

JP

HIRAGANA

Hiragana 1 · Chapter 10 · Ne No

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Chapter 10 · Ne No

🌸 Finishing the N Row — ね の

Two characters complete the N row: **ね** (ne) and **の** (no). That brings you to **twenty-five characters**. Today you'll also learn one of the most useful little words in Japanese grammar, **の**, which works like "of" or "'s", and the sentence-ending **ね**, which means "isn't it?"

	a	i	u	e	o
(vowels)	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

Twenty-five down, twenty-one to go. The H row comes next.

🌟 Two New Characters — ね の

ね

ne

like "ne" in *net*, short ("neh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a curled-up cat with its tail wrapped round it: *ne-ko*, the Japanese word for "cat".

の

no

like "no" in *note*, short and pure ("noh")

1 stroke · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a round, defiant "No!", a mouth saying it, or a no-entry sign.

Look-Alike Warning: ね and む

ね (*ne*) and む (*nu*) are the most commonly confused pair in hiragana, because both end in a loop at the bottom right. The reliable test is how they **begin**: **ね starts with a straight vertical line on the left**, whereas **む starts with a slanting stroke**. Watch the stroke-order animations for both and compare the openings. (ね also resembles れ and わ, which you'll meet later in the R and W rows.)

Read It — New Words

With twenty-five characters you can read all of these. Remember that each character is one beat.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ねこ	neko	cat	<i>ne + ko</i>
2	ねえ	nē	hey, listen	<i>a friendly way to get attention</i>
3	ねっ	netsu	fever	<i>ne + tsu</i>
4	あね	ane	(my) older sister	<i>a + ne; for your own sister</i>
5	かね	kane	money; bell	<i>two meanings, one spelling</i>
6	つの	tsuno	horn	<i>tsu + no</i>
7	いのち	inochi	life	<i>i + no + chi</i>
8	のち	nochi	afterwards, later	<i>a more formal word</i>
9	この	kono	this (+ noun)	<i>ko + no; needs a noun after it</i>
10	その	sono	that (+ noun)	<i>near you</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
11	あの	ano	that over there (+ noun)	<i>far from both</i>
12	あのね	ano ne	you know... / well...	<i>a conversation opener</i>

🔗 The Little Word の — "Of" and "'s"

の joins two nouns, and it works like English "'s" or "of": **A の B** means "A's B". (Spaces are added below to show the word breaks.)

JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH
いぬ の いえ	inu no ie	the dog's house
ねこ の て	neko no te	the cat's paw (hand)
あなた の いぬ	anata no inu	your dog
この ねこ	kono neko	this cat
その いぬ	sono inu	that dog
あの いえ	ano ie	that house over there

Real Japanese Tip — Ending a Sentence with ね

A small ね on the end of a sentence means "..., isn't it?" or "..., right?" and asks the listener to agree. It's one of the most common sounds in Japanese conversation: あつい ね ("It's hot, isn't it?"), おいしい ね ("It's tasty, isn't it?"). Japanese people use it constantly to share a feeling, so using it makes you sound natural and friendly.

💬 Mini-Dialogs

① Hot, Isn't It? — あついね

A:

あついね。

atsui ne.

It's hot, isn't it?

B:

ええ、あついね。

ee, atsui ne.

Yes, it's hot, isn't it.

② Whose Cat? — あなたのねこ?

A:

ねえ、このねこ、あなたの？

nē, kono neko, anata no?

Hey, is this cat yours?

B:

ええ、そう！

ee, sō!

Yes, it is!

A:

ちいさいね。

chiisai ne.

It's small, isn't it.

③ A Big Dog — あのいぬ

A:

あのいぬ、おおきい！

ano inu, ookii!

That dog over there is big!

B:

そう？

sō?

Is it?

A:

ええ、おおきいね。

ee, ookii ne.

Yes, it's big, isn't it.

Review: Reading Back

Cover the English and read these again: なに (what?) · あなた (you) · くに (country) · いぬ (dog) · さかな (fish) · にく (meat) · かに (crab) · なつ (summer) · にし (west) · なか (inside) · おなか (stomach) · ない (not).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

Say each answer out loud first, then click to check.

1. Say the whole N row in order: な に ん ね の

▼ Show answer

na · ni · nu · ne · no

2. How can you tell ね from ん?

▼ Show answer

ね begins with a straight vertical line on the left; ん begins with a slanting stroke. Check the stroke-order animations to see both.

3. Read and translate: ねこ · つの · いのち

▼ Show answer

neko (cat) · tsuno (horn) · inochi (life)

4. Write in hiragana: neko (cat) · anata no inu (your dog) · ano ne (you know...)

▼ Show answer

ねこ · あなたのいぬ · あのね

5. Translate: いぬのいえ · ねこのて

▼ Show answer

the dog's house · the cat's paw (hand)

6. What does ね do at the end of a sentence, as in あついね?

▼ Show answer

It means "..., isn't it?" and invites the listener to agree: "It's hot, isn't it?"

Coming Up in Chapter 11

The H row begins: は ひ ふ (ha, hi, fu). Two surprises: *fu* is spelled with an f but sounds softer than the English "f", and the character は is sometimes read as *wa*. You'll then read はな (flower), ひと (person), ふね (ship) and ひこうき (aeroplane).