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Japanese Hiragana & Katakana For Beginners: First Steps To Mastering The Japanese Writing System (CD-ROM Included)



Synopsis

The method that's helped thousands in the U.S. and Japan learn Japanese successfully. The Japanese language has two basic writing systems, hiragana and katakana, in addition to the one that uses Chinese characters or Kanji. This handy book teaches you a new mnemonics-based method to read and write the basic 92 hiragana and katakana characters. Along with its sister book: Japanese Kanji for Beginners it provides a complete introduction to written Japanese. Memorable picture mnemonics help you to learn the characters by associating their shapes and sounds with combinations of images and English words already familiar to you. Clear examples and entertaining exercises offer opportunities to read, write, use and practice all 46 basic hiragana and 46 basic katakana characters, plus the remaining kana that stand for more complex sounds. Polish your knowledge with word searches, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, timed recognition quizzes, and other interesting activities. The CD-ROM allows you to print out your own flash cards (featuring the same mnemonic images taught in the book) to help you review and practice, even while you're on the go.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As a whole I find this book to be a useful tool to learning the characters of both writing systems. I especially like the vocabulary usage at the bottom of each characters page. If you are looking for a book to get you started with Japanese I think this is a good place to start."

•BenLearnsJapanese.com blog

Timothy G. Stout lived in Japan for 20 years and has taught Japanese language for 23 years in public and private schools, and at the university level. While teaching at the American School in Japan he conducted research on the use of keyword mnemonics in the instruction of Japanese. Stout has a Doctorate in Education (EdD) from Utah State University, an M.A. in Japanese Pedagogy from Columbia University and a B.A. in Japanese Teaching from Brigham Young University. He currently teaches Japanese at Utah Valley University, and resides in Lehi, Utah with his wife and five children. Stout is the author of Japanese Hiragana and Katakana for Beginners and Let's Learn Japanese, both available from Tuttle.

Love this book and the included CD. I used some high quality card stock for the flash cards and they turned out beautiful. Using this book I was astonished at how quickly I could learn the kana. I certainly would not have been so successful without the flash cards, which include the associated illustrations to help you remember the syllable they represent. This is a perfect starting point for learning Japanese!

I did not actually use this until I got into my Japanese class, it helps with writing it as correct as possible (which is important!), it also helps with reinforcement because it has activities to do. Like spelling out words. It is set up similarly to my written language textbook, but if you are simply just wanting to learn how to read and write this is a great tool for self learning as well as practice. I really recommend this.

A very good book to learn Hiragana! I like how the book provides detailed instructions for the strokes and has spaces to practice. I also like that it has a vocabulary review every once in a while. I downloaded a blank hiragana practice sheet to complement this book.

This book is amazing. Correlates Japanese characters to memorable animated scenarios. I've had the book about a week and complete memorization and writing practice for one new character a day. The book also includes words that use the Japanese characters being introduced so that you can have a head start on vocabulary. This method is very fun and highly motivating. I just gave away my French audio method discs because I'm accelerating so quickly with understanding this language. I also plan on purchasing the new Kanji method book by this author that is set to come out later this year. Overall, an excellent method book that's thorough with a solid foundation to

progress to more advanced study. Very pleased!

This book uses a great learning technique to get you to remember Hiragana and Katakana. This book is the best! I looked at several things for learning to read and write Japanese but all they do is try to drill it into your head over and over and I always gave up after a few characters. I honestly gave this book a half hearted try and still got through it in 2 weeks 30 min a day with skipping exercises and I'm able to somewhat quickly read any Hiragana and Katakana I see. Why would you choose to drill something into your head? That only works for cramming for a test for school and even then you don't retain it long term. But by relating pictures to characters it sticks there. It kind of reminds me how people use a picture to remember a group of stars.

I used to know the Kana years ago by heart but disuse of Japanese in day to day life left me rusty. With the help of this book, I relearned what I forgot in a single weekend and now I'm back to reading naturally. But beware that this book is for a very specific audience, particularly American standard English. The pneumonics are very specific to the point where I felt like I was pronouncing some of the words incorrectly. Also, while it didn't affect me, I was a little disappointed they didn't show the traditional typed font in the learning pages. The middle of the book is filled with examples that show you a variety of fonts and hand written options, but those early pages are crucial for learning. Beyond two nitpicks this is a great learning resource.

I've been using phone apps to learn how to speak but hadn't found one that would help me with reading & writing. This workbook allows you the ability to do just that through repetition, tracing, on your own, and word association. I am more fully grasping the writing style and gaining the ability to read words and small sentences in just the short time that I've had it.

This book is amazing! It helps a lot with the pronunciation, reading and writing skills in a really fast pace. I really recommend this product to anyone who is trying to learn Japanese, because I guarantee you will get the hang of it in less than a year. Yes that's how accurate and helpful this product is. I was really happy when I first got my package because it came two days earlier than I had expected. I was also surprised to find a cd in the back of the book. On the cd it has printable worksheets and names to practice writing. I seriously recommend this book and it has helped me so much and I hope someone other than me will get the same feeling, which is why I recommend it. I hope I helped you quite a bit... good luck with your Japanese!

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