

JP

HIRAGANA

Hiragana 2 · Chapter 6 · De Do

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🌸 Finishing the D Row — で ど

Two characters complete the D row: で (de) and ど (do). They give you one of the most important words in Japanese, です ("is / am / are"), so from here you can start reading real sentences. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH ゛	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
て	で	te	de
と	ど	to	do

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

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

✨ Two New Characters — で ど

で

de

like "de" in *desk* ("deh")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a dentist's hook with two cotton balls: て with two dots. One stroke plus two for the mark.

ど

do

like "do" in *dome*, short ("doh")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a door's latch with two bolts: と with two dots. Two strokes plus two for the mark.

です: Your First Sentence Ending

です (*desu*) is the polite "is / am / are". *げんきです* means "I'm well", and *がくせいです* means "I'm a student". Add *か* and it becomes a question: *おげんきですか* means "Are you well?". Notice that the final *u* of *です* is often barely pronounced, so it sounds like "dess".

Read It — New Words

The first three entries are polite phrases. Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	です	desu	is; am; are (polite)	<i>de-su</i> : the <i>u</i> is nearly silent
2	おげんきですか	ogenki desu ka	How are you?	<i>o-ge-n-ki de-su ka</i> : lit. "are you well?"
3	ごちそうさまでした	gochisōsama deshita	thank you for the meal	the full polite form; <i>でした</i> is the past of <i>です</i>
4	どうぞ	dōzo	please; go ahead	<i>do-u-zo</i> : when offering or inviting
5	どうも	dōmo	thanks; hello (short)	<i>do-u-mo</i> : a short, informal thanks
6	どこ	doko	where	<i>do-ko</i>
7	でんわ	denwa	telephone	<i>de-n-wa</i>
8	でぐち	deguchi	exit	<i>de-gu-chi</i> : you'll see it on signs
9	でんき	denki	electricity; electric light	<i>de-n-ki</i>
10	おでん	oden	oden (hot-pot stew)	<i>o-de-n</i> : a winter street-food favourite

Real Japanese Tip — Answering おげんきですか

The usual reply is はい、げんきです ("Yes, I'm well"), and you can return the question with あなたは？ ("And you?"). The ですか form is the polite choice for strangers and colleagues; with friends you can simply ask げんき？.

どこですか: Where Is It?

どこ is "where", so でぐちはどこですか means "Where is the exit?". You'll meet this pattern properly in the Japanese Basic Conversation course. For now you can recognise it, and you'll never be lost in a station again.

Review: Words from Chapter 5

いただきます (said before eating) · ただいま (I'm home) · ともだち (friend) ·
だれ (who) · からだ (body) · だいがく (university).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: で · ど · だ · ち · づ

▼ Show answer

de · do · da · ji · zu

2. Read aloud and translate: どこ · でんわ · でぐち

▼ Show answer

doko (where) · denwa (telephone) · deguchi (exit)

3. Read aloud and translate: どうぞ · どうも

▼ Show answer

dōzo (please; go ahead) · dōmo (thanks)

4. What does です mean, and what does adding か do?

▼ Show answer

です = is/am/are (polite). Adding か makes it a question: おげんきですか = Are you well?

5. Read aloud and translate: ごちそうさまでした

▼ Show answer

gochisōsama deshita: thank you for the meal (the full polite form).

6. Write in hiragana: *desu* · *denwa* · *doko* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

です · でんわ · どこ

Coming Up in Chapter 7

The B row: ば (ba), び (bi) and ぶ (bu), the voiced forms of は ひ ふ. You'll be able to read こんばんは (good evening) and ぶた (pig).