



# Dr. Moku's HIRAGANA<sup>®</sup> mnemonics

Learning Japanese may seem like an impossible task but after reading this guide you will have mastered the first essential step.

## About Hiragana

The Japanese written language is comprised of three different writing systems: *Hiragana*, *Katakana* and *Kanji*. Hiragana and Katakana are both referred to as the Kana symbols. There is also *Romaji*, the romanized version of Japanese which is basically just the plain old alphabet we use in English everyday.

Hiragana and Katakana each consist of 46 basic symbols which can be modified slightly to cover every syllable you need. A lot of Hiragana symbols resemble Katakana symbols so you are already on your way to mastering that too.

Hiragana is used to write native Japanese words or to spell words or part of words that don't have their own Kanji symbol. Kanji symbols are the busy looking characters derived from Chinese. Katakana is used mainly to write foreign words that have made their way into Japanese.

This is 'arigato' which means 'Thank you' written in Hiragana. Note the smooth and rounded style:

ありがとう

A - RI - GA - TO

This is the word 'America' written in Katakana, note the sharper and angular style:

アメリカ

A - ME - RI - KA

This is the Kanji symbol for the word 'sakaki' which is a type of tree:

榊 sakaki

But it can also be written with Hiragana:

さかき

SA - KA - KI

So from these examples you can see that each Hiragana symbol represents a syllable. This is why the Kana are referred to as 'syllabaries' instead of alphabets.

In the English alphabet, there are many different ways depending on the font or typeface that a letter or word can appear. Think of the world famous Coca Cola logo, it looks much different from the simple abc's you first learned as a kid doesn't it? So the same applies with Japanese. In my learning system the symbols appear as plain and as basic as possible.

Let's look at some examples:

This is the word 'Hiragana' written in....Hiragana!

ひらがな

HI - RA - GA - NA

Now look at these, they are the same word only written in different styles:

ひらがな

HI - RA - GA - NA

ひらがな

HI - RA - GA - NA

ひらがな

HI - RA - GA - NA

ひらがな

HI - RA - GA - NA

## How Dr. Moku's system works

The system uses mnemonic aids to help you learn automatically without trying.

Mnemonics are memory tricks that use humor or a memorable personal connection to help you remember something. A famous example is '*Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain*' to help remember the colors of the rainbow.



Look at each screen, read the text and repeat the sound out loud. By focusing on the symbol and the mnemonic clue you will break and form associations without even trying. You will remember each symbol automatically. Each page uses a bold alternating color to reset your brain so you can start fresh with the next one.

Don't worry if you don't get them right away. Most of them will sink in immediately but there are a few notorious ones that most people mix up. Watch out for:

ぬ (nu) and め (me)

る (ru) and ろ (ro)

け (ke), は (ha) and ほ (ho)

So my student, I think you're ready to begin. Once you feel confident to test your skills you can go to my site [www.drmoku.com](http://www.drmoku.com) where you can find interactive quizzes, pronunciation clips, animated writing guides and more.

[www.drmoku.com](http://www.drmoku.com)

# BASIC HIRAGANA SYLLABARY

a あ      i い      u う      e え      o お

---

ka か      ki き      ku く      ke け      ko こ

---

sa さ      shi し      su す      se せ      so そ

---

ta た      chi ち      tsu つ      te て      to と

---

na な      ni に      nu ぬ      ne ね      no の

---

ha は      hi ひ      hu ふ      he へ      ho ほ

---

ma ま      mi み      mu む      me め      mo も

---

ya や                      yu ゆ                      yo よ

---

ra ら      ri り      ru る      re れ      ro ろ

---

wa わ                      wo を                      n ん

# MODIFIED HIRAGANA

DAKUTEN are the two small strokes that change the sound of symbols.

The 'k' sound becomes a 'g' sound so 'ka' か becomes 'ga' が

The 's' sound becomes a 'z' sound so 'sa' さ becomes 'za' ざ

The 't' sound becomes a 'd' sound so 'ta' た becomes 'da' だ

The 'h' sound becomes a 'b' sound so 'ha' は becomes 'ba' ば

HANDAKUTEN is a small circle that changes 'h' to 'p'. So 'ha' は becomes 'pa' ぱ

ga が	za ざ	da だ	ba ば	pa ぱ
gi ぎ	zi じ	di ぢ	bi び	pi ぴ
gu ぐ	zu ず	du づ	bu ぶ	pu ぷ
ge げ	ze ぜ	de で	be べ	pe ぺ
go ご	zo ぞ	do ど	bo ぼ	po ぽ

YŌON uses smaller than usual versions of one of the three 'y' kana, ya, yu or yo to make a contracted word. For example kyō (meaning "today") is written きょう with the smaller 'yo' and kiyō, (meaning "skillful"), which is written きょう has a full-sized 'yo'.

kyā きゃ	gyā ぎゃ	shā しゃ	ja じゃ	chā ちゃ	myā みゃ
kyū きゅ	gyū ぎゅ	shū しゅ	ju じゅ	chū ちゅ	myū みゅ
kyō きょ	gyō ぎょ	shō しょ	jo じょ	cho ちょ	myō みょ
nyā にゃ	hyā ひゃ	byā びゃ	pyā ひゃ	ryā りゃ	ja ぢゃ
nyū にゅ	hyū ひゅ	byū びゅ	pyū ひゅ	ryū りゅ	ju ぢゅ
nyō にょ	hyō ひょ	byō びょ	pyō ひょ	ryō りょ	jo ぢょ

Dr. Moku's  
**HIRAGANA**  
mnemonics

The fun and foolproof way to learn Hiragana; the essential writing system of the Japanese language.

Learning Japanese may seem like an impossible task but with *Dr. MOKU'S* revolutionary mnemonic learning system you can automatically and effortlessly master Hiragana without even trying!

**Get the book!**

**amazon.com**<sup>®</sup>



**www.drroku.com**

# Dr. Moku's Hiragana Learning system is now available on iPhone and iPad

Learn to read and write basic Japanese in just one day!

With this app it's easy to learn Japanese!

- ✓ Learn Hiragana Mnemonics with audio pronunciation clips
- ✓ 3 different Quiz modes (Easy, Hard and Master)
- ✓ Quick Reference mode allows you to jump straight to the screens you want to revise.
- ✓ Choose between 2 learning modes; *Manual* (learn at your own pace) and *Autoplay* (screens and audio automatically load in sequence)
- ✓ Features introduction to learning Basic and Modified Hiragana



[www.drMoku.com](http://www.drMoku.com)

# Dr. Moku's HIRAGANA mnemonics

Start

Quiz

Quick ref

How to use

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MANUAL

(Slide across left to  
right at your own speed)

AUTO PLAY

(Automatically plays  
screens and audio)



menu

CHOOSE  
BETWEEN  
TWO DIFFERENT  
LEARNING  
MODES

ま ma

ま

Look MA! Four hands

menu

LEARN  
INSTANTLY  
WITH AUDIO &  
MNEMONIC  
CLUES



EACH HIRAGANA SYMBOL USES AN  
AUDIO, TEXT & VISUAL MNEMONIC AID

す su

す

Super Sumo!  
Think of a sumo wrestler

menu

え e

え

Ed the pelican  
He makes an 'e' sound

menu

し shi

し

She has shiny hair  
Think of a girl with long hair

menu

お o

お

Oh! Throw a dog a bone  
Think of all the 'o' sounds

menu

ふ fu

ふ

Who's stranger than Mr T?  
Think of Mr T

menu

や ya

や

Yakushi Yaki!  
Think of a hairy yak

menu

わ wa

わ

What a whodai!  
Think of a large whale

menu

の no

の

No Smoking!  
Think of a no smoking sign

menu

く ku

く

Ku ku ku ku!  
Think of a cuckoo bird

menu

ま ma

ま

Look MA! Four hands

menu

### QUIZ OPTIONS

**EASY**  
(10 SYMBOLS)

**HARD**  
(20 SYMBOLS)

**MASTER**  
(ALL)

menu

CHOOSE BETWEEN THREE DIFFERENT QUIZ LEVELS

SCORE: 1/10

HI	E
TE	MI

menu

SCORE: 3/10

**RIGHT!**

E	RE
SU	SO

menu

AND SOON YOU'LL GET A PERFECT SCORE EVERY TIME!

SCORE: 1/10

**WRONG!**

HI	E
TE	MI

menu

SCORE: 1/10

RE	YO
WA	KU

menu

## PERFECT!

Score 10/10

WILL DOING ANY STUDENT!

menu

あ	い	う	え	お
か	き	く	け	こ
さ	し	す	せ	そ
た	ち	つ	て	と
な	に	ぬ	ね	の
は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
ま	み	む	め	も
ら	り	る	れ	ろ
や		ゆ		よ
わ		を		

menu

CONTAINS A FULL USER'S GUIDE & INFORMATION ABOUT LEARNING BASIC AND MODIFIED HIRAGANA

USE 'QUICK REFERENCE' MODE TO JUMP TO THE SCREENS YOU WANT TO REVISE

や ya

Yakkyaku Yaki!  
Think of a hairy yak

menu

### HOW TO USE THE QUICK HIRAGANA

...can automatically add to help you automatically without trying.

...and learning words that are hard to remember personally connect them to help you remember something. A famous example is Richard's 'Oh my God' (oh my god) to help remember the colors of the rainbow.

Look at each screen, read the text and repeat the sound out loud. By focusing on the syllable and the meaning (the you will learn and learn automatically without even trying.

menu

### About Hiragana 2 of 3

This is the word 'Hiragana' written in Hiragana

ひらがな

Now look at these, they are the same word only written in different styles.

ひらがな ひらがな ひらがな

ひらがな ひらがな ひらがな

It's good to know this more as some (most) teachers and discourage new students when they try to apply their Hiragana skills in the real world

menu

### About Hiragana 1 of 3

This is the word 'America' written in Hiragana, use the shape and angle style:

アメリカ

This is the long symbol for the word 'sakaki' which is a type of tree:

榎 sakaki

But it can also be written with Hiragana:

ささき

menu

### About Modified Hiragana 1 of 2

There are 46 basic Hiragana from which they can modify to create every sound you need.

CONGRATULATE you the first small studies that change the sound of syllables

The 'i' sound becomes a 'u' sound so 'hi' becomes 'hu' へ

The 'u' sound becomes a 'y' sound so 'ku' becomes 'kyu' ぐ

The 'i' sound becomes a 'w' sound so 'hi' becomes 'hi' へ

The 'u' sound becomes a 'v' sound so 'hi' becomes 'hi' へ

menu