

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 2 · Chapter 6 · Small Tsu

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🌸 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.



(pause)

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 ベッド 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: ベッド (*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 d
2	サッカー	sakkā	soccer; football	<i>sa-k-ka-a</i> : ツ doubles the k, then —
3	コップ	koppu	cup; glass	<i>ko-p-pu</i>
4	ホット	hotto	hot (drink)	<i>ho-t-to</i> : on café menus
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</i> : essential for travel
8	キッチン	kitchin	kitchen	<i>ki-t-chi-n</i> : ツ doubles the ch as tch
9	ポケット	poketto	pocket	<i>po-ke-t-to</i>
10	バッグ	baggu	bag	<i>ba-g-gu</i> : ツ doubles the g

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).