

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 2 · Chapter 3 · Da Ji Zu De Do

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🌸 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	ヂ	chi	ji
ツ	ヅ	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

ヂ

ヅ

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.

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.

zu

sounds exactly like ズ ("zoo")

5 strokes · [stroke order](#) ▶

Memory hook: a secret twin of ズ: ヅ 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: タ, テ and ト

タ is タ with marks, テ is テ with marks and ト 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	do-a
2	デート	dēto	date (romantic)	de-e-to
3	ダンス	dansu	dance	da-n-su
4	ドラマ	dorama	drama; TV drama	do-ra-ma
5	ダイヤ	daiya	diamond; train timetable	da-i-ya: two meanings, see the tip
6	ドル	doru	dollar	do-ru
7	データ	dēta	data	de-e-ta
8	デザイン	dezain	design	de-za-i-n
9	ドクター	dokutā	doctor	do-ku-ta-a
10	ラジオ	rajio	radio	ra-ji-o: 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 **ダイヤがみだれています** ("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: バ 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 ズボン (trousers).