

JP

HIRAGANA

Hiragana 2 · Chapter 5 · Da Ji Zu

Hiragana 2

Chapter 5 · Da Ji Zu

🌸 The D Row Begins — だ ぢ づ

The dakuten turns **t** into **d**, giving **だ** (da), **ぢ** (ji) and **づ** (zu). One of these is common and two are rare, so this chapter is as much about when you will actually see them as about the shapes. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH ˆ	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
た	だ	ta	da
ち	ぢ	chi	ji
つ	づ	tsu	zu

	a	i	u	e	o
t	た	ち	つ	て	と
d (t + ˆ)	だ	ぢ	づ	で	ど

The three highlighted characters are today's. て and ど come in Chapter 6.

🌟 Three New Characters — だ ぢ づ

だ

da

like "da" in *father* with a d
("dah")

6 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

ぢ

ji

sounds the same as じ: "jee"

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

づ

zu

sounds the same as ず: "zoo"

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: *dad* with his bow tie: だ with two dots. Four strokes plus two for the mark.

Memory hook: a secret twin of じ: ぢ with two dots, but pronounced exactly like じ. Two strokes plus two for the mark.

Memory hook: a secret twin of ず: づ with two dots, pronounced exactly like ず. One stroke plus two for the mark.

ぢ and づ Sound Exactly Like じ and ず

In modern standard Japanese, ぢ is pronounced *ji* and づ is pronounced *zu*, the same as じ and ず. So why do they exist? Mostly for historical reasons, and for a few special cases (below). In everyday writing you'll see じ and ず about a hundred times for every ぢ and づ. Learn to *recognise* them; you'll rarely need to *write* them.

When ぢ and づ Are Used: Rendaku

When two words join into one, the first sound of the second word often becomes voiced. This is called **rendaku**. So はな (nose) + ち (blood) = はなぢ (nosebleed), and つづく (to continue) repeats つ and voices the second. Rendaku also explains many だ words: とも + たち = ともだち (friend), and て + かみ = てがみ (letter). When you see a voiced sound in the middle of a compound, rendaku is usually why.

Read It — New Words

The first two entries are phrases you will hear all the time. Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	いただきます	itadakimasu	(said before eating)	<i>i-ta-da-ki-ma-su: said before a meal, like "let's eat"</i>
2	ただいま	tadaima	I'm home	<i>ta-da-i-ma: said when you arrive home</i>
3	ともだち	tomodachi	friend	<i>to-mo-da-chi: rendaku, とも + たち</i>
4	だれ	dare	who	<i>da-re</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
5	からだ	karada	body	<i>ka-ra-da</i>
6	だいがく	daigaku	university	<i>da-i-ga-ku</i>
7	だめ	dame	no good; not allowed	<i>da-me: you will hear it a lot</i>
8	つづく	tsuzuku	to continue	<i>tsu-zu-ku: づ, pronounced zu</i>
9	はなぢ	hanaji	nosebleed	<i>ha-na-ji: ぢ, pronounced ji</i>
10	ちぢむ	chijimu	to shrink	<i>chi-ji-mu: ぢ again</i>

Real Japanese Tip — いただきます and ごちそうさま

いただきます is said before a meal and ごちそうさま (from Chapter 2) after it. Together they frame every meal in Japan, at home, in restaurants and even in school canteens. And ただいま ("I'm home") is answered by おかえり ("welcome back").

Typing ぢ and づ

On a Japanese keyboard in romaji mode, *ji* gives じ and *zu* gives ず. To type ぢ you usually type *di*, and for づ you type *du*.

Review: Words from Chapter 4

かぜ (wind; a cold) · かぞく (family) · ぞう (elephant) · ぜひ (by all means) · ぜんぜん (not at all) · かんぜん (complete).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: だ・ぢ・づ

▼ Show answer

da · ji · zu

2. Read aloud and translate: ともだち・だれ・からだ

▼ Show answer

tomodachi (friend) · dare (who) · karada (body)

3. Read aloud: いただきます・ただいま. When do you say each?

▼ Show answer

itadakimasu: before eating. tadaima: when you get home.

4. How are ぢ and づ pronounced, and how common are they?

▼ Show answer

Like じ (ji) and ず (zu). They are rare: mostly rendaku (はなぢ) and repeated sounds (つづく, ぢぢむ).

5. What is rendaku? Give one example from this chapter.

▼ Show answer

A joined word's second part gets a voiced first sound: とも + たち = ともだち; はな + ち = はなぢ; て + かみ = てがみ.

6. Write in hiragana: *daigaku · tsuzuku · dame* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

だいがく・つづく・だめ

Coming Up in Chapter 6

The rest of the D row: で (de) and ど (do). You'll be able to read でんわ (telephone), どこ (where), どうぞ (please, go ahead) and おげんきですか (how are you?).