

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 2 · Chapter 10 · Extended Sounds II

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🌸 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

CHARACTER	PIECES	ROMAJI / SOUND	EXAMPLE
<u>ジエ</u> je "je" as in <i>jet</i>	ジ + small エ	je	ジェット jet
<u>チェ</u> che "che" as in <i>check</i>	チ + small エ	che	チェック check
<u>ヴ</u> vu "v", a voiced ウ	ウ + ヰ	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 (*dī*), シェ (*she*), ジェ (*je*) and チェ (*che*). Before these existed, *party* was written パーティー (*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 バビ 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	pa-a-ti-i: テ + small イ + ー
2	ティー	tī	tea (as in <i>tea bag</i>)	ti-i

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
3	ティッシュ	tisshu	tissue	<i>ti-s-shu: pocket tissues are given away on the street</i>
4	ディナー	dinā	dinner	<i>dī-na-a</i>
5	ディスク	disuku	disc; disk	<i>dī-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: used for sharing food or an apartment</i>
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: often バイオリン instead</i>

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).