

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 1 · Chapter 12 · He Ho

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Chapter 12 · He Ho

🌿 Finishing the H Row — ヘ ホ

Two characters complete the H row: ヘ (he) and ホ (ho). One of them is a single stroke and is almost identical to its hiragana twin, so it'll be easy. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌟 Your Two New Characters — ヘ ホ

he

like "he" in *hen* ("heh")

1 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a **h**edge or a **h**ill: one stroke going up and then down. Hiragana twin: へ, which is almost the same shape.

ho

like "ho" in *hotel*, short ("hoh")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a **h**oly cross with a **h**andle on each side: a cross in the middle and a stroke on each side. Hiragana twin: ほ.

KATAKANA

HIRAGANA TWIN

ROMAJI

ヘ

へ

he

ホ

ほ

ho

abc

The Complete H Row

HA

HI

FU

HE

HO

ハ

ヒ

フ

ヘ

ホ

HA

HI

FU

HE

HO

は

ひ

ふ

へ

ほ

Top row katakana, bottom row hiragana: say each pair aloud.

へ and え: The Twins That Look Alike

へ (katakana) and え (hiragana) are almost the same shape; the katakana is a little sharper. They are among the few kana you can mistake between scripts, so let the **context** help you: inside a loanword it's へ. Also note へ has just *one* stroke while ハ (ha) has *two*.

Look-Alikes: ホ and ネ

ホ (ho) and ネ (ne) both have four strokes. Check the beginning: ホ starts with a horizontal bar across the top, while ネ starts with a small dot on top.

Read It — Real Words

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ヘア	hea	hair	he-a: as in ヘアケア (hair care)
2	ホース	hōsu	hose	ho-o-su
3	ホスト	hosuto	host	ho-su-to
4	ソーホー	Sōhō	Soho	so-o-ho-o: four beats
5	ヘイト	heito	hate (as in hate speech)	he-i-to
6	ホーホー	hōhō	(drill)	a drill: ho-o-ho-o, four beats

Any Foreign Word

Katakana can be used to write any foreign word, not just English ones: ソーホー is the London district, and the same script will write the names of cities, people and brands from all over the world. When you read a new katakana word, ask yourself: is it a place, a name or an everyday borrowed word? The context usually tells you.

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: ヘ・ホ・ハ・ヒ・フ

▼ Show answer

he · ho · ha · hi · fu

2. Read aloud and translate: ヘア・ホース

▼ Show answer

hea (hair) · hōsu (hose)

3. Read aloud and translate: ホスト・ソーホー

▼ Show answer

hosuto (host) · Sōhō (Soho)

4. How many strokes do へ and ハ have?

▼ Show answer

へ has one; ハ has two.

5. How can you tell ホ from ネ?

▼ Show answer

Both have four strokes. ホ starts with a horizontal bar; ネ starts with a small dot on top.

6. Write in katakana: *hea* · *hōsu* · *hosuto* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

ヘア . ホース . ホスト

Coming Up in Chapter 5

The M row begins: マ ミ ム (ma, mi, mu). You'll read ハム (ham), マスク (mask), ホーム (platform; home) and ムース (mousse), and meet the look-alike pair ア and マ.