

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 1 · Chapter 8 · Te To

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Chapter 8 · Te To

🌿 Finishing the T Row — テ ト

Two characters complete the T row: テ (te) and ト (to). With them you can read words like test, coat and toast, and the characters you have so far already give you a lot of vocabulary. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌟 Your Two New Characters — テ ト

テ

te

like "te" in *ten* ("teh")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a **tele**phone pole: two crossbars at the top and a long post with a bend at the bottom. Hiragana twin: て.

ト

to

like "to" in *tomato*, short ("toh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a **to**tem pole with one branch: a tall post and a small arm pointing out. Hiragana twin: と.

KATAKANA	HIRAGANA TWIN	ROMAJI
テ	て	te
ト	と	to

abc The Complete T Row

TA	CHI	TSU	TE	TO
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
た	ち	つ	て	と

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

Look-Alikes: テ and チ

テ (te) has **two bars** across the top with a long bent stroke below, while チ (chi), which you met last chapter, has a **short slanted stroke** on top of one bar. Both have three strokes, so look at the top. As for ト, it's a simple post with a small arm, a shape that rarely gets confused with anything.

Read It — Real Words

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	テスト	tesuto	test	<i>te-su-to</i>
2	テキスト	tekisuto	text; textbook	<i>te-ki-su-to</i>
3	コート	kōto	coat; (tennis) court	<i>ko-o-to</i>
4	トースト	tōsuto	toast	<i>to-o-su-to: four beats</i>
5	スタート	sutāto	start	<i>su-ta-a-to: four beats</i>
6	トーク	tōku	talk	<i>to-o-ku</i>
7	コスト	kosuto	cost	<i>ko-su-to</i>
8	トイ	toi	toy	<i>to-i</i>

Adding Vowels

The English words *test*, *text*, *toast*, *cost* and *start* all contain a consonant cluster, and Japanese has no way to pronounce one. Each gets vowels dropped in: *te-su-to*, *te-ki-su-to*, *to-o-su-to*, *ko-su-to*, *su-ta-a-to*. Notice the pattern: the vowel Japanese adds after "t" is almost always **o** (ト), and after "s" it's **u** (ス).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: テ・ト・タ・チ・ツ

▼ Show answer

te · to · ta · chi · tsu

2. Read aloud and translate: テスト・コート

▼ Show answer

tesuto (test) · kōto (coat; court)

3. Read aloud and translate: トースト・スタート

▼ Show answer

tōsuto (toast) · sutāto (start)

4. Read aloud and translate: トーク・コスト・トイ

▼ Show answer

tōku (talk) · kosuto (cost) · toi (toy)

5. Which katakana does Japanese usually add after a final "t" in an English word, as in *test* and *start*?

▼ Show answer

ト (to): te-su-to, su-ta-a-to.

6. Write in katakana: *tesuto* · *tōsuto* · *sutāto* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

テスト · トースト · スタート

Coming Up in Chapter 5

The N row begins: ナ ニ ヌ (na, ni, nu). You'll read ツナ (tuna), ナース (nurse) and テニス (tennis), and meet the look-alike pair ヌ and ス.