買いました。
Hon **to** DVD **o** kaimashita. (I) bought a book and DVD.

When と connects a person and an action verb, it indicates the action is done together with that person. But when と comes between two nouns, it just means and.

4 Time/Date **に** / **Place** **に** **Verb**

がつ **に** **に** **に**
ichigatsu **ni** **ni** in January

じ **に** **に** **に**
ichigatsu **ni** **ni** at 2 o'clock

がっこう **に** **に** **に**
Gakkō **ni** **ni** iki **mashta**. (He) went to school.

に can connect a place with a verb to indicate a destination. It is also used after dates and times.

5 Date/Time/Place/Person **から**

ちゅうごく **から** **から** **から** **に** **に** **に**
Chūgoku **kara** **kara** ki **mashta**. (I) come from China.

かようび **から** **から** **から**
kayōbi **kara** **kara** from Tuesday

から is equivalent to the English from and is used in a wide variety of situations.

6 Place/Date/Time **まで**

えき **まで** **まで** **まで** **に** **に** **に**
Eki **made** **made** onagai **shimasu**. To the station, please.

おおさか **から** **から** **から** **まで** **まで** **まで**
Ōsaka **kara** **kara** Tōkyō **made** **made** **made** from Osaka to Tokyo

まで means until or to and is often used in combination with から to express a range of time or distance.

Fish: Hey frog, let's play!
Frog: I don't want to do anything now.

Fish: How about drawing?
Frog: I really don't want to do anything.

Fish: Okay, then, let's play "do nothing."
Frog: ...

glug-glug

Reading Exercise

See how well you do at reading this famous poem by Miyazawa Kenji and the two haiku that follow it. These haiku in particular are well-known abroad.

雨にも負けず
風にも負けず
雪にも夏の暑さにも負けぬ
しょうぶな体をもち
欲はなく
けっしておこらず
いつもしずかに笑っている
(中略)
そんな人に私になりたい

— Miyazawa Kenji
Unyielding to the rain,
unyielding to the wind,
and to the snow and heat of summer.
Maintaining a healthy body
I want to be such a person.

名月を
とつてくれると
泣く子かな

宮沢賢治
小林一茶

harvest moon
"fetch it for me"
cries the child
— Kobayashi Issa

古池や
蛙飛び込む
水の音

松尾芭蕉

old pond
a frog leaps in
splash!
— Matsuo Bashō

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Then in chapter 5, try reading some real-world examples of hiragana.

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Chapter 1

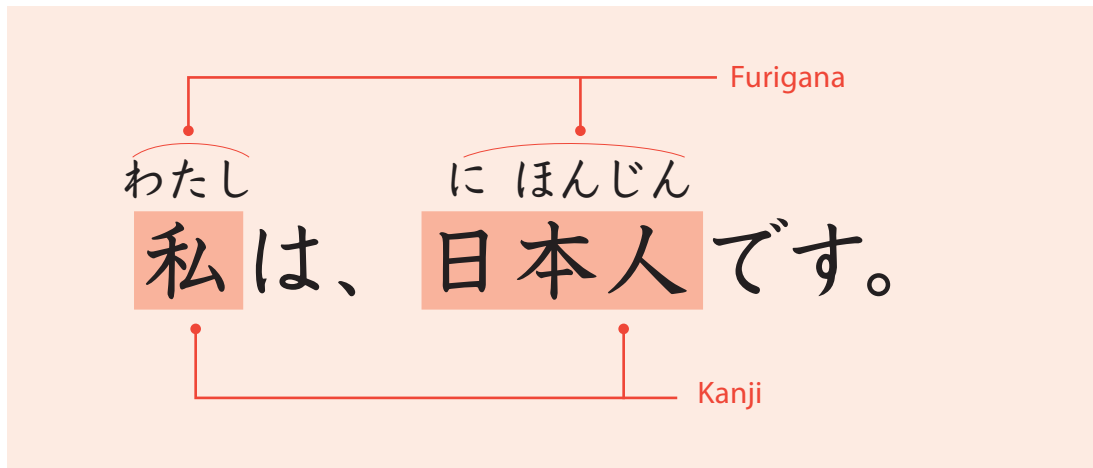
History and Usage

だい いっ しょう 第 1 章 ひらがなの れきし 歴史と つか 使われ方 かた

How to Use Hiragana

The Japanese language consists of three types of characters: hiragana, katakana, and kanji.

Katakana is primarily used for words borrowed from other languages, while kanji is used to write names and parts of verbs and adjectives. Hiragana is used for particles and some parts of verbs and adjectives; it also often appears directly above difficult kanji characters as a pronunciation aid for children and foreigners, a system known as furigana.



ひらがなの使われ方

日本語にはひらがな、かたかな、漢字と3つの文字があります。

「かたかな」は主に外来語につかわれ、漢字は名前や動詞、形容詞の一部として使われます。実は、ひらがなは助詞や動詞、形容詞の一部としてしか使われません。しかし、まだ難しい漢字が分からない子供や外国の方のために、漢字のうえにふりがなとよばれるひらがなを書きます。

ば な な た
バナナ を 食べます。

Katakana

1

The History of Hiragana

The hiragana script evolved from Chinese characters transmitted to Japan long ago. Although those characters were originally assigned to the different sounds of the Japanese language, around AD 800 they were simplified into hiragana characters which were used mostly by women.

Sometime later, the Iroha was invented to help people remember hiragana, similar to the function of the ABC song in English. The poem was used for many centuries, but around the turn of the twentieth century the 48 hiragana characters learned by elementary school students were standardized and an ordering system which began with あいうえお gained in popularity.

Iroha

Iro ha nihoheto
Chirinuru wo
Wa ka yo tare so
Tsune naramu
Uwi no okuyama
Kefu koete
Asaki yume mishi
Wehi mo sesu

(modern translation)

Even the flowers and their brilliant colors
will one day fade away
And even we who inhabit this world
cannot stay the same forever.
Cryptic mountain roads hiding unseen dangers
we traverse them today
But that we can shield our minds from foolish dreams
and our bodies from intoxicating aspirations.

As you can see, the poem has quite a profound meaning.

Though there is no poem to go along with the modern ordering of あいうえお (also known as *gojūon*), I think that the newer system is easier for foreigners studying Japanese to remember since it starts with the vowel sounds. Let's have a look at the hiragana chart on the next page.

ひらがなの歴史

ひらがなは、漢字からつくられました。
日本には、中国から伝わってきた漢字があったので、それを日本語の音にあてて
いましたが、800年頃から漢字を簡素化したひらがなが作られて、主に女性が使
いました。

その後、仮名を覚えるための「いろは歌」がつけられました。英語のABC songの
ようなもので、長い間使われていましたが、1900年に、小学校で使うひらがな
48字が決められて、「あいうえお」からはじまる順が一般に普及しました。

いろは歌

いろはにほへと ちりぬるを

わかよたれそ つねならむ

うるのおくやま けふこえて

あさきゆめみし ゑひもせす

(げんだいごやく
現代語訳)

きれいな色の花もいつか散ってしまう
世を生きる私達も同じ
奥深い山のような世の中を今日もこえて
あさはかな夢など見ないで、
日々を受け入れて行こう

このように、深い意味があるのです。

現代の「あいうえお順」(五十音ともいう)は歌ではありませんが、母音のaiueo
からはじまっているので、外国人学習者には覚えやすいとおもいます。次のページ
でひらがな表をみてみましょう。

1

Japanese Writing and Pronunciation

The hiragana syllabary contains 46 basic characters. Five of these represent vowels (あ, い, う, え, お) which are phonetically combined with consonants to form the remaining characters. In addition, many characters can be modified using the accent marks 「゛」 or 「゜」 to form slightly different sounds. Variants created by appending a small や, ゆ, or よ also exist.

Basic syllables

a	あ	i	い	u	う	e	え	o	お
ka	か	ki	き	ku	く	ke	け	ko	こ
sa	さ	shi	し	su	す	se	せ	so	そ
ta	た	chi	ち	tsu	つ	te	て	to	と
na	な	ni	に	nu	ぬ	ne	ね	no	の
ha/ wa	は	hi	ひ	fu	ふ	he/ e	へ	ho	ほ
ma	ま	mi	み	mu	む	me	め	mo	も
ya	や			yu	ゆ			yo	よ
ra	ら	ri	り	ru	る	re	れ	ro	ろ
wa	わ							wo /o	を
n	ん								

Hiragana

kya	きゃ	kyu	きゅ	kyo	きょ
sha	しゃ	shu	しゅ	sho	しょ
cha	ちゃ	chu	ちゅ	cho	ちょ
nya	にゃ	nyu	にゅ	nyo	にょ
hya	ひゃ	hyu	ひゅ	hyo	ひょ
mya	みゃ	myu	みゅ	myo	みょ

rya	りゃ	ryu	りゅ	ryo	りょ
-----	----	-----	----	-----	----

Modified syllables

ga	が	gi	ぎ	gu	ぐ	ge	げ	go	ご
za	ざ	ji	じ	zu	ず	ze	ぜ	zo	ぞ
da	だ	chi	ぢ	zu	づ	de	で	do	ど
ba	ば	bi	び	bu	ぶ	be	べ	bo	ぼ
pa	ぱ	pi	ぴ	pu	ぷ	pe	ぺ	po	ぽ

gya	ぎゃ	gyu	ぎゅ	gyo	ぎょ
ja	じゃ	ju	じゅ	jo	じょ

bya	びゃ	byu	びゅ	byo	びょ
pya	ぴゃ	pyu	ぴゅ	pyo	ぴょ

This syllable set is primarily used for words borrowed from other languages, but they are also widely adopted into logos, slang speech, and other formats.

Basic syllables

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

Katakana

kya	キャ	kyu	キュ	kyo	キョ
sha	シャ	shu	シュ	sho	ショ
cha	チャ	chu	チュ	cho	チョ
nya	ニャ	nyu	ニュ	nyo	ニョ
hya	ヒャ	hyu	ヒュ	hyo	ヒョ
mya	ミャ	myu	ミュ	myo	ミョ

rya	リャ	ryu	リュ	ryo	リョ
-----	----	-----	----	-----	----

Modified syllables

ga	ガ	gi	ギ	gu	グ	ge	ゲ	go	ゴ
za	ザ	ji	ジ	zu	ズ	ze	ゼ	zo	ゾ
da	ダ	ji	ヂ	zu	ヅ	de	デ	do	ド
ba	バ	bi	ビ	bu	ブ	be	ベ	bo	ボ
pa	パ	pi	ピ	pu	プ	pe	ペ	po	ポ

gya	ギャ	gyu	ギュ	gyo	ギョ
ja	ジャ	ju	ジュ	jo	ジョ

bya	ビャ	byu	ビュ	byo	ビョ
pya	ピャ	pyu	ピュ	pyo	ピョ

Chapter 2

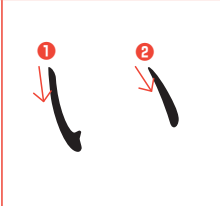
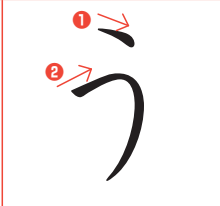
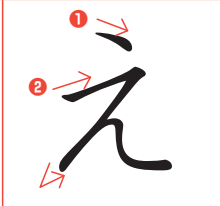
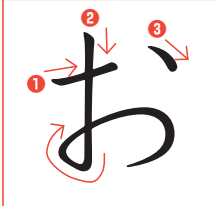
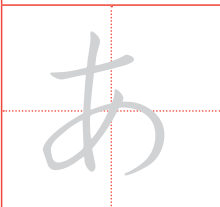
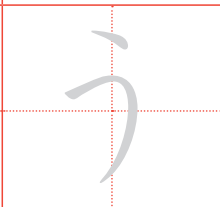
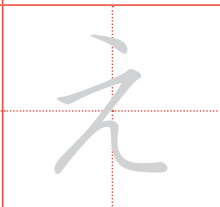
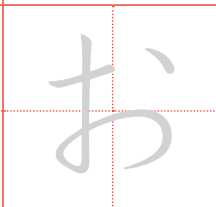
Examples and Practice
Single Characters

だい に しょう 第 2 章 ひらがなの か書き方 かた

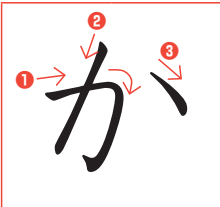
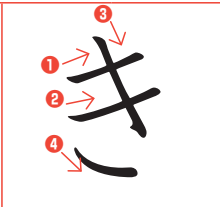
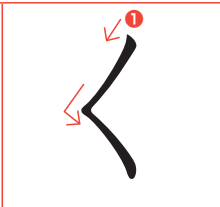
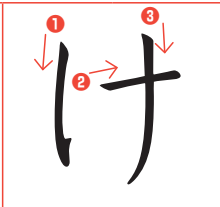
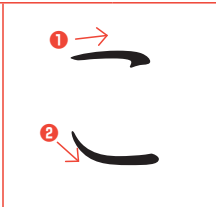
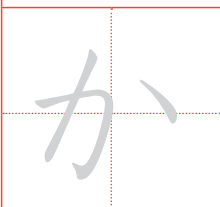
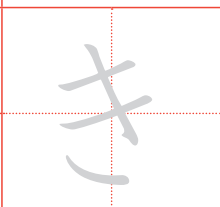
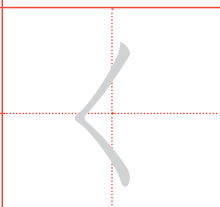
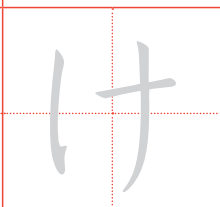
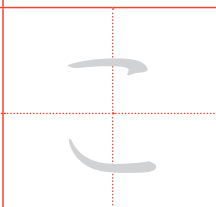
Lesson 1

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう あ行 あ row

ぎょう か行 か row

a i
あい

love



ka ku
かく

to write



i u
いう

to say



e ki
えき

train station



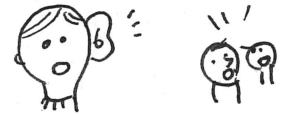
u e
うえ

up



ki ku
きく

to listen / to hear



i e
いえ

house



i ke
いけ

pond



a o
あお

blue



ko ko
ここ

here



2

Lesson 2

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう
さ行 さ row

ぎょう
た行 た row

ka sa
かさ



umbrella

ta ka i
たかい



high / expensive

o ka shi
おかし



snacks / sweets

chi ka te tsu
ちかてつ



subway

su i ka
すいか



watermelon

tsu i ta chi
ついたり



first

se ka i
せかい



world

sa te
さて



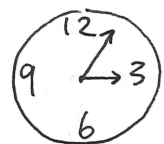
well...

u so
うそ



lie

to ke i
とけい

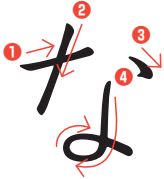
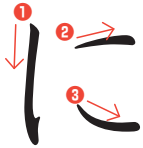
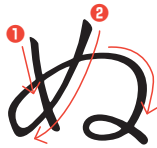
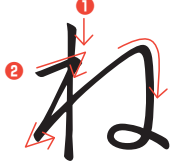
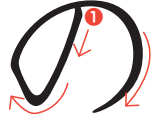







clock

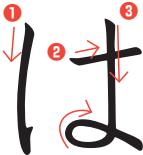
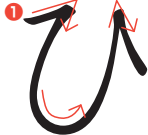
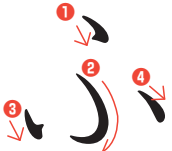

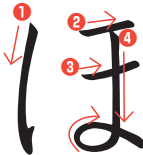


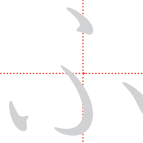
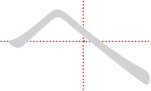

Lesson 3

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう
な行 な row

ぎょう
は行 は row

na ni
なに

what



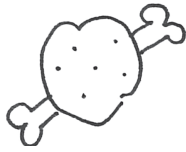
ha na
はな

flower



ni ku
にく

meat



hi to
ひと

person



i nu
いぬ

dog



fu to i
ふとい

thick



ne ko
ねこ

cat



he ta
へた

be bad at



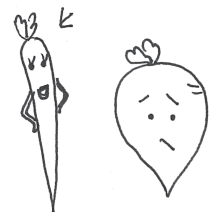
ta no shi i
たのしい

fun



ho so i
ほそい

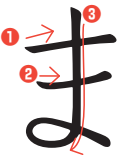
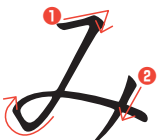








thin



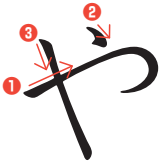
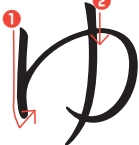
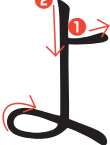



Lesson 4

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう
ま行 ま row

ぎょう
や行 や row

ma me

ま め



peas / beans

ya ma

や ま



mountain

mi mi

み み



ear

yu u me i

ゆ う め い



famous

mu ka shi

む か し



long time ago

yo mu

よ む



to read

tsu me ta i

つ め た い



cold

mo shi

も し




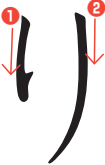

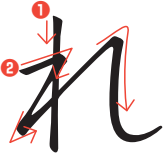






if

2

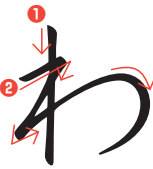

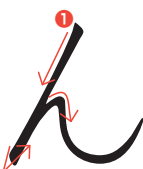



Lesson 5

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう
ら行 ら row

ぎょう
わ行 わ row

wa ra u
わ ら う



to laugh

wa su re ru
わ す れ る



to forget

ri su
り す



squirrel

o
を

object を Verb

object marker

o ri ru
お り る



get off

ho n
ほ ん



book

wa re ru
わ れ る



to break

hi ro i
ひ ろ い



spacious

2

Lesson 6

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

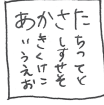
が行 ぎょう が row

か	ぎ	ぐ	げ	ご

ざ行 ざぎょう ざ row

ざ	じ	ず	ぜ	ぞ

hi ra ga na
ひらがな



hiragana

za n ne n
ざんねん



unfortunate /
shame

gi n ko u
ぎんこう



bank

ji ka n
じかん



time

2

mo u su gu
もうすぐ

soon

ne zu mi
ねずみ



mouse

ge n i n
げんいん

cause

ze hi
ぜひ

I would love to



go go
ごご

afternoon



zo u
ぞう

elephant



Lesson 7

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

ぎょう だ行 だ row

だ	ち	っ	て	と

ぎょう ば行 ば row

ば	び	ぶ	べ	ぼ

da re
だれ



who

ba ka ba ka shi i
ばかばかしい



ridiculous / silly

ha na ji
はなぢ



nosebleed

bi n bo u
びんぼう



poor

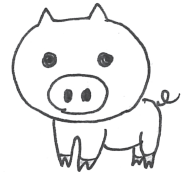
2

mi ka zu ki
みかづき



crescent moon

bu ta
ぶた



pig

ha de
はで



flashy

be n ri
べんり



convenient

do chi ra
どちら



which

bo u shi
ぼうし

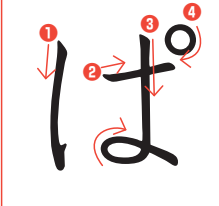
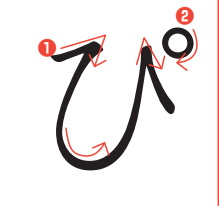
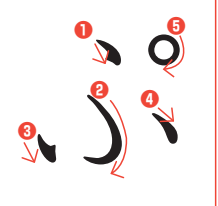
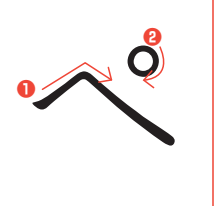
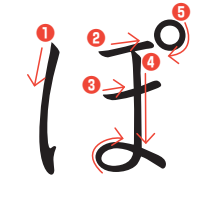
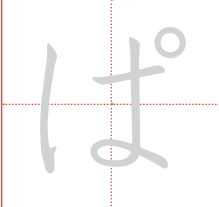
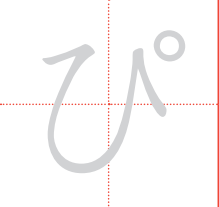
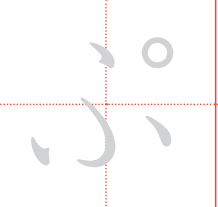
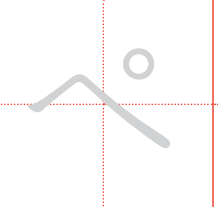
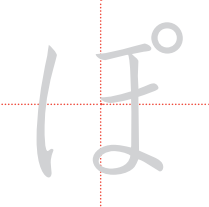


hat

Lesson 8

Trace over the outlines in the middle row first, then try writing those same characters in the blank boxes below. Refer to the numbers and arrows for guidance on stroke order and direction.

は ^{ぎょう}行 ば row

ka n pa i
かんぱい



a toast / cheers

shi n pi n
しんぴん



brand-new

te n pu ra
てんぷら



tempura

ka n pe ki
かんぺき



perfect

po n ka n
ぽんかん



a type of orange

Tricky Characters

These characters have similar shapes, so take extra care when using them.

1

a あ

o お

6

re れ

ne ね

2

me め

nu ぬ

7

sa さ

ki き

3

i い

ri り

8

ha は

ho ほ

4

shi し

mo も

9

ro ろ

ru る

5

chi ち

ra ら

10

su す

mu む

Draw a line between each hiragana character and its romaji equivalent.

I

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| ち | • | • | mo |
| い | • | • | a |
| め | • | • | chi |
| ら | • | • | shi |
| あ | • | • | o |
| し | • | • | nu |
| お | • | • | i |
| り | • | • | me |
| ぬ | • | • | ri |
| も | • | • | ra |

2

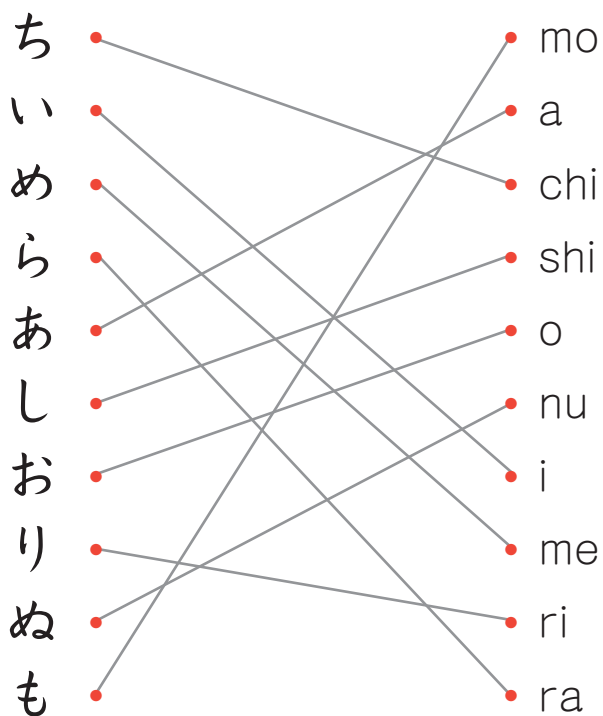
II

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| ほ | • | • | ki |
| れ | • | • | sa |
| す | • | • | nu |
| き | • | • | ru |
| る | • | • | mu |
| は | • | • | ha |
| さ | • | • | su |
| ぬ | • | • | re |
| ろ | • | • | ho |
| む | • | • | ro |

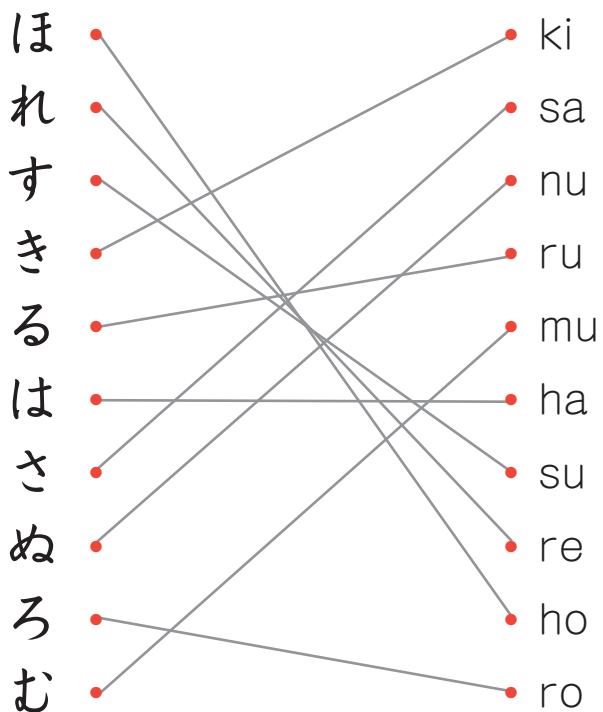


Answers

I



II



Chapter 3

Examples and Practice
Combinations and
Symbol Characters

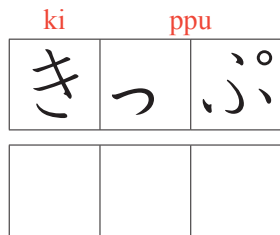
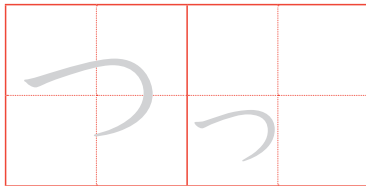
だいさんしょう くあもじきごう
第 3 章 組み合わせた文字・記号

Lesson 9

When つ is smaller than the characters next to it, it is silent (don't pronounce it). Instead, add a slight pause before saying the next character.

き **ki** つ **tsu** て **te** → きって **ki** × **tte**

In romaji, the presence of a small つ is indicated by a double consonant.



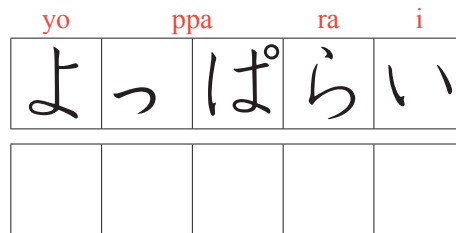
train ticket



surely / certainly



just now / a while ago



intoxicated



completely



magazine

i ppi ki
 いっぴき
 [] [] [] []

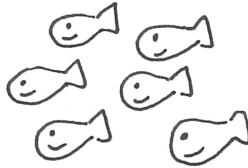


one (small) animal

i ppu n
 いっぷん
 [] [] [] []

one minute

ro ppi ki
 ろっぴき
 [] [] [] []



six (small) animals

ro ppu n
 ろっぷん
 [] [] [] []

six minutes

ha ppu n
 はっぷん
 [] [] [] []

eight minutes

ta tte ku da sa i
 たってください
 [] [] [] [] [] []

please stand up



su wa tte ku da sa i
 すわってください
 [] [] [] [] [] []

please sit down



shi tte i ma su
 しいます
 [] [] [] [] [] []

I know



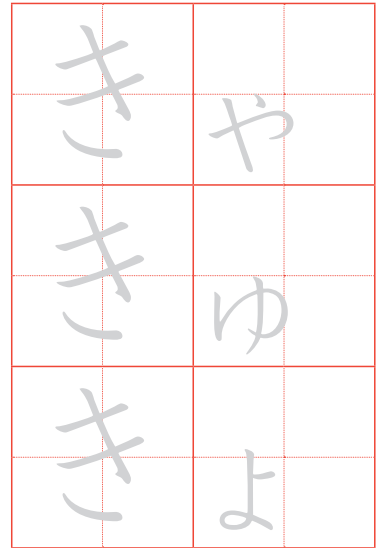
Lesson 10

Unlike the small つ, when a small や, ゆ, or よ follows a character it changes the sound.

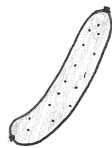
き ki や ya → きや kya

き ki ゆ yu → きゆ kyu

き ki よ yo → きよ kyo



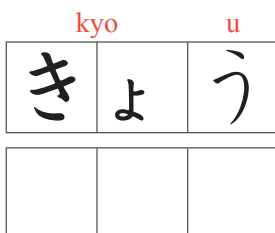
customer / guest



cucumber



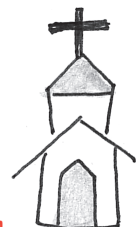
express train



today



church



ぎ gi や ya → ぎ や gya

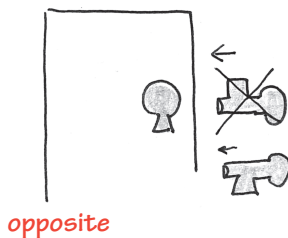
ぎ gi ゆ yu → ぎ ゆ gyu

ぎ gi よ yo → ぎ よ gyo

ぎ	や		
ぎ	ゆ		
ぎ	よ		

3

ぎ	や	く



opposite



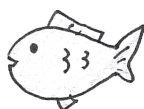
ぎ	ゆ	う	に	く

beef

ぎ	ゆ	う	ぎ	ゆ	う

crammed

き	ん	ぎ	よ



goldfish

ぎ	よ	う	れ	つ

queue / line

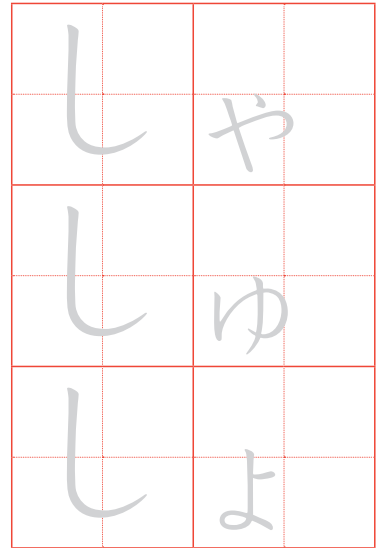
Lesson 11

As with き and ぎ, a small character from the “Y” row alters the sound of the preceding character.

し shi や ya → しゃ sha

し shi ゆ yu → しゅ shu

し shi よ yo → しょ sho



ka	i	sha	i	n
か	い	しゃ	い	ん

employee

sha	shi	n
しゃ	しん	



photograph

shu	ji	n
しゅ	じん	



husband

shu	u	ji	n
しゅ	う	じん	



prisoner

sho	u	ka	i	su	ru
しょう	かい	する			

to introduce

sho	ku	do	u
しょく	どう		

cafeteria

じ *ji* や *ya* → じゃ *ja*

じ *ji* ゆ *yu* → じゅ *ju*

じ *ji* よ *yo* → じょ *jo*

じ	や		
じ	ゆ		
じ	よ		

3

ja *ma*
 じゃま
 [] [] []



in the way

ji *n* *ja*
 じんじゃ
 [] [] [] [] 𠩺
 [] [] [] [] shrine

ju *n* *ba* *n*
 じゅんばん
 [] [] [] []
 [] [] [] []

order / sequence

ju *gyo* *u*
 じゅぎょう
 [] [] [] []
 [] [] [] []

class

jo *shi*
 じょし
 [] [] []
 [] [] []

girl (mostly used at school)



jo *u* *kyo* *u*
 じょうきょう
 [] [] [] []
 [] [] [] []

situation

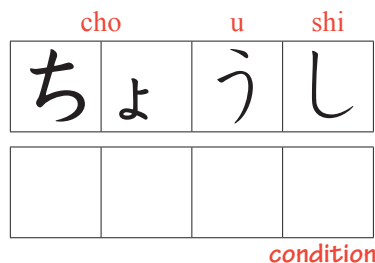
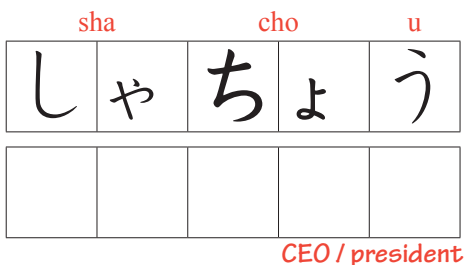
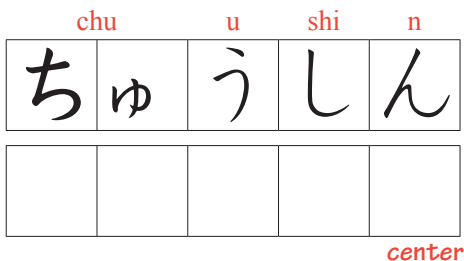
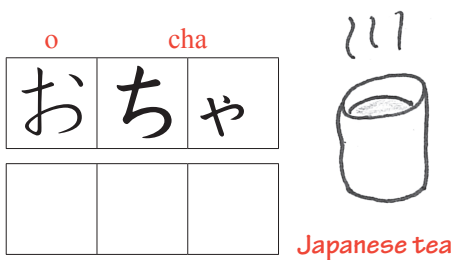
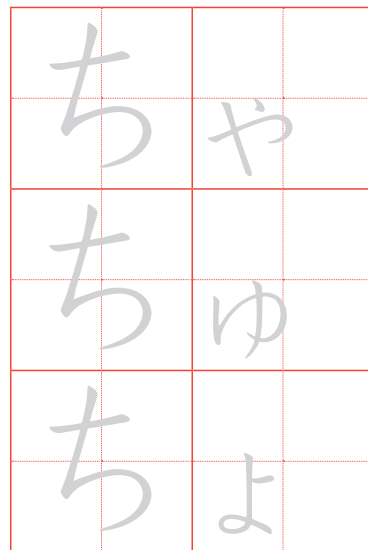
Lesson 12

ち and に can also be modified by や, ゆ, and よ.

ち *chi* や *ya* → ちや *cha*

ち *chi* ゆ *yu* → ちゆ *chu*

ち *chi* よ *yo* → ちよ *cho*



に *ni* や *ya* → にや *nya*

に *ni* ゆ *yu* → にゆ *nyu*

に *ni* よ *yo* → によ *nyo*

に	や		
に	ゆ		
に	よ		

3

<i>nya</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>nya</i>	<i>a</i>
に	や	あ	にやあ



sound of cat meowing

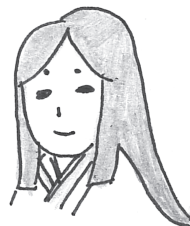
<i>gyu</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>nyu</i>	<i>u</i>
ぎ	ゆ	う	にゆう

milk

<i>nyu</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>n</i>
に	ゆ	う	いん

hospitalization

<i>nyo</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>bo</i>	<i>u</i>
に	よ	う	ぼう



my wife (originally referred to female servants in the Heian period)

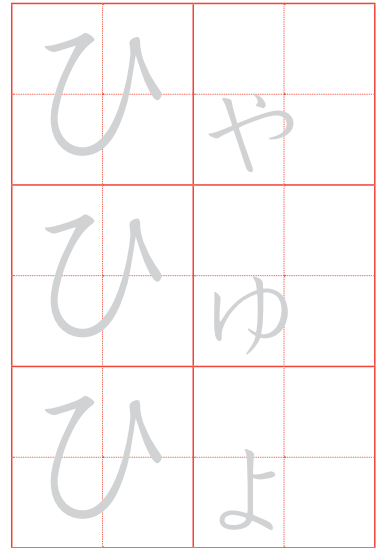
Lesson 13

Other characters which can be modified by the “Y” row are ひ and び...

ひ hi や ya → ひ や hya

ひ hi ゆ yu → ひ ゆ hyu

ひ hi よ yo → ひ よ hyo



hya ku
ひ や く

--	--	--

one hundred

ni hya ku
に ひ や く

--	--	--	--

two hundred

hyu ru hyu ru
ひ ゆ る ひ ゆ る

--	--	--	--	--	--



used to describe long and wavy shapes

hyo ro hyo ro
ひ よ ろ ひ よ ろ

--	--	--	--	--	--

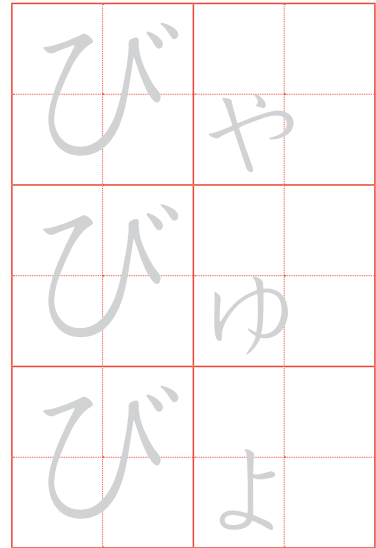


used to describe tall and skinny people

び^{bi} や^{ya} → び^{bi} や^{ya} bya

び^{bi} ゆ^{yu} → び^{bi} ゆ^{yu} byu

び^{bi} よ^{yo} → び^{bi} よ^{yo} byo



3

sa	n	bya	ku
さ	ん	び	ゃく

three hundred

bya	ku	ya
び	ゃく	や

midnight sun

byu	u	byu	u
び	ゆ	う	び



the sound of a hard wind

byo	u	ki
び	よ	う

illness / sickness

byo	u	i	n
び	よ	う	い

hospital

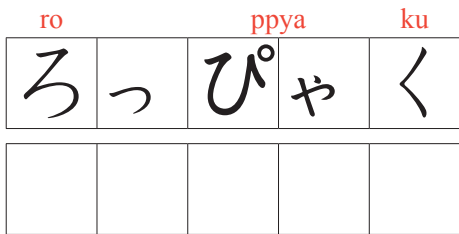
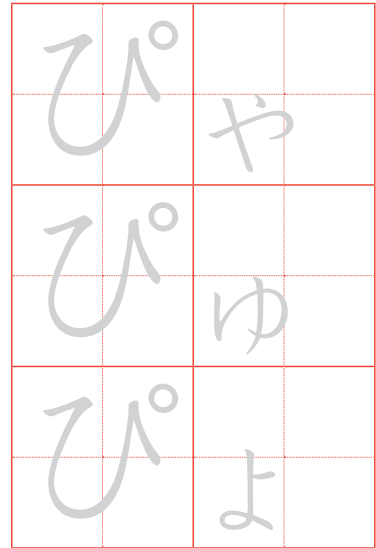
Lesson 14

...as well as ひ° (rarely) and み.

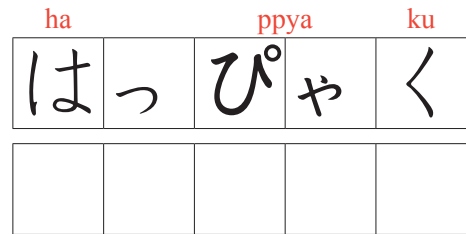
ひ° pi や ya → ひ° や pya

ひ° pi ゆ yu → ひ° ゆ pyu

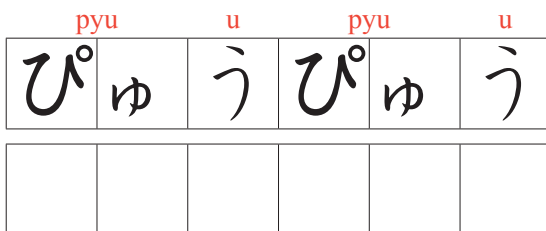
ひ° pi よ yo → ひ° よ pyo



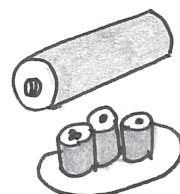
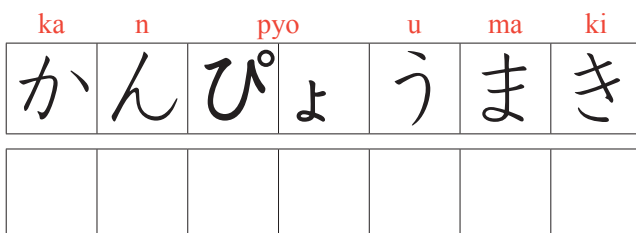
six hundred



eight hundred



the sound of a whistling wind

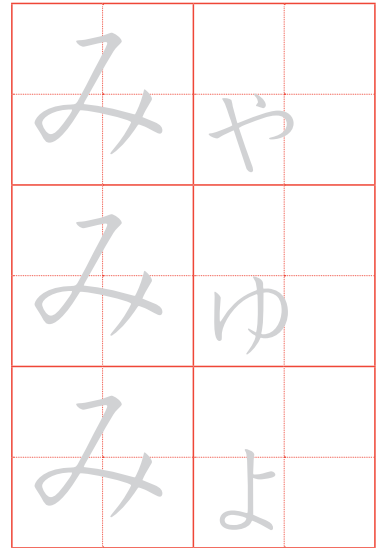


a type of sushi roll

み mi や ya → みや mya

み mi ゆ yu → みゆ myu

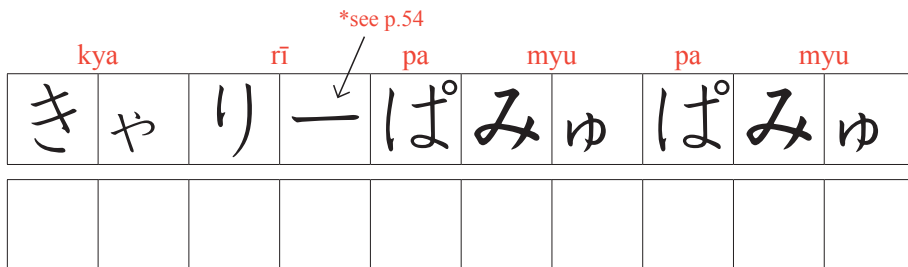
み mi よ yo → みよ myo



3



pulse



*see p.54

name of a Japanese pop star



strange / bizarre

Lesson 15



Finally, the sound of り can also be altered by a “Y” character.

り *ri* や *ya* → り や *rya*

り *ri* ゆ *yu* → り ゆ *ryu*

り *ri* よ *yo* → り よ *ryo*



り	や	く	 Mac  Misdo


abbreviation

こ	う	り	や	く	ぼ	ん

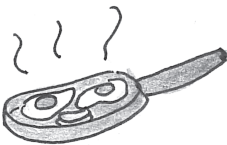
strategy guide

り	ゆ	う	が	く	せ	い

exchange/international student

り	ゆ	う	

dragon

り	よ	う	り	

cuisine

り	よ	こ	う

trip

In addition, や/ゆ/よ can be combined with つ, and the result is as you would expect: the normal “Y-modified” sound followed by a slight pause. The best way to practice this combination is by saying each sound slowly and carefully to avoid smearing the sounds together. And when writing any of these small characters by hand, make sure that they are small enough to be distinguishable from their larger versions—otherwise the result can be difficult to decipher.

ち ch + や (ya) + つ (tsu) た ta
→ ちゃった cha × tta

sha	kku	ri	
し	ゃ	っ	くり

hiccup

shu	ppa	tsu	
し	ゅ	っ	ぱつ

ten minutes

cho	tto	ma	tte
ち	ょ	っ	とまっ
			て



hyo	tto	shi	te
ひ	ょ	っ	とし
			て



Lesson 16

When う follows another character, it extends that character's vowel sound—simply hold it for a slightly longer duration. In romaji, this is typically denoted with a horizontal line over the vowel.

ふ *fu* + う *u* → ふう *fū*

ū

fū fu

ふ	う	ふ

married couple



sū ji

す	う	じ

numbers

fū se n

ふ	う	せ	ん

balloon

kyū ka

き	ゆ	う	か

vacation

gyū nyū

ぎ	ゆ	う	に	ゆ	う

milk



ō

o tō sa n
 おとうさん
 father

dō shi te
 どうして
 why

kō e n
 こうえん
 park

bō shi
 ぼうし
 hat / cap

ryō ri
 りょうり
 cooking / cuisine

ji n kō
 じんこう
 population

sō ji
 そうじ
 cleaning

ryō shi n
 りょうしん
 parent

kyū ryō
 きゅうりょう
 salary



salary

Lesson 17

「 」 かつこ

Quotation marks

“ ma tte ” to ka re wa i tta
 「ま っ て」 と か れ は い っ た 。

He said “wait.”

— ^{ちょうおん ぶ} 長音符

This horizontal line is not traditionally used in hiragana, but in recent times it has become popular in informal writing. It signifies an extended vowel sound.

e e e → ē
 え え え → え —
 oh / wow

ya tta a → ya ttā
 や っ た あ → や っ た —
 yeah! / great!

～ ^{なみ} 波ダッシユ

Often used to indicate a range (such as times or dates). This wavy line can also extend the vowel sound that precedes it, but it does so less forcefully than the straight horizontal line.

tō kyō kara ō sa ka
 と う き よ う ～ お お さ か

from Tokyo to Osaka

te ku da sa i
 ～ て く だ さ い 。

can serve as a placeholder (similar to a blank line in English)

— please.

wā i
わーい

--	--	--

yeah! / wow!

i ku zō
いくぞー

--	--	--	--

Let's go!

ya ttā
やったー

--	--	--	--

yeah! / great!



ga n ba rō
がんばろー

--	--	--	--

we can do it!

hā i
はい

--	--	--



Yes!

hā i
はい

--	--	--



Yeah...

hē
へえ〜

--	--	--



Oh really... (bored)



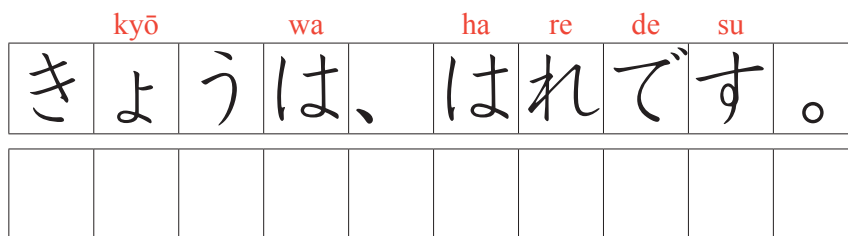
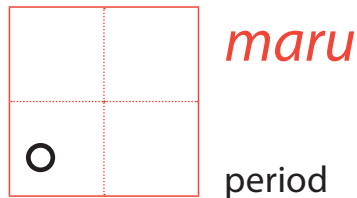
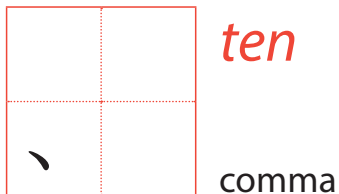
a ri ga tō
ありがとう〜

--	--	--	--



Thank you~

In Japanese, *ten* is sometimes placed after the particle that immediately follows the subject. In general, its role is the same as the English comma: to indicate a slight pause. *Maru* marks the end of a sentence.



Today is sunny.

Ten also comes after conjunctions.



It's sunny, but cold.

Chapter 4

Main Types of Hiragana Words

だい よん しょう おも つか ことば
第 4 章 主にひらがなが使われる言葉

Lesson 19

Greetings and other common set phrases are written in hiragana. Note that the は found at the end of greeting phrases is pronounced “wa” and not “ha.”

ko n ni chi wa
こ に ち は

--	--	--	--	--

Hello

※This は is pronounced “wa”
not “ha.”

ko n ba n wa
こ ン ば ん は

--	--	--	--	--

Good evening

o ha yō go za i ma su
お は よ う ご ざ い ま す

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Good morning

a ri ga tō go za i ma su
あ り が と う ご ざ い ま す

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Thank you very much

yo ro shi ku
よ ろ し く

--	--	--	--

Please treat me well



i ta da ki ma su
 いただきます

--	--	--	--	--	--

said before eating

go chi sō sa ma de shi ta
 ごちそうさまでした

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

said after eating

su mi ma se n
 すみません

--	--	--	--	--

I'm sorry (formal)

go me n na sa i
 ごめんなさい

--	--	--	--	--	--

I'm sorry (casual)



ma ta
 また

--	--

see you later

sa yō na ra
 さようなら

--	--	--	--	--

goodbye

4

Lesson 20

[Particles 1] は, が, を, へ

1

Topic

は
wa

Adjective/Noun/Verb

ねこ
猫

Neko

は
wa

かわいいです。

kawaii desu.

Cats are cute.

わたし
私

Watashi

は
wa

か
書きます。

kaki masu.

I will write (something).

As a particle, は is pronounced “wa,” not “ha.” This は marks the topic* of the sentence.

2

Subject

が
ga

Adjective/Noun/Verb

ねこ
この 猫

Kono neko

が
ga

かわいいです。

kawaii desu.

This cat is cute.

わたし
私

Watashi

が
ga

か
書きます。

kaki masu.

I'll write (it).

This particle is a subject* marker. It is used when the subject of the sentence needs to be explicitly specified from among a number of possibilities.

3

Object

を
o

Verb

ほん
本
Hon

を
o

よ
読みます。
yomi masu.

(I) read books.

を is pronounced the same as お but is only used as a particle to mark the object of the sentence. ます is a verb suffix and always appears in hiragana. (Subjects are often omitted when they are mutually understood from the context.)

4

4

Place

へ
e

Verb

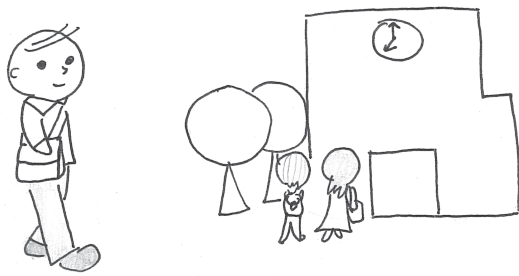
がっこう
学校
Gakkō

へ
e

い
行きます。
iki masu.

(I'll) head toward the school.

As a particle, へ is pronounced “eh.” This へ is roughly equivalent to the English *toward* or *to*.



*While an in-depth discussion of the differences between は and が is beyond the scope of the book, don't get discouraged if you struggle with using them correctly. Mastering their usage requires a lot of exposure and practice.

Lesson 21

[Particles 2] で, に, と, から, まで

1

Place

えき
駅

Eki

で

de

で

de

Verb

あ
会います。

ai masu.

(We) will meet at the station.

This particle has several uses. It marks the place where an action occurs, similar to at or in in English. で can also be used to mark the thing that is used to perform an action or task, a usage which corresponds closely to with or by.

2

Person

わたし
私

watashi

かれ
彼

kare

の

no

の

no

の

no

Noun

ほん
本

hon

かあ
お母さん

okāsan

my book

の

no

くるま
車

kuruma

his mother's car



When used between a person and a noun, の indicates possession.

3

Person

ともだち
友達

Tomodachi

ほん
本

Hon

と

to

と

to

と

to

Verb

えいが
映画

eiga

でいーぶいでいー
DVD

DVD

Noun

を

wo

を

wo

と

to

Noun

み
見ます。

mi masu.

か
買いました。

kai mashita.

(I'm) going to see a movie with my friend.

(I) bought a book and DVD.

When と connects a person and an action verb, it indicates the action is done together with that person. But when と comes between two nouns, it just means and.

4 **Time/Date** **に** / **Place** **に** **Verb**

がっ
1月 **に**
ichigatsu ni *in January*

じ
2時 **に**
ichigatsu ni *at 2 o'clock*

がっこう
学校 **に** 行きました。
Gakkō ni iki mashita. *(He) went to school.*

に can connect a place with a verb to indicate a destination. It is also used after dates and times.

5 **Date/Time/Place/Person** **から**

ちゅうごく
中国 **から** 来ました。
Chūgoku kara ki mashita. *(I) come from China.*

かようび
火曜日 **から**
kayōbi kara *from Tuesday*



から is equivalent to the English from and is used in a wide variety of situations.

6 **Place/Date/Time** **まで**

えき
駅 **まで** お願いします。
Eki made onegai shimasu. *To the station, please.*

おおさか から とうきょう **まで**
Ōsaka kara Tōkyō made *from Osaka to Tokyo*

まで means until or to and is often used in combination with から to express a range of time or distance.

Lesson 22

Most question words are written in hiragana, but 何 (なに) generally appears as kanji. だれ can also be written in kanji (誰), although hiragana is usually used for advertisements and other applications that require a softer and more casual appearance.

1 do ko do chi ra
どこ / どちら *where / which*

えき
駅はどこですか。

Eki wa do ko de su ka? *Where is the station?*

どちらからですか。

Do chi ra ka ra de su ka? *Which (place) are you from?*



※ Japanese doesn't technically have a question mark, but recently its use has become common in casual writing.

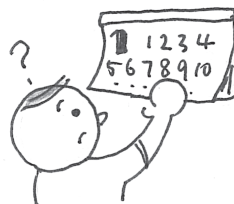
2 i tsu
いつ *when*

いつですか。

I tsu de su ka. *When is it?*

いつでもいいです。

I tsu de mo i i de su. *Anytime is fine.*



3

na n de do u shi te
 なんて / どうして

why (casual) / why (formal)

なんて^{benkyō}勉強してるの？

Na n de ben kyō shi te ru no? Why are you study?

どうして^{benkyō}勉強してるの？

Do u shi te ben kyō shi te ru no? Why are you study?



4

do u ya tte
 どうやって

how

どうやって^{tsuka}使いますか。

Do u ya tte tsuka i ma su ka? How do you use (it)?

4

5

do no ku ra i
 どのくらい

how long

どのくらいかかりますか。

Do no ku ra i ka ka ri ma su ka? How long will it take?

6

da re do na ta
 だれ / どなた

who / who (formal)

だれ^{ku}が来る？

Da re ga ku ru? Who is coming?

どなた^{de}ですか。

Do na ta de su ka? Who is it?



Lesson 23

For the most part, connecting words in Japanese are used just as they are in English. They are always written in hiragana.

1 to
A と B *and (connecting nouns)*

おとこ こ おんな こ
男の子と女の子
otoko no ko to onna no ko *boy and girl*

2 ka
A か B *or*

こ お ひ い こう ちゃ
コーヒーか紅茶
kō hī ka kō cha *coffee or tea*

3 so shi te so re ka ra
そして / それから

and (connecting sentences) / next; and then

さとう しょうゆ
砂糖をいれます。そして[それから]醤油もいれます。
Sa tō o i re ma su. So shi te / So re ka ra shō yu mo i re ma su.

Add the sugar then the soy sauce also.

4 shi ka mo
しかも *what's more; not only*

びじん すたいる
美人だ。しかも、スタイルもいい。
Bi jin da. Shi ka mo, su ta i ru mo i i.

Not only is she beautiful, she also has a good figure.



5 da ke do shi ka shi de mo
だけど / しかし / でも

although; but (casual) / but (formal) / but (casual)

ひとへん
あの人変^だけど、^す好き。

A no hito hen da ke do, su ki. *That guy is weird, but I like him.*

いっしょうけんめい
一生懸命^がんばった。しかし^[でも]、^ま負けてしまった。

I sshō ken mei ga n ba tta. Shi ka shi / De mo, ma ke te shi ma tta.

I tried my best, but I failed.

6

da ka ra na no de
だから／なので

because; so (casual) / because; so (formal)

あめ
雨^だから、^い行かない。

Ame da ka ra, i ka na i. *It's raining so I won't go.*

びょうき
病^気な^ので、^い行けません。

Byō ki na no de, i ke ma se n. *I can't go because I'm sick.*

6

to ko ro de so u i e ba
ところで／そういえば

by the way / speaking of

ところで、この話^{はなし}を^し知っていますか？

To ko ro de, ko no hanashi o shi tte ma su ka?

By the way, do you know this story?

A: 田中^{たなか}さんに^あ会いたいですね。

Ta naka sa n ni a i ta i ne. *I want to meet Tanaka.*

B: ^{ひとけっこん}そういえば、あの人結婚^{した}そうですよ。

So u i e ba, a no hito ke kkon shi ta sō de su yo.

Speaking of him, I heard he got married.

7

それにしても

in any case; even so

それにしても、^{たいへん}大変だ。

So re ni shi te mo, tai hen da.

In any case, it will be very difficult.



4

Lesson 24

Adverbs are another category of words that is always written in hiragana. And just as in English, they are used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.

1

to te mo / su go ku
とても / すごく

very (formal) / very (casual)

とてもきれいです。

To te mo ki re i de su. (It) is very beautiful.

すごくおいしい。

Su go ku o i shi i. (It) is very delicious.

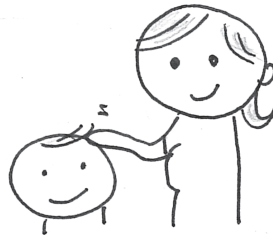
2

yo ku / a ma ri
よく / あまり

often, well / not really, not so much

よくできました！

Yo ku de ki ma shi ta! Well done!



あまり好きじゃないです。

A ma ri su ki ja na i de su. I don't like (that) so much.

3

ta ma ni / i tsu mo
 たまに / いつも

rarely / always

たまに^{びじゅつかん}美術館^いに行く。

Ta ma ni bi jutsu kan ni i ku. *I rarely go to art museums.*

いつもひまです。

I tsu mo hi ma de su. *I'm always free.*

4

4

yu kku ri / no n bi ri
 ゆっくり / のんびり

slowly / leisurely

かのじょ^{はな}
 彼女は^{はな}ゆっくり話す。

Kano jo wa yu kku ri hana su. *She speaks slowly.*

のんびり^{しごと}仕事^{しごと}してる。

No n bi ri shi goto shi te ru. *I'm working leisurely.*



Lesson 25

Ideophones modify verbs and adverbs, providing vivid descriptions related to color, texture, and many other attributes. The most well-known of these are onomatopoeia words, which represent sounds. While the English language also contains some ideophones (a dog says woof-woof, for example), they pale in comparison to the many thousands that exist in Japanese.

These words are nearly written in kana (either hiragana or katakana, depending on the stylistic goal of text).

mu shi mu shi
むしむし

humid

にほん なつ
日本の夏は、むしむしします。

Ni hon no natsu wa, mu shi mu shi shi ma su. *Japanese summers are humid.*

fu wa fu wa
ふわふわ

fluffy/floating

ふわふわのパンが好き。

Fu wa fu wa no pa n ga su ki. *I like fluffy bread.*



bu ra bu ra
ぶらぶら

strolling

まち ある
町をぶらぶらと歩いた。

Machi o bu ra bu ra to aru i ta. *I strolled around town.*

gi ri gi ri
ぎりぎり

just in time; at the last moment

やくそく じかん
約束の時間ぎりぎりに着いた。

Yaku soku no ji kan gi ri gi ri ni tsu i ta.

I arrived just in time for my appointment.



ba ku ba ku
ばくばく

eating sound

おいしくて、ばくばく食べちゃう！

O i shi ku te, ba ku ba ku ta be cha u!

It is so good, I'm gobbling it right up!

go ku go ku
ごくごく

drinking sound

あか ちゃん が ミルク を ごくごく 飲 んで ーる。
Aka cha n ga mi ru ku o go ku go ku no n de ru.

The baby is gulping down his milk.

kyo ro kyo ro
きょろきょろ

look around

きょろきょろ して、 どう した の？

Kyo ro kyo ro shi te, do u shi ta no? *Why are you looking around?*



do ta ba ta
どたばた

noisily; make noise

どたばた しない で！

Do ta ba ta shi na i de! *Don't stomp around.*

so ro so ro
そろそろ

steadily approaching (in terms of time)

そろそろ ^{しつれい} 失 礼 し ます。

So ro so ro shitsu rei shi ma su. *It's about time to leave.*

pe ra pe ra
ぺらぺら

speak fluently

にほんご
日 本 語 が ぺらぺら です ね！

Ni hon go ga pe ra pe ra de su ne! *Your Japanese is very fluent!*

no ro no ro
のろのろ

slowly; sluggishly

かめ
亀 が のろのろ ^{ある} 歩 いて いる。

Kame ga no ro no ro aru i te i ru. *The turtle is walking slowly.*

pe cha ku cha
ぺちゃくちや

to chit-chat, especially in an animated manner

おばさん たち が ぺちゃくちや ^{はな} 話 して ーる。

O ba sa n ta chi ga pe cha ku cha hana shi te ru.

Those ladies are chatting excitedly.



Chapter 5

Reading Exercises and
the Vertical Style

だいごしょう 読む練習 ・ たてが れんしゅう
第5章 読む練習 ・ 縦書きの練習

Reading Exercise

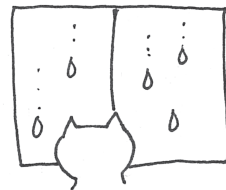
わたし にほんじん
私 は **日本人** です。

Furigana
(for pronunciation)

These are kanji characters.

Read the following sentences.

1 あした あめ
明日は雨です。



2 きのう は
昨日は晴れました。

3 わたし げんき
私は元気です。



Romaji / English translation

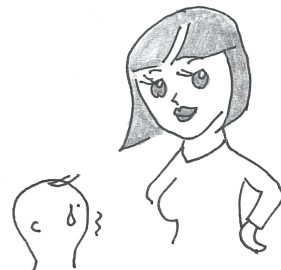
- 1 Ashita wa ame desu. / It will rain tomorrow.
- 2 Kinō wa hare deshita. / Yesterday was sunny.
- 3 Watashi wa genki desu. / I'm feeling fine.

4 さくら
桜はきれいですね。

5 ふじさん たか
富士山は高いですか。

6 ぼく だいがくせい
僕は大学生です。

7 かのじょ
彼女はかわいいけど、
こわいです。



8 なっとう
納豆はねばねばだから、
す
好きじゃないです。

5

4 Sakura wa kirei desu ne. / Cherry blossoms are beautiful.

5 Fujisan wa takai desu ka? / Is Mt. Fuji tall?

6 Boku wa daigakusei desu. / I'm a college student.

7 Kanojo wa kawaii kedo, kowai desu. / My girlfriend is cute but scary.

8 Nattō wa nebaneba dakara, suki janai desu / I don't like natto because it's gooey.

Reading Exercise

Read the following sentences.

1 や ^{にく} 焼き肉を食べました。

2 ぎゅうにゅう ^の 牛乳を飲みました。

3 ほん ^よ 本を読みますか。

4 えいが ^み 映画を見るつもりです。

5 にちようび ^{あさ} 日曜日の朝、^{うみ} 海へ^い行きました。



Romaji / English translation

- 1 Yakiniku o tabe mashita. / I ate some yakiniku. (Japanese B.B.Q)
- 2 Gyūnyū o nomimashita. / I drank some milk.
- 3 Hon o yomi masu ka? / Do you read books?
- 4 Eiga o miru tsumori desu. / I'm going to see a movie.
- 5 Nichiyōbi no asa, umi e iki mashita. / Sunday morning, I went to the sea.

6 部屋へ入^{はい}ってください。



7 私^{わたし}は東京^{とうきょう}に住^すんでいます。

8 姉^{あね}は京都^{きょうと}で働^{はたら}いています。

9 かわいい女^{おんな}の子^こを^み見た。



10 一緒^{いっしょ}に音楽^{おんがく}を^き聞こう。



11 学校^{がっこう}で日本語^{にほんご}を勉強^{べんきょう}しています。

5

6 Heya e haitte kudasai. / Please come in my room.

7 Watashi wa Tōkyō ni sunde imasu. / I live in Tokyo.

8 Ane wa Kyōto de hataraitte imasu. / My elder sister works in Kyoto.

9 Kawaii onnanoko o mita. / I saw a cute girl.

10 Issho ni ongaku o kikou. / Let's listen to music together.

11 Gakkō de nihongo o benkyō shite imasu. / I'm studying Japanese at school.

Reading Exercise

Katakana is used for Western words and so it often uses the horizontal line. This line denotes an extended vowel sound. (See p. 54)

す う ぱ あ
ス ー パ ー

sū

pā

super

Read the following sentences.

1 た く し い の
タクシーに乗った。



2 け え き こ お ひ い
ケーキとコーヒーはいかがですか。



Romaji / English translation

1 Takushī ni notta. / I took a taxi.

2 Kēki to kōhī wa ikaga desu ka? / Would you like some cake and coffee?

3 すぷうん ふおおく
スプーンとフォークをください。



4 はんばあがあ た
ハンバーガーが食^たべたい。

5 とう きゃっちぼおる
お父さんとキャッチボールをした。



6 いんど い ぞう
インドに行って、ゾウにのった。

-
- 3 Spūn to fōku o kudasai. / A spoon and fork, please.
 - 4 Hanbāgā ga tabetai. / I want to eat a hamburger.
 - 5 Otōsan to kyatchi bōru o shita. / I played catch with my dad.
 - 6 Indo ni itte, zō ni notta. / I went to India and rode an elephant.

Reading Exercise

Read the following sentences.

A きょう きん び しごと あと かれ
今日は金曜日。仕事の後、彼と
おしゃれなバーに行く予定。
たの
楽しみ～。わくわく。
ざんぎょう
残業がないといいな。



B しごと やす きょう
やっと仕事が休み! 今日はどこに
も行かないで家で一日中ゲーム
をしよう。



Romaji / English translation

A Kyō wa kinyōbi. Shigoto no ato, kare to oshare na bā ni iku yotei. Tanoshimi.
Waku waku. Zangyō ga nai to ii na.

Today is Friday. I'm going to a fancy bar with my boyfriend after work. Exciting! I hope I won't have to work overtime.

B Yatto shigoto ga yasumi! Kyō wa doko ni mo ikanaide uchi de ichinichijū gēmu o shiyō.

Finally I got a day off. I'll stay home and play video games all day!

C ^{まいあさろくじ} ^お ^{いぬ} ^{さんぽ}
 毎朝6時に起きて、犬の散歩をし
 ている。いつもの^こ^お^すコースでかわい
^{おんな} ^こ ^{きのう}
 い女の子に会う。昨日、「おはよう
 ございます」と^{かのじよ} ^い彼女が言った。は
 じめてだった。どきどきした。




5


C Maiasa rokuji ni okite, inu no sanpo o shiteiru. Itsumo no kōsu de kawaii onnanoko ni au. Kinou, "ohayō gozaimasu" to kanojo ga itta. Hajimete datta. Dokidoki shita.

I wake up at six every morning and walk my dog. On my usual route, I always run into this cute girl. Yesterday she said "Good morning" to me for the first time. I was nervous.

Reading Exercise

Traditional Japanese is written vertically from right to left. This style is almost always used for calligraphy, literature, newspapers, and formal letters (though not business correspondence). Due to their nature, Web sites display Japanese text in the same directions as English.

		3			2			1
	お	o		あ	a		ど	do
	め	me		け	ke		う	u
	で	de		ま	ma		い	i
	と	to		し	shi		た	ta
	う	u		て	te		し	shi
	ご	go					ま	ma
	ざ	za					し	shi
	い	i					て	te
	ま	ma						
	す	su						



English translation

- 1** thank you **2** you're welcome **3** Happy New Year

Vertical Writing Style



5

	し	sho
	よ	
	う	u
	ゆ	yu
	は	wa
	し	sho
	よ	
	っ	ppa
	ぱ	
	い	i
	。	

4

	ち	cho
	よ	
	っ	tto
	と	
	ま	ma
	っ	tte
	て	
	く	ku
	だ	da
	さ	sa
	い	i
	。	

3

	い	i
	ら	ra
	っ	
	し	ssha
	や	
	い	i
	ま	ma
	せ	se
	。	

1

	す	su
	っ	ppa
	ぱ	
	い	i

2

	び	byo
	よ	
	う	u
	い	i
	ん	n

5

- 1 sour 2 hospital 3 Welcome! 4 Just a moment.
5 Soy sauce is salty.

Reading Exercise

Let's see how well you can read the following excerpt from a fairy tale.

むかしむかし、あるところに、

おじいさんとおばあさんがいま

した。おばあさんは言いました。

「川かわにせんとくに行いってきます。」



Romaji / English translation

Mukashi mukashi, aru tokoro ni, ojisan to obāsan ga imashita. Obāsan wa iimashita. "Kawa ni sentaku ni itte kimasu."

Long ago, there lived an old man and woman. One day, the old woman said, "I'm going to the river to do laundry."

Stories and Correspondence

Here is a simple thank-you letter written in polite form.

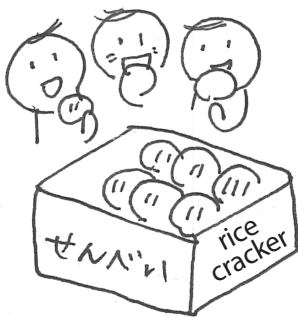
先日は、お菓子をありがとうございます

ございました。家族でおいしく

いただきました。

またこちらに来たら、ぜひお

寄り下さい。



Senjitsu wa, okashi o arigatō gozaimashita. Kazoku de oishiku itadaki mashita.
Mata kochira ni kitara, zehi o-yori kudasai.

Thank you for the snacks the other day. The whole family enjoyed eating them very much. Next time you are in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by and see us.

Reading Exercise

See how well you do at reading this famous poem by Miyazawa Kenji and the two haiku that follow it. These haiku in particular are well-known abroad.

あめにも負けず
かぜにも負けず
ゆきにも夏の暑さにも負けぬ
じょうぶな体を持ち
よく欲はなく
けっしておこらず
いつもしずかに笑っている
(中略)
そんな人に私になりたい

みやざわ けんじ
宮沢 賢治



— Miyazawa Kenji

Unyielding to the rain,
unyielding to the wind
and to the snow and heat of summer.
Maintaining a healthy body

and casting off desire,
avoiding anger always
and forever smiling softly.
(omitted)
I want to be such a person.

ふるいけ
古池や

かわずと
蛙飛び込む

みず
水の音

めいげつ
名月を

とつてくれろと

な
泣く子かな

5

まつお
松尾芭蕉

こばやし
小林一茶



harvest moon
"fetch it for me"
cries the child

— Kobayashi Issa

old pond
a frog leaps in
splash!

— Matsuo Bashō

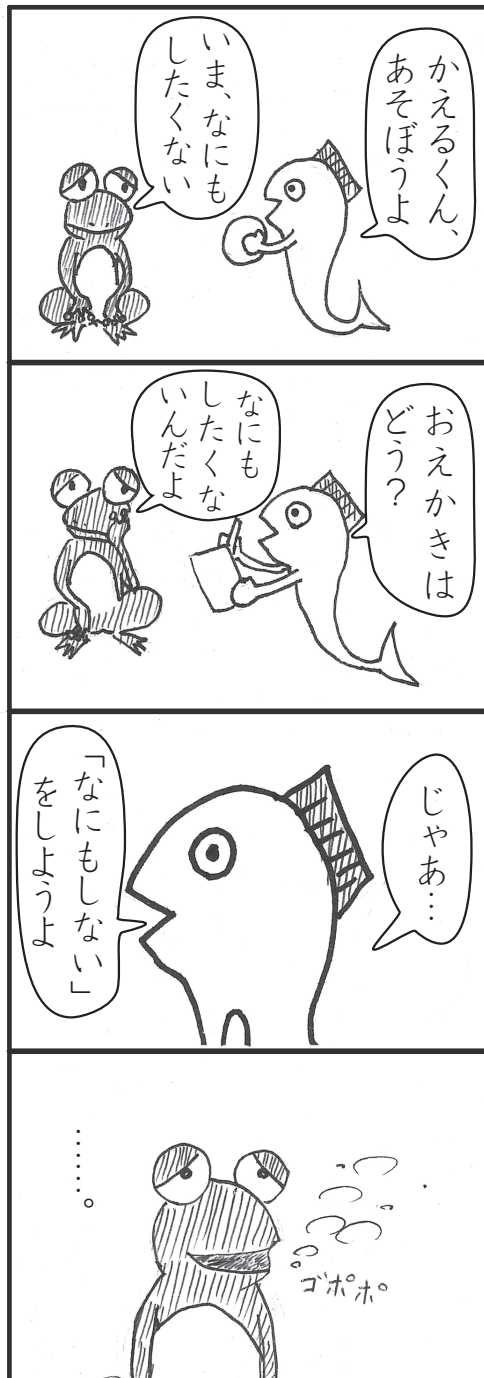
Reading Exercise

Manga is written vertically (although the frames themselves are actually ordered from right to left successively on a given page). Here is a short manga known as a *yon-koma manga* or “four-frame manga.”



I am an alien.

huh



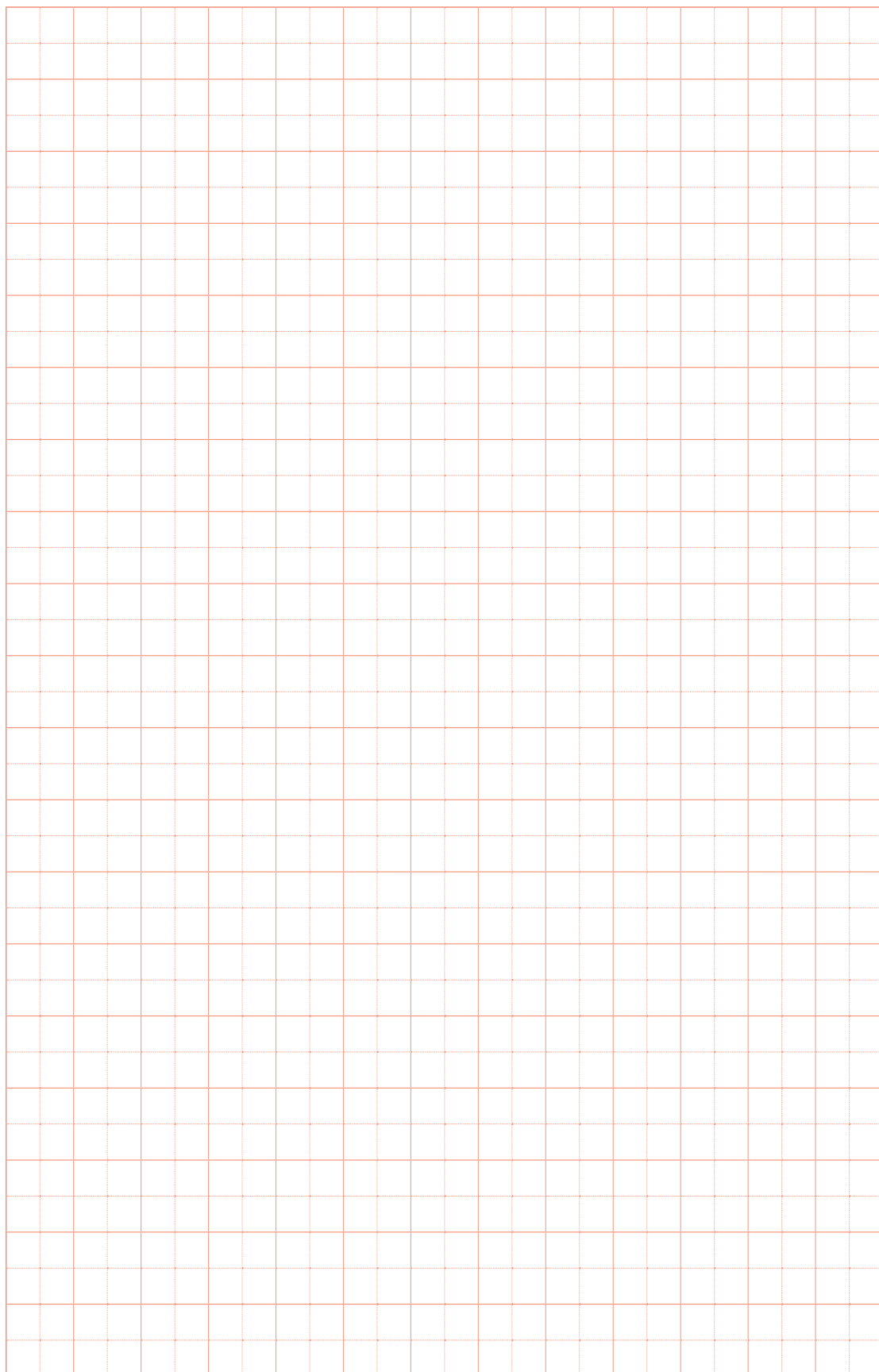
Fish: Hey frog, let's play!
 Frog: I don't want to do anything now.

Fish: How about drawing?
 Frog: I really don't want to do anything.

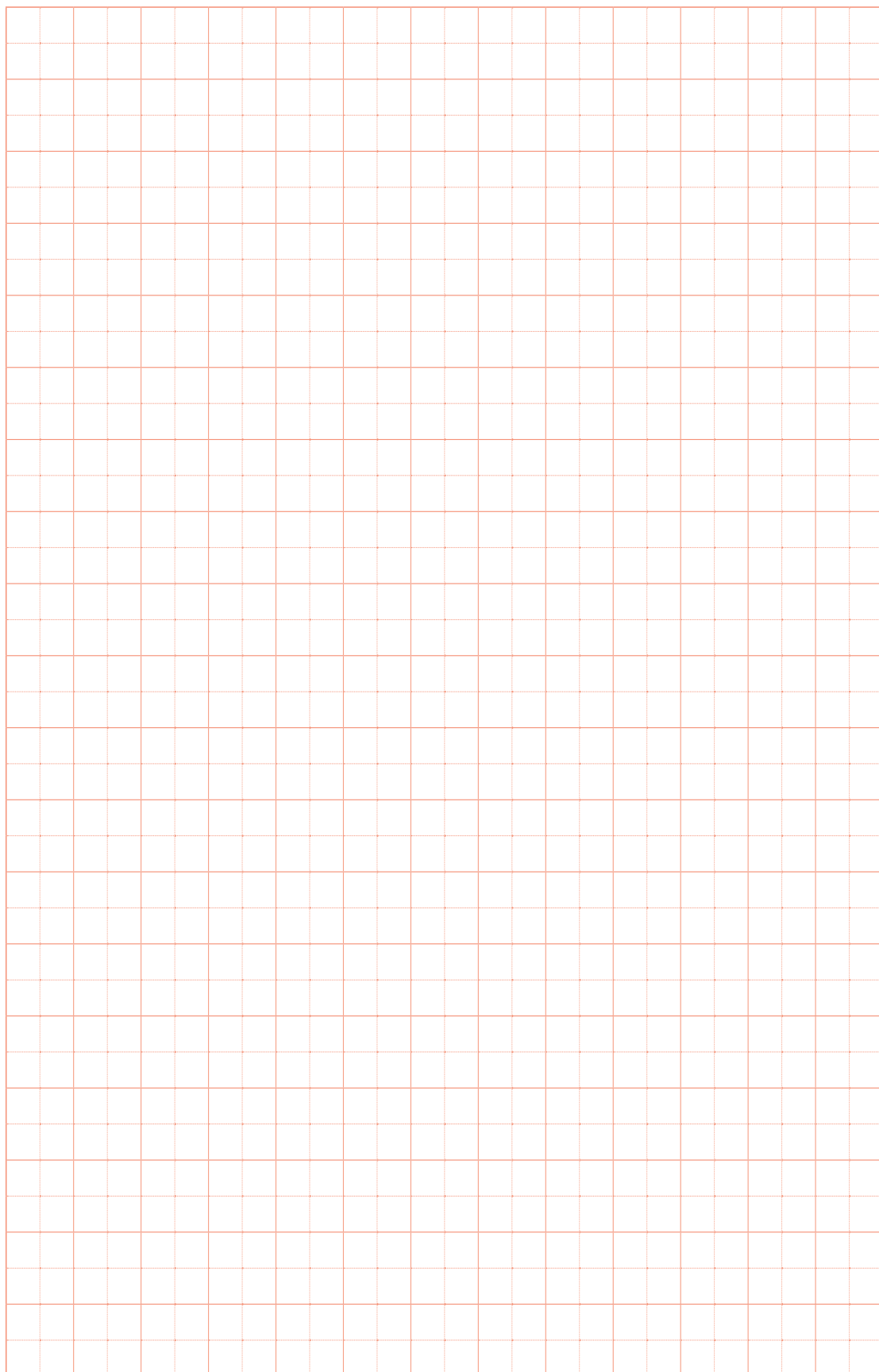
Fish: Okay, then, let's play "do nothing."

glug-glug

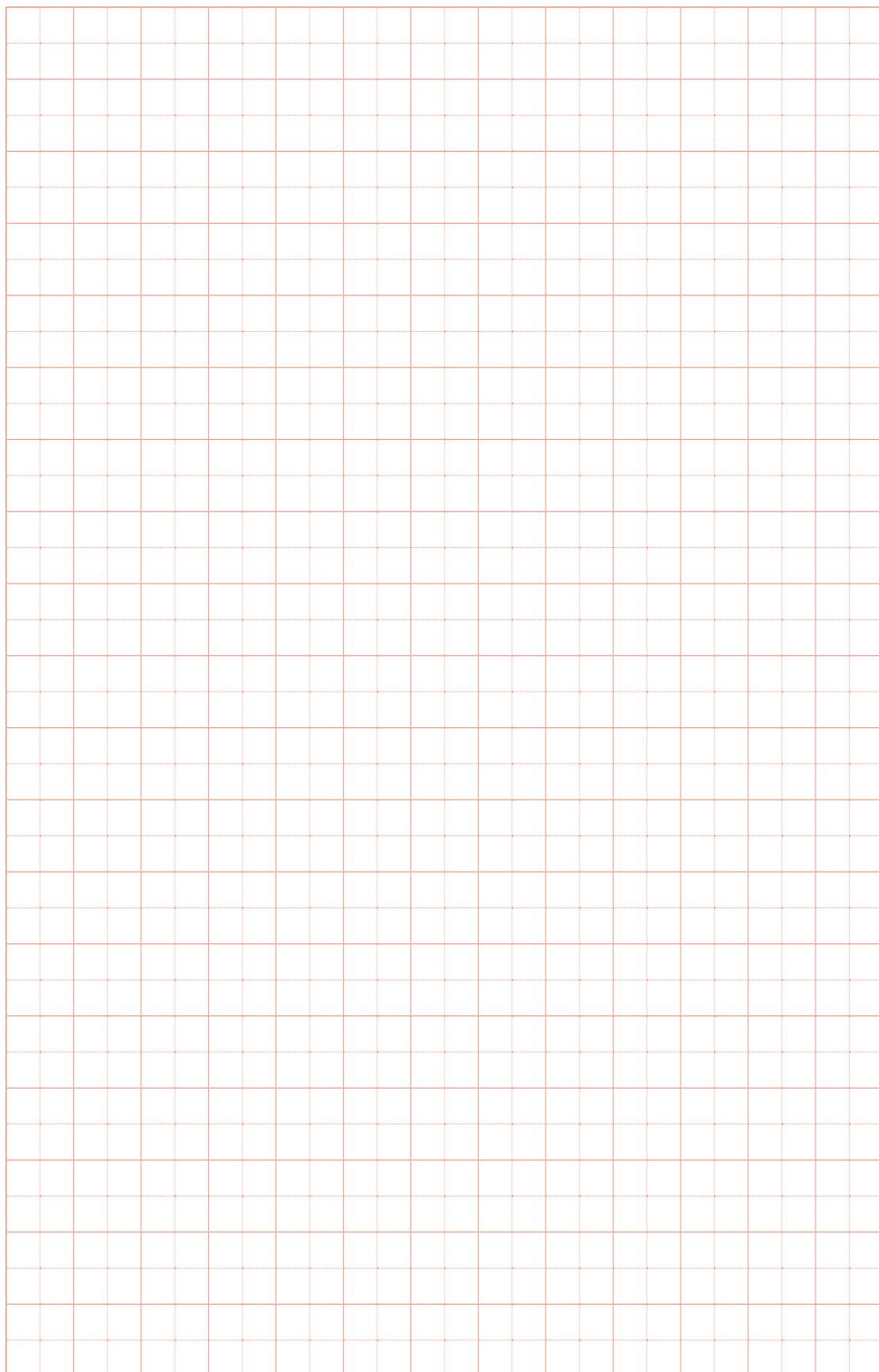












EASY AND FUN
HIRAGANA

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