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The Japanese language has three types of characters: Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji. Hiragana and Katakana are phonetic symbols, each representing one syllabary For the Unicode block, see Hiragana (Unicode block). Hiragana平仮名ひらが
$\tilde{L}$Script type Syllabary Periodc. 800 - presentDirectionVertical right-to-left, left-to-right LanguagesJapanese, Hachijō and the Ryukyuan languagesRelated scriptSeal scriptClerical scriptRegular script (kanji)Man'yōganaHiraganaSister systemsKatakana, HentaiganaISO 15924ISO 15924Hira (410),
 Hiragana Unicode Unicode alias Hiragana Unicode range Hiragana: U+3040-U+309FK and Extended-B: U+1AFF0-U+1B12FS and Extended-A: U+1B100-U+1B16F This article contains phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For an
introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA. For the distinction between [ ], / and ( ), see IPA § Brackets and transcription delimiters. Japanese writing Components Kanji Stroke order Radicals Jōyō kanji Jinmeiyō kanji Hyōgai kanji Stroke order Radicals Jōyō kanji Jinmeiyō kanji Hyōgai kanji Hyōgai
 Japanese punctuation Iteration mark Uses Syllabograms Furigana Okurigana Braille Transliteration Rōmaji Hepburn Kunrei-shiki / ISO 3602 Nihon-shiki JSL Wāpuro (keyboard input) Cyrillization Polivanov system vte Hiragana (平仮名, ひらがな; IPA: [çiɾaga¹na, çiɾagana(¹)]) is a Japanese syllabary, part of the Japanese writing system, along with
 katakana as well as kanji. It is a phonetic lettering system. The word hiragana means "common" or "plain" kana (originally also "easy", as contrasted with kanji).[1][2][3] Hiragana and katakana are both kana systems. With few exceptions, each mora in the Japanese language is represented by one character (or one digraph) in each system. This may be
a vowel such as /a/ (hiragana あ); a consonant followed by a vowel such as /ka/ (か); or /N/ (ん), a nasal sonorant which, depending on the context and dialect, sounds either like English m, n or ng ([ŋ]) when syllable-final or like the nasal vowels of French, Portuguese or Polish.[citation needed] Because the characters of the kana do not represent single
consonants (except in the case of the aforementioned h), the kana are referred to as syllabic symbols and not alphabetic letters.[4] Hiragana is used to write okurigana (kana suffixes following a kanji root, for example to inflect verbs and adjectives), various grammatical and function words including particles, and miscellaneous other native words for
which there are no kanji or whose kanji form is obscure or too formal for the writing purpose. [5] Words that do have common kanji renditions may also sometimes be written instead in hiragana, according to an individual author's preference, for example to impart an informal feel. Hiragana is also used to write furigana, a reading aid that shows the
pronunciation of kanji characters. There are two main systems of ordering hiragana: the old-fashioned iroha ordering and the more prevalent gojuon ordering. Basic hiragana characters a i u e o Ø あいうえおkかきくけこs さしすせそt たちつてとn なにぬねのh はひふへほmまみむめもyや[6] よrらりるれろwわる[6] ゑをん(n)
Main functional marks and diacritics つょ゛。 Only used in some proper names. 5 singular vowels: あ /a/, い /i/, う /u/, え /e/, お /o/ (respectively
pronounced [a], [i], [w], [e] and [o]) 42 consonant-vowel unions: for example き /ki/, て /te/, ほ /ho/, ゆ /ju/, わ /wa/ (respectively pronounced [ki], [te], [ho], [jw] and [wa]) 1 singular consonant (ん), romanized as n. These are conceived as a 5×10 grid (gojūon, 五十音, "Fifty Sounds"), as illustrated in the adjacent table, read あ (a), い (i), う (u), え (e), お (o),
か (ka), き (ki), く (ku), け (ke), こ (ko) and so forth (but si→shi, ti→chi, tu→tsu, hu→fu, wi→i, we→e, wo→o). Of the 50 theoretically possible combinations, yi, ye, and wu are completely unused. On the w row, ゐ and ゑ, pronounced [i] and [e] respectively, are uncommon in modern Japanese, while を, pronounced [o], is common as a particle but otherwise
rare. Strictly speaking, the singular consonant h (n) is considered to be outside the gojuon. These basic characters can be modified in various ways. By adding a dakuten marker (*), a voiceless consonant is turned into a voiceless consonant is turned into a voiceless consonant h (n) is considered to be outside the gojuon. These basic characters can be modified in various ways. By adding a dakuten marker (*), a voiceless consonant is turned into a
with an h (or f) sound can also add a handakuten marker (°) changing the h (f) to a p. For example, は (ha) becomes ぱ (pa). A small version of the hiragana for ya, yu, or yo (ゃ, ゅ or ょ respectively) may be added to hiragana ending in i. This changes the i vowel sound to a glide (palatalization) to a, u or o. For example, き (ki) plus ゃ (small ya)
becomes きゃ (kya). Addition of the small y kana is called yoon. A small tsu つ, called a sokuon, indicates that the following consonant is geminated (doubled). In Japanese this is an important distinction in pronunciation; for example, compare さか, saka, "hill" with さっか, sakka, "author". However, it cannot be used to double an n - for this purpose, the
 singular n (ん) is added in front of the syllable, as in みんな (minna, "all"). The sokuon also sometimes appears at the end of utterances, where it denotes a glottal stop, as in いてっ! ([ite?], "Ouch!"). Two hiragana have pronounced [e] when
used as a particle (otherwise, [he]). Hiragana usually spells long vowel mark) (一) used in katakana is rarely used with hiragana, for example in the word らーめん, rāmen, but this usage is considered non-standard in Japanese. However,
the Okinawan language uses chōonpu with hiragana. In informal writing, small versions of the five vowel kana are sometimes used to represent trailing off sounds (はぁ, haa, ねぇ, nee). Plain (clear) and voiced iteration marks are written in hiragana as ゝ and ゞ, respectively. These marks are rarely used nowadays. The following table shows the
complete hiragana together with the modified Hepburn romanization and IPA transcription, arranged in four categories, each of them displayed in the gojuon order.[7][8][9][10] Those whose romanization are in bold do not use the initial consonant for that row. For all syllables besides h, the pronunciation indicated is for word-initial syllables; for
mid-word pronunciations see below. Hiragana syllabograms Monographs (gojūon) Digraphs (yōon) a i u e o ya yu yo Ø あ a [a] い i [i] う u [w] え e [e] お o [o] K か ka [ka] き ki [ki] く ku [kw] け ke [ke] こ ko [ko] きゃ kya [kia] きゅ kyu [kiw] きょ kyo [kio] S さ sa [sa] し shi [si] す su [sw] せ se [se] そ so [so] しゃ sha [sa] しゅ shu [sw] しょ sho [so] T た ta
[ta] ち chi [tsi] つ tsu [tsw] て te [te] と to [to] ちゃ cha [tsa] ちゅ chu [tsw] ちょ cho [tso] N な na [na] に ni [ni] ぬ nu [nw] ね ne [ne] の no [no] にゃ nya [na] に ni [ni] ぬ nu [nw] む mu [mw] め mi [mi] む mu [mw] め
me [me] も mo [mo] みゃ mya [m¹a] みゅ myu [m¹u] みょ myo [m¹a] みゅ myu [m¹u] みょ myo [m¹a] みゅ myu [m¹u] みょ myo [m¹a] りゃ rya [r¹a] りゅ ryu [r¹u] りょ ryo [r¹o] W わ wa [wa] ね[6] i [i] [6] u [u] ゑ[6] e [e] を o[a] [0] Monographs (gojūon) with diacritics (dakuten, handakuten) Digraphs (yōon) with diacritics
 (dakuten, handakuten) a i u e o ya yu yo G が ga [ga] ぎ gi [gi] ぐ gu [gw] げ ge [ga] ざ go [go] ぎゃ gya [g¹a] ぎゅ gyu [g¹a] ぎょ gyo [g¹a] ぎゅ gyu [g¹a] じゅ ju [(d)ҳa] じゅ ju [(d)
[sama] nari [nari] / mairasesoro [mairasesoro [mairaseso:ro:] yori [jori] * goto [goto] Functional graphemes sokuonfu chōonpu odoriji (monosyllable) odoriji (monosyllable) つ (indicates andunvoices syllable) (reduplicates andunvoices syllable) つ (indicates andu
andvoices syllable) > "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplicates andmoves a h- or b-row syllable to the p-row) "(reduplic
こ (jūgo, fifteen) is pronounced as if it was jū and go stacked end to end: [d͡zɯːgo].[11] In many accents, the j and z sounds are pronounced as affricates ([d͡z] and [d͡z], respectively) at the beginning of utterances and fricatives [z, z] in the middle of words. For example, すうじ sūji [sɯːzi] 'number', ざっし zasshi [d͡zaɕɕi] 'magazine'. The singular n is
pronounced [m] before m, b and p, [n] before t, ch, ts, n, r, z, j and d, [n] before k and g, [n] at the end of utterances, and some kind of high nasal vowel [u] before wowels, palatal approximants (y), and fricative consonants (s, sh, h, f and w).[citation needed] In kanji readings, the diphthongs ou and ei are usually pronounced [o:] (long o) and [e:] (long or and ei are usually pronounced [o:] (long or and ei ar
e) respectively. For example, とうきょう (lit. toukyou) is pronounced [to:k¹o:] 'Tokyo', and せんせい sensei is [seuse:] 'teacher'. However, とう tou is pronounced [to:u] 'to inquire', because the o and u are considered distinct, u being the verb ending in the dictionary form. Similarly, している shite iru is pronounced [to:u] 'to inquire', because the o and u are considered distinct, u being the verb ending in the dictionary form. Similarly, している shite iru is pronounced [to:u] 'to inquire', because the o and u are considered distinct, u being the verb ending in the dictionary form. Similarly, している shite iru is pronounced [to:u] 'to inquire', because the o and u are considered distinct, u being the verb ending in the dictionary form.
 る (suru, "to do"). In archaic forms of Japanese, there existed the kwa (くっ [kwa]) and gwa (くっ [kwa]) and gwa (くっ [wa]) instead of [ha]), へ (pronounced [wa] instead of [ha]), (pronounced [wa] instead of [wa] instead of [wa] 
[o] (written を instead of お), Japanese when written in kana is phonemically orthographic, i.e. there is a one-to-one correspondence between kana characters and sounds, leaving only words' pitch accent unrepresented. This has not always been the case: a previous system of spelling, now referred to as historical kana usage, differed substantially from
pronunciation; the three above-mentioned exceptions in modern usage are the legacy of that system. There are two hiragana pronounced ji (じ and ぢ) and two hirag
 Usually, ji is written as じ and zu is written as ず. There are some exceptions. If the first two syllable with a dakuten and the same hiragana is used to write the sounds. For example, chijimeru ('to boil down' or 'to shrink') is spelled ちぢめる and tsuzuku ('to continue') is つづく. For
 compound words where the dakuten reflects rendaku voicing, the original hiragana is used. For example, chi (魚 'blood') is spelled ち in plain hiragana. When 鼻 hana ('nose') and 血 chi ('blood') combine to make hanaji (鼻血 'nose bleed'), the sound of 血 changes from chi to ji. So hanaji is spelled はなぢ. Similarly, tsukau (使う/遣う; 'to use') is spelled つ
かう in hiragana, so kanazukai (仮名遣い; 'kana use', or 'kana orthography') is spelled かなづかい in hiragana. However, there are cases where ぢ and づ are not used, such as the word for 'lightning', inazuma (稲妻). The first component, 稲, meaning 'rice plant', is written いな (ina). The second component, 妻 (etymologically 夫), meaning 'spouse', is
pronounced つま (tsuma) when standalone or often as づま (zuma) when following another syllable, such in 人妻 (hitozuma, 'married woman'). Even though these components of 稲妻 are etymologically linked to 'lightning', it is generally arduous for a contemporary speaker to consciously perceive inazuma as separable into two discrete words. Thus, the
default spelling いなずま is used instead of いなづま. Other examples include kizuna (きずな) and sakazuki (さかずき). Although these rules were officially established by a Cabinet Notice in 1986 revising the modern kana usage, they have sometimes faced criticism due to their perceived arbitrariness. Officially, ぢ and づ do not occur word-initially
pursuant to modern spelling rules. There were words such as ぢばん jiban 'ground' in the historical kana usage, but they were unified under じ in the modern kana usage in 1946, so today it is spelled exclusively じばん. However, づら zura 'wig' (from かつら katsura) and づけ zuke (a sushi term for lean tuna soaked in soy sauce) are examples of word-
initial \Im today. No standard Japanese words begin with the kana h (n). This is the basis of the word game shiritori. h is sometimes directly followed by a vowel (a, i, u, e or o) or a palatal approximant (ya, yu or yo). These are clearly distinct from the
na, ni etc. syllables, and there are minimal pairs such as きんえん kin'en 'smoking forbidden', きねん kinnen 'recent years'. In Hepburn romanization, they are distinguished with an apostrophe, but not all romanization methods make the distinction. For example, past prime minister Junichiro Koizumi's first name is
actually じゅんいちろう Jun'ichirō pronounced [dzww̃itciro:] There are a few hiragana that are rarely used. Outside of Okinawan orthography, ゐ wi [i] and ゑ we [e] are only used in some proper names. [] e was an alternate version of え e before spelling reform, and was briefly reused for ye during initial spelling reforms, but is now completely obsolete.
 ivu is a modern addition used to represent the /v/ sound in foreign languages such as English, but since Japanese from a phonological standpoint does not have a /v/ sound, it is pronounced as /b/ and mostly serves as a more accurate indicator of a word's pronunciation in its original language. However, it is rarely seen because loanwords and
 ちゃわん (chawan). The みゅ myu kana is extremely rare in originally Japanese words, linguist Haruhiko Kindaichi raises the example of the Japanese words. Its katakana counterpart is used in many loanwords, however. This article contains uncommon
 Unicode characters. Without proper rendering support, you may see question marks, boxes, or other symbols instead of the intended characters. Wain article: Hentaigana Main article: Hentaigana Main article: Kana ligature On the row beginning with わ /wa/, the hiragana ゐ /wi/ and ゑ /we/ are both quasi-obsolete, only used in some names. They are usually respectively
pronounced [i] and [e]. In modified Hepburn romanization, they are generally written as i and e.[9] See also: Yi (kana) It has not been demonstrated whether the mora /ji/ existed in old Japanese. Though ye did appear in some textbooks during the Meiji period along with another kana for yi in the form of cursive 以. Today it is considered a Hentaigana
 by scholars and is encoded in Unicode 10[12] () [13][14] This kana could have a colloquial use, to convert the combo yui ($\mathcal{l}$1), due to other Japanese words having a similar change. [15] See also: Ye (kana) An early, now obsolete, hiragana-esque form of ye may have existed ( [je][16]) in pre-Classical Japanese (prior to the advent of kana),
distinction between /ye/ and /e/ disappeared before glyphs could become established. See also: Wu (kana) It has not been demonstrated whether the mora /wu/ existed in old Japanese. However, hiragana wu also appeared in different Meiji-era textbooks ().[17][18] Although there are several possible source kanji, it is likely to have been derived from a
cursive form of the man'yōgana 汙, although a related variant sometimes listed () is from a cursive form of 紅[19] However, it was never commonly used.[20] This character is included in Unicode 14 as HIRAGANA LETTER ARCHAIC WU ().[15] See also: Man'yōgana and Old Japanese § Sources and dating Hiragana originated as simplified forms of
 similar-sounding Chinese characters. Hiragana character shapes were derived from Chinese cursive script (sōsho). Shown here is a sample of cursive script by 7th century calligrapher Sun Guoting. Note the character 為 (wei), indicated by the red arrow, closely resembles the hiragana character ゐ (wi). Hiragana developed from man'yōgana, Chinese
characters used for their pronunciations, a practice that started in the 5th century.[21] The oldest examples of Man'yōgana include the Inariyama Kofun. This sword is thought to be made in the year 辛亥年 (most commonly taken to be C.E. 471).[22] The forms of the hiragana originate from the cursive
script style of Chinese calligraphy. The table to the right shows the derivation of hiragana from manyogana via cursive script form, the center character in the regular script form, the cursive script form of the character in the regular script form, the cursive script form of the character in the regular script form, the cursive script form of the character in the regular script form, the cursive script form of the character in the regular script form of the regular sc
confined to those in the illustration. When it was first developed, hiragana was not accepted by everyone. The educated or elites preferred to use only the kanji system. Historically, in Japan, the regular script (sosho) form of the kanji system. Historically, in Japan, the regular script (sosho) form of the kanji system.
 was used by women. Hence hiragana first gained popularity among women, who were generally not allowed access to the same levels of education as men, thus hiragana was first gained popularity among women, who were generally not allowed access to the same levels of education as men, thus hiragana first gained popularity among women, who were generally not allowed access to the same levels of education as men, thus hiragana was first widely used among court women in the writing of personal communications and literature. [23] From this comes the alternative name of onnade (女手) "women's writing"
[24] For example, The Tale of Genji and other early novels by female authors used hiragana extensively or exclusively. Even today, hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[25] Male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors used hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors came to write literature using hiragana is felt to have a feminine quality.[26] male authors used for official writing such as personal letters, while katakana and kanji were used for official writing such as personal letters.
 documents. In modern times, the usage of hiragana has become mixed with katakana writing. Katakana writing. Katakana is now relegated to special uses such as recently borrowed words (i.e., since the 19th century), names in transliteration, the names of animals, in telegrams, and for emphasis. Originally, for all syllables there was more than one possible hiragana
In 1900, the system was simplified so each syllable had only one hiragana. The deprecated hiragana are now known as hentaigana (変体仮名). The pangram poem Iroha-uta ("ABC song/poem"), which dates to the 10th century, uses every hiragana once (except n ん, which was a variant of む before the Muromachi era). The following table shows the
method for writing each hiragana character. The table is arranged in a traditional manner, beginning top right and reading columns down. The numbers and arrows indicate the stroke order and direction respectively. Kana Extended-B
block contains precomposed characters for all hiragana in the modern set, including small vowels and yoon kana for compound syllables as well as the rare & wi and A we; the archaic ye is included in plane 1 at U+1B001 (see below). All combinations of hiragana with dakuten and handakuten used in modern Japanese are available as precomposed
characters (including the rare \vec{j} vu), and can also be produced by using a base hiragana followed by the combining dakuten and handakuten to a pure vowel or the handakuten to a
kana not in the h-group. Characters U+3095 and U+3096 are small th (ka) and small th (ka) and small th (ka) and small th (ka) are spacing (non-combining) equivalents to the combining dakuten and handakuten characters, respectively. Historic and variant forms of Japanese kana
 characters were first added to the Unicode Standard in October, 2010 with the release of version 6.0, with significantly more added in 2017 as part of Unicode block for Kana Supplement is U+1B000-U+1B0FF, and is immediately followed by the Kana Extended-A block (U+1B100-U+1B12F). These blocks include mainly hentaigana
(historic or variant hiragana): Kana Supplement[1]Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F U+1B00x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                U+1B04x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    U+1B01x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   U+1B02x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  U+1B03x
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               U+1B11x
                                                                                                                                                           Notes 1.^ As of Unicode version 16.0 Kana Extended-A[1][2]Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F U+1B10x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              U+1B12x Notes 1.^ As of Unicode version 16.0 2.^ Grey areas
 indicate non-assigned code points The Unicode block for Kana Extended-B is U+1AFF0-U+1AFFF: Kana Extended-B[1][2]Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F U+1AFFx
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Notes 1.^ As of Unicode version 16.0 2.^ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points The Unicode block for Small Kana Extension
is U+1B130-U+1B16F: Small Kana Extension[1][2]Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F U+1B13x U+1B16x Notes 1.^ As of Unicode version 16.0 2.^ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points In the following character sequences a kana from the /k/ row is modified by a
 handakuten combining mark to indicate that a syllable starts with an initial nasal, known as bidakuon [ja]. As of Unicode 16.0, these character combinations are explicitly called out as Named Sequences: Hiragana named sequences [26] Sequence name Codepoints Glyph HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U+309A to "HIRAGANA LETTER" HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGA U+304B U
BIDAKUON NGI U+304D U+309A † *HIRAGANA LETTER BIDAKUON NGU U+309A C *Bopomofo (Zhùyīn fúhào, "phonetic symbols"), a phonetic symbols"), a phonetic system of 37 characters for writing Chinese developed in the 1900s
and which is more common in Taiwan. Iteration mark explains the iteration marks used with hiragana. Japanese phonology explains Japanese pronunciation in detail. Japanese typographic symbols. Japanese writing system Katakana Nüshu, a syllabary writing system used by women in China's Hunan province
 Shodō, Japanese calligraphy. ^ Dual 大辞林「平」とは平凡な、やさしいという意で、当時普通に使用する文字体系であったことを意味する。 漢字は書簡文や重要な文章などを書く場合に用いる公的な文字であるのに対して、 平仮名は漢字の知識に乏しい人々などが用いる私的な性格のものであった。Translation: 平 [the "hira" part of "hiragana"] means "ordinary, common" or "easy,
 (Yamada Kenzō). "平安期神楽歌謡文献からみる「平仮名」の位置" [The Position of "Hiragana" As Seen from Kagura Song References of the Heian Period] (PDF) (in Japanese). p. 239. Retrieved 2022-04-18. 「かたかな」の「かた」は単に「片方」という意味ではなく、本来あるべきものが欠落しているという評価形容語と解すべきことはよく知られているが(亀井孝1941)
 (7)としてまとめた対立関係から考えると、「ひらがな」も同様に「かな」の「ひら」という評価位置に存在するものと考えられる。本国語大辞典「ひらがな」の説明は「ひら」を「角のない、通俗平易の意」とし、また「ひら」を前部要素とする複合語の形態素説明で、多くの辞書は「ひら」に「たいら」という意味を認める。しかし、辞書の意味説明が必ずしも原義説明を欲してはいないことを知
 りつつも、野暮を承知でいうならば、これは「ひら」の原義(中核的意味)説明としては適当ではない。「ひら」は、「枚」や擬態語「ひらひら」などと同根の情態言とでもいうべき形態素 / pira / であり、その中核的意味は、物理的 / 精神的な「薄さ」を示し、「たいら」はそこからの派生義と思われる。となると、「ひらがな」に物理的「薄さ」(thinness)は当然求められないので、
 ら」とはより精神的な表現に傾き、「かたかな」同様、「かな」から見て、ワンランク下であることを示す、いささか差別的・蔑視的ニュアンスを含む表現であったということになる。 [The "kata" in "katakana" does not mean just "one side", and it is well known (Takashi Kamei 1941) that it should be interpreted as a valuation epithet stating that something that should be
 there is missing, and considering the oppositional relationship summarized in figure (7), the word "hiragana" can be thought of in a valuation position as the "hira" kind of "kana". The explanation of the term hiragana in the Nihon Kokugo Daijiten dictionary states that hira means "unangular, easy for common people", and descriptions of hira as a
 prefixing element in compounds as given in many dictionaries explain this hira as meaning "flat" (taira). However, knowing that dictionary explanation of the original sense (core meaning) of hira. Hira is morphemetria is morphemetria is not a fitting explanation of the original sense (core meaning) of hira. Hira is morphemetria is morphemetria is not a fitting explanation of the original sense (core meaning) of hira. Hira is morphemetria is morphemetria is not a fitting explanation of the original sense (core meaning) of hira. Hira is morphemetria is morphemetria is not a fitting explanation of the original sense (core meaning) of hira.
 /pira/, cognate with words like 枚 (hira; "slip of paper, cloth, or something else flat") or ひらひら (hirahira; "flutteringly"), and the core meaning indicates physical "thinness", and taira ("flat") appears to be a derived meaning indicates physical or emotional "thinness", and taira ("flat") appears to be a derived meaning indicates physical or emotional "thinness", and taira ("flat") appears to be a derived meaning therefrom. As such, we naturally cannot get physical "thinness" from hiragana, so the hira leans more towards an
 emotional expression, and much like for katakana, from the perspective of kana, it indicates a lower relative to the kanji], and the expression contains a slight nuance of discrimination or contempt.] ^ Richard Bowring; Haruko Uryu Laurie (2004). An Introduction to Modern Japanese: Book 1. United Kingdom: Cambridge University
 Press. p. 9. ISBN 978-0521548878. ^ Liu, Xuexin (2009). "Japanese Simplification of Chinese Characters in Perspective". Southeast Review of Asian Studies. 31. ^ a b c d e f g h See obsolete kana. ^ "The Japanese Simplification of Chinese Characters in Perspective". Southeast Review of Asian Studies. 31. ^ a b c d e f g h See obsolete kana. ^ "The Japanese Syllabaries (Hiragana)" (PDF). NHK World. ^ ■米国規格(ANSI Z39.11-1972)—要約. halcat.com (in Japanese). Archived from the original on
24 September 2015. ^ a b "ALA-LC Japanese Romanization Table" (PDF). Library of Congress. 2022. Archived (PDF). ^ Walter & Walter & Walter Walter & Walter
 1998. ^ 伊豆での収穫: 日本国語学史上比類なき変体仮名 [Harvest in Izu: Hentaigana unique in the history of Japanese linguistics]. geocities.jp (in Japanese). ^ a b Gross, Abraham (2020-01-05). "Proposal to Encode Missing Japanese Kana" (PDF). ^ "Unicode Kana Supplement" (PDF). unicode.org. ^ "Glyphwiki Hiraga Wu Reconstructed". ^ "仮名遣". 1891
 ^ Iannacone, Jake (2020). "Reply to The Origin of Hiragana /wu/ 平仮名のわ行うの字源に対する新たな発見" ^ "Japanese full 50 kana: yi, ye, wu". ^ Yookoso! An Invitation to Contemporary Japanese 1st edition McGraw-Hill, page 13 "Linguistic Note: The Origins of Hiragana and Katakana" ^ Seeley (2000:19-23) ^ Richard Bowring; Haruko Uryu Laurie
 (2004). An Introduction to Modern Japanese: Book 1. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. p. 8. ISBN 978-0521548878. A Hatasa, Yukiko Abe; Kazumi Hatasa; Seiichi Makino (2010). Nakama 1: Introductory Japanese: Communication, Culture, Context 2nd ed. Heinle. p. 2. ISBN 978-0495798187. p. 108. Kataoka, Kuniyoshi. 1997. "Affect
 and letter writing: unconventional conventions in casual writing by young Japanese women". Language in Society 26:103-136. ^ Unicode Named Character Sequences Database Yujiro Nakata, The Art of Japanese women". Language in Modified Hepburn
and Kunrei and as wo in Traditional Hepburn and Nippon-shiki. Wikimedia Commons has media related to: Hiragana (category) Look up hiragana table with strokes animations Practice Hiragana Retrieved from "If you're serious about learning Japanese, mastering hiragana (ひらが
 な) is the first step. This essential writing system forms the backbone of Japanese grammar, allowing you to read and write even before learn!What is Hiragana?Hiragana is one of the three Japanese writing systems, alongside katakana and kanji. It consists of 46 basic characters,
 each representing a syllable, making it a phonetic alphabet. Unlike kanji, which represents meaning, hiragana is purely sound-based. Fun Fact: Hiragana was originally developed by Japanese women in the Heian period because kanji was primarily used by men in official documents. It was sometimes called "women's writing" (女手, onnade). The 46
 Basic Hiragana CharactersThe following are the basic hiragana characters used along with an approximation of the sound that charcter makes.あ (a) い (ke) さ (ku) け (ke) こ (ko) な (na) に (ni) ぬ (nu) ね (ne) の (no) は (ha) ひ (hi) ふ (fu) へ (he) ほ (ho) ま (ho) も (
 (ma) み (mi) む (mu) め (me) も (mo) や (ya) ゆ (yu) よ (yo) ら (ra) り (ri) る (ru) れ (re) ろ (ro) わ (wa) を (wo) ん (n)Hiragana ChartsHiragana ChartsHiragana ChartsHiragana (Stroke Order)Each character has a specific stroke order that helps with legibility
print practice sheets so you can write it at home. The Hiragana character for 'A' Print Hiragana pronunciation is straightforward, as each character represents only one sound. Unlike English, there are no silent letters or complex spelling rules. (fu) is a soft "fu," almost like
 blowing out a candle.Tricks to Memorize Hiragana FasterMemorizing 46 characters might seem daunting, but here are some easy tricks:Mnemonics: Associate each character with an image (e.g., "U" (shi) looks like a smiling face!). Practice writing daily: Repetition is key! Use flashcards or SRS apps like Nihongo Master's drills to reinforce learning
Cultural Note: Ever seen a Japanese calligraphy brush? Traditional hiragana was written with a brush, giving it a flowing and artistic look! Once you've mastered hiragana, the next step is:Learning katakana for foreign words. Diving into kanji for more advanced reading. Practicing real sentences using our structured lessons on Nihongo Master. { //
 Initialize the Flutter engine let appRunner = await engineInitializer.initializeEngine({ renderer: 'canvaskit', assetBase: '/kana_writer/', hostElement: $refs.container, }); // Run the app await appRunner.runApp(); } }); }, suppress(e) { e.preventDefault(); } } x-init= $watch('show', value => { if (value) { if(!window._flutter) { el = } }}
 document.create Element('script'); el.set Attribute('src', '/kana_writer/flutter.js'); document.body.append Child(el); el.add Event Listener('touch move', suppress, { passive: false }); } else { enable Body Scroll($wire.$el); document.body.append Child(el); el.add Event Listener('touch move', suppress, { passive: false }); } else { enable Body Scroll($wire.$el); document.add Event Listener('touch move', suppress, { passive: false }); } else { enable Body Scroll($wire.$el); } else
$watch('show', value => { if (value) { if(!window._flutter.js'); else { enableBodyScroll($wire.$el); } else { enableBodyScroll($wire.$el); } ); } else { enableBodyScroll($wire.$el); } else { enableBodyScroll($wire.$el); } }); x-
on:keydown.escape.window=show = false> 4.6K The Japanese language is well known for the sheer vastness of its writing system. Each of the thousands of characters have their own meaning and pronunciations. However, you'll be relieved to know that the Japanese hiragana (ひらがな) alphabet is no more complex than the English alphabet—just
little larger. This comprehensive guide will take you all the way from hiragana's origins to its modern-day usage. Before you start, familiarizing yourself with the basics of Japanese pronunciation will go a long way toward helping you memorize this writing system. Hiragana is one of the three Japanese writing systems and one of the two Japanese
 phonetic alphabets. More likely than not, it's the first writing system you'll encounter when you learn Japanese because of how common it is in everyday Japanese. Before you start writing with the more complex Chinese characters (kanji, 漢字), you can write anything and everything using hiragana. Before the hiragana alphabet, there was a midway
 point between the kanji borrowed from the Chinese language and what would become the hiragana and katakana (カタカナ) alphabets. The manyogana (万葉仮名) system took specific Chinese characters and assigned to the existing language. You can
 see how some of the chosen kanji eventually evolved into hiragana! ManyouganaHiraganaRomanization以い世せse仁にni女めme与よyo Two characters for we (ゑ) and wi (ゐ) have since been replaced by the similar sounds e (え) and i (い) in the modern Japanesee
 language. Modern Japanese has 46 hiragana characters. Although that's almost double the majority of cases. This complete Japanese phonetic system maintain the same pronunciation all 46 characters in the English alphabet, the characters in the Japanese phonetic system maintain the same pronunciation all 46 characters in the Japanese phonetic system maintain the same pronunciation all 46 characters in the English alphabet, the characters in the Japanese phonetic system maintain the same pronunciation all 46 characters in the English alphabet, the characters in the English alphabet al
 hiragana characters bear a striking resemblance to each other. Comparing them side by side, you can identify where they're different. JapaneseRomanizationあ お む o muさ ち きsa chi kiた にta niい り こi ri koへ くhe kuめ ぬme nuれ ね わre ne waる ろ そru ro so Learning hiragana stroke order in Japanese is one way to
combat similar-looking characters. This means to practice the exact order and direction each line of the letter is supposed to be written. The same is true even in English. For example, writing "b" and "p" or "i" and "j" correctly is essential to distinguishing them from each other. In addition to the 46 hiragana characters, Japanese diacritical marks
 change how some of the characters sound. "Voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right of a character that looks like a quotation mark (*), while "half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes in the upper right (*) of the half-voiced sounds" in Japanese are marked by two short dashes are 
gegehごgogohざzazahじjijeeずzuzooぜzezehぞzozohだdadahぢjijeeづzuzooでdedehどdodohばbabahびbibeeぶbubooへbebehぼbobohばpapahびpipeeぶpupooへpepehぽpopoh Contracted sounds in hiragana involve writing a small "y" sound character in the bottom right of a consonant-vowel pair that ends in an "i" sound. Combining the two characters
 results in a new syllable. When writing them, be careful that the ya (や), yu (ゆ), or yo (よ) is not full size. yayuyokiきゃ kyaきゅ kyuきょ kyogiぎゃ gyaぎゅ gyuぎょ gyoshiしゃ shaしゅ shuしょ shojiじゃ jaじゅ juじょ jochiちゃ chaちゅ chuちょ choniにゃ nyaにゅ nyuにょ nyohiひゃ hyaひゅ hyuひょ hyobiびゃ byaびゅ byuびょ byop
hiragana only as zo and zh. Certain grammatical components that help you understand Japanese word order, such as particles, are also primarily written in hiragana. If a word is composed of both kanji and hiragana are called okurigana. You'll see this often in Japanese adjectives and verbs or other words based on them. See
how the hiragana come before, after, and in the middle of these words: Wakarimashita (分かりました) = takeout food Furigana are small hiragana letters written above kanji to explain the pronunciation in an easy-to-understand way. In other words, they
exist to aid people in reading Japanese. Most kanji have multiple readings, so offering the pronunciation written in hiragana allows anyone—regardless of kanji knowledge—to read them. This is especially useful for obscure words and names! No matter what method you use, the easiest path to memorizing hiragana is to practice daily—even for 10
minutes between classes or on a break at work. Pace yourself, learning a handful of letters at a time and slowly adding characters once you feel confident with the ones you've been practicing. With consistent practice, you'll have the alphabet memorized within a matter of weeks or days! Here are a few ways you can use hiragana daily: Use hiragana
 flashcards. You can make them yourself or use any of the existing decks found in many reputable places online. Take advantage of mnemonic devices. What do the characters look like? Does to (ح) look like it has a broken to-enail? Can you see the crest of a tsu-nami in tsu (כ)? Free resources such as the Hiragana Memory Hint app from The Japan
 Foundation have mnemonic devices ready for you. Engage in immersion learning. Just use it! Instead of writing "sushi" on your grocery list, try writing すし instead. Label things in your home. When you use hiragana every day, you will absorb it naturally. Typing in hiragana requires changing a few settings on your device to add new language
 functionality. Although the details of adding Japanese to your computer or phone will be slightly different depending on what device you have, the general principle for how to type in hiragana is the same. By default, the keyboards will be in your native format (such as QWERTY) rather than a hiragana keyboard. However, knowing the romanization-
or romaji (ローマ字)—of each character is essential regardless of the keyboard style. When typing on a computer keyboard, type out the sounds of the hiragana as you would write them normally. For example, typing "su" will automatically result in す. The Japanese language generally doesn't use spaces, so the space bar has another use: converting
those hiragana into other characters, like katakana or kanji. If you want the characters to remain hiragana, just hit the enter key. For typing in hiragana on a mobile device, you'll need to make sure your keyboard, you type the
romanization of the character you want, but mobile keyboards have the advantage of autocorrect suggestions. You can either select the end result you want from the suggested options, or you can tap the enter key to keep what you've typed as it is. Everyone has different ways of learning that work best for them. While one person may excel at
 learning hiragana by writing the characters by hand over and over, another person prefers to drill flashcards. No matter what works for you, the Rosetta Stone app is the place to go for practicing your new knowledge. You have the choice to freely switch between romanization and Japanese writing systems, so you can immerse yourself in Japanese
 with native audio while integrating hiragana at your own pace. Around the 9th century, the Japanese developed their own writing system based on syllables: hiragana and katakana characters are more angular. Hiragana and katakana each consist of 46 signs which
 originally were kanji but were simplified over the centuries. When looking at a Japanese text, one can clearly distinguish the two kinds of signs: the complicated kanji and the simpler kana signs. Among the syllables are the five vowels (a i u e o). The rest are syllables combined by one of these vowels with a consonant (ka ki ku ke ko ra ri ru re ro...)
 One exception is the n. In addition, most syllables can be slightly changed by adding two small strokes or a small circle in the top right corner next to the addition of a small circle. Hiragana table Even though one can theoretically write the whole
language in hiragana, it is usually used only for grammatical endings of verbs, nouns, and adjectives, as well as for particles, and several other original Japanese words (in contrast to loan words which are written in katakana) that are not written in katakana in the not written in the not written in the not written in the not written in the
children are, therefore, written in hiragana only. To learn hiragana, you will learn the basics of Japanese resources that don't require you
to know hiragana. In essence, it's the first step to learn Japanese. Many classes and individuals spend months learning hiragana. This is too long. You should be able to learn everything in a couple days. A week, tops. Some people have reported back that they could read all the hiragana after a few hours, using this method. How long it takes depends
on you, but if you follow the steps laid out below, you'll come out the other side with the ability to read hiragana. To make this possible, you will employ a few important methods. Mnemonics: Due to hiragana's relative simplicity (at least compared to kanji), image-based mnemonics are a perfect method for memorization. Each hiragana character has a
 memorable illustration that goes along with it. For a long time I believed that mnemonics were a waste of time. If this is you, I recommend you give it a serious try. It's amazing what you're thinking. But, think about it for a
 moment. When's the last time you actually wrote something by hand? Probably the last time you had to sign your name on a receipt at a restaurant. The need to write by hand is very useful. Learning to write doubles or
triples how long it takes to learn hiragana, with very little real-life benefit. It will be important to learn eventually, but for now you have more important fish to fry. Exercises: After studying each column of hiragana, there are exercises for you to go through to review what you've just learned. They also happen to be very well thought out, too. If you do
them, and you don't cheat (yourself), you will learn hiragana. In these exercises, you should do your best to force yourself recall items, even when you don't think you can come up with the answer. The more effort and strain you put into recalling something, the stronger of a memory your brain will end up building (as long as you actually recall it, that
 is). For the most part, if you follow along and do everything that this hiragana guide says, you will learn the hiragana. It will be difficult not to. Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Book — a PDF version of this Learn Hiragana content you can print or use on your tablet.
 Although I would still focus on "being able to read hiragana" first, moving your hands to handwrite as well as to trace over the characters will help you associate the shape with the sound. It comes with extra practice on
 handwriting. Tofugu's Hiragana Charts As the first step, download this hiragana chart. It shows all the hiragana (including "variation" hiragana (including download the hiragana "mnemonic" chart. It's a handy chart that shows basic hiragana (including "variation" hiragana (including "v
along their mnemonic images, which we'll be using on this page to help you remember the hiragana. Temporarily or not, it'll make a good replacement for the "Live, Laugh, Love" poster on your bathroom wall. Hiragana Pronunciation is such a listening and speaking thing, we
made a video to cover this topic. Follow along. When you can pronounce the five "vowel sounds" of hiragana, move on to the next section, where you'll learn to read them. あ(A) い(I) う(U) え(E) お(O) This is the first (and most important!) column in hiragana. It sets the pronunciation of every other column coming after it, because every
other column is basically just the a-i-u-e-o column with consonants attached to them. The same basic sound repeats over and over, with a consonant plus these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for these five vowel sounds, so make sure you have the right pronunciation for the right pronunciation
to a realization. It also sounds like the a in "car." To remember this kana, find the capital A inside of it. This "A" will tell you that this kana is also "a" aka あ. There is another similar kana, just think of a couple
of eels hanging out. They're upright because they're trying to mimic the letter "i" which also stands upright and also happens to be the way you spell out this character in romaji1. 5 is pronounced like the oo in "ooh... ahhh!" when you're watching fireworks. In other words, it sounds like u in "UNO," the card game, or the number one in Spanish. To
 remember this kana, notice the U shape right in it! It's sideways but it's there, telling you what this kana is. Be careful, there's another similar hiragana, o, but that one isn't wearing a hat like U (you) are. Ooh, ahh, what a nifty hat! A is pronounced like the e in "egg." To remember this kana, think of it like an exotic bird. The feathery thing on its
 head gives it away that it's exotic and not normal. It also lays exotic eggs, because it's an exotic bird, after all. お is pronounced like you're saying "oh." It also sounds like the o in "origami." Can you see the letter o in here, two times? This one looks similar to あ, except for its one key difference: there are two letter "o" symbols visible in there. Make
 sure you use this to differentiate this kana (あ) and that similar kana (あ). This is one area of hiragana where a lot of people trip up, but by using this mnemonic you will be able to figure them out. Recall is the foundation of
 memory, and you're going to start doing just that. For each "tasks" section make sure you follow along perfectly. Skipping these steps may cause you to fail later on in the future. Having a strong base to build off of is important with each section. Head over to Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz. Select only the あ/a box under the "Main Kana" list, then hit
 "Start Quiz!" and keep practicing until you can get them all right. Print out, copy, or download this worksheet. You'll need to go through it, filling in the boxes with the romaji for the kana. Try your best not to cheat - even if you spend a while trying to remember a kana it will be beneficial to your memory (as long as you're able to recall it on your
own). Looking up the answer doesn't help your memory at all, but struggle (with accomplishment) tells your brain that this is a thing worth remembering. Try using the mnemonics when you need to recall something you can't figure out right away. This should be fairly easy with only five kana (and maybe a little boring too), but when you're done move
pronounced like ka in "karma." See how this kana looks like a mosquito? What a convenient coincidence. Mosquito to suck your blood, so that should be easy to remember. *\installar is just the K sound plus $\ilde{l}$, making a ki sound. In fact, it sounds just like the word
 "key" which is the mnemonic we end up using. To remember this, notice how much it resembles a key. Note: In some fonts, the bottom part is detached from the main part. For example: き. The pronunciation is still "ki" though! く is just the K sound plus う, making a ku sound. It's pronounced "coo," like both syllables of the word "cuckoo" (or just the
first syllable, depending on your variety of English). To remember this, think of this kana being the mouth of a coo-coo / cuckoo bird popping out saying "ku ku, ku ku!" け is just the K sound plus お, making a ke sound. It's pronounced like ke in "kelp." See how this kana resembles some wiggly kelp? こ is just the K sound plus お, making a ke sound. It's
pronounced like co in "cohabitating." In British English, it is more like co in "coin." こ is a couple of co-habitation worms. They're so happy together, co-habitating the same area! Alternatively, you could imagine a couple of short cords laying on the ground next to each other. かきくけこ Tasks More tasks! This time we'll include the あいうえお column
 along with this "K-column" you just learned. Using Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Ouiz, select the 5/a and 1/ka boxes, and guiz yourself on those cards. How guickly can you identify and answer these ten hiragana Characters? When you've completed this task at least five times, move on to the next step. Print out, copy, or download this worksheet
Complete it by filling in the blanks with the romaji for each of the kana. This time it will be both of the columns that you've learned (so far) so it should be a little more interesting (and half familiar). Once again, when you get stuck just think back to the mnemonic before you cheat. When you're done you can move on to the next group. さ (SA) し
 (SHI) \neq (SU) \forall (S
column. さ is just the S sound plus あ, making a sa sound. It's pronounced like sa in "salsa." Notice how this kana looks like two hands just to stir it! Note: Like き, the bottom part of さ is detached from the main part in some fonts. For example: さ. し is just the SH sound plus
1), making a shi sound. It's pronounced like shee in "sheep." Take note that this is the first "exception" kana where it doesn't follow the patterns that show up everywhere else. Instead of being "si" it's "shi" (though you will see it written both ways when dealing with romaji. One more reason why you ought to just learn hiragana already). This kana
looks like a giant shepherd's crook used to herd sheep. Baaaa... get in that corral, sheep! $\neq$ is just the S sound plus $\neq$, making a su sound. It's pronounced like the word "sue," or su in "suit." See the swing doing a loop-dee-loop throwing that poor kid off of it? Imagine him screaming "I'M GONNA SUE SOMEBODY FOR THIIIIIiiiissss" as he flies off into
the distance. せ is just the S sound plus え, making a se sound. It's pronounced like se in "sell." This kana looks like a mouth with a big vampire fang in it. Someone's trying to make a quick buck. そ is just the S sound plus お, making a so sound. It's pronounced
like so in "soda." In British English, it's more like so in "song." See how this kana looks like a mouth slurping soda? さしすせそ Exercises Now that we've done three sets of five, it's time for exercises! As usual, these exercises will help you to practice kana you've previously learned plus the ones you just learned. Back to Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz.
Select the あ, か, and さ boxes and guiz them. Do this five times. Once you've done this, move on. Using this worksheet, print out, copy, or download it and fill out the boxes with the correct romaji. If you can't remember something try to think back to the mnemonic first before cheating. When you're able to do these two tasks move on to the next five
kana. P.S. Have you noticed how in the worksheets you're being asked to wait 5 minutes? Waiting as it's fading away, you're telling your mind that it shouldn't forget that item. But, if you keep bringing it up over and over again in a short period
of time your brain will just keep it in its short term memory, meaning you probably won't remember it later. Don't skip the waiting periods! In fact, if you think you can wait longer without forgetting much that's even better! た(TA) ち(CHI) つ(TSU) て(TE) と(TO) Time for the fourth column, the "T-column." Now you have a lot to remember!
Hopefully mnemonics and the reasons for using them are starting to make sense now. If not, that should happen soon. Like the さ column, you'll find an exceptions, them being ち (chi) and つ (tsu). So, for this column we'll have "ta, chi, tsu, te, to." た is just the T sound plus あ, making a ta sound. It's
pronounced like ta in "taco." Use your imagination and see this kana as a fork, taco, and lime garnish for your taco. Wait... you're eating a taco with a fork? That's a bit weird, but you do you, pal. 5 is just the CH sound plus 11, making a chi sound. It's pronounced like chee in "cheese." This is the second "exception" hiragana. Instead of a "ti" sound, it's
a "chi" sound. Try not to forget this. You know when someone tells you to say "cheese" when taking a picture of you? This kana looks like that forced smile you have to make every time you're in a group photo. It's pronounced like tsu in "tsunami." This is another "exception" hiragana. Instead of
saying "tu" you say "tsu." Look at the swoosh of this hiragana. Doesn't it look like a big wave, or tsunami? T is just the T sound plus $\frac{7}{2}$, making a te sound. It's pronounced like te in "telescope." Can you see a good ol' telescope. That should help you remember that this kana looks like an old-school
hand(te)-held telescope. と is just the T sound plus お, making a to sound. It's pronounced like to in "toe." In British English, it sounds like "to" in "top." This kana looks just like someone's toe with a little nail or splinter in it. Imagine how much this would hurt if it was your toe! たちつてと Exercises Now that we have a few kana under our belt we'll be
adding a third resource to our arsenal. Still, we'll start with something familiar. Just follow along. With Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz, quiz yourself on the four columns that you know (あ, か, さ, た). When you've done it five times, move on to the next step. Copy, download, or print out this worksheet. Fill in all the blanks with romaji. Pay special
attention to "exception" kana, like U, 5, and ond write them out the way I showed you above to make sure that you know the proper reading. Not all romaji-styles will write them out the way I showed you above to make sure that you know the proper reading. Not all romaji-styles will write them out the way I showed you above to make sure that you know the proper reading. Not all romaji-styles will write them out the way I showed you above to make sure that you know the proper reading.
kana. When you've completed everything and feel like you can recall all 20 of these kana, move on to the next section. Now it's time to try ten at a time. You're getting better at this, after all! な(NA) に(NI) ぬ(NU) ね(NE) の(NO) This is your first "more than five things to learn" group. In fact, it's a whole ten things! But you'll be just fine.
You're getting better at learning the hiragana with all this practice. Too bad there's not 150 hiragana for you to practice on. な is just the N sound plus あ, making a na sound. It's pronounced like na in "nachos." The nun is praying in front of the cross asking for nachos, because she's craving a delicious snack. The cross up in the air should be the main
giveaway that this is な. に is just the N sound plus い, making a ni sound. It's pronounced like nee in "needle." Do you see the needle pulling the thread? ぬ is just the N sound plus ら, making a nu sound. It's pronounced like nee in "needle." Do you see the needle pulling the thread? ぬ is just the N sound plus ら, making a nu sound. It's pronounced like nee in "needle." This kana looks like some noodles. There are several other kana that are similar to this one (れ, め, ね, わ), but
 you know this one is noodles because there are no sharp angles in it. It's 100% smooth and bendable, like noodles! It even has an extra loop at the bottom, because it is a noodle to this one (ぬ, れ, め, わ), but you
 know this is different. Why? Because it has a loop at the end for the tail, and it's not super bendable like & (noodles) is — see those sharp corners on the left? To top things off, Nelly is a necromancer. Why? I have no idea, you'll have to ask her. It must have something to do with the undead cat army she's creating. Also, if you know the word neko
(Japanese for "cat"), you can use that too. This is a ねこ. の is just the N sound plus お, making a no sound. It's pronounced like no in "nose" or "nori." See the big pig nose there? You can also think of this as a "No Smoking" sign (the ones with the cigarette and the big red circle and slash through it). Pick the one that sticks with you the best. は (HA)
ひ(HI) ふ(HU/FU) へ(HE) ほ(HO) Now let's look at the next five in this set. If you're feeling really shaky you can jump over to Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz to practice, but you don't have to (yet)! は is just the H sound plus あ, making a ha sound. It's pronounced like ha in "haha" (like laughing!). This kana looks like an uppercase letter H plus
a lowercase letter a. What does that spell? "Ha!" Why are you laughing? Stop that. Make sure you can see the H + a in the kana. U is just the H sound plus 11, making a hi sound. It's like the English pronoun "he." In other words, it sounds like he in "heat." He has a big nose. See that big nose? Now say it out loud. "He has a big nose." is halfway.
between the F and H sounds, plus 3, making a fu / hu sound. It's pronounced like a softly blown-out version of foo in "fool," or sometimes hoo in "hoop." Someone is over there dancing like a fool. What's that around their neck? ...Oh, that's a hula hoop! That's why they're twisting their body so hard. \(^\) is just the H sound plus \(^\), making a he sound. It's
pronounced like he in "help," or "Helens. Do you know the famous mountain Mt. Saint Helens? This kana isn't totally flat like Helens is, but it's pronounced like ho in "hoe" or "ho ho ho!" In British English, it sounds more like ho in "hot." The line
on the left is a chimney. The right side is a mutated Santa Claus. He has four arms, a snake tail, and no head. Out of his neck he's uttering "ho ho ho..." Hopefully he doesn't come down your chimney. なにぬねのはひふへほ Exercises Time to practice ten at a time! It's a lot, but you're getting better at learning these things, right? Using
Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz, quiz yourself on the hiragana from the あ, か, さ, た, and は columns. When you've completed this five times, move on to the next task. Copy, print out, or download this worksheet and fill in all the boxes. As always, use the mnemonics and try not to cheat. If this is starting to feel easy, try to time yourself to see how
long it takes to complete each section and try to beat yourself each time. When you are done with these exercises it's time to move on to the next set (MA) み(MI) む(MU) め(ME) も(MO) Not quite ten in this set (before the exercises), but close enough. Let's start with the "M-column." ま is just the M sound plus あ, making a
ma sound. It's pronounced like the English word "ma" (meaning "mother"). In other words, it sounds like ma in "mark." Removing your head? Doubling your head? Doubling
making a mi sound. It's pronounced like the English word "me." In other words, it sounds like mee in "meet." Looks like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo." In other words, it sounds like moo in English: "moo in Engli
 "mood." "Moooooo", says the cow. "MOOOOOOO." & is just the M sound plus $\bar{\clip}$, making a me sound. It's pronounced like me in "mess. Look at that beautiful eye! It's so beautiful because of the makeup on it. Gotta look pretty in the eyes, or else your ensemble will just be "meh." If you also happen to know the word for "eye" in Japanese, that will help
too. The word for "eye" in Japanese is just め (me). も is just the M sound plus お, making a mo sound. It's pronounced like mo in "more." You want to catch more so you add more worms to your hook. や (YA) ゆ (YU) よ (YO) This column is a little strange. There are only three items in here, and "ye" and "ye" and "ye" are seemingly missing. Actually, they
used to exist but now they don't (instead people use い or え, because it sounds pretty similar). Because of that, you only have to learn three kana for this section! や is just the Y sound plus あ, making a ya sound. It's pronounced like ya in "yacht." In British English, it sounds more like ya in "yak." See how this kana looks like a yacht with an anchor
going down? It's even got a little flag on the rear... how cute. Alternatively, you can think of to as the face of a yak too. It's pronounced like the English word "you." This kana is a very unique looking fish! It looks like a big eyeball swimming in the water. What's it looking at? You, you big goofball! Isn't it
 weird how fish always look like they're staring at you? よ is just the Y sound plus お, making a yo sound. It's pronounced like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English, it's more like yo in "yo-yo." In British English E
Exercises Time to practice these eight hiragana (and the previous ones as well). Once again, go through the steps to make sure you know everything well! Using Tofugu's Learn Hiragana Quiz, guiz yourself on the あ, か, さ, た, は, ま, and や columns. Once you've done this three times, move on to step two. Using this worksheet, copy, print out, or
download it and write in all the boxes. When you're all done, it's time to tackle the last "main hiragana" section. You're almost there! Not so hard, right? 5 (RA) 1) (RI) 3 (RU) 1 (RE) 3 (RU) 1 (RU
column though, which does tend to give some people trouble pronunciation-wise. Please be sure to check out our "how to pronounce the Japanese R" article for more information on this. 5 is just the R / L sound plus a, making a ra / la sound. It's pronounced like a combination of "rah rah" (like cheering) and "la la la" (like singing!). To type or write it
in romaji, use "r" and write "ra." The same goes for the R column. Use "r" when writing in romaji! 5 looks like a rabbit that's standing and facing left. Look at its big droopy ears. So cute! 1) is just the R /L sound plus 1, making a ri / li sound. It's pronounced like a combination of ree in "reed" and lee in "leek." The reeds are swaying in the
wind. This kana can also be written without the connection in the middle, too, which makes it more reedlike in that case (I wanted to present the more difficult of the two versions here, though). 3 is just the R / L sound plus 3, making a ru / lu sound. It's pronounced like a combination of ru in "rule" or "route" and loo in "loop." The is like 3 (you'll
learn it in a second) except it has a loop at the end. る is a crazier route. There is a loop at the end. Are there no rules on this road? れ is just the R /L sound plus え, making a re / le sound, retching up his dinner. This kana is similar to め, わ,
ぬ, and ね. What makes this one different is the curve at the back. You can identify this as the guy's knees bending, which makes it clear that he's keeled over retching his guts out. ろ is just the R / L sound plus お, making a ro / lo sound. It's pronounced like a combination of ro in "road" and lo in "load." In British English, it's more like ro in "rot" or lo
in "long." This is the counterpart to る, except this one doesn't have a loop at the end. So this kana is just a plain old road. わ (WA) を (WO) ん (N) And finally, the last group. This is a weird one. It includes わ (which is quite normal), を (which is pronounced just like お, but is primarily used as a particle), and ん (which is the only consonant-only
character in all the kanaa). Let's go through them one by one. わ is just the W sound plus あ, making a wa sound. It's pronounced like wa in "wasabi." This kana looks like a wasp flying straight up. It looks similar to れ、ぬ、ね、and め. And it looks especially similar to ね. You know ね is Nelly the cat because of the curl of the tail on the end. So you can
grammar element called a "particle." It marks the object of a sentence. In romaji, both "o" or "wo" are used for ε. To type it, write "wo." "Whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That's pretty "whoa!" yells the guy with no chin. Someone threw a boomerang into his mouth! That is not his mouth! That is no
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pronounced like the ending n sound in "pen." In romaji, write "n." To type it, you sometimes have to type "nn." Type double "n"s, especially before vowels and y, so that it won't turn into another kana that starts with n. This kana looks just like the lowercase n in English. They happen to be the same sounds, as well. How convenient! nnnんんん. らりるれ さわをん Exercises This is the last of the main hiragana. The exercises will now cover quite a bit!), so make sure you understand and know everything before moving on. That will finish out all the main hiragana. From here on out it's just combinations of kana or variations on kana you already know, which makes things both easier and harder. Let's start with the "variation hiragana," also known as... Dakuten & Han-Dakuten bakuten symbol marks hiragana from certain consonant columns and changes their pronunciation. It turns the consonant into a "voiced" or "vibrating" sound, which

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