

JP

HIRAGANA

Hiragana 1 · Chapter 14 · Me Mo

Hiragana 1

Chapter 14 · Me Mo

🌸 Finishing the M Row — め も

Two characters complete the M row: め (me) and も (mo). That makes **thirty-five characters**.

Today you'll also meet the particle も ("also, too"), the phone greeting もしもし, and the words for the people in your family.

	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
h +	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
m +	ま	み	む	め	も

Thirty-five down, eleven to go. The Y row comes next.

✨ Two New Characters — め も

め

me

like "me" in *met*, short ("meh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

も

mo

like "mo" in *more*, short and pure ("moh")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: an eye with a long lash flicking out to the right. (め is also the Japanese word for "eye".)

Memory hook: a fishing hook with two lines in the water: *more* fish!

Look-Alike Warning: め and む

め (*me*) and む (*nu*) are the classic mix-up from Chapter 9. Both are 2 strokes with a slanting first stroke, and both finish at the bottom right, but む **ends in a small loop, while め ends in a**

plain sweep with no loop. Compare them side by side: む め. Remember "む for noodles" (the tangle) and "め for eye" (the open lash).

Read It — New Words

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

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	め	me	eye	<i>a word as well as a character</i>
2	あめ	ame	rain; candy	<i>same spelling, different pitch</i>
3	かめ	kame	turtle	<i>ka + me</i>
4	もも	momo	peach	<i>mo + mo</i>
5	もの	mono	thing, object	<i>a physical "thing"</i>
6	もち	mochi	rice cake	<i>mo + chi</i>
7	くも	kumo	cloud; spider	<i>two meanings, one spelling</i>
8	もう	mō	already; any more	<i>"mo-o": 2 beats</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
9	おもい	omoi	heavy	<i>an adjective</i>
10	おもう	omou	to think	<i>a verb</i>
11	いもうと	imōto	(my) younger sister	<i>four beats: i-mo-u-to</i>
12	もしもし	moshi moshi	hello (on the phone)	<i>how you answer a call</i>

Real Japanese Tip — あめ: Rain and Candy

あめ means both "rain" and "candy". They're written the same in hiragana, but a Japanese speaker tells them apart by **pitch** (the rise and fall of the voice), and by context. That's one reason Japanese writers often use kanji, which separate the meanings. For now, context is all you need.

Real Japanese Tip — Your Own Family

You now know the casual, humble words that people use for **their own** family: ちち (father), はは (mother), あに (older brother), あね (older sister), おとうと (younger brother) and いもうと (younger sister). When talking about someone else's family, Japanese uses different, more respectful words, which you'll meet in the conversation courses.

🔗 The Particle も — "Also, Too"

The particle も (mo) means "also" or "too". It takes the place of は: $A \text{ も } B = "A \text{ is } B \text{ too}"$. (Spaces are added to show the word breaks.)

JAPANESE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH
いぬはちいさい。ねこもちいさい。	inu wa chiisai. neko mo chiisai.	The dog is small. The cat is small too.

JAPANESE

ROMAJI

ENGLISH

あなたも？

anata mo?

You too?

えきへいきます。あなたも？

eki e

ikimasu.

anata mo?

I'm going to the
station. Are you
going too?

Mini-Dialogs

① On the Phone — もしもし

A:

もしもし。

moshi moshi.

Hello? (answering the phone)

B:

もしもし。あのね、...

moshi moshi. ano ne, ...

Hello. You know, ...

② Small Too — ねこも

A:

いぬはちいさい。

inu wa chiisai.

The dog is small.

B:

ねこもちいさいね。

neko mo chiisai ne.

The cat is small too, isn't it.

③ You Too? — あなたも？

A:

えきへいきます。あなたも？

eki e ikimasu. anata mo?

I'm going to the station. You too?

B:

はい、いきます。

hai, ikimasu.

Yes, I'm going.

Review: Reading Back

Cover the English and read these again: うま (horse) · みみ (ear) · むし (insect) · まち (town) · みち (road) · みせ (shop) · まえ (front) · うみ (sea) · きた (north) · みなみ (south) · むかし (long ago) · まつ (to wait).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Say the whole M row in order: ま み む め も

▼ Show answer

ma · mi · mu · me · mo

2. How can you tell め from む, and how many strokes do め and も have?

▼ Show answer

む ends in a small loop; め ends in a plain sweep. め has 2 strokes, も has 3.

3. Read and translate: あめ · かめ · もも

▼ Show answer

ame (rain, or candy) · kame (turtle) · momo (peach)

4. Write in hiragana: *mono* (thing) · *kumo* (cloud) · *imōto* (younger sister)

▼ Show answer

もの · くも · いもうと

5. Translate: ねこ も ちいさい。 and あなた も？

▼ Show answer

The cat is small too. · You too?

6. What do you say when you answer a phone call in Japanese?

▼ Show answer

もしもし (moshi moshi).

Coming Up in Chapter 15

The Y row begins: や ゆ よ (ya, yu, yo). The Y row has only three characters (the "yi" and "ye" slots are empty). You'll then read やま (mountain), ゆき (snow), ゆめ (dream), やさい (vegetables) and やすみ (holiday).