

Course Syllabus

Welcome to **The Japanese Writing System: An Introduction to Hiragana and Katakana** by Japan Fuji Online. This course is designed to provide beginners in Japanese with a solid foundation for the Japanese writing system.

Lessons

Learning the Japanese writing system is your first step to being able to communicate in Japanese. It is often taught at the beginning of most long term Japanese language courses at both the high school and college levels.

The course is divided into:

- An introduction
- A chapter on hiragana
- A chapter on katakana
- Final exam

The Introduction contains two videos, followed by a short quiz to test your understanding. Each chapter contains nine video lessons, each followed by a short quiz. These quizzes are not graded, but if you are not able to answer all the questions correctly, you can rewatch the video and practice so you can successfully answer all the questions. The videos range from 3 to 8 minutes in length.

Videos include **audio recordings** of Japanese pronunciations by native Japanese teachers, **hiragana and katakana animations** to show stroke orders of each character, and come with **downloadable kana practice sheets**.

What You'll Need

It is recommended that you have access to a high speed internet connection, access to a printer in order to print out the practice sheets, and a pen or pencil. That's it!

Final Exam

At the end of the course is a final exam with 30 questions. It is comprehensive and evaluates your overall understanding of the learning material. The passing grade is at least 70 percent. If you are unable to pass on your first time, you can retake it as often as you need in order to pass.

Students who participate in this online course are on the honor system. Please give it your best effort. You can complete this course in less than 2 hours, and have a very good understanding of the hiragana and katakana. But remember, as you advance in your Japanese language studies, not only will you have to recognize these characters, but also pronounce, write, and read them naturally. It will only enhance your retention by revisiting the videos and practice sheets as often as you can.

After successful completion, students will be able to download a Certificate of Completion.

Bonus Practice Videos

As a bonus supplement, we have included some additional practice videos for your review. Take a look and follow along with these supplemental videos before you begin your final exam.

Course Goal

At the end of this course, you should be able to recognize, write, and pronounce all 46 basic hiragana characters, 46 katakana characters, 25 modified hiragana, and 25 modified katakana characters.



Success Tips

1. Follow the order of the lessons.
2. Take quizzes after each lesson, and watch the lesson videos as many times as you would like.
3. The course is designed to give you a solid foundation for the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading,

and Writing. Repeat each sound after the teacher so you can train your mouth for native-like pronunciations.

4. Print out the downloadable kana practice sheets and practice writing your kana as you watch the Writing lesson videos. Stop the video at any time to review.

WATCH - LISTEN - SOUND OUT - WRITE - REVIEW

Introduction

Japanese Writing System-1 and 2

Learn the history of the Japanese writing system and the main differences between English and Japanese grammar. Knowing this will help avoid setbacks later on.

Chapter 1: Hiragana

Lesson 1 Gojuuon Part 1

Learn 25 hiragana. Be sure to repeat after the teacher so you can not only learn the pronunciation but also associate the sounds and characters.

Lesson 2 Gojuuon Part 2

Learn 21 additional hiragana. With this lesson, you will have learned all 46 hiragana characters and sounds. Be sure to repeat after the teacher so you can not only learn the pronunciation but also associate the sounds and characters.

Lesson 3 Dakuon and Han-Dakuon

Learn about small marks that transcribe modified sounds in hiragana, such as G, Z, J, D and P.

Lesson 4 Contracted Sounds

Learn how to transcribe contracted sounds with hiragana.

Lesson 5 Double Consonants

Learn how to transcribe double consonant sounds with hiragana.

Lesson 6 Long Vowels

Learn how to transcribe words with extended vowels with hiragana.

Lesson 7 Writing Hiragana

Learn useful tips in learning how to write hiragana characters.

Lesson 8 Writing Hiragana

Learn how to write the first five rows of hiragana in the Gojuuon chart.

Lesson 9 Writing Hiragana

Learn how to write the next five rows of hiragana in the Gojuuon chart. With this lesson, you will have learned all the hiragana in the Gojuuon chart.

Chapter 2: Katakana

Lesson 1 Gojuuon

Learn the system of the Katakana Gojuuon chart.

Lesson 2 Dakuon and Han-Dakuon

Learn about small marks that transcribe modified sounds in katakana, such as G, Z, J, D and P.

Lesson 3 Contracted Sounds

Learn how to transcribe contracted sounds in katakana.

Lesson 4 Double Consonants

Learn how to transcribe double consonants in katakana.

Lesson 5 Long Vowels

Learn how to transcribe extended vowels in katakana.

Lesson 6 Katakana Challenge

Enjoy a fun challenge for English speakers to decode English words written in katakana.

Lesson 7 Katakana and Onomatopoeia

Learn how katakana is used to transcribe onomatopoeia that are used in the Japanese language.

Lesson 8 Writing Katakana

Learn how to write the first five rows of katakana in the Gojuuon chart.

Lesson 9 Writing Katakana

Learn how to write the next five rows of katakana in the Gojuuon chart. With this lesson, you will have learned all the katakana on the Gojuuon chart.

Final Exam

