






# ひ ら が な

## Complete Hiragana Workbook

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Chapters with this mark have accompanying videos.

## 1. Introduction

### 1-1. How to use “Complete Hiragana Workbook”

This Complete Hiragana Workbook covers all you need for Hiragana self-study. The accompanied tutorial videos clarify each Hiragana character's writing stroke order and its pronunciation. The video is available with both mov. (for *QuickTime* – free download is available at <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>) and m4v. (for i-Pod users) formats, so you can choose whichever for your convenience.

Hiragana has 46 basic writing characters and 58 variations and combinations. Moreover, there are some special pronunciation and writing rules. You'll learn all about Hiragana writing through this workbook and tutorial videos. Throughout this workbook, over 100 words are introduced.

To make the most of your study, I recommend you go through each lesson in the same order as this workbook.

*Step 1* Print out all of this Hiragana Workbook.

*Step 2* Look at the Katakana Chart (p4) and grasp the total picture of Hiragana

*Step 3* Watch video tutorials and practise writing and pronouncing each Hiragana letter. Do exercise accordingly.

*Sept 4* Play with Flashcards and Flashcard videos every day.

### 1-2. Hiragana at a glance

Japanese is a syllable-timed language while English is stress-timed. That means, you can understand how to read any Japanese words once you know how to pronounce each Hiragana character and some pronunciation rules. (on the other hand for English, you need to know the spelling as well as the pronunciation. We never know how to pronounce an English word such as

“photo” by just knowing how to read alphabet: a,b,c...). Japanese pronunciation rule is very systematic, thus, once you know it, it’s much easier for you to study Japanese further up to the upper level.

Each Japanese syllable is made up of either a single vowel: /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/ and /o/ or a combination of a consonant plus a vowel. The only exception is the /n/, /m/ or /ŋ/ sound which is represented by the character ん.

There are 46 basic Hiragana, 25 voiced or semi-voiced variations (called “Daku-on”) and 33 contracted sounds. Here, “voiced” means you use your vocal cords to pronounce them. It begins with the consonants /b/, /d/, /g/, /j/ and /z/ and semi-voiced ones begin with /p/, that we call *Daku-on*. Contracted sounds are basic Hiragana of the i-column combined with smaller versions of the Hiragana from y-row.

Each Hiragana character takes one beat, “mora”. So please make sure to pronounce each character with equal length and stress.

### 1-3. Hiragana writing tips

Stroke order is very important for writing well-balanced Hiragana.

Basically, all Japanese writing (Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji) write the horizontal stroke first, then the vertical stroke if two lines are crossed. Of course, there are some exceptions though.

If there are two parts, write the left side first then the right side, or write the top part first then the bottom part.

Also, it’s important to pay attention to the direction and termination of each stroke. In this workbook, you’ll see the following marks for each stroke end.

✕ → to stop the stroke.

○ → to release the pen pressure.

✓ → to hook

## 2. Hiragana Chart



### Basic 46 Hiragana

	A	I	U	E	O
	あ	い	う	え	お
K	か	き	く	け	こ
S	さ	し (shi)	す	せ	そ
T	た	ち (chi)	つ (tsu)	て	と
N	な	に	ぬ	ね	の
H	は	ひ	ふ (fu)	へ	ほ
M	ま	み	む	め	も
Y	や		ゆ		よ
R	ら	り	る	れ	ろ
W	わ				を (o)
N	ん				

### Yō-on

	A	I	U	E	O
Ky	きゃ		きゅ		きょ
Sh	しゃ		しゅ		しょ
Ch	ちゃ		ちゅ		ちょ
Ny	にゃ		にゅ		にょ
Hy	ひゃ		ひゅ		ひょ
My	みゃ		みゅ		みょ
Ry	りゃ		りゅ		りょ
Gy	ぎゃ		ぎゅ		ぎょ
J(y)	じゃ		じゅ		じょ
By	びゃ		びゅ		びょ
Py	ぴゃ		ぴゅ		ぴょ

### Daku-on

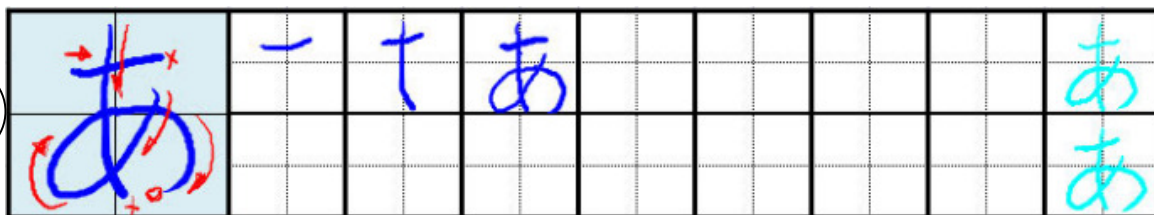
	A	I	U	E	O
G	が	ぎ	ぐ	げ	ご
Z	ざ	じ (ji)	ず	ぜ	ぞ
D	だ	ぢ (ji)	づ (zu)	で	ど
B	ば	び	ぶ	べ	ぼ
P	ぱ	ぴ	ぷ	ぺ	ぽ

### 3. Hiragana writing worksheet

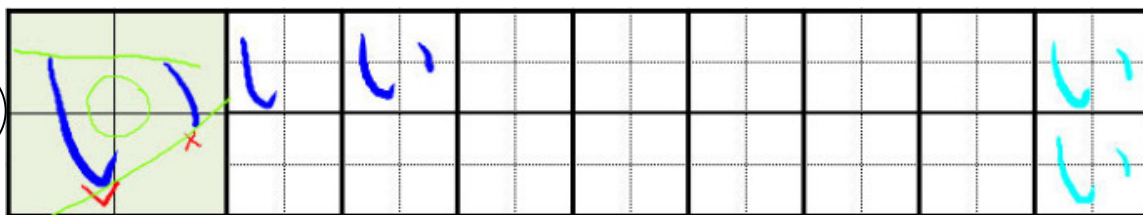


#### 3-1. 46 Basic Hiragana

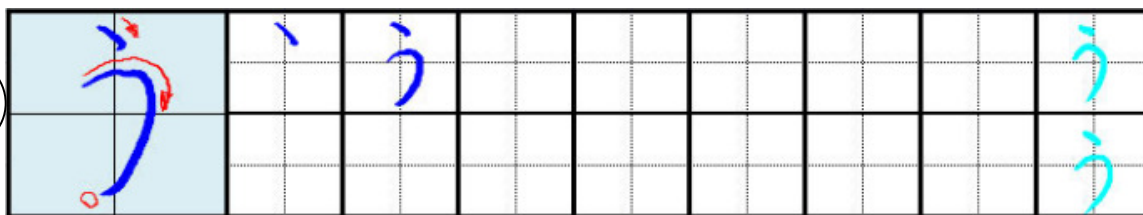
a



i



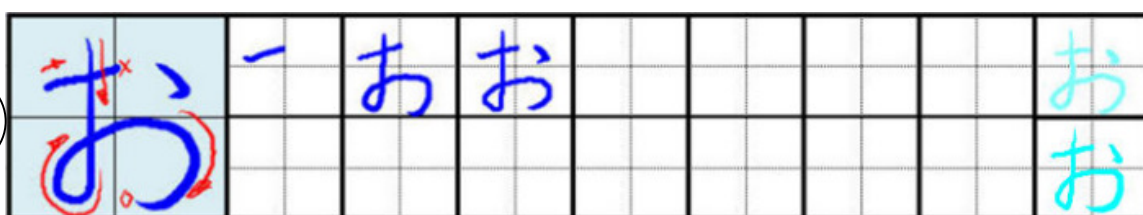
u



e



o



a	i	u	e	o

Let's practise writing words!

あ	い				
a	i	(love)			

う	え				
u	e	(above)			

あ	お				
a	o	(blue)			

お	お	い						
o	o	i	(many)					

い	い	え						
i	i	e	(No)					