

Evan's Easy Japanese

Hiragana: A - KO

In this lesson I showed everyone how to write some of the Japanese "alphabet". There are technically 4 "alphabets" in Japanese, but really only 2.

Hiragana, which is the major "alphabet";

Katakana, which is the "alphabet" used to write words borrowed from other languages;

Kanji, which are borrowed characters from Chinese; and

Romaji, which are just the English letters that are used to write Japanese words.

We'll be using Hiragana, Katakana, and Romaji a lot. We'll try to work into Kanji, but that won't be for a while.

Here are some examples of Hiragana and Romaji (I'm ignoring Katakana for now because we haven't learned it yet):

あ あい かく かき あけ おおきい えく

These are all Hiragana. They are all Hiragana characters that I went over in the lesson.

Here is how we would write them in Romaji:

A AI KAKU KAKI AKE OOKII EKU

Hopefully this made sense. Practice pronouncing these words out loud. Yes, yes, yes. Talking to yourself out loud is weird, and other people might think that you are crazy. But who cares? You want to learn Japanese, right? Well, read all the Hiragana on this page out loud to your dog, cat, goldfish, pillow, or whatever. If you aren't sure how to pronounce them, check out the video and listen to how I pronounce the characters.

(1) Turn these Hiragana into Romaji (and read them out loud):

あい あおい あかい いか いく おこ いき
かく かい くい こい おか いかい こうこう

(2) Turn these Romaji into Hiragana (and read them out loud):

IKU AI KEO KOU UKI UKOKI IKI
EKI E AU AO KAI IKIOKA KAOKU

In both sections, some of those were real words. Don't worry what they mean or which ones. Just know that you're actually writing Japanese.

1) AI; AOI; AKAI; IKA; IKU; OKO; IKI;
KAKU; KAI; KUI; KOI; OKA; IAKE; KOUKOU

2) いく あい けお こう うき うこぎ いき えき え あう あお かい いきおか かおく

Evan's Easy Japanese
Hiragana: Sa - To

In this lesson we learned some more hiragana. The S row and the T row.

さ し す せ そ た ち つ て と
Sa Shi Su Se So Ta Chi Tsu Te To

Remember that we're writing the *pronunciation* of the characters. Thus, Shi, Chi and Tsu don't follow the normal "one consonant, one vowel" pattern.

(1) Turn these hiragana words into romaji!

あつい	うそ	そう	たつ	たて	そと	あそう
きさて	くち	あそこ	すし	せいと	てつたう	いくつ
えと	とおい	けつ	かいた	けえぎ	たいせつ	しお

(2) Turn this romaji gibberish into hiragana!

SETSUTO	TAKUI	TOKUTSU	TAKAI	USHICHI	OSAKA	TSUSA
UTSUSU	TOKIO	ETASE	SEATO	SEITO	KEIKI	CHIITO
AICHI	ASUKI	OTATSU	SHIKIKE	SASOTO	AKISA	TETSUO

I could just keep giving you more and more homework, but instead of that, go to wikipedia.com, and click on the icon that says 日本語. Just start clicking on sites randomly and search for characters you recognize. You can look them up on the hiragana chart that's on my website.

When you start looking through the characters on wikipedia, you're going to start saying "Holy moly! I don't recognize any of them!!" Don't worry! It's OK! You won't know a lot of them for a long time. But it's worth looking at real Japanese writing.

On Wikipedia, the text reads like English: top left to bottom right. Some Japanese texts do this, and some don't.

Answers to the above questions:

(1) (row 1) ATSUI, USO, SOU, TATSU, TATE, SOTO, ASOU (Row 2) KISATE, KUCHI, ASOKO, SUSHI, SEITO, TETSUTAU, IKUTSU (Row 3) ETO, TOOI, KETSU, KAITA, KEEKI, TAISETSU, SHIO

(2) (Row 1) せつと、たくい、とくつ、たかい、うしち、おさか、つさ (Row 2) うつす、ときお、えたせ、せあと、せいと、けいぎ、ちいと (Row 3) あいち、あすき、おたつ、しきけ、さそと、あきさ、てつお

Evan's Easy Japanese Hiragana Na - Ho

In this lesson we discussed the hiragana characters in the N row and the H row.

な に ぬ ね の
Na Ni Nu Ne No

は ひ ふ へ ほ
Ha Hi Fu He Ho

Remember the strange pronunciation of the "FU" character. It is not an actual F sound, but rather a light F&H mix.

(1) Turn these words into Romaji! (some of them are made up. Try copy-pasting into google to find out which)

なに ほね たぬき ねすみ あに おにいさ おかね
ふしき はたち あは くさい への のさき さきこ
ひなの はつか ふかい けしき つちほこ はこす はふつ
ちつぬ ふけほ ぬねき なおき にこにこ うえひほ ふうき

(2) Turn these into Hiragana! (I made them all up except a few)

KEHO TSUCHIHOKO HOTETSU KINUTA NESENA SUSHI KAOKE
MEFUHO SOSESHI SHIHIKI NISHINO SEFUKU HEKITO UENIKI
CHISAFU TOKIFUHO SHICHITSU HANUHE NANIFU HOFUNO NEHEKE
OKASHISO SOUTESUNE AKASATANA HICHINIKIKUUKOU KECHINA HOKIFU

Quite a few of the words above are just completely made up gibberish. This is simply because I'm too lazy to find the words that would suit my purpose. Going through a dictionary to find this many words that don't use characters you haven't learned yet is quite the nuisance.

Answers:

(1) (Row 1) NANI, HONE, TANUKI, NESUMI, ANI, ONIISA, OKANE (Row 2) FUSHIKI, HATACHI, AHA, KUSAI, HENO, NOSAKI, SAKIKO (Row 3) HINANO, HATSUKA, FUKAI, KESHIKI, TSUCHIHOKO, HAKOSU, HAFUTSU (Row 4) CHITSUNU, FUKUHO, NUNEKI, NAOKI, NIKONIKO, UEHIHO, FUIKI

(2) (Row 1) けほ、つちほこ、ほてつ、きぬた、ねせな、すし、かおけ (Row 2) ねふほ、そせし、しひき、にしひの、せふく、へきと、うえにき (Row 3) ちさふ、ときふほ、しちつ、はぬへ、なにふ、ほふの、ねへけ (Row 4) おかしそ、そうてすね、あかさたな、ひちにき、くこう、けちな、ほきふ

Evan's Easy Japanese Hiragana Ma - Yo

In this lesson we learned the characters Ma through Yo. These rows are the 3rd and 4th rows from the left/bottom.

ま	み	む	め	も
Ma	Mi	Mu	Me	Mo
や		ゆ		よ
Ya		Yu		Yo

Remember that the Y-row only has three characters. Once again, it used to have more, however Ye and Yi were dropped at some point.

(1) Turn these words into Romaji!

まきました	むかい	すみませ	よし	やさしい	ゆうめいな	まきの	
よみまして	せいふ	すもう	きむち	もしかして	もくよう	とけい	
たかさき	すいまして	みえませ	いぬ	もしもし	ゆめ	ゆき	
しもむし	やさしくしておおきく			あたまいい	やま	のみたい	あとむ

(2) Turn these into Hiragana! (These are pretty much gibberish again)

MUSHITO	ONIKUMA	YUKIMA	MASHITSU	MICHIYA	OTONAKI	HANA
YUMUME	MINASOTA	OHAIO	YOUKOSO	OMINEMA	YAMIMUYO	YOYU
HISUTO	SUKOU	SUKIYAMA	YOMUNA	OSUSHI	OKANE	MEMO
YUTAKA	OHASHI	AKIYAMA	ISHIMA	YAMAMOTO	YAMATO	HAE

Answers!

(1) (Row 1) MAKIMASHITA, MUKAI, SUMIMASE, YOSHI, YASASHII, YUUMEINA, MAKINO
(Row 2) YOMIMASHITE, SEIFU, SUMOU, KIMUCHI, MOSHIKASHITE, MOKUYOU, TOKEI, (Row 3) TAKASAKI,
SUIIMASHITA, MIEMASE, INU, MOSHIMOSHI, YUME, YUKI, (Row 4) SHIMOMUSHI, YASASHIKUSHITE, OOKIKU,
ATAMAI, YAMA, NOMITAI, ATOMU

(2) (Row 1) むしと、おにくま、ゆきま、ましつ、みちや、おとなき、はな (Row 2) ゆむめ、みなそた、
おはいお、ようこそ、おみねま、やみむよ、よゆ、(Row 3) ひすと、すこう、すぎやま、よむな、おすし、
おかね、めも (Row 4) ゆたか、おはし、あきやま、いしま、やまもと、やまと、はえ

Evan's Easy Japanese Hiragana Ra - N

This is the last of the Hiragana chart! Yay! There was once a WI, WU, and a WE, but they aren't used any more..

ら	り	る	れ	ろ	わ	を	ん
RA	RI	RU	RE	RO	WA	(w)O	N

を

The “(w)O” is pronounced like a normal お, however it is different because it is only used as a “particle”. Particles will be explained later, but to make things simple, を is never used as **part** of a word, only after a word. Thus, some of the practice below will be sentences. When writing this character in Romaji, it is perfectly acceptable to just write “O”.

ん

Be careful when reading the ん character. It is written in Romaji as nothing more than an “N”. If a vowel sound follows the letter “N”, then you are probably looking at a character in the NA NI NU NE NO row.

(1) Write these in Romaji!

むしをたべます けんをつかいましたこのひとをころす くまをくいます しりですか

しるの しろをつくります おおかみおとこをかみます とらにくわれた ねわれ れねわ

りくと くりすます とりにく わたしのなまえ そんなこと くすりをのんた

れきしをならう ろわんた りすをおいかける ろばをのる ごろくしちはち

(2) Change these guys into Hiragana!

FUMU NIHON WO KUWAREMASHITA SHIRITSU WAN WAN RUSHINO

MICHI WO IKIMASU TSUMA TO KENKA SHIMASHITA KURUMA WO KUREMASHITA

WATASHI NO ASHI ISU TO KAMI WO TORIMASU MUKASHI NI SAMURAI IMASHITA

Answers

(1)

(Row 1) MUSHI WO TABEMASU, KEN O TSUKAIMASHITA, KONO HITO O KOROSU, KUMA O KUIMASU, SHIRIMASUKA (Row 2) SHIRUNO, SHIRO O TSUKURIMASU, OOKAMIOTOKO O KAMIMASU, TORA NI KUWARETA, NEWARE, RENEWA (Row 3) RIKUTO, KURISUMASU, TORINIKU, WATASHI NO NAMAЕ, SONNA KOTO, KUSURI O NONTA (Row 4) REKISHI O NARAU, ROWANTA, RISU O OIKAKERU, ROBA WO NORU, GO ROKU SHICHI HACHI.

(2)

(Row 1) ふむ、にほんをくわれました、しりつ、わんわん、るしの

(Row 2) みちをいきます、つまとけんかしました、くるまをくれました

(Row 3) わたしのあし、いすとかみをとります、むかしにさむらいいました

Evan's Easy Japanese Hiragana Ten-Tens

In this lesson we discussed what are called "ten-tens", the little marks to the top-right of the characters. They change the consonant sound of the characters.

が き く げ ご	ざ じ ず ぜ ぞ	だ ぢ づ で ど
GA GI GU GE GO	ZA JI ZU ZE ZO	DA DI TZU DE DO
ば び ぶ べ ぼ	ぱ ぴ ぷ ぺ ぽ	
BA BI BU BE BO	PA PI PU PE PO	

(1) Turn these into Romaji!

がきが いや です どちらに しますか しんぶんを よんだ にわが きれい です
ぶしどう まぐろが みずを のんで いたくじに だろぼうが きた がいこつを のぼる
いそいで つづく そうびが かいたい です ぎんで かいました さいころを ふる
じゆうに どうぞ ごきぶりが ぶつかりました じさつした ぼくし どういたしまして

(2) Turn this gibberish into Hiragana!

JIBOGATZU DOUDEN BAPIKAGU ZABOPI DATZUJI SHICHIJINI
BUKOUKUKOU GAZUPOBE DADEOBABIO OKIGISHIJI PABEPOGU
BASUDEI ZUTZUSUTSU BEGUBIPODA UANPAIYAA JIDEO BIDEO

Answers:

(1) (Row 1) GAKI GA IYA DESU, DOCHIRA NI SHIMASU KA, SHINBUN O YONDA, NIWA GA KIREI DESU
(Row 2) BUSHIDOU, MAGURO GA MIZU O NONDEITA, KUJI NI DOROBOW GA KITA, GAIKOTSU O NOBORU
(Row 3) ISOIDE TSUTZUKU, SOUBI GA KAITAI DESU, GIN DE KAIMASHITA, SAIKORO O FURU
(Row 4) JIYUU NI DOUZO, GOKIBURI GA BUTSUKARIMASHITA, JISATSU SHITA BOKUSHI, DOUITASHIMASHITE

(2) (Row 1) じぼがづ、どうでん、ばびかぐ、ざぼび、だづじ、しちじに
(Row 2) ぶこうくこう、がずぼべ、だでおばびお、おきぎしじ、ぱべぼぐ
(Row 3) ばすでい、ずづすつ、べぐびぼだ、うあんぱいやあ、じでお、びでお

Evan's Easy Japanese Hiragana Compounds

With this lesson, you should be fully prepared to write *any* native Japanese word in Hiragana. You have learned how to “double consonant”; how to make the Y-row characters flow from other consonants; how to properly elongate the “O” sounds in Hiragana; and you should have learned that, the only way to double an “N” is to add ん in front of it. Also, one does not use a small “tsu” to double up N, M, R, Y, or W sounds .

Now I am free to write ANY Japanese words I want to! It was such a pain in the bottom to filter words that you hadn't learned to write yet! Here we go.

(1) Turn these into Romaji!

ざっし を よみましよう がっこう の しゃしん を みたかった つうかきようきゅう が ふえている
きよだい なくも が こうげき しています がいこつ から にげろ きゃあ こわい にゃん いらっしやいませ
くれよん しんちゃん ゆみ を ねらって うちましよう かみ から もらった の です しゃちょう っ て どんな ひと
くったくった のうみん こんな ところ で ねよう か ここ が こうこう です おかあさん

(2) Turn these into Hiragana!

EIGA WO MI NI IKOU HIDOI YATSU DESU NE ASHI GA ITAI FUTTA SAIKORO NO GOUKEI
CHIRYOKU IKUTSU TAIKYUURYOKU GA TAKAI NIJYUUMEN NO SAIKORO WO FUTTE MITE
SYOURYOU GA BIKKURI SHITA WASHYA GA ERAI NO JYAA IPPAI NARATTA
HEE SOU DESU KA SORYA IKENAI NO DA NYUUSU INTABYUU DAIDOKORO

Answers!

(1)

Row 1: ZASSHI O YOMIMASHYOU, GAKKOU NO SHYASHIN O MITAKATTA, TSUUKAKYOUKYUU GA FUETEIRU

Row 2: KYODAI NA KUMO GA KOUGEKISHITE IMASU, GAIKOTSU KARA NIGERO, KYAA KOWAI, NYAN, IRASSHYAIMASE

Row 3: KUREYON SHINCHYAN, YUMI O NERATTE UCHIMASHYOU, KAMI KARA MORATTA NO DESU, SHYACHYOUTTE DONNA HITO

Row 4: KUTTA KUTTA, NOUMIN, KONNA TOKORO DE NEYOU KA, KOKO GA KOUKOU DESU, OKAASAN

(2)

Row 1: えいがをみにいこう、ひどいやつですね、あしがいたい、ふったさいころのごうけい

Row 2: ちりよくいくつ、たいきゅうりよくがたかい、にじゅうめんのさいころをふってみて

Row 3: しょうりょうがびつくりした、わしゃがえらいのじゃあ、いっぱいならった

Row 4: へえそうですか、そりやいけないのだ、にゅうすいんたびゅう、だいどころ