

First of all ...

だい **1** か

 **Flap those ears!**

 **Move that mouth!**

Starting class



Hello, everyone, I'm Masaru. We're starting this class as we start every class here in Japan. I'm your monitor for today and I've given you three instructions in Japanese. All you have to do is follow them.

- きりつ *kiritsu*. Stand as your teacher comes into the room.
- れい *rei*. Bow to your teacher.
- ちゃくせき *chakuseki*. Sit down.

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Let's do it!

Practise saying きりつ *kiritsu*, れい *rei*, ちゃくせき *chakuseki*. Practise with the class, then practise by yourself. See if your classmates can follow your instructions. Take your turn as monitor when your teacher thinks you're ready.



We Japanese wouldn't think of giving any of these greetings without bowing. Well, we might think of it but we just couldn't!

Saying hello and goodbye

- To say 'good morning' you say おはよう ございます *ohayou gozaimasu*. With your friends you can just say おはよう *ohayou*. It's more casual.
- After 11 o'clock, the greeting you use is こんにちは *konnichi wa*, which means 'hello'.
- To greet your teacher, use the title せんせい *sensei* before the greeting. Before 11 o'clock say せんせい、おはよう ございます *sensei, ohayou gozaimasu*. After 11 o'clock say せんせい、こんにちは *sensei, konnichi wa*.
- To say 'goodbye' say さようなら *sayounara*.

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Let's do it!

Stand up and greet some of your classmates with a bow. Say hello or good morning, then goodbye.

Greet your teacher with a bow. You could say hello or good morning after the monitor says れい *rei*.

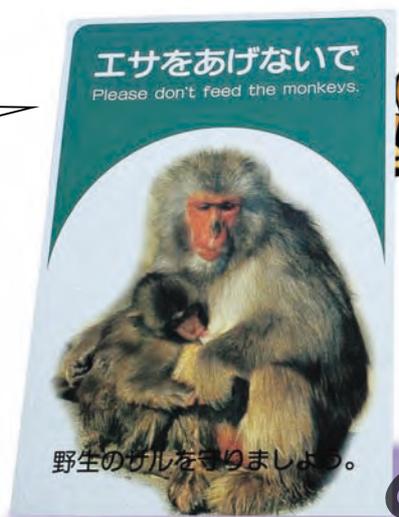
In だい1か, you will learn

- to start and finish class Japanese-style
- to greet your teacher and friends
- a Japanese song about Japanese writing
- to write か、が、な、ひ、ら
- where Japan is

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The writing is different!

Hey, look at this sign! You must be joking! Please, when you come to Nikko, IGNORE THIS SIGN!



In fact, I've put in a picture of my favourite food to show you what to bring. It's at the bottom of the page. No, that's not me on the front, it's my cousin Masaki. Look what he's saying. Pretty cool, don't you think?

Sorry, I forgot. I'd better help you read it. He's saying *ii choko darake*, 'it's full of great chocolate'. Of course, it's not written as *ii choko darake*, it's written as いい チョコ だらけ. *ii choko darake* is what we call roomaji. It's not real Japanese writing, but it is a handy way for me to show you how to read Japanese until you've learned the different scripts.

That's right, I said scripts. In Japan we have three scripts to learn. I can't believe you have only one. いい チョコ だらけ is written in a mixture of two scripts. It starts off in hiragana, moves into katakana and then finishes in hiragana. It goes いい (hiragana), チョコ (katakana) and then だらけ (hiragana). I always think hiragana has a curvy look and katakana is a bit sharper looking. Can you see what I mean?

Which Japanese script did we use on page 1 of this book? That's right, hiragana, the curvy one. And some roomaji to help you out.

Hiragana is the first script we all learn. For us, learning hiragana is a bit like learning the alphabet is for you – except that we have 46 basic symbols or sounds in hiragana and you only have 26 letters in your alphabet.

Now look at the name of my favourite food, チョコ クリスピー *choko kurisupii*. Is it written in hiragana or katakana? If you said hiragana, have another guess!

The Kellogg's people used katakana because that's the script we use to write names and words that are not Japanese. Now, my favourite game is soccer. That's not exactly an original Japanese sport, so when we imported it, we also imported the name *sakkaa*, and we write it as サッカー.



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So much for hiragana and katakana. What about the third script? Well, look on the *choko kurisupii* box next to the number '6' and you'll see a couple of kanji characters on the top line and the third line. The top line reads 種類 *shurui* and the third line reads 鉄分 *tetsubun*. Kanji characters look great, don't they?

We could write all our Japanese words in hiragana but we think using kanji is often the smarter way to go. For example, Masaki lives in the Tokyo Zoo. Our word for 'zoo' is どうぶつえん *doubutsuen* in hiragana but in kanji it's 動物園. Shorter and classier, don't you think?

Some people think kanji characters look Chinese. Well, that's because about 2000 years ago we Japanese brought Chinese writing into our country and made it work for our language. Many of the characters started off as pictures or shapes. Look at the characters 'ear' and 'mouth' on page 1: 耳 and 口. Can you see what I mean?

Now, I've told you a lot of interesting stuff, so when you come to Nikko, don't forget – ignore the sign and throw me lots of *choko kurisupii*.

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Let's do it!

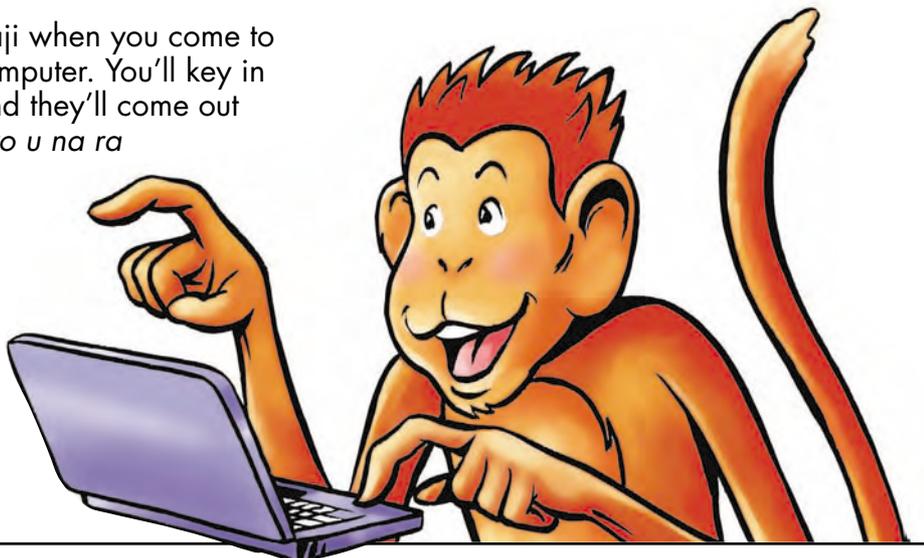
Why don't you try to pick out the three scripts? Find some kanji, hiragana and katakana in this advertisement for shakes.



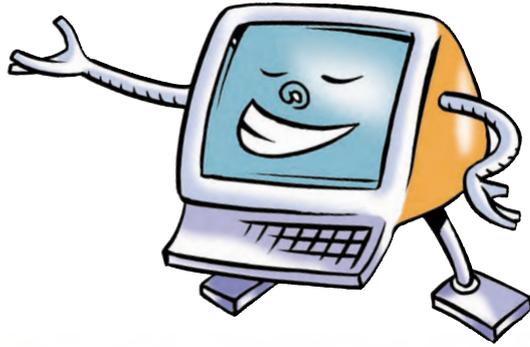
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Japanese word processing

You'll need to know roomaji when you come to write Japanese on your computer. You'll key in the syllables as roomaji and they'll come out as hiragana. I type in *sa yo u na ra* and it comes out as さようなら. Too easy!



The hiragana table



Here is the table showing the hiragana symbols. Each symbol represents a syllable. A syllable is a sound made up of a consonant plus a vowel or a vowel by itself. Can you find the syllables on the table that make up Masaru's name? Point to *ma* then *sa* then *ru*.

You'll notice that there is a smaller table under the hiragana table. This has extra hiragana syllables that are made by adding the special marks *tenten* " and *maru* °. For example, when we add a " to *か* *ka* it becomes *が* *ga*. Look at the *h* line – you can add both " marks and ° marks to make extra sounds.

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Let's do it!



Try singing the hiragana song that *せんせい sensei* has on the *Hai!1 Audio CD* and that you have on page 5 of your *Workbook*. This will help you become familiar with the sounds. Don't fall into the *si, ti, tu* trap. They're just not Japanese sounds!

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n	w	r	y	m	h	n	t	s	k		
ん n	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ	a
		り		み	ひ	に	ち <i>chi</i>	し <i>shi</i>	き	い	i
		る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ <i>tsu</i>	す	く	う	u
		れ		め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え	e
	を o	ろ	よ	も	ほ	の	と	そ	こ	お	o

Start from here.

ぢ and づ are rarely used.

ぱぱ	だ	ざ	が
ぴぴ	ぢ <i>ji</i>	じ <i>ji</i>	ぎ
ぷぷ	づ <i>zu</i>	ず	ぐ
ぺぺ	で	ぜ	げ
ぽぽ	ど	ぞ	ご



Grab that pen!

We'll be having a closer look at a few hiragana symbols in each unit. In this unit we will concentrate on the syllables that make up the word *hi ra ga na*.

First of all, find those four syllables in the hiragana table on the opposite page. That's right, ひらがな. They are the symbols we're featuring on this page, presented in the order they occur in the hiragana table. I've included か *ka* because you use か *ka* to make が *ga*.

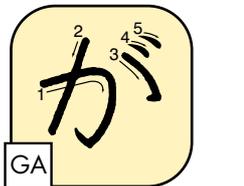
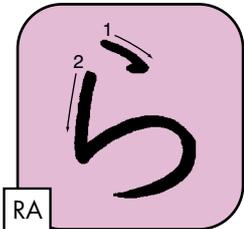
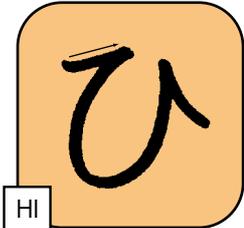
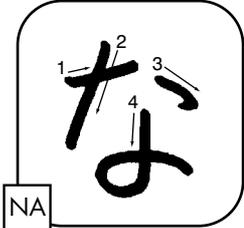
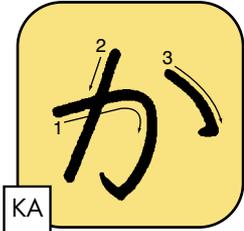
Here are some tips for learning to recognise and write new hiragana symbols:



- Trace over each symbol with your finger. Follow the correct order for writing it. Say it to yourself as you trace over it.
- Close your eyes while a classmate writes a symbol on the palm of your hand. See if you can guess which one they have written.
- Write each symbol in the air with your finger. Try writing them with your elbow or your foot or ...

- Fog up a bathroom mirror, shower screen, bus or car window and write the symbols you are learning.
- Think of a picture link for each symbol. For example, ひ *hi* reminds me of my mad friend Hiroshi who can't stop laughing.

It's not always as easy as this, but if you use your imagination you'll find a picture link that will help you. It's something to work on with your classmates.



だい1か

Where is Japan?

- 1 Is Japan north, south, east or west from where you live?
- 2 Is Japan in the northern or southern hemisphere?
- 3 What season is it in Japan now?
- 4 If you went to Japan in January, what kind of clothes would you need to take?
- 5 Japan is an Asian country. Can you name some other Asian countries?
- 6 Who are Japan's neighbours?



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Let's do it!

Now look at the map of Japan on the inside cover of this Coursebook.

- Practise saying the names of the main islands with *せんせい sensei*.
- Say the names of the cities marked. Do you recognise any of these names? Why? Are they pronounced differently in Japanese?