

JP

HIRAGANA

Hiragana 2 · Chapter 10 · Pe Po

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🌸 Finishing the P Row — ペ ぽ

The last two characters of the course: ペ (pe) and ぽ (po), the semi-voiced forms of へ and ぽ. After this chapter you know every voiced and semi-voiced hiragana. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH °	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
へ	へ°	he	pe
ほ	ほ°	ho	po

	a	i	u	e	o
h	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
p (h + °)	ぱ	ぴ	ぷ	ぺ	ぽ

The two highlighted characters are today's; the P row is now complete.

✨ Two New Characters — ペ ぽ

pe

like "pe" in *pen* ("peh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *peak* with a small round *pearl* on its side: へ with a circle. One stroke plus one for the circle.

po

like "po" in *pony*, short ("poh")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *post* with a round *pompom* on top: ぽ with a circle. Four strokes plus one for the circle.



Read It — New Words

Mostly mimetic words and everyday favourites. Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	さんぽ	sanpo	a walk; a stroll	<i>sa-n-po: the usual word for a leisurely walk</i>
2	たんぽぽ	tanpopo	dandelion	<i>ta-n-po-po</i>
3	ぺらぺら	perapera	fluent (in a language)	<i>pe-ra-pe-ra: "He's ぺらぺら in Japanese!"</i>
4	ぺこぺこ	pekopeko	starving (stomach rumbling)	<i>pe-ko-pe-ko: おなかが ぺこぺこ = "I'm starving"</i>
5	ぽかぽか	pokapoka	nice and warm	<i>po-ka-po-ka: a lovely sunny-day word</i>
6	ぽたぽた	potapota	drip, drip	<i>po-ta-po-ta</i>
7	ぺたぺた	petapeta	sticky; patting	<i>pe-ta-pe-ta</i>
8	ぽつぽつ	potsupotsu	spots; scattered drops	<i>po-tsu-po-tsu</i>
9	ぽん	pon	pop; a light tap	<i>po-n</i>
10	ぺん	pen	pen	<i>pe-n: usually written ペン in katakana</i>

Real Japanese Tip — おなかが ぺこぺこ

おなかが ぺこぺこ ("my stomach is peko-peko") is a very natural way to say "I'm starving". The おなかが is "stomach", が marks it as the subject, and ぺこぺこ is the rumbling feeling. Mimetic words like this are everywhere in spoken Japanese and in manga.

The Full Chart Is in Your Hands

With **ぺ** and **ぽ**, every cell of the voiced chart is filled. Remember the one real surprise: **ぢ** and **づ** sound like **じ** and **ず**, and **じ** is *ji*, not *zi*. Everything else is just a plain character you already knew plus **ゝ** or **゜**.

Review: Words from Chapter 9

えんぴつ (pencil) · さんぶん (3 minutes) · ぱん (bread) · ぱぱ (dad) · ぴかぴか (shiny) · てんぷら (tempura).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: **ぺ** · **ぽ** · **ぱ** · **ぴ** · **ぷ**

▼ Show answer

pe · po · pa · pi · pu

2. Read aloud and translate: **さんぽ** · **たんぽぽ**

▼ Show answer

sanpo (a walk) · tanpopo (dandelion)

3. Read aloud and translate: **ぺらぺら** · **ぽかぽか** · **ぽたぽた**

▼ Show answer

perapera (fluent) · pokapoka (warm) · potapota (drip, drip)

4. What does **おなかが ぺこぺこ** mean?

▼ Show answer

I'm starving; lit. "my stomach is peko-peko".

5. Which of the 25 characters you have learned sound the same as another, and which?

▼ Show answer

ぢ sounds like じ (ji) and づ sounds like ず (zu).

6. Write in hiragana: *sanpo · tanpopo · perapera* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

さんぽ・たんぽぽ・ぺらぺら

🎓 Course Complete — おめでとう！

You have learned all 25 voiced and semi-voiced hiragana. Here is the whole chart, every one of them one of the basic characters with a mark.

	a	i	u	e	o
k → g	が	ぎ	ぐ	げ	ご
s → z	ざ	じ	ず	ぜ	ぞ
t → d	だ	ぢ	づ	で	ど
h → b	ば	び	ぶ	べ	ぼ
h → p	ぱ	ぴ	ぷ	ぺ	ぽ

Read across each row: the plain row from Hiragana 1 plus the mark gives the row shown. ぢ and づ sound like じ and ず.

CHAPTER	NEW CHARACTERS	YOU CAN NOW...
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1	が ぎ ぐ	You can now explain what ゝ does and read がくせい, えいが.
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2	げ ご	You can now read げんき, ごはん, ごめんなさい.
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CHAPTER	NEW CHARACTERS	YOU CAN NOW...
3	ざ じ ず	You can now read ありがとうございます, おはようございます.
4	ぜ ぞ	You can now read かぜ, かぞく, ぞう.
5	だ ぢ づ	You can now read いただきます, ともだち, and explain rendaku.
6	で ど	You can now read です, どこ, でんわ.
7	ば び ぶ	You can now read こんばんは, かばん, ぶどう.
8	べ ぼ	You can now read たべる, おべんとう, ぼく.
9	ぱ ぴ ぷ	You can now explain ° and read えんぴつ, さんぶん.
10	ぺ ぽ	You can now read さんぽ, たんぽぽ, ペラペラ.

What Next?

Next is **Hiragana 3**, the last hiragana course: the small っ (double consonants), long vowels, the combined sounds (きゃ, しゅ, ちょ ...) and the particles は へ を. After that you can start **Japanese Basic Conversation 1** with a full set of hiragana behind you.