

JP

KATAKANA

# Katakana 1 · Chapter 14 · Me Mo

---

# Katakana 1

Chapter 14 · Me Mo

## 🌿 Finishing the M Row — ✕ 𐰢

Two characters complete the M row: ✕ (me) and 𐰢 (mo). Today you also get a word many people learn Japanese for: 𐰢 = ✕. Romaji is shown for everything.

## 🌟 Your Two New Characters — ✕ 𐰢

**me**

like "me" in *mess* ("meh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

**Memory hook:** an X on a treasure map marking the spot: **me**, here! Two crossing strokes. Hiragana twin: め.

**mo**

like "mo" in *more*, short ("moh")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

**Memory hook:** a **mop**: a handle with two crossbars. Hiragana twin: も.

| KATAKANA | HIRAGANA TWIN | ROMAJI |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| め        | め             | me     |
| も        | も             | mo     |

## abc The Complete M Row

| MA | MI | MU | ME | MO |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| マ  | ミ  | ム  | メ  | モ  |

MA

MI

MU

ME

MO

ま

み

む

め

も

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

### Look-Alikes: ヂ and ナ, and a Kanji Origin for モ

メ (me) is two strokes that *cross* like an X, while ナ (na), from Chapter 9, has a horizontal bar with a stroke through it. Check that the strokes really cross, like a multiplication sign. And モ (mo) comes from the kanji 毛 (ke, "hair, fur"), the same way 工 came from 工 and 力 from 力.

## Read It — Real Words

| # | WORD | ROMAJI    | ENGLISH                       | NOTE                                |
|---|------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | メモ   | memo      | memo; note                    | me-mo                               |
| 2 | アニメ  | anime     | anime                         | a-ni-me: the word you came here for |
| 3 | メキシコ | Mekishiko | Mexico                        | me-ki-shi-ko: four beats            |
| 4 | メーカー | mēkā      | maker; manufacturer           | me-e-ka-a                           |
| 5 | メイク  | meiku     | make-up                       | me-i-ku                             |
| 6 | メーター | mētā      | meter (taxi meter, gas meter) | me-e-ta-a                           |
| 7 | モーター | mōtā      | motor                         | mo-o-ta-a                           |
| 8 | モスク  | mosuku    | mosque                        | mo-su-ku                            |
| 9 | モノ   | mono      | mono; thing                   | mo-no                               |

## Words That Travel

Look at アニメ: it's actually the Japanese shortening of the English word *animation*, and Japanese then sends it back out to the world: the borrowing goes in both directions.

## Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: メ・モ・マ・ミ・ム

▼ Show answer

me · mo · ma · mi · mu

2. Read aloud and translate: メモ・アニメ・メキシコ

▼ Show answer

memo (memo) · anime (anime) · Mekishiko (Mexico)

3. Read aloud and translate: メーカー・メイク・メーター

▼ Show answer

mēkā (maker) · meiku (make-up) · mētā (meter)

4. Read aloud and translate: モーター・モスク・モノ

▼ Show answer

mōtā (motor) · mosuku (mosque) · mono (mono; thing)

5. How can you tell メ from ナ?

▼ Show answer

メ is two strokes crossing like an X; ナ has a horizontal bar with a stroke through it.

6. Write in katakana: *memo* · *anime* · *mōtā* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

メモ・アニメ・モーター

### Coming Up in Chapter 5

The Y row: ヤ ュ ヨ (ya, yu, yo). Only three characters in this row, since Japanese has no *yi* or *ye*. You'll read タイヤ (tyre), ユーモア (humour) and ヨーヨー (yo-yo).