

JP

JAPANESE WRITING COURSE

Hiragana 3

Ten short chapters that finish hiragana: the small つ, long vowels, all 33 combined sounds (きゃ, しゅ, ちょ ...), the particles は へ を, and reading practice with signs, a menu and a short text, with romaji throughout. The third and last course in the hiragana series.

10 Chapters

Philip Osztromok

Generated with Claude

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Hiragana 3

Chapter 1 · Small Tsu

🌸 Small つ — The Silent Beat

Hiragana 1 gave you the 46 basic characters, and Hiragana 2 added the voiced ones. Hiragana 3 completes the set with the three things left: the **small** つ (today), **long vowels**, and the **combined sounds** such as きゃ and しゅ. Let's start with the smallest character of all. Romaji is shown for everything.

🔊 What Small つ Does — 促音

The small つ (sokuon) is the same shape as つ but written about half the size, low and to the right. It has no sound of its own. It means: **pause for one beat, then say the next consonant again**. In romaji, it shows up as a doubled consonant.



(pause)

a silent beat: hold your mouth shut for one beat, then release the next consonant

1 stroke · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a つ that has been squashed to half size, like a tiny clenched fist before a punch. It's a full beat, so きっぷ has three beats.

Count the Beats

きっぷ (ticket) has **three** beats: *ki · (pause) · pu*. In English you would say it as two syllables, "kip-pu", with no gap. In Japanese, the middle beat is real: tap the table three times as you say it. The pause happens with your mouth closed on the consonant: for きっぷ your lips close for *p* and stay shut for one beat, then open.

⚖️ Short or Long? — A Meaning Changes

Without the small つ these are different words, so the pause matters.

WITHOUT つ	SAY IT	ENGLISH	WITH つ	SAY IT	ENGLISH
おと	oto	sound	おっと	otto	husband
さか	saka	slope	さっか	sakka	writer
きて	kite	come!	きって	kitte	stamp
もと	moto	origin	もっと	motto	more

Not つ

The small つ and the full-size っ (tsu) are easy to mix up when you're reading fast. Check the size: if the character is small and sits low and to the right, it's the pause. If it is full size, it is *tsu*.

Where つ Appears

- **Before k, s, t and p:** the sounds you see in がっこう (kk), ざっし (ss), まって (tt) and いっぱい (pp). These are by far the most common.
- **Before ch, sh and ts:** the same rule, written *tch*, *ssh* and *tts* in romaji, as in *zasshi* (ざっし).
- **Never at the start of a word**, and never before a vowel, *n*, *m* or *r* in native Japanese words.
- **At the end of an exclamation:** あっ! ("Oh!") and えっ? ("What?!") end with a small つ that shows a sudden, sharp stop.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji. Remember to count the pause.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	きっぷ	kippu	ticket	<i>ki-p-pu: three beats, with つ a silent one in the middle</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
2	ざっし	zasshi	magazine	<i>za-s-shi: っ doubles the s</i>
3	にっき	nikki	diary	<i>ni-k-ki</i>
4	さっか	sakka	writer; author	<i>sa-k-ka</i>
5	まって	matte	wait!	<i>ma-t-te: a very useful word</i>
6	いっぱい	ippai	full; a lot	<i>i-p-pa-i</i>
7	もっと	motto	more	<i>mo-t-to</i>
8	がっこう	gakkō	school	<i>ga-k-ko-u</i>
9	ひっこし	hikkoshi	moving house	<i>hi-k-ko-shi</i>
10	せっけん	sekken	soap	<i>se-k-ke-n</i>

Real Japanese Tip — まって and もっと

Two small っ words you'll use all the time: まって ("wait!", casual; the polite form is まってください) and もっと ("more"), as in もっと ゆっくり ("more slowly"). If you can only learn two, learn those.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

さんぽ (a walk) · たんぽぽ (dandelion) · ペらペら (fluent) · ぽかぽか (warm) ·
おなかが ぺこぺこ (I'm starving).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. What does the small つ do?

▼ Show answer

It adds a one-beat pause and doubles the following consonant: kippu, zasshi, matte, gakkō.

2. How many beats are in きっぷ?

▼ Show answer

Three: ki · (pause) · pu.

3. Read aloud and translate: がっこう · ざっし · にっき

▼ Show answer

gakkō (school) · zasshi (magazine) · nikki (diary)

4. Read aloud and translate: おと · おっと and もと · もっと

▼ Show answer

oto (sound) · otto (husband); moto (origin) · motto (more)

5. How do you tell つ from っ?

▼ Show answer

Size and position: つ is small and low to the right (a pause); っ is full size (tsu).

6. Write in hiragana: kippu · matte · motto (check the small つ).

▼ Show answer

きっぷ · まって · もっと

Coming Up in Chapter 2

Long vowels: how おかあさん (mother) differs from おかさん, why おう is read as a long o, and how the same idea gives you ありがとう, せんせい and とうきょう.

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Chapter 2 · Long Vowels

🌸 Long Vowels — Hold It Twice

Last chapter's small つ was a silent extra beat. This chapter's extra beat is a vowel: a long vowel is simply held for two beats instead of one. It is spelt by adding a vowel character, and it is what turns おかあさん into "mother" and おばさん into a different word entirely. Romaji is shown for everything.

🔪 The Rule — 長音

In katakana a long vowel is written with a line (ー). In hiragana, you **add a vowel character** after the vowel you want to stretch. The stretched vowel takes **two beats**, not one: おかあさん is o-ka-a-sa-n, five beats, not four.

VOWEL SOUND	LONG VERSION WRITTEN...	EXAMPLES	ROMAJI
a	add あ	おかあさん・おばあさん	okāsan · obāsan
i	add い	おにいさん・おじいさん	oniisan · ojiisan
u	add う	くうこう・ゆうめい	kūkō · yūmei
e	add い (usually)	せんせい・とけい・えいが	sensei · tokei · eiga
e	add え (a few words)	おねえさん・ええ	onēsan · ē

VOWEL SOUND	LONG VERSION WRITTEN...	EXAMPLES	ROMAJI
o	add う (usually)	おとうさん・ ありがとう	otōsan · arigatō
o	add お (a few words)	おおきい・とおい・ こおり	ōkii · tōi · kōri

The Two Tricky Ones: え and お

For **a**, **i** and **u**, you repeat the same vowel (あ→ああ, い→いい, う→うう). For **e** and **o**, the usual spelling adds **い** and **う**: せんせい (teacher) and おとうさん (father). The exceptions that repeat the vowel (おねえさん, おおきい, とおい) are a short, fixed list that you simply learn as you meet them.

How It Is Pronounced

The long vowel is not two different sounds: it's one vowel held twice as long. せんせい is spelt with せ + い but said *sen-sē*, and おとうさん is said *o-tō-san*. In romaji you'll see *sensei* and *otōsan*, and the macron (ō, ū, ā) marks the long vowel.

Short or Long? — A Meaning Changes

Length is as important as the pause you learned last chapter. These pairs are real words that differ only by a vowel.

SHORT	SAY IT	ENGLISH	LONG	SAY IT	ENGLISH
おばさん	obasan	aunt	おばあさん	obāsan	grandmother
おじさん	ojisan	uncle	おじいさん	ojiisan	grandfather
ゆき	yuki	snow	ゆうき	yūki	courage

SHORT	SAY IT	ENGLISH	LONG	SAY IT	ENGLISH
とる	toru	to take	とおる	tōru	to pass through

Mind Your おばさん and おばあさん

Mixing up a short and a long vowel can cause real mix-ups: おばさん is an aunt (or a middle-aged woman), but おばあさん is a grandmother. Holding the vowel for the extra beat is not a small detail in Japanese.

Read It — New Words

Family words first, since you'll use them in Japanese Basic Conversation 1. Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji, and hold the long vowels.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	おかあさん	okāsan	mother	<i>o-ka-a-sa-n: five beats</i>
2	おとうさん	otōsan	father	<i>o-to-u-sa-n: the う lengthens the お</i>
3	おばあさん	obāsan	grandmother	<i>o-ba-a-sa-n</i>
4	おじいさん	ojiisan	grandfather	<i>o-ji-i-sa-n</i>
5	おにいさん	oniisan	older brother	<i>o-ni-i-sa-n</i>
6	おねえさん	onēsan	older sister	<i>o-ne-e-sa-n: a long e written with え</i>
7	せんせい	sensei	teacher	<i>se-n-se-i: the い lengthens the え</i>
8	ありがとう	arigatō	thank you	<i>a-ri-ga-to-u: the う lengthens the と</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
9	おおきい	ōkii	big	<i>o-o-ki-i: a long o written with お</i>
10	とおい	tōi	far	<i>to-o-i</i>

Real Japanese Tip — おかあさん Is Someone Else's Mother

The お and さん in おかあさん and おとうさん are polite. You use these words for *someone else's* parents, or when you speak to your own parents. For your own mother and father when talking to others, Japanese uses plain forms (はは and ちち), which you'll learn in Japanese Basic Conversation 1.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

きっぷ (ticket) · ざっし (magazine) · まって (wait!) · もっと (more) · がっこう (school) · せっけん (soap).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How is a long vowel written in hiragana?

▼ Show answer

By adding a vowel character after it: あ, い, う; and い or う after e and o (usually).

2. How many beats are in おかあさん?

▼ Show answer

Five: o · ka · a · sa · n.

3. Read aloud and translate: せんせい · おとうさん · ありがとう

▼ Show answer

sensei (teacher) · otōsan (father) · arigatō (thank you)

4. What is the difference between おばさん and おばあさん?

▼ Show answer

おばさん is an aunt; おばあさん is a grandmother. The long vowel changes the meaning.

5. Read aloud and translate: おおきい · とおい · おにいさん

▼ Show answer

ōkii (big) · tōi (far) · oniisan (older brother)

6. Write in hiragana: *sensei* · *otōsan* · *ōkii* (check the long vowels).

▼ Show answer

せんせい · おとうさん · おおきい

Coming Up in Chapter 3

The combined sounds begin: きゃ きゅ きょ and ぎゃ ぎゅ ぎょ, where a small や ゆ よ joins the character before it. You'll be able to read きょう (today), きょうと (Kyoto) and ぎゅうにゅう (milk), and your new long-vowel rule will already be working.

Hiragana 3

Chapter 3 · Kya Kyu Kyo

🌸 Combined Sounds I — きゃ きゅ きょ and ぎゃ ぎゅ ぎょ

Now the third and last big idea in Hiragana 3: **combined sounds**. They look new, but they are the same trick as before: a character you know, plus a small mark of its own. This chapter introduces the rule with the K and G rows, six sounds in all. Romaji is shown for everything.

✳️ The Rule — 拗音

A **combined sound** (*yōon*) is made from an **い-row character** plus a **small や, ゆ or よ**. The small character is written about half size, low and to the right, and the two together make **one beat**: き + や = きゃ (*kya*).

	ゃ (YA)	ゅ (YU)	ょ (YO)
き (ki)	きゃ <i>kya</i>	きゅ <i>kyu</i>	きょ <i>kyo</i>
ぎ (gi)	ぎゃ <i>gya</i>	ぎゅ <i>gyu</i>	ぎょ <i>gyo</i>

Today: the K and G rows. Other rows follow in the next chapters, using exactly the same pattern.

きゃ

kya

"kya" in one beat, like the start of Kyoto with an "ah"

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *kya!*, the startled cry in a manga. き + small や.

きゅ

kyu

"kyu" in one beat, like *cue*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *kyu*, the sound of something adorable. き + small ゆ.

きょ

kyo

"kyo" in one beat, like the start of Kyoto

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *kyo* in Kyoto. き + small よ.

ぎや

gya

"gya" in one beat, a hard g
plus "ya"

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *gya!*, a scream.
ぎ + small や.

ぎゆ

gyu

"gyu" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *gyū* in *gyūniku*,
beef. ぎ + small ゆ.

ぎよ

gyo

"gyo" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *gyo* in *gyōza*.
ぎ + small よ.

One Beat or Two? — きや versus きゃ

Size decides: きや (small や) is one beat, *kya*. きゃ (full-size や) is two beats, *ki-ya*. Say them out loud and tap: きや is one tap, きゃ is two. The same goes for ゆ/ゆ and よ/よ.

TWO BEATS

SAY IT

ONE BEAT

SAY IT

きや

ki-ya

きゃ

kya

きよ

ki-yo

きょ

kyo

Link to Chapter 2: よう and ゆう

Combined sounds are very often followed by う, which makes a long vowel: よう = **long ō** (きょう = *kyō*) and ゆう = **long ū** (きゅう = *kyū*). Notice the macron in the romaji: *Kyōto*, *gyōza*, *gyūniku*.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji. Remember: each combined sound is one beat.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	きょう	kyō	today	<i>kyo-u</i> : よう is a long o, as in Chapter 2

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
2	きょうと	Kyōto	Kyoto	<i>kyō-to</i>
3	きゃく	kyaku	guest; customer	<i>kya-ku</i>
4	きょうしつ	kyōshitsu	classroom	<i>kyō-shi-tsu</i>
5	きょうだい	kyōdai	brothers and sisters; siblings	<i>kyō-da-i</i>
6	きょねん	kyonen	last year	<i>kyo-ne-n</i>
7	ぎゅうにく	gyūniku	beef	<i>gyū-ni-ku</i> : ゃう is a long u
8	ぎょうざ	gyōza	gyoza (dumplings)	<i>gyō-za</i>
9	きゅうり	kyūri	cucumber	<i>kyū-ri</i>
10	ぎゃく	gyaku	opposite; reverse	<i>gya-ku</i>

Real Japanese Tip — きょうはいいてんきです

きょう (today) is one of the most useful words for a beginner. きょうはいいてんきです means "It's nice weather today": きょう (today) + は (as for) + いい (good) + てんき (weather) + です. You can already read every character in it.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

おかあさん (mother) · おとうさん (father) · せんせい (teacher) · ありがとう (thank you) · おおきい (big) · とおい (far).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How many beats are in きや, and how many in きや?

▼ Show answer

きや: one (kya). きや: two (ki-ya).

2. What does the small や ゆ よ do?

▼ Show answer

It joins the character before it (an い-row character) into one combined sound: き + や = kya.

3. Read aloud and translate: きょう・きょうと・きやく

▼ Show answer

kyō (today) · Kyōto (Kyoto) · kyaku (guest)

4. Read aloud and translate: ぎゅうにく・ぎょうざ・きゅうり

▼ Show answer

gyūniku (beef) · gyōza (gyoza) · kyūri (cucumber)

5. What is the sound of ょう at the end of a word like きょう?

▼ Show answer

A long ō: kyō (kyo + a long o).

6. Write in hiragana: kyō · kyōdai · gyōza (check the small よ).

▼ Show answer

きょう・きょうだい・ぎょうざ

Coming Up in Chapter 4

The same rule on two more rows: **しゃ しゅ しょ** and **じゃ じゅ じょ**. You'll be able to read **しゃしん** (photo), **しゅみ** (hobby) and **じょうず** (skilled).

Hiragana 3

Chapter 4 · Sha Shu Sho

🌸 Combined Sounds II — しゃ しゅ しょ and じゃ じゅ じょ

Same rule as last chapter, on two new rows: し and じ plus a small や, ゆ or よ. Notice that the romaji is sha shu sho and ja ju jo, not "shya" or "jya": the "y" is already inside the sh and j sounds. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌸 The Rule Again — 拗音

The rule has not changed: an い-row character + a small や, ゆ or よ = **one beat**. Today it is applied to し and じ.

	や (YA)	ゆ (YU)	よ (YO)
し (shi)	しゃ sha	しゅ shu	しょ sho
じ (ji)	じゃ ja	じゅ ju	じょ jo

Remember: し is shi and じ is ji, so these combine to sha and ja, not shya.

しゃ

sha

"sha" in one beat, like *shah*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: sha in *shashin*, a photo. し + small や.

しゅ

shu

"shu" in one beat, like *shoe*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: shu as in *shumi*, a hobby. し + small ゆ.

しょ

sho

"sho" in one beat, like *show*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: sho, like a *show*. し + small よ.

じゃ

ja

"ja" in one beat, like *jam*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *ja* like *jam*. じ + small や.

じゅ

ju

"ju" in one beat, like *ju* in *jewel*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *ju* as in *jū*, *ten*. じ + small ゆ.

じょ

jo

"jo" in one beat, like *Joe*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *jo*, like *Joe*. じ + small よ.

One Beat or Two? — しゃ versus しゃ

Size again decides: しゃ (small や) is one beat, *sha*. しゃ (full-size や) is two beats, *shi-ya*. The length matters even more with じゅう (ten) and じゅう (freedom): same letters, different sizes, completely different words.

TWO BEATS

SAY IT

ONE BEAT

SAY IT

しゃ

shi-ya

しゃ

sha

じゅう

ji-yū (freedom)

じゅう

jū (ten)

Long Vowels Again

As before, a combined sound followed by う is a long vowel: しょうゆ is *shō-yu* and じゅう is *jū*. The word しょうがっこう (elementary school) has everything from this course so far: a long ō, a small っ and a long ō again.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji. Remember: each combined sound is one beat.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	しゃしん	shashin	photograph	<i>sha-shi-n</i>
2	しゅみ	shumi	hobby	<i>shu-mi</i>
3	かいしゃ	kaisha	company; workplace	<i>ka-i-sha: you will use this a lot</i>
4	しょうゆ	shōyu	soy sauce	<i>shō-yu</i>
5	しょくじ	shokuji	meal	<i>sho-ku-ji</i>
6	じゅう	jū	ten	<i>jū: じゅう is a long u</i>
7	じょうず	jōzu	skilled; good at	<i>jō-zu: used to praise someone</i>
8	じゅぎょう	jugyō	class; lesson	<i>ju-gyō</i>
9	しょうがっこう	shōgakkō	elementary school	<i>shō-gak-kō: a long ō, then small つ, then another long ō</i>
10	じゃあ	jā	well then; so	<i>jā: a long a</i>

Real Japanese Tip — しゅみは なんですか？

しゅみは なんですか ("What's your hobby?") is a classic question when you meet someone new. And じゃあ、また ("Well then, see you again") is a casual goodbye among friends. You can read all of it already.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

きょう (today) · きょうと (Kyoto) · ぎょうざ (gyoza) · きゅうり (cucumber) · ぎゅうにく (beef) · きょうだい (siblings).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How is **しゃ** romanised, and why is it not "shya"?

▼ Show answer

sha: the "y" sound is already part of sh, so there is no extra y.

2. What is the difference between **じゅう** and **じゆう**?

▼ Show answer

じゅう (jū) is ten; **じゆう** (jiyū) is freedom: small ゆ gives one beat, full-size ゆ gives two.

3. Read aloud and translate: **しゃしん・しゅみ・かいしゃ**

▼ Show answer

shashin (photograph) · shumi (hobby) · kaisha (company)

4. Read aloud and translate: **しょうゆ・しょくじ・じょうず**

▼ Show answer

shōyu (soy sauce) · shokuji (meal) · jōzu (skilled)

5. Read aloud: **しょうがっこう**. What three ideas from earlier chapters does it use?

▼ Show answer

shōgakkō (elementary school): a combined sound, a long ō (ょう) and a small っ.

6. Write in hiragana: *shumi · kaisha · jōzu* (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

しゅみ・かいしゃ・じょうず

Coming Up in Chapter 5

Two more rows: **ちゃ ちゅ ちょ** and **にゃ にゅ によ**. You'll be able to read **おちゃ** (tea), **ちょっと** (a little) and **ちゅうごく** (China).

Hiragana 3

Chapter 5 · Cha Chu Cho

🌸 Combined Sounds III — ちゃ ちゅ ちょ and にゃ にゅ にょ

Two more rows with the same rule: ち and に plus a small や, ゆ or よ. With these six you can read the word for tea, the country China, and the most useful word in the whole language for a learner, ちよつと. Romaji is shown for everything.

✿ The Rule Again — 拗音

The same rule on two more rows: an い-row character + a small や, ゆ or よ = **one beat**. Today: ち and に. Note that ち is chi, so ちゃ is cha, not "chya".

	ゃ (YA)	ゅ (YU)	ょ (YO)
ち (chi)	ちゃ cha	ちゅ chu	ちょ cho
に (ni)	にゃ nya	にゅ nyu	にょ nyo

The pattern is always: the first sound of the い-row character, plus ya, yu or yo. With ち, the "ch" takes the place of the y.

ちゃ

cha

"cha" in one beat, like *cha-cha*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: cha as in ocha, tea. ち + small や.

ちゅ

chu

"chu" in one beat, like *chew*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: chu, the sound of a kiss in manga. ち + small ゆ.

ちょ

cho

"cho" in one beat, like *choke*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: cho as in chotto, a little. ち + small よ.

にや

nya

"nya" in one beat, like the start
of *canyon*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *nya-a*, a cat's
meow. に + small や.

にゅ

nyu

"nyu" in one beat, like *new*
said with a y

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *nyū*, like the
new in *news*. に + small ゆ.

によ

nyo

"nyo" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *nyo* in *nyoro-*
nyoro, wriggling. に + small よ.

Cats Say にゃあ

In Japanese a cat says にゃあ (*nyā*), not "meow". It's a good way to remember にゃ. And ちゅ is the sound of a quick kiss, ちゅっ, which you'll see in manga.

TWO BEATS

SAY IT

ONE BEAT

SAY IT

にゃ

ni-ya

にゃ

nya

ちよう

chi-yō

ちよう

chō

Long Vowels with ちゅう and にゅう

ちゅう and にゅう are long ū sounds, as you'd expect from Chapter 2: ちゅうごく (China) is *Chū-go-ku*, and にゅうがく is *nyū-ga-ku*. Both are very common in compound words.



Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji. Remember: each combined sound is one beat.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	おちゃ	ocha	(green) tea	<i>o-cha</i> : the お is polite

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
2	ちゃいろ	chairo	brown	<i>cha-i-ro: lit. "tea colour"</i>
3	ちawan	chawan	rice bowl; teacup	<i>cha-wa-n</i>
4	ちょっと	chotto	a little; just a moment	<i>cho-t-to: small つ after ちょ</i>
5	ちょうど	chōdo	exactly; just	<i>chō-do</i>
6	ちゅうごく	Chūgoku	China	<i>chū-go-ku</i>
7	ちゅうもん	chūmon	an order (at a restaurant)	<i>chū-mo-n: you'll use it when ordering</i>
8	こんにゃく	konnyaku	konjac (a jelly-like food)	<i>ko-n-nya-ku</i>
9	にゅうがく	nyūgaku	entering school	<i>nyū-ga-ku</i>
10	にゃあ	nyā	meow	<i>nyā: a cat's cry</i>

Real Japanese Tip — ちょっと Does Many Jobs

ちょっと means "a little", as in ちょっと まって ("wait a moment") or ちょっと ください ("a little, please"). It is also a very polite way to *decline* something without saying no: if someone says ちょっと... with a pained face, the answer is probably no. Listen for it.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

しゃしん (photograph) · しゅみ (hobby) · かいしゃ (company) · しょうゆ (soy sauce) · じゅう (ten) · じょうず (skilled).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How is **ちゃ** romanised, and why is it not "chya"?

▼ Show answer

cha: ch already contains the y sound, so no extra y.

2. What does a cat say in Japanese, and what is the sound of **にゃ**?

▼ Show answer

にゃあ (nyā); nya.

3. Read aloud and translate: **おちゃ・ちゃわん・ちゃいろ**

▼ Show answer

ocha (tea) · chawan (rice bowl) · chairo (brown)

4. Read aloud and translate: **ちよっと・ちょうど・ちゅうもん**

▼ Show answer

chotto (a little) · chōdo (exactly) · chūmon (an order)

5. Read aloud and translate: **ちゅうごく・こんにゃく・にゅうがく**

▼ Show answer

Chūgoku (China) · konnyaku (konjac) · nyūgaku (entering school)

6. Write in hiragana: ocha · chotto · Chūgoku (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

おちゃ・ちよっと・ちゅうごく

Coming Up in Chapter 6

Two more rows: ひゃ ひゅ ひょ and びゃ びゅ びょ. You'll be able to read しゃく (hundred), しょうい
ん (hospital) and さんしゃく (three hundred).

Hiragana 3

Chapter 6 · Hya Hyu Hyo

🌸 Combined Sounds IV — ひゃ ひゅ ひょ and びゃ びゅ びょ

Two more rows with the same rule, and this time a practical bonus: the numbers for **hundreds**, and a famous trap, hospital versus beauty salon. The characters are ひ and び plus a small や, ゆ or よ. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌸 The Rule Again — 拗音

One more pair of rows: ひ and its voiced partner び plus a small や, ゆ or よ. The same rule: one beat. Today's words give you the numbers for hundreds, and the word for a hospital.

	ゃ (YA)	ゅ (YU)	ょ (YO)
ひ (hi)	ひゃ hya	ひゅ hyu	ひょ hyo
び (bi)	びゃ bya	びゅ byu	びょ byo

The pattern follows the plain character: ひ (hi) gives hya hyu hyo, and び (bi) gives bya byu byo.

ひゃ

hya

"hya" in one beat, like the start of Hyannis

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *hya-ku*, one hundred. ひ + small や.

ひゅ

hyu

"hyu" in one beat, like *huge*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *hyū-hyū*, the whistle of the wind. ひ + small ゆ.

ひょ

hyo

"hyo" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *hyō*, a chart or table. ひ + small よ.

びゃ

bya

"bya" in one beat, a b plus "ya"

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *sanbyaku*, three hundred. び + small や.

びゅ

byu

"byu" in one beat, like *beauty*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *byūn-byūn*, a gust of wind. び + small ゆ.

びょ

byo

"byo" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *byō-in*, a hospital. び + small よ.

100 The Hundreds

Counting in hundreds shows a sound change you will meet again: after some numbers, ひゃく turns into びゃく.

NUMBER	HIRAGANA	SAY IT
100	ひゃく	hyaku
200	にひゃく	nihyaku
300	さんびゃく	sanbyaku (びゃ: the sound changes)
400	よんひゃく	yonhyaku
500	ごひゃく	gohyaku
700	ななひゃく	nanahyaku
900	きゅうひゃく	kyūhyaku

600 (ろっぴゃく) and 800 (はっぴゃく) use the P version, ひゃ, which comes in the next chapter.

Hospital or Beauty Salon?

A famous mix-up for learners: びょういん (*byōin*) is a **hospital** and びよういん (*biyōin*) is a **beauty salon**. The only difference is the size of one character and one vowel. Say "I'm going to the びょういん" and you'll get very different reactions. Size matters!

HOSPITAL OR...?	SAY IT	ENGLISH
びょういん	byōin	hospital
びよういん	biyōin	beauty salon
ひょう	hyō	chart; table
ひよう	hiyō	cost; expense

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ひゃく	hyaku	one hundred	<i>hya-ku</i>
2	にひゃく	nihyaku	two hundred	<i>ni-hya-ku</i>
3	さんびゃく	sanbyaku	three hundred	<i>sa-n-bya-ku</i> : ひゃ becomes びゃ after ん
4	ひゃくえん	hyakuen	one hundred yen	<i>hya-ku-e-n</i> : the most useful coin
5	ひょう	hyō	chart; table	<i>hyō</i> : よう is a long ō
6	びょういん	byōin	hospital	<i>byō-i-n</i>
7	びょうき	byōki	illness	<i>byō-ki</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
8	ひょうじょう	hyōjō	facial expression	hyō-jō: two combined sounds in a row
9	ひゅうひゅう	hyūhyū	whistling (wind)	hyū-hyū: a mimetic word
10	びゅんびゅん	byunbyun	whooshing (fast wind)	byu-n-byu-n: a mimetic word

Real Japanese Tip — ひゃくえん

The ひゃくえん coin (100 yen) is the workhorse of Japanese money: vending machines, lockers, shops everywhere. Knowing ひゃく in both its forms (ひゃく, びゃく, ぴゃく) is a practical skill for anyone shopping in Japan, and you'll practise it in Japanese Basic Conversation 1.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

おちゃ (tea) · ちゃわん (rice bowl) · ちょっと (a little) · ちゅうごく (China) ·
ちゅうもん (an order) · にゅうがく (entering school).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How are ひゃ and びゃ romanised?

▼ Show answer

hya and bya.

2. Read aloud and translate: ひゃく · にひゃく · さんびゃく

▼ Show answer

hyaku (100) · nihyaku (200) · sanbyaku (300)

3. What is the difference between びょういん and びよういん?

▼ Show answer

びょういん (byōin) is a hospital; びよういん (biyōin) is a beauty salon.

4. Read aloud and translate: びょうき・ひょう・ひゃくえん

▼ Show answer

byōki (illness) · hyō (chart) · hyakuen (100 yen)

5. After which numbers does ひゃく change to びゃく?

▼ Show answer

After 3 (さん): さんびゃく. (600 and 800 use ひゃ, coming in Chapter 7.)

6. Write in hiragana: *hyaku* · *byōin* · *byōki* (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

ひゃく・びょういん・びょうき

Coming Up in Chapter 7

Two more rows: ひゃ ひゅ ひょ and みゃ みゆ みよ. You'll be able to read ろっぴゃく (600), はっぴゃく (800) and みょうじ (family name).

Hiragana 3

Chapter 7 · Pya Pyu Pyo

🌸 Combined Sounds V — ぴゃ ぴゅ ぴょ and みゃ みゅ みょ

Two rare rows, and a practical payoff: the **hundreds** are completed with **600** and **800**. The characters are っ and み plus a small や, ゆ or よ. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌱 The Rule Again — 拗音

Two more rows, and a bonus: っ (the semi-voiced partner of っ) and み plus a small や, ゆ or よ. The rule is the same: one beat. These sounds are the rarest so far, so this chapter also finishes the hundreds.

	ゃ (YA)	ゅ (YU)	ょ (YO)
っ (pi)	ぴゃ pya	ぴゅ pyu	ぴょ pyo
み (mi)	みゃ mya	みゅ myu	みょ myo

ぴゃ

pya

"pya" in one beat, a p plus "ya"

stroke order ▶

Memory hook: *roppyaku*, six hundred. っ + small や.

ぴゅ

pyu

"pyu" in one beat, like *pew*

stroke order ▶

Memory hook: *pyū-pyū*, wind whistling. っ + small ゆ.

ぴょ

pyo

"pyo" in one beat

stroke order ▶

Memory hook: *pyon-pyon*, a rabbit hopping. っ + small よ.

みゃ

mya

みゅ

myu

みょ

myo

"mya" in one beat, like the start of *Myanmar*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *myaku*, a pulse.
み + small や.

"myu" in one beat, like *mew*

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *myu*, a soft cat-like sound. み + small ゆ.

"myo" in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *myōji*, a family name. み + small よ.

Rare Sounds, Rare Words

ひゃ ひゅ ひょ and みゃ みゅ みょ mostly appear in **numbers** (ろっぴゃく), **mimetic words** (びょんびょん) and a few **word-parts of Chinese origin** (みょう in みょうじ). Don't worry about learning lots of words with them: learn to read them, and the rest will follow.

100 The Hundreds, Complete

Now you can read all nine hundreds. The sound of ひゃく changes after some numbers: びゃく after 3, and ひゃく (with a small っ) after 6 and 8.

NUMBER	HIRAGANA	SAY IT	WHICH SOUND?
100	ひゃく	hyaku	ひゃ
200	にひゃく	nihyaku	ひゃ
300	さんびゃく	sanbyaku	びゃ
400	よんひゃく	yonhyaku	ひゃ
500	ごひゃく	gohyaku	ひゃ
600	ろっぴゃく	roppyaku	びゃ, with small っ
700	ななひゃく	nanahyaku	ひゃ
800	はっぴゃく	happyaku	びゃ, with small っ

NUMBER	HIRAGANA	SAY IT	WHICH SOUND?
900	きゅうひゃく	kyūhyaku	ひゃ

Remember: 3, 6, 8

The hundreds that change are **300** (さんびゃく), **600** (ろっぴゃく) and **800** (はっぴゃく).

Everything else, 100, 200, 400, 500, 700 and 900, keeps the plain ひゃく. The same 3-6-8 pattern turns up again with other counters, so it is worth memorising now.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ろっぴゃく	roppyaku	six hundred	<i>ro-p-pya-ku: small っ and ぴゃ</i>
2	はっぴゃく	happyaku	eight hundred	<i>ha-p-pya-ku</i>
3	ろっぴゃくえん	roppyaku-en	600 yen	<i>ro-p-pya-ku-e-n</i>
4	はっぴゃくえん	happyaku-en	800 yen	<i>ha-p-pya-ku-e-n</i>
5	ぴよんぴよん	pyonpyon	hopping (mimetic)	<i>pyo-n-pyo-n: a rabbit</i>
6	ぴゅうぴゅう	pyūpyū	whistling (wind)	<i>pyū-pyū</i>
7	ぴよこぴよこ	pyokopyoko	bobbing up and down	<i>pyo-ko-pyo-ko</i>
8	みょうじ	myōji	family name; surname	<i>myō-ji: you'll see it on forms</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
9	みょうにち	myōnichi	tomorrow (formal)	<i>myō-ni-chi</i>
10	みゃく	myaku	pulse	<i>mya-ku</i>

Real Japanese Tip — みょうじ and なまえ

On a Japanese form you'll see two boxes: みょうじ (family name) and なまえ (given name), in that order. Japanese names are written **family name first**, so やまだ たろう is Mr Yamada, Taro. You can read both words now.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

ひゃく (100) · さんびゃく (300) · びょういん (hospital) · びょうき (illness) · ひょう (chart) · ひゃくえん (100 yen).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How are ひゃ and みゃ romanised?

▼ Show answer

pya and mya.

2. Which hundreds change their sound, and how?

▼ Show answer

300 (さんびゃく), 600 (ろっぴゃく) and 800 (はっぴゃく).

3. Read aloud and translate: ろっぴゃく · はっぴゃく

▼ Show answer

roppyaku (600) · happyaku (800)

4. Read aloud and translate: ろっぴゃくえん・はっぴゃくえん

▼ Show answer

roppyaku-en (600 yen) · happyaku-en (800 yen)

5. Read aloud and translate: みょうじ・みょうにち・ぴょんぴょん

▼ Show answer

myōji (family name) · myōnichi (tomorrow, formal) · pyonpyon (hopping)

6. Write in hiragana: *roppyaku* · *myōji* · *pyonpyon* (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

ろっぴゃく・みょうじ・ぴょんぴょん

Coming Up in Chapter 8

The last combined row: りゃ りゅ りょ, plus a full review of the whole combined-sound chart. You'll be able to read りょこう (travel), りょうり (cooking) and りゅうがく (studying abroad).

Hiragana 3

Chapter 8 · Rya Ryu Ryo

🌸 Combined Sounds VI — りゃ りゅ りょ and the Whole Chart

The last row of combined sounds: り plus a small ゃ, ゅ or ょ. This chapter also gathers all **33 combined sounds** in a single chart and ends with a map-reading exercise using Japanese cities. Romaji is shown for everything.

✳️ The Last Row — りゃ りゅ りょ

The last combined row is the one that begins with the Japanese **r**: り plus a small ゃ, ゅ or ょ. After this, you know all **33 combined sounds**.

りゃ

rya

the Japanese r-tap plus "ya", in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *ryaku*, an abbreviation. り + small ゃ.

りゅ

ryu

the r-tap plus "yu", in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *ryū*, a dragon. り + small ゅ.

りょ

ryo

the r-tap plus "yo", in one beat

[stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: *ryokō*, travel. り + small ょ.

📖 The Whole Chart

Here is every combined sound you have learned, in one place. Read across: each row is an い-row character; the three columns are small ゃ, ゅ and ょ.

	や	ゆ	よ
き	きや kya	きゆ kyu	きよ kyo
ぎ	ぎや gya	ぎゆ gyu	ぎよ gyo
し	しゃ sha	しゆ shu	しよ sho
じ	じゃ ja	じゆ ju	じよ jo
ち	ちゃ cha	ちゆ chu	ちよ cho
に	にや nya	にゆ nyu	によ nyo
ひ	ひや hya	ひゆ hyu	ひよ hyo
び	びや bya	びゆ byu	びよ byo
ぴ	ぴや pya	ぴゆ pyu	ぴよ pyo
み	みや mya	みゆ myu	みよ myo
り	りや rya	りゆ ryu	りよ ryo

A Rule of Thumb for Reading Any of Them

Take the い-row character, drop its **i**, and add **a** for や, **u** for ゆ and **o** for よ: *ki* → *kya kyu kyo*. For し ち じ the "y" is already inside the sound, so you get *sha shu sho, cha chu cho* and *ja ju jo*. That is the only exception.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	りょうこう	ryokō	travel; a trip	<i>ryo-kō: a word for your future trip</i>
2	りょうり	ryōri	cooking; cuisine	<i>ryō-ri</i>
3	りょうしん	ryōshin	parents	<i>ryō-shi-n</i>
4	りょうきん	ryōkin	fee; charge	<i>ryō-ki-n: on signs and tickets</i>
5	りょかん	ryokan	Japanese-style inn	<i>ryo-ka-n</i>
6	りゅうがく	ryūgaku	studying abroad	<i>ryū-ga-ku</i>
7	りゅう	ryū	dragon	<i>ryū</i>
8	りゃく	ryaku	abbreviation	<i>rya-ku</i>
9	りゅうこう	ryūkō	trend; fashion	<i>ryū-kō</i>
10	りょう	ryō	amount; a dormitory (other meanings too)	<i>ryō</i>



Read the Map — Cities

A review of everything in Hiragana 3: small っ (さっぽろ), long vowels (おおさか, こうべ) and combined sounds (とうきょう, きょうと). Read each city aloud.

HIRAGANA	SAY IT	CITY
とうきょう	Tōkyō	Tokyo
おおさか	Ōsaka	Osaka

HIRAGANA	SAY IT	CITY
きょうと	Kyōto	Kyoto
ひろしま	Hiroshima	Hiroshima
なごや	Nagoya	Nagoya
さっぽろ	Sapporo	Sapporo
ふくおか	Fukuoka	Fukuoka
こうべ	Kōbe	Kobe

Real Japanese Tip — りょかん

A りょかん is a traditional Japanese inn with tatami rooms, futons and often a hot spring bath. If you are planning a trip to Japan (りょこう), a night in a りょかん is a classic experience, and one you can now read on the sign.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

ろっぴゃく (600) · はっぴゃく (800) · みょうじ (family name) · みょうにち (tomorrow) · ぴょんぴょん (hopping) · みゃく (pulse).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How is りゃ romanised?

▼ Show answer

rya.

2. Read aloud and translate: りょうこう・りょうり・りょうしん

▼ Show answer

ryōkō (travel) · ryōri (cooking) · ryōshin (parents)

3. Read aloud and translate: りゅうがく・りゅう・りょかん

▼ Show answer

ryūgaku (studying abroad) · ryū (dragon) · ryokan (Japanese inn)

4. Which three combined sounds do NOT follow the 'i → ya/yu/yo' pattern, and why?

▼ Show answer

しゃ しゅ しょ, ちゃ ちゅ ちょ and じゃ じゅ じょ: the y is already part of the sh, ch and j sounds.

5. Read aloud: とうきょう・おおさか・さっぽろ

▼ Show answer

Tōkyō · Ōsaka · Sapporo

6. Write in hiragana: ryōkō · ryōri · Kyōto (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

りょうこう・りょうり・きょうと

Coming Up in Chapter 9

Three characters you already know do a different job in sentences: は (read *wa*), へ (read *e*) and を (read *o*). You'll learn what they do and read your first full Japanese sentences.

Hiragana 3

Chapter 9 · Particles

🌸 The Particles は へ を — Reading Real Sentences

Three characters you already know do a second job in sentences: は is read *wa*, へ is read *e* and を is read *o*. This is the last rule you need to read ordinary Japanese in hiragana. Romaji is shown for everything.

🔗 Three Characters, Two Jobs

You already know every character on the page, and now one more rule: three of them have a **second pronunciation when they are particles**, the small words that glue a sentence together. Written the same, but read differently.

CHARACTER	NORMAL SOUND	AS A PARTICLE	JOB	EXAMPLE
は	ha	wa	marks the topic: "as for..."	わたしは がくせい です。 Watashi wa gakusei desu.
へ	he	e	direction: "to, towards"	とうきょうへ いきます。 Tōkyō e ikimasu.
を	(only a particle)	o	marks the object of a verb	ほんを よみます。 Hon o yomimasu.

The Rule: Only When It Is a Particle

は is read *wa* only when it marks the topic. In every other word it's still *ha*: はな (flower) is *hana*, not *wana*. へ is read *e* only as the direction particle, and を is **only** used as a particle: the sound is *o*, the same as お. You met this idea in Chapter 7 of Hiragana 2, where こんにちは and こんにちは end in a は read *wa*.



Read It — Your First Sentences

Every character in these sentences is one you have learned. Read the Japanese first, remembering the three particles, then check the romaji.

#	SENTENCE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	PARTICLE
1	わたしは がくせい です。	Watashi wa gakusei desu.	I am a student.	は = wa: topic
2	きょうは いい てんき です。	Kyō wa ii tenki desu.	It's nice weather today.	は = wa: topic
3	とうきょうへ いきます。	Tōkyō e ikimasu.	I'm going to Tokyo.	へ = e: direction
4	かいしゃへ いきます。	Kaisha e ikimasu.	I'm going to the office.	へ = e: direction
5	ほんを よみます。	Hon o yomimasu.	I read a book.	を = o: object
6	みずを のみます。	Mizu o nomimasu.	I drink water.	を = o: object
7	ごはんを たべます。	Gohan o tabemasu.	I eat a meal.	を = o: object
8	しゃしんを とります。	Shashin o torimasu.	I take a photo.	を = o: object
9	おおさかへ いきます。	Ōsaka e ikimasu.	I'm going to Osaka.	へ = e: direction
10	わたしも がくせい です。	Watashi mo gakusei desu.	I'm a student too.	も = mo: "also"

The Other Particles You Already Know

の (*no*, "of; 's"), も (*mo*, "also"), に (*ni*), で (*de*) and が (*ga*) are particles too, but they are read exactly as written. わたしの ともだち is "my friend" (*watashi no tomodachi*). Only は, へ and を change their sound, and you now know all three.

abc One More Thing: ん

The character ん (*n*) quietly changes its sound depending on what follows it. You do not need to practise this: your mouth does it automatically. But you will see it in romaji.

WORD	SAY IT	ENGLISH	WHAT HAPPENS TO ん
ほん	hon	book	at the end: a soft nasal n
さんぽ	sampo	a walk	before p: sounds like m
しんぶん	shimbun	newspaper	before b: sounds like m
えんぴつ	empitsu	pencil	before p: sounds like m
かんこく	kankoku	Korea	before k: sounds like ng
ぎんこう	ginkō	bank	before k: sounds like ng

Romaji Varies for ん

Some romaji systems write the m-sound as *m* (*shimbun*, *sampo*), and others always write *n* (*shinbun*, *sanpo*). In this course you'll usually see *n*. Both are the same Japanese word, and the character is always ん.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

とうきょう (Tokyo) · おおさか (Osaka) · きょうと (Kyoto) · さっぽろ (Sapporo) · りょうこう (travel) · りょうり (cooking).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Which three characters change their sound when used as particles, and what do they sound like?

▼ Show answer

は (wa), え (e) and を (o).

2. Read aloud and translate: わたしは がくせい です。

▼ Show answer

Watashi wa gakusei desu: I am a student.

3. Read aloud and translate: とうきょうへ いきます。

▼ Show answer

Tōkyō e ikimasu: I'm going to Tokyo.

4. Read aloud and translate: みずを のみます。

▼ Show answer

Mizu o nomimasu: I drink water.

5. Is the は in はな (flower) read *wa*?

▼ Show answer

No: it is read *ha* (hana). は is *wa* only as the topic particle.

6. Write in hiragana: *Hon o yomimasu.* · *Kaisha e ikimasu.* (with the right particles)

▼ Show answer

ほんを よみます。 . かいしゃへ いきます。

Coming Up in Chapter 10

The last chapter: **reading practice** with signs, a menu and a short text, using everything from all three Hiragana courses, then a **Course Complete** recap and the combined course PDF.

Hiragana 3

Chapter 10 · Reading Practice

🌸 Reading Practice and Course Complete — 読んでみよう

The last chapter has no new characters. Instead, you will read: real signs, a café menu and a short text, using everything from the three hiragana courses. Romaji is shown for everything, but try to read the Japanese first.

📄 Read the Signs — 看板

Real signs you will see in Japanese stations, shops and car parks (in real life most are written in kanji, with hiragana versions on signs for children, in learner materials and as readings beside the kanji). Read each one aloud first.

#	SIGN	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	いりぐち	iriguchi	entrance	<i>i-ri-gu-chi</i>
2	でぐち	deguchi	exit	<i>de-gu-chi</i>
3	おてあらい	otearai	toilet; restroom	<i>o-te-a-ra-i</i> : lit. "hand-washing"
4	えき	eki	station	<i>e-ki</i>
5	あぶない	abunai	danger; careful	<i>a-bu-na-i</i>
6	きんえん	kin'en	no smoking	<i>ki-n-e-n</i>
7	ひじょうぐち	hijōguchi	emergency exit	<i>hi-jō-gu-chi</i>
8	ちゅうしゃじょう	chūshajō	car park	<i>chū-sha-jō</i> : three combined sounds in one word



Read the Menu — メニュー

A small sample café menu with prices in hiragana. This is a good test of the hundreds from Chapters 6 and 7.

#	MENU LINE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	おちゃ ひゃくえん	ocha hyakuen	Tea, 100 yen	ひゃく
2	ぎゅうにゅう にひゃくえん	gyūnyū nihyakuen	Milk, 200 yen	ぎゅうに ゅう: ぎゅう and にゅう
3	たまご ごじゅうえん	tamago gojūen	An egg, 50 yen	ごじゅう = 50
4	おにぎり ひゃくごじゅうえん	onigiri hyakugojūen	Rice ball, 150 yen	ひゃく + ごじゅう
5	ごはん ひゃくえん	gohan hyakuen	Rice, 100 yen	
6	ぎょうざ ろっぴゃくえん	gyōza roppyakuen	Gyoza, 600 yen	ろっぴゃ く: small っ + ぴゃ
7	てんぷら はっぴゃくえん	tempura happyakuen	Tempura, 800 yen	はっぴゃ く



A Short Text — 短い文章

Six sentences using everything you have learned in the three courses: particles, combined sounds, small つ and long vowels. Read the Japanese aloud before looking at the romaji and English.

#	SENTENCE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	わたしは やまだ たろう です。	Watashi wa Yamada Tarō desu.	I am Yamada Tarō.	は = wa; で す
2	とうきょうの かいしゃへ いきます。	Tōkyō no kaisha e ikimasu.	I go to a company in Tokyo.	の; へ = e
3	きょうは いい てんき です。	Kyō wa ii tenki desu.	It's nice weather today.	は = wa
4	ひるごはんを たべます。	Hirugohan o tabemasu.	I eat lunch.	ひる ごは ん = lunch; を = o
5	おちゃを のみます。	Ocha o nomimasu.	I drink tea.	を = o
6	しゅみは りょうこう です。	Shumi wa ryokō desu.	My hobby is travel.	は = wa

Real Japanese Tip — Hiragana Is Only Part of Real Japanese

In everyday Japanese, hiragana appears next to **kanji** and **katakana**: とうきょう is normally written 東京, and ひるごはん as 昼ご飯. Hiragana is the glue: it carries the grammar, the particles and the endings, and it is the script children read first. Because you can read it all, every kanji and katakana you learn from now on will fit into a sentence you can already read.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

わたしは がくせい です。 · とうきょうへ いきます。 · ほんを よ
みます。 · みずを のみます。 · ごはんを たべます。



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud and translate: いりぐち・でぐち・おてあらい

▼ Show answer

iriguchi (entrance) · deguchi (exit) · otearai (toilet)

2. How much is the ぎょうざ on the menu, and the てんぷら?

▼ Show answer

ろっぴゃくえん (600 yen) · はっぴゃくえん (800 yen)

3. Read aloud: とうきょうのかいしゃへいきます。 What are the two particles, and how are they read?

▼ Show answer

Tōkyō no kaisha e ikimasu. の (no) and へ (read e): I go to a company in Tokyo.

4. What is Yamada Tarō's hobby, according to the text?

▼ Show answer

りょこう (ryokō): travel.

5. Which three things did Hiragana 3 add to the 46 + 25 characters you knew?

▼ Show answer

Small つ, long vowels and combined sounds, plus the particles はへを.

6. Write in hiragana: *Kyō wa ii tenki desu.* (with the right particle)

▼ Show answer

きょうはいいてんきです。

Course Complete — おめでとう！

You have finished all three hiragana courses. Here is what each one gave you, and the journey through this course.

COURSE	WHAT IT TAUGHT	CHARACTERS
Hiragana 1	the 46 basic characters, with romaji	あ ... ん
Hiragana 2	voiced and semi-voiced characters (゛ °)	が ... ぼ (25)
Hiragana 3	small つ, long vowels, 33 combined sounds, the particles は へ を	っ・きゃ ... りょ

CHAPTER	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
1	Small つ	You can now hear and read the one-beat pause: きっぷ, がっこう.
2	Long vowels	You can now read and say two-beat vowels: おかあさん, せんせい.
3	きゃ きゅ きょ・ぎゃ ぎゅ ぎょ	You can now read the K and G combined sounds: きょう, ぎょうざ.
4	しゃ しゅ しょ・じゃ じゅ じょ	You can now read the sh and j combined sounds: かいしゃ, しゅみ.
5	ちゃ ちゅ ちょ・にゃ にゅ によ	You can now read ch and ny: おちゃ, ちよっと.
6	ひゃ ひゅ ひょ・びゃ びゅ びょ	You can now read hy and by, and the hundreds: ひゃく, びょういん.
7	ぴゃ ぴゅ ぴょ・みゃ みゅ みょ	You can now read py and my, and 600 and 800.
8	りゃ りゅ りょ	You can now read all 33 combined sounds: りょうこ.

CHAPTER	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
9	は へ を	You can now read particles as wa, e, o in real sentences.
10	Reading practice	You can now read signs, a menu and a short text.

What Next?

You can read all of hiragana. Next steps: **Katakana 2** (the voiced katakana, the small ツ, and the extra foreign sounds), then **Japanese Basic Conversation 1**, where you will start using the language: greetings, introductions, numbers, ordering food and more.