

JP

KATAKANA

# Katakana 2 · Chapter 11 · Katakana in Real Life

---

## 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;<br>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<br/>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            | from Katakana 1                   |
| 2  | ティー    | tī         | tea               | ティ + ー                            |
| 3  | ジュース   | jūsu       | juice; soft drink |                                   |
| 4  | ビール    | bīru       | beer              |                                   |
| 5  | サンドイッチ | sandoicchi | sandwich          | sa-n-do-i-c-chi: ツ doubles the ch |
| 6  | ハンバーガー | hanbāgā    | hamburger         | ha-n-ba-a-ga-a                    |
| 7  | パスタ    | pasuta     | pasta             | pa-su-ta                          |
| 8  | サラダ    | sarada     | salad             | sa-ra-da                          |
| 9  | ステーキ   | sutēki     | steak             | su-te-e-ki                        |
| 10 | ケーキ    | kēki       | cake              | from Katakana 1                   |



## 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 | a convenience store chain |

| #  | BRAND    | ROMAJI       | ENGLISH    | NOTE                                                 |
|----|----------|--------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 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: from Portuguese Inglez, not English</i> |

| #  | PLACE | ROMAJI     | ENGLISH  | NOTE                                     |
|----|-------|------------|----------|------------------------------------------|
| 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: from the German 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・ッ・プ =<br>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    | Sutību   |

### 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.