



CH1-1: JAPANESE WRITING SYSTEM

In Japanese, there are three types of characters:

hiragana, katakana, and kanji.

All three are used together in everyday sentences, so to truly understand and become fluent in Japanese, you need to learn all of them.

example: わたしは今日ケーキを食べます。

[watashi wa kyou keeki o tabemasu]
= I'll eat a cake today

- : hiragana
- : katakana
- : kanji

The Differences Between the Three Japanese Characters

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

HIRAGANA

- represents sounds (like the alphabet)
- has a roundish shape
- is used for conjugation endings, function words, Japanese words not covered by kanji

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

KATAKANA

- represents sounds (like the alphabet)
- has straight lines
- is mainly used for writing loan words and foreign names

#1 心	#2 愛
#6 桜	#7 私

KANJI

- is originally from China
- represent sounds and meanings
- is used for nouns and the stems of verbs and adjectives



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Our Study Plan :

Here's how we're going to study and the most effective steps to learn

STEP1:

- Learn all **hiragana characters**
- Learn some basic Japanese words written in hiragana
- Learn essential Japanese, including greetings, numbers, and more

STEP2:

- Learn all **katakana characters**
- Learn some basic katakana words
- Learn how to write your name in katakana

STEP3:

- Learn essential **kanji characters** along with new vocabulary and grammar

You might feel like there's too much to remember, but we'll go through it step by step together, so it will be all right. Ganbarimasho! – Let's do our best!

