

JP

KATAKANA

Katakana 2 · Chapter 7 · Combined Sounds I

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🌸 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)	<u>キャ</u> kya	<u>キュ</u> kyu	<u>キヨ</u> kyo
ギ (gi)	<u>ギャ</u> gya	<u>ギユ</u> gyu	<u>ギヨ</u> gyo
シ (shi)	<u>シャ</u> sha	<u>シュ</u> shu	<u>シヨ</u> sho
ジ (ji)	<u>ジャ</u> ja	<u>ジュ</u> ju	<u>ジヨ</u> 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 —: 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>

#	WORD	ROMAJI	ENGLISH	NOTE
8	シャンプー	shanpū	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 げんきん 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).