



# An Introduction to Japanese

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日本語 にほんご

# Topics

- The three writing systems; Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji
  - How to say Care giver in Japanese
  - Introductions
- 



HIRAGAN

ひらがな

# HIRAGANA

あ a	い i	う u	え e	お o
か ka	き ki	く ku	け ke	こ ko
さ sa	し shi	す su	せ se	そ so
た ta	ち chi	つ tsu	て te	と to
な na	に ni	ぬ nu	ね ne	の no
は ha	ひ hi	ふ fu	へ he	ほ ho
ま ma	み mi	む mu	め me	も mo
や ya		ゆ yu		よ yo
ら ra	り ri	る ru	れ re	ろ ro
わ wa				を o
ん n				

A

- All Japanese sounds are based on five vowels

あ                      い                      う                      え                      お  
father                      key                      Jupiter                      pen                      hope

- There are 46 Hiragana symbols plus an additional 23 which are slight variations of the original characters が "softening mark"  
ga
- To read the chart start with the 5 vowels in the first row. The following rows contain series of characters that begin with consonant sounds and end with each of the five vowels.
- Once you learn these, you' ll be able to write any Japanese word you hear.



KATAKANA

カ タ カ ナ

ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ so
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no
ハ ha	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo
ヤ ya		ユ yu		ヨ yo
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro
ワ wa				ヲ o
ン n				

# KATAKANA

## A

- Katakana has a different set of characters to represent the same sounds that the Hiragana characters do

ア                    イ                    ウ                    エ                    オ

- It is used to write foreign words or loan words e.g:

**アルバイト**  
a ru ba i to  
part - time

job

Derived from the German word arbeit meaning "work"

**テレビ**  
te re bi  
television

Derived from the English word television

**マイク**  
ma i  
ku

**コンビニ**  
kon bi ni

**イメージ**  
i me - ji

**レストラン**  
re su to  
ran

**エアコン**  
e a kon



KANJI

I 漢 字

# KANJI

- Kanji are Chinese characters that were adopted into the Japanese writing system
- Over 50 000 in total but only about 2000 in common use
- Can have multiple meanings
- Most have both a Japanese (kunyomi) and Chinese(onyomi) readings
- As a loose rule, use onyomi when multiple kanji form one word and kunyomi when a kanji is on its own

月

Means: moon/ month  
Kunyomi:つき (tsuki)  
Onyomi: GETSU

一月

いち ガツ  
i chi ga tsu

Means: January  
一: one  
月: month

月明

げつ メイ  
ge tsu me i

Means: moonlight  
月: moon  
明: bright/ light



# How to say care giver in Japanese

介

Meaning: to concern oneself with  
Kunyomi: -  
Onyomi: カイ - ka i

護

Meaning: safeguard/ protect  
Kunyomi: まも(る) - ma mo (ru)  
Onyomi: ゴ - go

者

Meaning: someone/ person  
Kunyomi: もの - mo no  
Onyomi: シャ - sha

介護者

ka i

g  
o

sha

# Introductions

こん にち

今日は、

ko n ni chi wa

わた

私は \_\_\_\_\_ です。

wa ta shi wa de su