

あ

A

Pronounced like 'ah'
as in 'father'.

Used in words like

(asa) meaning 'morning',
(aka) meaning 'red',
(ame) meaning 'rain'.

い

I

Pronounced like 'ee'
in 'see'.

Used in words like

(inu) meaning 'dog',
(ishi) meaning 'stone',
(imo) meaning 'potato'.

Hiragana Flashcards

A small introduction to Japanese. 🏯 🌸 🍵

While Japanese uses three writing systems (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji), Hiragana is the most common alphabet, used for most native Japanese words.

These flashcards introduce each Hiragana character with its sound and common example words.

Print single-sided.

Print the cards single-sided, then cut or fold them as needed. Each card include some folding flaps that can be folded inward and glued shut to create a sealed flashcard.

For added durability, try to add an extra sheet of paper or thin cardstock in before gluing.

This set includes all 71 basic hiragana characters across 36 pages. ❤️

う

U

Pronounced like 'oo'
in 'food'.

Used in words like

(umi) meaning 'sea',
(usagi) meaning 'rabbit',
(uta) meaning 'song'.

え

E

Pronounced like 'e'
in 'pet'.

Used in words like

(eki) meaning 'station',
(ebi) meaning 'shrimp',
(enpitsu) meaning
'pencil'.

お

O

Pronounced like 'o'
in 'orange'.

Used in words like

(okane) meaning 'money',
(oni) meaning 'demon',
(oto) meaning 'sound'.

か

Ka

Represents the 'ka' sound.

Used in words like

(kasa) meaning 'umbrella',
(kani) meaning 'crab',
(kaze) meaning 'wind'.

キ

Ki

Represents the
'ki' sound.

Used in words like

(ki) meaning 'tree',
(kirei) meaning 'pretty',
(kishi) meaning 'shore'.

ク

Ku

Represents the
'ku' sound.

Used in words like

(kuruma) meaning 'car',
(kumori) meaning
'cloudiness',
(kumo) meaning 'spider'.

け

Ke

Represents the
'ke' sound.

Used in words like
(kemuri) meaning 'smoke',
(ken) meaning
'prefecture',
(keshigomu) meaning
'eraser'.

こ

Ko

Represents the
'ko' sound.

Used in words like
(kodomo) meaning 'child',
(koi) meaning 'carp',
(koko) meaning 'here'.

さ

Sa

Represents the
'sa' sound.

Used in words like
(sakana) meaning 'fish',
(sakura) meaning
'cherry blossom',
(sasa) meaning 'bamboo
grass'.

し

Shi

Represents the
'she' sound.

Used in words like
(shiro) meaning 'white',
(shima) meaning 'island',
(shinen) meaning 'belief'.

す

Su

Represents the
'su' sound.

Used in words like

(sushi) meaning 'sushi',
(sugoi) meaning 'amazing',
(suna) meaning 'sand'.

せ

Se

Represents the
'se' sound.

Used in words like

(sekai) meaning 'world',
(seki) meaning 'cough',
(sensei) meaning
'teacher'.

そ

So

Represents the
'so' sound.

Used in words like
(sora) meaning 'sky',
(soba) meaning
'buckwheat noodles',
(soto) meaning 'outside'.

た

Ta

Represents the
'ta' sound.

Used in words like
(taberu) meaning
'to eat',
(tana) meaning 'shelf',
(tatsu) meaning
'to stand'.

ち

Chi

Represents the
'chi' sound.

Used in words like
(chizu) meaning 'map',
(chikai) meaning
'close' or 'near',
(chikatetsu) meaning
'subway'.

つ

Tsu

Represents the
'tsu' sound.

Used in words like
(tsuki) meaning 'moon',
(tsume) meaning
'nail' or 'claw',
(tsuru) meaning 'crane'.

て

Te

Represents the
'te' sound.

Used in words like

(te) meaning 'hand',
(tegami) meaning 'letter',
(tenki) meaning 'weather'.

と

To

Represents the
'to' sound.

Used in words like

(tokei) meaning 'clock',
(tomodachi) meaning
'friend',
(tori) meaning 'bird'.

な

Na

Represents the
'na' sound.

Used in words like

(natsu) meaning 'summer',
(naamae) meaning 'name',
(nasu) meaning 'eggplant'.

に

Ni

Represents the
'ni' sound.

Used in words like

(niku) meaning 'meat',
(ningyo) meaning
'mermaid',
(nikuya) meaning
'butcher shop'.

ぬ

Nu

Represents the
'nu' sound.

Used in words like

(nuno) meaning 'cloth',
(nuru) meaning 'coating',
(numa) meaning 'swamp'.

ね

Ne

Represents the
'ne' sound.

Used in words like

(neko) meaning 'cat',
(nedan) meaning 'price',
(nemui) meaning 'sleepy'.

の

No

Represents the
'no' sound.

Used in words like
(nomimono) meaning
'drink',
(norimono) meaning
'vehicle',
(noru) meaning 'to ride'.

は

Ha

Represents the
'ha' sound.

Used in words like
(hana) meaning 'flower',
(haru) meaning 'spring',
(hako) meaning 'box'.

ひ

Hi

Represents the
'hi' sound.

Used in words like

(hito) meaning 'person',
(hikari) meaning 'light',
(hitsuji) meaning 'sheep'.

ふ

Fu

Represents the
Soft 'fu' sound.

Used in words like

(fune) meaning 'boat',
(fuyu) meaning 'winter',
(fuku) meaning 'clothes'.



へ

He

Represents the
'he' sound.

Used in words like

(heya) meaning 'room',

(heta) meaning

'unskilled',

(hen) meaning 'strange'.



ほ

Ho

Represents the
'ho' sound.

Used in words like

(hoshi) meaning 'star',

(hon) meaning 'book',

(hotaru) meaning

'firefly'.

ま

Ma

Represents the
'ma' sound.

Used in words like

(machi) meaning 'town',
(masa) meaning 'polish',
(mado) meaning 'window'.

み

Mi

Represents the
'mi' sound.

Used in words like

(mizu) meaning 'water',
(michi) meaning 'road',
(miru) meaning 'to see'.

む

Mu

Represents the
'mu' sound.

Used in words like

(mushi) meaning 'insect',

(mura) meaning 'village',

(mugen) meaning

'infinite'.

め

Me

Represents the
'me' sound.

Used in words like

(me) meaning 'eye',

(megane) meaning

'glasses',

(mendou) meaning

'trouble'.

も

Mo

Represents the
'mo' sound.

Used in words like

(mori) meaning 'forest',
(momo) meaning 'peach',
(motto) meaning 'more'.

や

Ya

Represents the
'ya' sound.

Used in words like

(yama) meaning 'mountain',
(yasai) meaning
'vegetables',
(yakusoku) meaning
'promise'.

ゆ

Yu

Represents the
'yu' sound.

Used in words like

(yuki) meaning 'snow',
(yume) meaning 'dream',
(yubiwa) meaning 'ring'.

よ

Yo

Represents the
'yo' sound.

Used in words like

(yoru) meaning 'night',
(yomo) meaning 'to read',
(yoi) meaning 'good'.

ら

Ra

Represents the
'ra' sound.

Used in words like

(rainen) meaning

'next year',

(raku) meaning 'easy',

(ramen) meaning 'ramen'.

り

Ri

Represents the
'Ri' sound.

Used in words like

(ringo) meaning 'apple',

(risu) meaning 'squirrel',

(riso) meaning 'ideal'.

る

Ru

Represents the
'ru' sound.

Used in words like

(rusu) meaning 'absence',

(ruri) meaning

'lapis lazuli',

(miru) meaning 'to see'.

れ

Re

Represents the
're' sound.

Used in words like

(rekishi) meaning

'history',

(renai) meaning 'romance',

(repoto) meaning 'report'.

ろ

Ro

Represents the
'ro' sound.

Used in words like
(rousoku) meaning
'candle',
(robi) meaning 'lobby',
(romaji) meaning
'roman letters'.

わ

Wa

Represents the
'wa' sound.

Used in words like
(watashi) meaning
'I' or 'me',
(wa) meaning 'circle',
(wanko) meaning 'doggy'.

を

Wo

Represents the particle
pronounced 'o'.

Used in sentences like

(sushi wo tabemashita)

meaning 'I ate sushi',
(hon wo yomimasu) meaning
'I read a book'.

ん

N

Represents the nasal 'n'
sound.

Used in words like

(nihon) meaning 'Japan',

(onna) meaning 'woman',

(hon) meaning 'book'.

が

Ga

Voiced (dakuten) version
of 'ka'.

Used in words like
(gakusei) meaning
'student',
(gakkou) meaning 'school',
(gawa) meaning 'side'.

ぎ

Gi

Voiced (dakuten) version
of 'ki'.

Used in words like
(gyuuniku) meaning 'beef',
(ginkou) meaning 'bank',
(gisou) meaning
'disguise'.

ぐ

Gu

Voiced (dakuten) version
of 'ku'.

Used in words like

(gun) meaning 'army',

(gumi) meaning 'group',

(guru) meaning 'guru'.

げ

Ge

Voiced (dakuten) version
of 'ke'.

Used in words like

(genki) meaning 'healthy',

(gekijou) meaning

'theater',

(geemu) meaning 'game'.

ゴ

シ

Go

Voiced (dakuten) version
of 'ko'.

Used in words like

(gohan) meaning

'rice' or 'meal',

(gomi) meaning 'trash',

(gogo) meaning

'afternoon'.

ザ

Za

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'sa' sound.

Used in words like

(zasshi) meaning

'magazine',

(zaru) meaning

'bamboo strainer',

(zannen) meaning 'regret'.

じ

Ji

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'shi' sound.

Used in words like
(jikan) meaning 'time',
(jisho) meaning
'dictionary',
(jidou) meaning
'automatic'.

ず

zu

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'su' sound.

Used in words like
(zutto) meaning 'always',
(zubon) meaning 'pants',
(zuibun) meaning 'quite'.

ぜ

ze

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'se' sound.

Used in words like
(zenbu) meaning 'all',
(zenshin) meaning
'whole body',
(zettai) meaning
'absolute'.

ぞ

zo

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'so' sound.

Used in words like
(zou) meaning 'elephant',
(zori) meaning 'sandals',
(zousan) meaning
'little elephant'.

だ

Da

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'ta' sound.

Used in words like
(dare) meaning 'who',
(dango) meaning
'dumpling',
(dame) meaning 'no good'.

ぢ

Di

Rare kana; usually
pronounced like 'ji'.

Mostly appears due to
sound changes (rendaku).

Seen in words like
(chijimu) meaning
'to shrink'.



づ

Du

Rare kana; usually pronounced like 'zu'.

Mostly appears due to sound changes (rendaku).

Seen in words like (tsuzuku) meaning 'to continue'.



で

De

Voiced (dakuten) version of the 'te' sound.

Used in words like

(denki) meaning 'electricity',

(demo) meaning 'but',

(dekiru) meaning 'to be able'.

ど

Do

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'to' sound.

Used in words like
(douzo) meaning
'please' or 'go ahead',
(doko) meaning 'where',
(douka) meaning 'somehow'.

ば

Ba

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'ha' sound.

Used in words like
(bara) meaning 'rose',
(ban) meaning 'number',
(baka) meaning 'fool'.

び

Bi

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'hi' sound.

Used in words like

(byouin) meaning

'hospital',

(bijin) meaning 'beautiful
woman',

(binkan) meaning
'sensitive'.

ぶ

Bu

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'fu' sound.

Used in words like

(buta) meaning 'pig',

(bukatsu) meaning

'club activity',

(bunka) meaning 'culture'.

ベ

Be

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'he' sound.

Used in words like
(benkyou) meaning 'study',
(bento) meaning
'lunchbox',
(betsu) meaning
'different'.

ボ

Bo

Voiced (dakuten) version
of the 'ho' sound.

Used in words like
(boku) meaning
'I (male)',
(bou) meaning 'stick',
(boshi) meaning 'hat'.

ぱ

Pa

Handakuten ('pa') version
of the 'ha' sound.

Used in words like

(pan) meaning 'bread',
(panda) meaning 'panda',
(piano) meaning 'piano'.

ぴ

Pi

Handakuten ('pi') version
of the 'hi' sound.

Used in words like

(pikapika) meaning
'sparkling',
(pikku) meaning 'pick',
(piman) meaning
'bell pepper'.



A large black Handakuten symbol for 'pu' is centered on a pink background with white clouds. The symbol consists of a circle at the top right, a curved line below it, and a vertical line on the left.

Pu

Handakuten ('pu') version
of the 'fu' sound.

Used in words like
(purin) meaning 'pudding',
(puro) meaning
'professional',
(puchi) meaning 'small'.



A large black Handakuten symbol for 'pe' is centered on a pink background with white clouds. The symbol consists of a circle at the top right, a curved line below it, and a vertical line on the left.

Pe

Handakuten ('pe') version
of the 'he' sound.

Used in words like
(pekopeko) meaning
'hungry',
(pen) meaning 'pen',
(petto) meaning 'pet'.

