

JP

JAPANESE WRITING COURSE

Katakana 2

Twelve short chapters that finish katakana: the dakuten and the little circle (ガ ... ポ), the small ツ, all the combined sounds (キャ, シュ, チョ ...), the extra foreign sounds (ファ, ティ, ウィ, ヴ ...), and reading practice with signs, menus, brand names, places and your own name, with romaji throughout. The second and last course in the katakana series.

12 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

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Katakana 2

Chapter 1 · Ga Gi Gu Ge Go

🌸 The Dakuten on the K Row — ガ ギ グ ゲ ゴ

You already know what the two dots do from Hiragana 2: they turn an unvoiced consonant into a voiced one. Katakana uses exactly the same mark in exactly the same way. Today it goes on the whole K row at once, giving ガ ギ グ ゲ ゴ (ga gi gu ge go). Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH ˆ	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
カ	ガ	ka	ga
キ	ギ	ki	gi
ク	グ	ku	gu
ケ	ゲ	ke	ge
コ	ゴ	ko	go

	a	i	u	e	o
k	カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ
g (k + ˆ)	ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ

All five highlighted characters are today's: the whole G row in one chapter, because each one is just a K character you already know plus ˆ .

🌟 Five New Characters — ガ ギ グ ゲ ゴ

ガ

ga

like "ga" in *gas* ("gah")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *gas* flame:
カ with two sparks. Hiragana twin: が.

ギ

gi

like "gee" in *geese*, short ("gee")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *guitar* with its strings: キ with two dots. Hiragana twin: ぎ.

グ

gu

like "goo" in *goose* ("goo")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *goose's* beak and two eyes: ク with two dots. Hiragana twin: ぐ.

ゲ

ge

like "ge" in *get* ("geh")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *gecko's* tail and two spots: ケ with two dots. Hiragana twin: げ.

ゴ

go

like "go" in *go*, short ("goh")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *goal* with two balls: 𠂔 with two dots.
Hiragana twin: こ.

Always a Hard G

Just as in hiragana, **g** is always the hard sound of *go* and *get*, never the soft sound of *giant*. So ギ is "gee", and ギフト is *gi-fu-to*, with a hard g.

Don't Confuse the Marks with シ and ツ

The dakuten ˘ is two tiny strokes at the **top right corner** of a character. Don't mistake it for the dots of シ, ツ or ヌ, which are strokes of those characters themselves. If a character has two small marks in the top right corner, it is a voiced character.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ゲーム	gēmu	game	<i>ge-e-mu: the English word game</i>
2	ギター	gitā	guitar	<i>gi-ta-a</i>
3	ガス	gasu	gas	<i>ga-su</i>
4	グラス	gurasu	glass (a drinking glass)	<i>gu-ra-su</i>
5	ゴルフ	gorufu	golf	<i>go-ru-fu</i>
6	ゴール	gōru	goal	<i>go-o-ru: in football you hear it shouted</i>
7	ガム	gamu	chewing gum	<i>ga-mu</i>
8	ゲスト	gesuto	guest	<i>ge-su-to</i>
9	ゴリラ	gorira	gorilla	<i>go-ri-ra</i>
10	ギフト	gifuto	gift	<i>gi-fu-to</i>

Real Japanese Tip — ゲーム Is Everywhere

ゲーム is not only for screens: it also means any game, including board games and sports games. Japan's video-game culture is why the word appears on so many shop fronts, so it is a very useful one to recognise. And in a football or baseball broadcast, ゴール is shouted just as in English.

English Words Bent into Japanese

Notice how English consonant clusters get vowels inserted: *glass* becomes *gu-ra-su*, *golf* becomes *go-ru-fu* and *gift* becomes *gi-fu-to*. You met this in Katakana 1, and it is the same here: Japanese needs a vowel after every consonant.

Review: Words from Chapter 0

コーヒー (coffee) · アイス (ice) · テニス (tennis) · カメラ (camera) · ホテル (hotel) · アメリカ (America).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: ガ・ギ・グ・ゲ・ゴ

▼ Show answer

ga · gi · gu · ge · go

2. Read aloud and translate: ゲーム・ギター・ガス

▼ Show answer

gēmu (game) · gitā (guitar) · gasu (gas)

3. Read aloud and translate: ゴルフ・ゴール・ゴリラ

▼ Show answer

gorufu (golf) · gōru (goal) · gorira (gorilla)

4. Read aloud and translate: グラス・ゲスト・ギフト

▼ Show answer

gurasu (glass) · gesuto (guest) · gifuto (gift)

5. What does the dakuten do to カ, and what is the result?

▼ Show answer

It voices the consonant: k → g, so カ (ka) becomes ガ (ga).

6. Write in katakana: *gēmu* · *gorufu* · *gitā* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

ゲーム · ゴルフ · ギター

Coming Up in Chapter 2

The dakuten on the S row: ザ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ (za ji zu ze zo). You'll be able to read ゼロ (zero), ジム (gym) and ズボン (trousers).

Katakana 2

Chapter 2 · Za Ji Zu Ze Zo

🌸 The Dakuten on the S Row — ザ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ

The dakuten now goes on the S row, turning *s* into *z*: ザ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ (za ji zu ze zo). As in hiragana, the second one is *ji* and not "*zi*", because the plain シ is *shi*. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH " "	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
サ	ザ	sa	za
シ	ジ	shi	ji
ス	ズ	su	zu
セ	ゼ	se	ze
ソ	ゾ	so	zo

	a	i	u	e	o
s	サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ
z (s + " ")	ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ

All five highlighted characters are today's: the whole Z row in one chapter.

🌟 Five New Characters — ザ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ

ザ

za

like "za" in *pizza* ("zah")

5 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a *zap* of lightning: サ with two sparks.
Hiragana twin: ざ.

ジ

ji

like "jee" in *jeep*, short ("jee")

5 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a *jeep*'s windscreen wipers: シ with two marks. Hiragana twin: じ.

ズ

zu

like "zoo" ("zoo")

4 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a *zoo* animal's curly tail: ス with two dots.
Hiragana twin: ず.

ゼ

ze

like "ze" in *zest* ("zeh")

4 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a *zebra*'s stripe: セ with two marks.
Hiragana twin: ぜ.

ゾ

zo

like "zo" in *zone*, short ("zoh")

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a zombie's twitch: ヌ with two marks.
Hiragana twin: そ.

ジ Is "Ji", Not "Zi"

Just like じ in hiragana, ジ is *ji*, the English "j" of *jeep*. Katakana uses it to write the English "j" sound in loanwords, so ジム is *ji-mu*, "gym" (the English word *gym* begins with a j sound too).

Look-Alikes with the Marks

ジ is シ plus two marks, so check the corner: if there are two small marks at the top right, it is ジ. ズ (*zu*) is ス with two marks, and is a close cousin of ヌ (*nu*): the marks make the difference.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ゼロ	zero	zero	<i>ze-ro</i> : the English zero
2	ジム	jimu	gym	<i>ji-mu</i>
3	ゾーン	zōn	zone	<i>zo-o-n</i>
4	ジーンズ	jīnzu	jeans	<i>ji-i-n-zu</i> : a plural in -ズ
5	サイズ	saizu	size	<i>sa-i-zu</i> : clothes and shoes
6	ズーム	zūmu	zoom	<i>zu-u-mu</i>
7	ガレージ	garēji	garage	<i>ga-re-e-ji</i>
8	ゼリー	zerī	jelly	<i>ze-ri-i</i>
9	リズム	rizumu	rhythm	<i>ri-zu-mu</i>
10	レーザー	rēzā	laser	<i>re-e-zā-a</i>

Real Japanese Tip — サイズ and ジーンズ

サイズ is one of the most useful katakana words when you shop for clothes or shoes: in a store you'll be asked **サイズは？** ("What size?"). And **ジーンズ** ends in **ズ** because English plural **s** after a voiced sound becomes a **z**, and Japanese keeps it.

When Does a Word Get ー?

Compare **ゼロ** (zero) and **ゼリー** (jelly): one has a long vowel mark and one does not. You cannot always predict ー from the English word, so learn each word as you meet it.

Review: Words from Chapter 1

ゲーム (game) · **ギター** (guitar) · **ガス** (gas) · **ゴルフ** (golf) · **ゴール** (goal) · **ギフト** (gift).

Try It Yourself ー れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: **ザ** · **ジ** · **ズ** · **ゼ** · **ゾ**

▼ Show answer

za · ji · zu · ze · zo

2. Read aloud and translate: **ゼロ** · **ジム** · **ゾーン**

▼ Show answer

zero (zero) · jimu (gym) · zōn (zone)

3. Read aloud and translate: **ジーンズ** · **サイズ** · **ズーム**

▼ Show answer

jīnzu (jeans) · saizu (size) · zūmu (zoom)

4. Read aloud and translate: **ガレージ** · **ゼリー** · **レーザー**

▼ Show answer

garēji (garage) · zerī (jelly) · rēzā (laser)

5. How is **ジ** pronounced, and which plain character does it come from?

▼ Show answer

ji, like the English "j" of *jeep*; it comes from **シ** (shi).

6. Write in katakana: *jimu* · *saizu* · *zero* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

ジム・サイズ・ゼロ

Coming Up in Chapter 3

The dakuten on the T row: **ダヂツデド** (da ji zu de do). Two of them are rare, but **ドア** (door), **デート** (date) and **ダンス** (dance) will be readable.

Katakana 2

Chapter 3 · Da Ji Zu De Do

🌸 The Dakuten on the T Row — ダ チ ツ デ ド

The dakuten on the T row turns **t** into **d**: **ダ チ ツ デ ド** (da ji zu de do). As in hiragana, the middle two are rare and sound the same as **ジ** and **ズ**. The three that matter are **ダ**, **デ** and **ド**, and they give you door, date and dance. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH “	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
タ	ダ	ta	da
チ	チ	chi	ji
ツ	ツ	tsu	zu
テ	デ	te	de
ト	ド	to	do

	a	i	u	e	o
t	タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト
d (t + “	ダ	ヂ	ヅ	デ	ド

All five highlighted characters are today's; the whole D row in one chapter.

🌟 Five New Characters — ダ チ ツ デ ド

ダ

da

like "da" in *dad*, with a d ("dah")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a dancer in mid-twirl: タ with two marks. Hiragana twin: だ.

ヂ

ji

sounds exactly like ジ ("jee")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a secret twin of ジ: チ with two marks. Very rare. Hiragana twin: ぢ.

ヅ

zu

sounds exactly like ズ ("zoo")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a secret twin of ズ: ツ with two marks. Very rare. Hiragana twin: づ.

デ

de

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

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a dentist's tool and its two cotton balls: テ with two marks. Hiragana twin: で.

ド

do

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

4 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *door* with
two hinges: ト with two marks.
Hiragana twin: ど.

ヂ and ヅ Are Almost Never Used

As in hiragana, **ヂ** is pronounced *ji* and **ヅ** is pronounced *zu*, the same as ジ and ズ. In katakana loanwords you'll almost always see ジ and ズ instead, so learn to *recognise* **ヂ** and **ヅ** and don't worry about writing them.

Look-Alikes: ダ, デ and ド

ダ is タ with marks, **デ** is テ with marks and **ド** is ト with marks. Remember the earlier warnings: タ has three strokes and looks like ク; テ has two bars; ト is a simple post with an arm. The marks at the top right are the only addition.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ドア	doa	door	<i>do-a</i>
2	デート	dēto	date (romantic)	<i>de-e-to</i>
3	ダンス	dansu	dance	<i>da-n-su</i>
4	ドラマ	dorama	drama; TV drama	<i>do-ra-ma</i>
5	ダイヤ	daiya	diamond; train timetable	<i>da-i-ya</i> : two meanings, see the tip
6	ドル	doru	dollar	<i>do-ru</i>
7	データ	dēta	data	<i>de-e-ta</i>
8	デザイン	dezain	design	<i>de-za-i-n</i>
9	ドクター	dokutā	doctor	<i>do-ku-ta-a</i>
10	ラジオ	rajio	radio	<i>ra-ji-o</i> : review of the Z row from Chapter 2

Real Japanese Tip — ダイヤ Is Also a Timetable

ダイヤ is a diamond, but in Japan it also means a **train timetable**, from the English *diagram*. When the news says that trains are running late, it may say ダイヤが みだれてます ("the timetable is disrupted"). It's a good word to hear before your first trip.

ドラマ and ドル

ドラマ means any TV drama series, a huge genre in Japan, and ドル is the word for the US dollar (exchange-rate boards in airports use it). Two small words, a lot of real-life use.

Review: Words from Chapter 2

ゼロ (zero) ・ ジム (gym) ・ ジーンズ (jeans) ・ サイズ (size) ・ ガレージ (garage) ・ ゼリー (jelly).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: ダ ・ デ ・ ド

▼ Show answer

da ・ de ・ do

2. Read aloud and translate: ドア ・ デート ・ ダンス

▼ Show answer

doa (door) ・ dēto (date) ・ dansu (dance)

3. Read aloud and translate: ドラマ ・ ドル ・ データ

▼ Show answer

dorama (drama) ・ doru (dollar) ・ dēta (data)

4. Read aloud and translate: デザイン ・ ドクター ・ ラジオ

▼ Show answer

dezain (design) ・ dokutā (doctor) ・ rajio (radio)

5. How are チ and ツ pronounced, and how common are they?

▼ Show answer

ji and zu, the same as ジ and ズ. They are very rare in katakana.

6. Write in katakana: doa ・ dansu ・ dēta (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

ドア・ダンス・データ

Coming Up in Chapter 4

The dakuten on the H row: パ ビ ブ ベ ボ (ba bi bu be bo). You'll be able to read ビール (beer), バス (bus), ボール (ball) and スボン (trousers).

Katakana 2

Chapter 4 · Ba Bi Bu Be Bo

🌸 The Dakuten on the H Row — バ ビ ブ ベ ボ

The dakuten on the H row turns **h** into **b**: バ ビ ブ ベ ボ (ba bi bu be bo). This one row gives you ビール (beer), バス (bus), ボール (ball) and テレビ (TV), a very practical chapter. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH °	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
ハ	バ	ha	ba
ヒ	ビ	hi	bi
フ	ブ	fu	bu
ヘ	ベ	he	be
ホ	ボ	ho	bo

	a	i	u	e	o
h	ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
b (h + °)	バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ

All five highlighted characters are today's; the whole B row in one chapter. The little circle ° (P row) is next chapter.

🌟 Five New Characters — バ ビ ブ ベ ボ

バ

ba

like "ba" in *bar* ("bah")

4 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a bat with two wings flapping: ハ with two marks. Hiragana twin: ば.

ビ

bi

like "bee", short ("bee")

4 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a bee buzzing: ヒ with two marks. Hiragana twin: び.

ブ

bu

like "boo" ("boo")

3 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a ghost going boo: フ with two marks. Hiragana twin: ぶ.

ベ

be

like "be" in *bet* ("beh")

3 strokes · [stroke order ▶](#)

Memory hook: a beach hill with two beach balls: ヘ with two marks. Hiragana twin: べ.

ボ

bo

like "bo" in *boat*, short
("boh")

6 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *boat* with
two flags: ボ with two marks.
Hiragana twin: ぼ.

Short or Long? — ビル versus ビール

Katakana's long-vowel mark — matters. ビル (*biru*) is a **building** (from *building*), but ビール (*bīru*) is **beer**. Ask for a ビル and you'll get a very odd look. Always check for —.

Look-Alikes: ボ and ポ, バ and パ

Today's marks are two dots (°). Next chapter's mark is a little circle (◌), which turns the same characters into パ ピ プ ペ ポ. Check carefully: ボ (bo) has two dots, ポ (po) has a circle.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ビール	bīru	beer	<i>bi-i-ru: not ビル!</i>
2	バス	basu	bus	<i>ba-su</i>
3	ボール	bōru	ball	<i>bo-o-ru</i>
4	ブーツ	būtsu	boots	<i>bu-u-tsu</i>
5	ベル	beru	bell	<i>be-ru</i>
6	テレビ	terebi	television	<i>te-re-bi: shortened from television</i>
7	ズボン	zubon	trousers	<i>zu-bo-n: from French, not English</i>
8	バナナ	banana	banana	<i>ba-na-na</i>
9	ボタン	botan	button	<i>bo-ta-n</i>
10	バター	batā	butter	<i>ba-ta-a</i>

Real Japanese Tip — バス and the Journey

バス is the bus, and a bus stop is a バステイ (*basutei*), with て and い from hiragana. Japanese often mixes katakana and other scripts in one word, which is why you learned all three.

ズボン and テレビ: Borrowed and Shortened

ズボン comes from the French word *jupon*, not English, a reminder that katakana covers all foreign words. テレビ is *television* chopped down to its first and last sounds, a very common Japanese way of shortening loanwords.

Review: Words from Chapter 3

ドア (door) · デート (date) · ダンス (dance) · ドラマ (drama) · ドル (dollar) · データ (data).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: バ · ビ · ブ · ベ · ボ

▼ Show answer

ba · bi · bu · be · bo

2. Read aloud and translate: ビール · バス · ボール

▼ Show answer

bīru (beer) · basu (bus) · bōru (ball)

3. What is the difference between ビル and ビール?

▼ Show answer

ビル (biru) is a building; ビール (bīru) is beer. The long-vowel mark — changes the word.

4. Read aloud and translate: テレビ · ズボン · ボタン

▼ Show answer

terebi (TV) · zubon (trousers) · botan (button)

5. Read aloud and translate: ブーツ · バナナ · バター

▼ Show answer

būtsu (boots) · banana (banana) · batā (butter)

6. Write in katakana: *bīru* · *basu* · *terebi* (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

Coming Up in Chapter 5

The little circle ° on the H row: パ ビ ブ ペ ポ (pa pi pu pe po). You'll be able to read パン (bread), ペン (pen), ピアノ (piano) and スーパー (supermarket).

Katakana 2

Chapter 5 · Pa Pi Pu Pe Po

🌸 The Little Circle ° — パ ピ プ ペ ポ

The second mark, the little circle ° (handakuten), works only on the H row and turns **h** into **p**: パ ピ プ ペ ポ (pa pi pu pe po). In hiragana, P sounds were rare. In katakana they are everywhere, because English is full of p words. Romaji is shown for everything.

PLAIN	WITH °	SOUND BEFORE	SOUND NOW
ハ	パ	ha	pa
ヒ	ピ	hi	pi
フ	プ	fu	pu
ヘ	ペ	he	pe
ホ	ポ	ho	po

	a	i	u	e	o
h	ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ
p (h + °)	パ	ピ	プ	ペ	ポ

All five highlighted characters are today's: the whole P row in one chapter.

🌟 Five New Characters — パ ピ プ ペ ポ

パ

pa

like "pa" in *papa* ("pah")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a parachute: ハ with a small round canopy.
Hiragana twin: は.

ピ

pi

like "pea", short ("pee")

3 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a pea beside its pod: ヒ with a small round pea. Hiragana twin: ひ.

プ

pu

like "poo" in *pool* ("poo")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a poodle's pom-pom: フ with a small circle. Hiragana twin: ふ.

ペ

pe

like "pe" in *pen* ("peh")

2 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a peak with a pearl: ヘ with a small circle. Hiragana twin: へ.

ポ

po

like "po" in *pony*, short
("poh")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a *post* with a
pompom: ポ with a small
circle. Hiragana twin: ぽ.

Two Marks, Two Jobs

As in hiragana, the two dots っ voice a consonant (h→b), while the little circle っ gives **p**, and only on the H row. Look carefully at the corner: dots mean B, a circle means P. ポ (bo) and ポ (po) are the most easily confused pair.

P Is Common in Katakana

Native Japanese words rarely contain *p*, but English, French and German words do, so P characters are all over katakana: パン (bread), ペン (pen), プール (pool), ポスト (post box).

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	パン	pan	bread	<i>pa-n</i> : from Portuguese <i>pão</i> , not English
2	ペン	pen	pen	<i>pe-n</i>
3	ピアノ	piano	piano	<i>pi-a-no</i>
4	プール	pūru	swimming pool	<i>pu-u-ru</i>
5	ポスト	posuto	post box; mailbox	<i>po-su-to</i>
6	スーパー	sūpā	supermarket	<i>su-u-pa-a</i> : short for supermarket
7	ピザ	piza	pizza	<i>pi-za</i>
8	パソコン	pasokon	personal computer; PC	<i>pa-so-ko-n</i> : short for personal computer
9	ポテト	poteto	potato (fries)	<i>po-te-to</i>
10	プラス	urasu	plus	<i>pu-ra-su</i>

Real Japanese Tip — パン Is Portuguese

パン (bread) comes from the Portuguese word *pão*, brought by traders in the 1500s. Katakana covers every foreign language, not just English, so you will meet words from Portuguese, Dutch, French, German and more.

Shortened Words: スーパー and パソコン

Japanese loves to chop loanwords: スーパー is *supermarket*, and パソコン is *personal computer* (*pa-so-kon*). When a katakana word looks short or odd, it may be an abbreviation: try to guess the full English word.

Review: Words from Chapter 4

ビール (beer) · バス (bus) · ボール (ball) · テレビ (TV) · ズボン (trousers) · ボタン (button).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud: パ・ピ・プ・ペ・ポ

▼ Show answer

pa · pi · pu · pe · po

2. Read aloud and translate: パン・ペン・ピアノ

▼ Show answer

pan (bread) · pen (pen) · piano (piano)

3. Read aloud and translate: プール・ポスト・スーパー

▼ Show answer

pūru (pool) · posuto (post box) · sūpā (supermarket)

4. Read aloud and translate: ピザ・パソコン・ポテト

▼ Show answer

piza (pizza) · pasokon (PC) · poteto (potato)

5. How do you tell ボ from ポ?

▼ Show answer

ボ has two dots (ゝ, bo); ポ has a small circle (゜, po).

6. Write in katakana: pan · piza · sūpā (check the stroke order).

▼ Show answer

Coming Up in Chapter 6

The small ツ: the one-beat pause of katakana, exactly like the small っ in hiragana. You'll be able to read ベッド (bed), サッカー (soccer), コップ (cup) and ダイエット (diet).

Katakana 2

Chapter 6 · Small Tsu

🌸 Small ツ — The Silent Beat in Katakana

A short, familiar idea in a new script. You learned the **small** つ in Hiragana 3. Katakana has the **small** ツ, with the same rule and an extra twist, and it unlocks words you could not read before: ベッド, サッカー, チケット. Romaji is shown for everything.

🔊 Small ツ — 促音

The **small** ツ works exactly like the small つ you learned in Hiragana 3: it is half the size of ツ (tsu), sits low and to the right, and stands for **one beat of silence** that doubles the next consonant. Katakana uses it far more than hiragana does, because English words are full of doubled and clustered consonants.



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

1 stroke · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: the same shape as ツ, shrunk to half size, like a tiny *tsu* that has lost its voice. A full beat, so ベツド has three beats.

Count the Beats

ベッド (bed) has **three** beats: *be* · (pause) · *do*. In English it's one syllable, but in Japanese you give the silent beat its own tap. Say it three times, tapping the table: *be-(d)-do*.

A Katakana Bonus: ツ Before Voiced Consonants

In native Japanese words, small つ appears only before *k*, *s*, *t*, *p*. But loanwords can double **d**, **g**, **b** too: ベツド (*beddo*, bed), バッグ (*baggu*, bag). So you will see ツ before the characters you learned in Chapters 1 to 4 of this course.

Don't Confuse ツ with ツ, シ or ソ

ツ is the small version of ツ. Always check the **size and position**: small and low to the right is the pause; full size is *tsu*. It is also easy to mix up with シ and ソ at small sizes, so remember the strokes: ツ has its dots standing upright, シ has them lying sideways.

📖 Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and count the pause.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ベッド	beddo	bed	<i>be-d-do</i> : ツ doubles the <i>d</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
2	サッカー	sakkā	soccer; football	<i>sa-k-ka-a: ツ doubles the k, then ー</i>
3	コップ	koppu	cup; glass	<i>ko-p-pu</i>
4	ホット	hotto	hot (drink)	<i>ho-t-to: on café menus</i>
5	ネット	netto	the net; the internet	<i>ne-t-to</i>
6	ダイエット	daietto	diet; weight-loss	<i>da-i-e-t-to</i>
7	チケット	chiketto	ticket	<i>chi-ke-t-to: essential for travel</i>
8	キッチン	kitchin	kitchen	<i>ki-t-chi-n: ツ doubles the ch as tch</i>
9	ポケット	poketto	pocket	<i>po-ke-t-to</i>
10	バッグ	baggu	bag	<i>ba-g-gu: ツ doubles the g</i>

Real Japanese Tip — チケット and ホット

チケット (ticket) turns up at stations, cinemas and theme parks, and ホット is on every café menu: ホットコーヒー is hot coffee, and the opposite is アイス (iced). Two small words that you'll see on almost every trip.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

パン (bread) ・ ペン (pen) ・ ピアノ (piano) ・ プール (pool) ・ スーパー (supermarket) ・ ピザ (pizza).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. What does the small ツ do?

▼ Show answer

It adds a one-beat silent pause and doubles the following consonant.

2. How many beats are in ベッド?

▼ Show answer

Three: be ・ (pause) ・ do.

3. Read aloud and translate: サッカー・コップ・ホット

▼ Show answer

sakkā (soccer) · koppu (cup) · hotto (hot)

4. Read aloud and translate: チケット・キッチン・ポケット

▼ Show answer

chiketto (ticket) · kitchin (kitchen) · poketto (pocket)

5. What is the new thing about ツ in katakana compared with hiragana?

▼ Show answer

It can appear before voiced consonants like d and g (ベッド, バッグ), not just k, s, t and p.

6. Write in katakana: *beddo* · *sakkā* · *baggu* (check the small ツ).

▼ Show answer

ベッド・サッカー・バッグ

Coming Up in Chapter 7

The combined sounds begin in katakana: キャ キュ キョ, シャ シュ ショ and ジャ ジュ ジョ. You'll be able to read ジュース (juice), シャツ (shirt), ショップ (shop) and キャンプ (camp).

Katakana 2

Chapter 7 · Combined Sounds I

🌸 Combined Sounds I — キャ ギャ シャ ジャ

Combined sounds work in katakana exactly as in hiragana, with the small ヤ ュ ヨ. This chapter covers four rows: キ, ギ, シ and ジ, twelve sounds in all, and gives you juice, shirts, shops and camping. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌿 The Combined Sounds — 拗音

You know this rule from Hiragana 3: an い-row character plus a **small ヤ, ュ or ヨ** makes **one beat**. In katakana the small characters are ヤ ュ ヨ. Today we apply it to キ ギ シ ジ: twelve sounds in four rows. Click any character for its stroke order.

	ヤ (YA)	ユ (YU)	ヨ (YO)
キ (ki)	キャ kya	キュ kyu	キョ kyo
ギ (gi)	ギャ gya	ギュ gyu	ギョ gyo
シ (shi)	シャ sha	シュ shu	ショ sho
ジ (ji)	ジャ ja	ジュ ju	ジョ jo

Remember: シ is shi and ジ is ji, so these combine to sha and ja, not "shya" or "jya".

One Beat or Two? — キャ versus キヤ

Size decides, exactly as in hiragana: キャ (small ヤ) is one beat, kya; キヤ (full-size ヤ) would be two beats, ki-ya. In katakana, ヤ and ヤ differ only in size and position, so look carefully at the baseline: small characters sit low and to the right.

TWO BEATS	SAY IT	ONE BEAT	SAY IT
キヤ	ki-ya	キャ	kya
シヨ	shi-yo	ショ	sho

Long Vowels: — Instead of う

In hiragana a combined sound plus う made a long vowel (しゅう). In katakana the long vowel is written with ー: ジュース is jū-su (juice) and シャワー is sha-wā (shower). Count the beats: ジュース is three (ジュ・ー・ス).

📖 Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from. Combined sounds are one beat each.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ジュース	jūsu	juice	<i>ju-u-su: ュ plus — is a long ū</i>
2	シャツ	shatsu	shirt	<i>sha-tsu</i>
3	ショップ	shoppu	shop	<i>sho-p-pu: combined sound plus small ツ</i>
4	キャンプ	kyanpu	camp; camping	<i>kya-n-pu</i>
5	シャワー	shawā	shower	<i>sha-wa-a</i>
6	キャベツ	kyabetsu	cabbage	<i>kya-be-tsu: from cabbage</i>
7	ジャム	jamu	jam	<i>ja-mu</i>
8	シャンプー	shānpū	shampoo	<i>sha-n-pu-u</i>
9	キャッシュ	kyasshu	cash	<i>kya-s-shu: ツ then シュ</i>
10	ジョギング	jogingu	jogging	<i>jo-gi-n-gu</i>
11	ジャケット	jaketto	jacket	<i>ja-ke-t-to</i>
12	ジャズ	jazu	jazz	<i>ja-zu</i>

Real Japanese Tip — ジュース Isn't Always Juice

ジュース means any soft drink as well as fruit juice: ask for a ジュース in a café and you'll be offered a menu of fizzy drinks too. And キャッシュ (cash) turns up at ATMs: キャッシュ or げんぎん are both used, so you'll recognise either.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

ベッド (bed) · サッカー (soccer) · コップ (cup) · チケット (ticket) · キッチン (kitchen) · バッグ (bag).



Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. How many beats are in キャ, and how many in キヤ?

▼ Show answer

キャ: one (kya). キヤ: two (ki-ya).

2. Read aloud and translate: ジュース・シャツ・ジャム

▼ Show answer

jūsu (juice) · shatsu (shirt) · jamu (jam)

3. Read aloud and translate: ショップ・キャンプ・シャワー

▼ Show answer

shoppu (shop) · kyanpu (camp) · shawā (shower)

4. Read aloud and translate: ジャケット・ジョギング・ジャズ

▼ Show answer

jaketto (jacket) · jogingu (jogging) · jazu (jazz)

5. How is a long vowel written after a combined sound in katakana?

▼ Show answer

With ー: ジュース (jūsu), シャワー (shawā).

6. Write in katakana: *jūsu · shatsu · kyanpu* (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

ジュース・シャツ・キャンプ

Coming Up in Chapter 8

The rest of the combined sounds: チャ チュ チョ, ニャ ニュ ニョ and the rarer rows (ヒャ ビャ ピャ ミャ リャ). You'll be able to read チョコ (chocolate), ニュース (news) and リュック (rucksack).

Katakana 2

Chapter 8 · Combined Sounds II

🌸 Combined Sounds II — The Remaining Rows

Chapter 7 gave you four rows of combined sounds. This chapter finishes the other seven: チ ニ ヒ ビ ピ ミ リ plus a small ヤ ュ ヨ. Most of these are common in only a few words, so the chapter shows you the whole chart and teaches the ones that matter. Romaji is shown for everything.

🌿 More Combined Sounds

The rule is the same as last chapter: an い-row character plus a small ヤ, ュ or ヨ makes one beat. Here are the remaining seven rows. Click any character for its stroke order.

	ヤ (YA)	ユ (YU)	ヨ (YO)
チ (chi)	<u>チャ</u> cha	<u>チュ</u> chu	<u>チョ</u> cho
ニ (ni)	<u>ニヤ</u> nya	<u>ニユ</u> nyu	<u>ニヨ</u> nyo
ヒ (hi)	<u>ヒヤ</u> hya	<u>ヒユ</u> hyu	<u>ヒヨ</u> hyo
ビ (bi)	<u>ビヤ</u> bya	<u>ビユ</u> byu	<u>ビヨ</u> byo
ピ (pi)	<u>ピヤ</u> pya	<u>ピユ</u> pyu	<u>ピヨ</u> pyo
ミ (mi)	<u>ミヤ</u> mya	<u>ミユ</u> myu	<u>ミヨ</u> myo
リ (ri)	<u>リヤ</u> rya	<u>リユ</u> ryu	<u>リヨ</u> ryo

Which Ones Matter?

チャ チュ チョ and ニュ are common in everyday loanwords (チョコ, ニュース, メニュー). ビュ and ピュ turn up in a few useful words (インタビュー, コンピューター). The others (ヒヤ ヒヨ ビヤ ビヨ ピヤ ピヨ ミヤ リヤ リヨ) are rare: recognise them, and they will make sense when they appear in names and sound effects.

📖 All Eleven Rows Together

The complete set of combined sounds in katakana, all the way across the two chapters. They are the same 33 sounds you met in hiragana.

ROW	ヤ	ユ	ヨ
キ	キャ	キュ	キヨ

ROW	ヤ	ユ	ヨ
ギ	ギャ	ギユ	ギョ
シ	シャ	シュ	シヨ
ジ	ジャ	ジュ	ジヨ
チ	チャ	チュ	チヨ
ニ	ニヤ	ニユ	ニヨ
ヒ	ヒヤ	ヒユ	ヒヨ
ビ	ビヤ	ビユ	ビヨ
ピ	ピヤ	ピユ	ピヨ
ミ	ミヤ	ミユ	ミヨ
リ	リヤ	リュ	リヨ



Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	チョコ	choko	chocolate (short)	<i>cho-ko</i>
2	チョコレート	chokorēto	chocolate	<i>cho-ko-re-e-to</i>
3	ニュース	nyūsu	news	<i>nyu-u-su</i>
4	チャンス	chansu	chance; opportunity	<i>cha-n-su</i>
5	メニュー	menyū	menu	<i>me-nyu-u</i> : you will need it in <i>cafés</i>
6	リュック	ryukku	rucksack; backpack	<i>ryu-k-ku</i>
7	コンピューター	konpyūta	computer	<i>ko-n-pyu-u-ta-a</i>
8	インタビュー	intabyū	interview	<i>i-n-ta-byu-u</i>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
9	ミュージック	myūjikkū	music	<i>myu-u-ji-k-ku</i>
10	ミャンマー	Myanmā	Myanmar	<i>mya-n-ma-a: a country name</i>

Real Japanese Tip — メニュー

メニュー is the menu at a café or restaurant, and you can now read it. Look for ランチメニュー (lunch menu) and ドリンクメニュー (drinks menu). A tourist who can read katakana can read almost every menu in Japan, because so many dishes and drinks are written with it.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

ジュース (juice) · シャツ (shirt) · ショップ (shop) · キャンプ (camp) · シャワー (shower) · ジャケット (jacket).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud and translate: チョコ · チョコレート · ニュース

▼ Show answer

choko (chocolate) · chokorēto (chocolate) · nyūsu (news)

2. Read aloud and translate: チャンス · リュック · メニュー

▼ Show answer

chansu (chance) · ryukku (rucksack) · menyū (menu)

3. Read aloud and translate: コンピューター · インタビュー · ミュージック

▼ Show answer

konpyūtā (computer) · intabyū (interview) · myūjikkū (music)

4. How is チャ romanised, and is there an extra y?

▼ Show answer

cha: no extra y; the ch already contains it.

5. How many combined sounds are there in total, in each script?

▼ Show answer

33 (eleven rows of three), the same in hiragana and katakana.

6. Write in katakana: *menyū* · *nyūsu* · *choko* (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

メニュー・ニュース・チョコ

Coming Up in Chapter 9

The extra foreign sounds: ファ フィ フェ フォ and ウィ ウェ ウォ, made with small ァ ィ ェ オ. You'll be able to read ファン (fan), フォーク (fork), フィルム (film) and ウェブ (web).

Katakana 2

Chapter 9 · Extended Sounds I

Extended Sounds I — ファ フィ フェ フォ and ウィ ウェ ウォ

Modern katakana can write sounds that Japanese never had, by attaching a **small vowel** (ア イ エ オ) to a normal character. This chapter introduces the first two families: **F** (ファ フィ フェ フォ) and **W** (ウィ ウェ ウォ). They are the sounds behind fan, fork, film and web. Romaji is shown for everything.

The Extra Foreign Sounds — 外来音

Japanese has no basic character for sounds like fa, wi or we. In modern katakana a **small vowel** ア イ ウ エ オ fixes this: it is attached to the character before it, and it **changes that character's vowel**. The two together make **one beat**, the same as the combined sounds you learned. Today's pieces are the **F** and **W** families. Click any character for its stroke order.

CHARACTER	PIECES	ROMAJI / SOUND	EXAMPLE
<u>ファ</u> fa "fa" as in father	フ + small ア	fa	ファン fan
<u>フィ</u> fi "fi" as in fit	フ + small イ	fi	フィルム film
<u>フェ</u> fe "fe" as in fed	フ + small エ	fe	フェリー ferry
<u>フォ</u> fo "fo" as in fork	フ + small オ	fo	フォーク fork
<u>ウィ</u> wi "wi" as in wit	ウ + small イ	wi	ウィスキー whisky
<u>ウェ</u> we "we" as in wet	ウ + small エ	we	ウェブ web
<u>ウォ</u> wo "wo" as in wall	ウ + small オ	wo	ウォーク walk

The Rule: Small Vowel = New Vowel

The small vowel replaces the vowel of the character before it: フ (fu) + ア (small a) = ファ (fa). Likewise ウ (u) + イ (small i) = ウィ (wi). Size matters here too: ウィ (one beat, wi) is not the same as ウイ (two beats, u-i).

The Soft Japanese F

The Japanese **f** is the soft one you learned with フ: lips close together with air blown gently, not the English teeth-on-lip. So ファ sounds like a softer cousin of "fa". It is understood either way, so use whichever is easier.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ファン	fan	fan (a supporter)	<i>fa-n</i>
2	ファイル	fairu	file	<i>fa-i-ru</i>
3	ファミリー	famirī	family	<i>fa-mi-ri-i</i> : a family restaurant is a ファミレス
4	ファッション	fasshon	fashion	<i>fa-s-sho-n</i> : ツ and ショ from earlier chapters
5	フォーク	fōku	fork	<i>fo-o-ku</i>
6	フィルム	firumu	film (photographic)	<i>fi-ru-mu</i>
7	フェリー	ferī	ferry	<i>fe-ri-i</i>
8	ウェブ	webu	the web; website	<i>we-bu</i>
9	ウィスキー	wisukī	whisky	<i>wi-su-ki-i</i>
10	ウォーク	wōku	walk (in <i>walking</i>)	<i>wo-o-ku</i>

Real Japanese Tip — ファミレス and ウイスキー

ファミレス is short for *family restaurant*, a chain restaurant with a big picture menu, and one of the easiest places to eat in Japan. As for whisky, you will see both ウイスキー (the newer spelling) and ウィスキー (the older, without the small イ): both mean whisky. Different eras of katakana, same word.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

チョコ (chocolate) ・ ニュース (news) ・ メニュー (menu) ・ リュック (rucksack) ・ コンピューター (computer) ・ ミュージック (music).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. What does the small vowel in ファ do?

▼ Show answer

It replaces the vowel of フ: フ (fu) + ア = ファ (fa), one beat.

2. Read aloud and translate: ファン・ファイル・ファミリー

▼ Show answer

fan (fan) · fairu (file) · famirī (family)

3. Read aloud and translate: フォーク・フィルム・フェリー

▼ Show answer

fōku (fork) · firumu (film) · ferī (ferry)

4. Read aloud and translate: ウェブ・ウィスキー・ウォーク

▼ Show answer

webu (web) · wisukī (whisky) · wōku (walk)

5. What is the difference between ウィ and ウイ?

▼ Show answer

ウィ is one beat (wi); ウイ is two beats (u-i). The size of the small イ decides.

6. Write in katakana: fan · fōku · webu (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

ファン・フォーク・ウェブ

Coming Up in Chapter 10

More extended sounds: ティ ディ トウドウ, シェ ジェ チェ and the V sounds (ヴ). You'll be able to read パーティー (party), ディナー (dinner), チェック (check) and ヴァイオリン (violin).

Katakana 2

Chapter 10 · Extended Sounds II

Extended Sounds II — ティ ディ シェ ジェ チェ ヴ

The same small-vowel trick, applied to more characters: the **T and D** families (ティ ディ トウ ドウ), the **SH, J, CH** families (シェ ジェ チェ) and ヴ, the V sound. After this chapter you know every piece of katakana writing. Romaji is shown for everything.

More Extended Sounds — 外来音

Last chapter you met the F and W families. Today the same trick (a **small vowel** changes the vowel of the character before it) gives you the **T and D** families (ティ ディ トウ ドウ), the **SH, J and CH** families (シェ ジェ チェ) and ヴ, the V sound. All are one beat. Click any character for its stroke order.

CHARACTER	PIECES	ROMAJI / SOUND	EXAMPLE
<u>ティ</u> ti "ti" as in tea	テ + small イ	ti	パーティー party
<u>ディ</u> di "di" as in dip	デ + small イ	di	ディナー dinner
<u>トゥ</u> tu "tu" as in to	ト + small ウ	tu	トゥー (rare) two
<u>ドウ</u> du "du" as in do	ド + small ウ	du	ドゥー (rare) do
<u>シェ</u> she "she" as in shell	シ + small エ	she	シェア share
<u>ジェ</u> je "je" as in jet	ジ + small エ	je	ジェット jet
<u>チェ</u> che "che" as in check	チ + small エ	che	チェック check
<u>ヴ</u> vu "v", a voiced ウ	ウ + ˆ	vu	ヴァイオリン violin

Why ティ Exists

The plain Japanese テ is *te*, not *ti*. Since English has the "ti" of *tea* and *party*, katakana made a new character, ティ, by attaching a small イ. The same thing happened for ディ (*di*), シェ (*she*), ジェ (*je*) and チェ (*che*). Before these existed, *party* was written パーデー (*pātē*); you may still see older spellings like that.

ヴ: The V Sound

ヴ is ウ with the dakuten, and it stands for the English **v**: ヴァイオリン (violin). In practice most Japanese writers use **パビブベボ** instead (バイオリン, ビデオ), so ヴ is mainly seen in names, brand names and some game and anime titles. Learn to recognise it; you rarely need to write it.

Read It — New Words

Read the Japanese first, then check the romaji and the English word it comes from.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	パーティー	pāti	party	<i>pa-a-ti-i</i> : テ + small イ + ー
2	ティー	tī	tea (as in <i>tea bag</i>)	<i>ti-i</i>
3	ティッシュ	tisshu	tissue	<i>ti-s-shu</i> : pocket tissues are given away on the street
4	ディナー	dinā	dinner	<i>di-na-a</i>
5	ディスク	disuku	disc; disk	<i>di-su-ku</i>
6	チェック	chekku	check; checking	<i>che-k-ku</i>
7	チェンジ	chenji	change	<i>che-n-ji</i>
8	シェア	shea	share	<i>she-a</i> : used for sharing food or an apartment
9	ジェット	jetto	jet	<i>je-t-to</i>
10	ヴァイオリン	vaiorin	violin	<i>va-i-o-ri-n</i> : often バイオリン instead

Real Japanese Tip — ポケットティッシュ

On Japanese streets, people hand out free pocket packs of **ティッシュ** (tissues) with adverts inside, a long-standing form of advertising: ポケットティッシュ. And a **ディナー** is dinner on a menu, as ランチ is lunch: ディナーセット is a set dinner.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

ファン^(fan) · ファイル^(file) · ファミリー^(family) · フォーク^(fork) · ウェブ^(web) · ウィスキー^(whisky).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. What does the small イ in テイ do?

▼ Show answer

It changes the vowel of テ: テ (te) + イ = テイ (ti), one beat.

2. Read aloud and translate: パーティー・ティー・ティッシュ

▼ Show answer

pātī (party) · tī (tea) · tisshu (tissue)

3. Read aloud and translate: ディナー・ディスク・チェック

▼ Show answer

dinā (dinner) · disuku (disc) · chekku (check)

4. Read aloud and translate: チェンジ・シェア・ジェット

▼ Show answer

chenji (change) · shea (share) · jetto (jet)

5. What sound does ヴ stand for, and how is it usually written instead?

▼ Show answer

The V sound. It is usually replaced by バ ビ ブ ベ ボ (e.g. バイオリン).

6. Write in katakana: pātī · dinā · chekku (check the small characters).

▼ Show answer

パーティー・ディナー・チェック

Coming Up in Chapter 11

Katakana in real life: **menus**, **brand names**, **shop signs** and, the fun part, **writing your own name** (フィリップ) and places that matter to you (エジンバラ, Edinburgh, and ハンガリー, Hungary).

Katakana 2

Chapter 11 · Katakana in Real Life

🌸 Katakana in Real Life — Signs, Menus, Brands and Your Name

You now know all of *katakana*. This chapter uses it on the things you will actually see: **signs**, **menus**, **brand names** and **place names**, and shows you how to write **your own name**. Romaji is shown for everything.

🏪 Signs and Shop Words — 看板

You can now read every character in *katakana*. This chapter is for putting it to work: signs, menus, brands and place names. Read each one aloud first.

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	エレベーター	erebētā	elevator; lift	<i>e-re-be-e-ta-a</i>
2	エスカレーター	esukarētā	escalator	<i>e-su-ka-re-e-ta-a</i>
3	トイレ	toire	toilet	<i>to-i-re</i>
4	レジ	reji	cash register; checkout	<i>re-ji: you pay here</i>
5	セール	sēru	sale	<i>se-e-ru</i>
6	サービス	sābisu	service; free extra	<i>sa-a-bi-su</i>
7	コンビニ	konbini	convenience store	<i>ko-n-bi-ni: shortened from convenience store</i>
8	パーキング	pākingu	parking	<i>pa-a-ki-n-gu</i>

🍷 A Café and Restaurant Menu — メニュー

#	ITEM	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	コーヒー	kōhī	coffee	<i>from Katakana 1</i>
2	ティー	tī	tea	ティ + ー
3	ジュース	jūsu	juice; soft drink	
4	ビール	bīru	beer	

#	ITEM	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
5	サンドイッチ	sandoicchi	sandwich	<i>sa-n-do-i-c-chi</i> : ツ doubles the ch
6	ハンバーガー	hanbāgā	hamburger	<i>ha-n-ba-a-ga-a</i>
7	パスタ	pasuta	pasta	<i>pa-su-ta</i>
8	サラダ	sarada	salad	<i>sa-ra-da</i>
9	ステーキ	sutēki	steak	<i>su-te-e-ki</i>
10	ケーキ	kēki	cake	<i>from Katakana 1</i>



Brands You Will See

Many shop and company names are written in katakana, even the Japanese ones. Recognising them makes a street map much easier to read.

#	BRAND	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	セブンイレブン	Sebun-Irebun	7-Eleven	<i>a convenience store chain</i>
2	ローソン	Rōson	Lawson	<i>a convenience store chain</i>
3	ファミリーマート	Famirī Māto	FamilyMart	<i>a convenience store chain</i>
4	スターバックス	Sutābakkusu	Starbucks	<i>a coffee chain</i>
5	マクドナルド	Makudonarudo	McDonald's	<i>often shortened to マック</i>
6	ユニクロ	Yunikuro	Uniqlo	<i>a Japanese clothes brand, written in katakana</i>
7	トヨタ	Toyota	Toyota	<i>a Japanese car maker</i>
8	ホンダ	Honda	Honda	<i>a Japanese car maker</i>
9	ソニー	Sonī	Sony	<i>a Japanese electronics company</i>
10	ニンテンドー	Nintendō	Nintendo	<i>a Japanese games company</i>



Places — Including Yours

Countries and cities outside East Asia are written in katakana. These ten include places that matter to the author of this course: Edinburgh and Hungary.

#	PLACE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	エジンバラ	Ejinbara	Edinburgh	<i>e-ji-n-ba-ra</i>
2	スコットランド	Sukottorando	Scotland	<i>su-ko-t-to-ra-n-do</i>
3	イギリス	Igirisu	the United Kingdom	<i>i-gi-ri-su</i> : from Portuguese <i>Inglez</i> , not English
4	ロンドン	Rondon	London	<i>ro-n-do-n</i>
5	ハンガリー	Hangarī	Hungary	<i>ha-n-ga-ri-i</i>
6	ブダペスト	Budapesuto	Budapest	<i>bu-da-pe-su-to</i>
7	ドイツ	Doitsu	Germany	<i>do-i-tsu</i> : from the German <i>Deutsch</i>
8	フランス	Furansu	France	<i>fu-ra-n-su</i>
9	スペイン	Supein	Spain	<i>su-pe-i-n</i>
10	カナダ	Kanada	Canada	<i>ka-na-da</i>

👉 Writing Your Own Name

Names are written by sound, not by spelling. Here is the recipe, using Philip as the example.

STEP	WHAT TO DO	PHILIP →
1	Say the name out loud, slowly	Phi-lip
2	Split it into Japanese beats	fi · ri · p · pu
3	Add a vowel after any lonely consonant (usually u, or o after t/d)	ri-p → ri-p-pu
4	Choose katakana, using ツ for doubled sounds and — for long vowels	フィ · リ · ツ · プ = フィリップ

So **Philip** is フィリップ (*Firippu*). The Hungarian surname **Osztromok** is pronounced *ostromok* (the Hungarian *sz* is an "s"), so it becomes オストロモク. Together, with the dot ・ (*nakaguro*) between first and last name, **Philip Osztromok** is フィリップ・オストロモク.

Some Common English Names

Here are a few to practise with. The spelling varies a little between writers, since there is no official standard.

ENGLISH NAME	KATAKANA	SAY IT
John	ジョン	Jon
Mike	マイク	Maiku
Tom	トム	Tomu
David	デイビッド	Deibiddo
Emma	エマ	Ema
Anna	アンナ	Anna
Mary	メアリー	Meari
Steve	スティーブ	Sutibu

Real Japanese Tip — The Dot ・ and Name Order

The middle dot ・ (*nakaguro*) separates the parts of a foreign name or a list of katakana words. Japanese names are written **family name first** (やまだ たろう), but foreign names in katakana are usually written **first name first** (フィリップ・オストロモク), the same order as in the original. Sometimes a Japanese form will ask for your name in katakana, so this skill is more practical than it seems.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

パーティー (party) ・ ディナー (dinner) ・ チェック (check) ・ シェア (share) ・ ティッシュ (tissue) ・ ジェット (jet).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud and translate: エレベーター ・ レジ ・ コンビニ

▼ Show answer

erebētā (elevator) ・ reji (checkout) ・ konbini (convenience store)

2. Read aloud and translate: ハンバーガー ・ サンドイッチ ・ ステーキ

▼ Show answer

hanbāgā (hamburger) · sandoicchi (sandwich) · sutēki (steak)

3. Read aloud: スターバックス · マクドナルド · ユニクロ

▼ Show answer

Sutābakkusu (Starbucks) · Makudonarudo (McDonald's) · Yunikuro (Uniqlo)

4. Read aloud and translate: エジンバラ · ハンガリー · ブダペスト

▼ Show answer

Ejinbara (Edinburgh) · Hangarī (Hungary) · Budapesuto (Budapest)

5. What does the dot ・ do in フィリップ・オストロモク?

▼ Show answer

It separates the first name and the family name.

6. Write your own first name in katakana, following the four steps in this chapter.

▼ Show answer

Compare it with a friend's version: small differences are normal, since there is no official standard.

Coming Up in Chapter 12

The last chapter: **reading practice** with a short text, an advert and a menu, and a **Course Complete** recap of all the katakana you have learned. Then the combined course PDF.

Katakana 2

Chapter 12 · Reading Practice

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

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

📄 A Short Text — 短い文章

Six sentences that mix katakana with the hiragana particles you know. Read the Japanese aloud before looking at the romaji and English.

#	SENTENCE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ジョンさんはエジンバラの かいしゃへ いきます。	Jon-san wa Ejinbara no kaisha e ikimasu.	John goes to a company in Edinburgh.	は = wa; へ = e
2	ランチは サンドイッチと コーヒーです。	Ranchi wa sandoicchi to kōhī desu.	Lunch is a sandwich and coffee.	と = and
3	ディナーは レストランで ステーキを たべます。	Dinā wa resutoran de sutēki o tabemasu.	For dinner he eats steak at a restaurant.	で = at; を = o
4	ビールを のみます。	Bīru o nomimasu.	He drinks beer.	を = o
5	あしたは バスで ブダペストへ いきます。	Ashita wa basu de Budapesuto e ikimasu.	Tomorrow he goes to Budapest by bus.	で = by; へ = e
6	ホテルの ウェブサイトで チケットを チェックします。	Hoteru no webusaito de chiketto o chekku shimasu.	He checks the tickets on the hotel's website.	の = of; で = on

📣 Adverts — 広告

Short and punchy, with prices written in hiragana.

#	ADVERT	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ランチセール！	Ranchi sēru!	Lunch sale!	<i>an advert headline</i>
2	ハンバーガーと ポテトと ジュース ごひゃくえん	Hanbāgā to poteto to jūsu gohyakuen	Hamburger, fries and a drink: 500 yen	ごひゃく えん = 500 yen
3	ホットコーヒー ひゃくごじゅうえん	Hotto kōhī hyakugojūen	Hot coffee: 150 yen	ひゃく + ごじゅう = 150

A Menu with Prices — メニュー

A small sample menu. The prices use the hundreds you learned in Hiragana 3. (Prices are invented for practice.)

#	MENU LINE	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
1	ピザ ろっぴゃくえん	piza roppyakuen	Pizza, 600 yen	ろっぴゃく = 600
2	パスタ はっぴゃくえん	pasuta happyakuen	Pasta, 800 yen	はっぴゃく = 800
3	サラダ ごひゃくえん	sarada gohyakuen	Salad, 500 yen	
4	ケーキ さんびゃくえん	kēki sanbyakuen	Cake, 300 yen	さんびゃく = 300
5	ジュース にひゃくえん	jūsu nihyakuen	Juice, 200 yen	

Real Japanese Tip — Kanji Is the Next Step

You can now read the two kana scripts completely, which is more than half of what a beginner needs. The third script, **kanji**, will appear next to them: えん (yen) is normally written 円, and エジンバラの かいしゃ would use 会社 for かいしゃ. The kanji courses will teach these a character at a time, and every kanji will fit into sentences that you can already read.

Review: Words from the Last Chapter

エジンバラ (Edinburgh) ・ ハンガリー (Hungary) ・ スターバックス (Starbucks) ・ コンビニ (convenience store) ・ ハンバーガー (hamburger) ・ フィリップ (Philip).

Try It Yourself — れんしゅう

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

1. Read aloud and translate: ランチは サンドイッチと コーヒーです。

▼ Show answer

Ranchi wa sandoicchi to kōhī desu: Lunch is a sandwich and coffee.

2. What is the price of the pasta on the menu?

▼ Show answer

はっぴゃくえん (happyakuen): 800 yen.

3. What does the advert ランチセール！ mean?

▼ Show answer

Lunch sale!

4. Read aloud: ブダペスト・エジンバラ・ハンガリー

▼ Show answer

Budapesuto・Ejinbara・Hangarī

5. Which five kinds of katakana did this course add to Katakana 1?

▼ Show answer

The voiced marks (゛ ゜), small ツ, the combined sounds (キャ ...), the extended foreign sounds (ファ, ティ ...), and real-life reading.

6. Write your full name in katakana, using the steps from Chapter 11, and read it aloud.

▼ Show answer

Your own katakana name: check it against the four-step recipe.

Course Complete — おめでとう！

You now know all of katakana: the 46 basic characters from Katakana 1 plus everything in this course. Here is what the two courses gave you, and the journey through this one.

COURSE	WHAT IT TAUGHT	CHARACTERS
Katakana 1	the 46 basic characters, the long-vowel mark ー, real loanwords	ア ... ン
Katakana 2	voiced and semi-voiced characters (゛ ゜), small ツ, combined sounds, extended foreign sounds, real-life reading	ガ ... ヴ・ッ・キャ ... リョ・ファ ... ヴォ
CHAPTER	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
1	ガギグゲゴ	You can now read the G row: ゲーム, ギター, ゴルフ.

CHAPTER	TOPIC	YOU CAN NOW...
2	ザ ジ ズ ゼ ゾ	You can now read the Z row: ジム, ゼロ, サイズ.
3	ダ チ ツ デ ド	You can now read the D row: ドア, デート, ダンス.
4	バ ビ ブ ベ ボ	You can now read the B row: ビール, バス, ボール.
5	パ ピ プ ペ ポ	You can now read the P row: パン, ピアノ, スーパー.
6	ッ	You can now read the small ツ: ベッド, サッカー, チケット.
7	キャ ギャ シャ ジャ	You can now read the first four combined rows: ジュース, シャツ.
8	チャ ニャ … リャ	You can now read all combined sounds: メニュー, ニュース.
9	ファ フィ フェ フォ ウィ ウェ ウォ	You can now read F and W sounds: ファン, フォーク, ウェブ.
10	ティ ディ シェ ジェ チェ ヴ	You can now read T, D, SH, J, CH and V sounds: パーティー, チェック.
11	Real-life katakana	You can now read signs, menus, brands, places and write your name.
12	Reading practice	You can now read a text, an advert and a menu.

What Next?

You can read all the kana. Next: **Japanese Basic Conversation 1**, where you start using the language (greetings, introductions, numbers, ordering food and more), and later the **kanji courses**.