

# LESSON 1



Welcome to the Japanese Language Classroom!

*In this lesson, you will learn to*

- understand and speak Japanese through conversations that involve greetings and telling about yourself, your family, and your friends;
- ask questions such as "What is your name?" and "What is your nationality?";
- write the basic Japanese phonetic symbols and their variations in *hiragana*;
- read and write basic Japanese words, phrases, and simple sentences in *hiragana*;
- understand Japanese grammar related to some of the basic particles; and
- engage in conversations to explore aspects of Japanese culture.

# Introducing Oneself at the First Meeting

## Task 1 At the first meeting

Here are a Japanese teacher, Mr. Shimizu, and his new students, John and Mary. Learn how they introduce themselves to one another as shown by the dialogue. Practice it as directed by your teacher. Find out what each person is saying with help from the vocabulary list.

### Dialogue

se n se i: ko n ni chi wa. ha ji me ma shi te.  
wa ta shi wa shi mi zu de su.  
ni ho n go no se n se i de su.  
do u zo yo ro shi ku.

John: ko n ni chi wa. ha ji me ma shi te.  
bo ku wa John de su. do u zo yo ro shi ku.

Mary: ko n ni chi wa. ha ji me ma shi te.  
wa ta shi wa Mary de su. do u zo yo ro shi ku.

### Vocabulary

se n se i	teacher. The <i>e i</i> combination is pronounced by lengthening the <i>e</i> .
ko n ni chi wa	Hello! or Good afternoon! See Note.
ha ji me ma shi te	How do you do? Literally, "This is the first time I meet you."
wa ta shi	the Japanese equivalent of "I," a formal style used in general by both male and female
wa	(particle) subject marker
de su	be-verb. equivalent to <i>is, are, or am</i>
ni ho n go	Japanese language. ni ho n go no: of Japanese language
do u zo yo ro shi ku	Nice to meet you. Literally, "Please treat me favorably."
bo ku	The <i>o u</i> combination is pronounced by lengthening the <i>o</i> . informal "I" used by young male

# Japanese Syllables in Romanized Form (I)

## Basic Syllables: Vowel, consonant plus vowel, and "n"

Rows \ Lines	1	2	3	4	5
1	a	i	u	e	o
2	ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
3	sa	shi	su	se	so
4	ta	chi	tsu <sup>1</sup>	te	to
5	na	ni	nu	ne	no
6	ha	hi	fu <sup>2</sup>	he	ho
7	ma	mi	mu	me	mo
8	ya	i	yu	e	yo
9 *	ra	ri	ru	re	ro
10	wa	i	u	e	o
11	n <sup>3</sup>				

1. *Tsu* is pronounced like the *ts* in *cats*.
  2. *Fu* is the sound you make when you blow out a candle. Do not bite your lower lip.
  3. *N* is produced with the nasal passage open.
- \* Line 9: Japanese *r* is called flap-*r* made by flicking the tip of the tongue against the area right behind the upper teeth.

### Task Pronunciation practice: basic syllables

Since most Japanese words are composed of two or more distinct syllables, being able to pronounce each syllable correctly is very important. Practice pronunciation, following the Lines first, and then the Rows.

## Japanese Phonetic Symbols: *Hiragana*

Rows Lines	1	2	3	4	5
	1	a	i	u	e
	あ	い	う	え	お
2	ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
	か	き	く	け	こ
3	sa	shi	su	se	so
	さ	し	す	せ	そ
4	ta	chi	tsu	te	to
	た	ち	つ	て	と
5	na	ni	nu	ne	no
	な	に	ぬ	ね	の
6	ha	hi	fu	he	ho
	は	ひ	ふ	へ	ほ
7	ma	mi	mu	me	mo
	ま	み	む	め	も
8	ya	i	yu	e	yo
	や	い	ゆ	え	よ
9	ra	ri	ru	re	ro
	ら	り	る	れ	ろ
10	wa	i	u	e	o
	わ	い	う	え	を
11	n				
	ん				

Note: This is a list of the basic Japanese phonetic symbols called *hiragana*. Each symbol represents the sound identified with the Romanized pronunciation reference.

**Learn Hiragana: Line 1:** あ い う え お



Task 1  Writing practice: Line 1

Practice writing Line 1 syllables as shown by your teacher. Pay attention to the stroke order of each symbol. Identify it with its correct sound as you practice.

Activity 

Your teacher shows you five *hiragana* flashcards. Read each card correctly. The symbols may not be in order! How fast can you read them all? Who can read them all correctly?

**Japanese Words in Hiragana**

Now that you know how to write the Line 1 syllables in *hiragana*, learn some Japanese words and how to write them in *hiragana*.


あい (a i) love

いえ (i e) house

あお (a o) blue

おい (o i) nephew

**Note:** Japanese has a pitch accent. Pay attention to your teacher's pronunciation to learn which syllable is pronounced in higher pitch than the rest in each word.

Task 2  Let's write Japanese words in *hiragana*!

Practice writing each word in *hiragana* many times as directed by your teacher. In your vocabulary notebook, write each word in *hiragana* accompanied by its English translation.


Activity  Vocabulary Race

For each English word or picture shown by your teacher, how fast and correctly can you identify it in Japanese?

**Vocabulary**

Four Japanese words listed above

# Asking Questions: Question Marker か

Task 1  Read the dialogues of John and Mary with the exchange students. Translate what they say into English.

John practices Japanese with Toshio.

John: ko n ni chi wa, to shi o ku n. ki mi wa ko u ko u se i de su ka.

Toshio: ha i, so u de su.

John: chu u go ku ji n de su ka.

Toshio: i i e, chi ga i ma su.

John: ja a, ni ho n ji n de su ka.

Toshio: ha i, so u de su.

Mary practices Japanese with Reiko.

Mary: ko n ni chi wa, re i ko sa n. a na ta wa ko u ko u se i de su ka.

Reiko: ha i, so u de su.

Mary: ka n ko ku ji n de su ka.

Reiko: i i e, chi ga i ma su.


Mary: ja a, ni ho n ji n de su ka.

Reiko: ha i, so u de su.

## Vocabulary

ku n	honorific suffix (informal) used for young male's name
ki mi	you. an informal expression used often by a male speaker
ha i	yes
so u de su.	That is right. The <i>o u</i> combination is a long vowel of <i>o</i> .
ka	a sentence particle for forming a question. It comes at the end of a phrase or a sentence.
i i e	no. The <i>i i</i> combination is a long vowel of <i>i</i> .
chi ga i ma su.	That is wrong.
ja a	Well, then. The <i>a a</i> combination is a long vowel of <i>a</i> .
sa n	honorific suffix (informal) used as Miss/Mr./Mrs./Ms.
a na ta	you. used generally by both male and female speakers

# I Want to Introduce My Friend.

Task 1  Toshio wants to introduce another Japanese exchange student to your Japanese class. Listen to how he introduces his friend and what his friend says. Translate it into English.

Toshio: to mo da chi o sho u ka i shi ma su.

ko no hi to wa i wa ta yu u ji ku n de su.

yu u ji ku n mo ko u ko u se i de su. ni ho n ji n de su.

Yuuji: ha ji me ma shi te. do u zo yo ro shi ku.

- Note:
1. When a direct object marker *o* is attached to the end of a noun, that noun becomes the direct object of the verb in the sentence. Thus, *to mo da chi o sho u ka i shi ma su* means *to introduce a friend*.
  2. When it is understood, the subject of a sentence is often omitted in Japanese. Since it is obvious that Toshio is going to introduce his friend, he does not say *bo ku wa* or *wa ta shi wa* at the beginning.
  3. *Mo* is a particle, and it is placed right after a noun to indicate (the item) *also*. When *mo* is used, the subject marker *wa* is dropped. So Toshio says, "*yu u ji ku n mo . . . de su*" instead of "*yu u ji ku n wa mo . . . de su*."
  4. Notice that Toshio attaches *ku n* to his friend's name. Japanese rarely mention someone's name without an honorific suffix.

## Vocabulary

to mo da chi		friend
sho u ka i shi ma su		to introduce. The <i>o u</i> combination is a long <i>o</i> vowel.
o	(particle)	direct object marker
ko no hi to		this person
mo	(particle)	also

**Learn Hiragana: Line 4: た ち つ て と**



Task 1  Writing practice: Line 4

Practice writing Line 4 syllables as shown by your teacher. Pay attention to the stroke order of each symbol. Identify it with its correct sound as you practice.

Activity 

Now you should know 20 symbols. Your teacher shows you *hiragana* flashcards. Read each card correctly. The symbols may not be in order. How fast can you read them all? Who can read them all correctly?


**Japanese Words in Hiragana**

くつ	( ku tsu )	shoe	せいと	( se i to )	student
つくえ	( tsu ku e )	desk	とけい	( to ke i )	watch; clock
としお	( to shi o )	Toshio	あした	( a shi ta )	tomorrow
ちかてつ	( chi ka te tsu )	subway			

**Note:** 1. Pay attention to the pitch accent in each word as your teacher pronounces it.  
2. Normally there is no difference between singular and plural in Japanese nouns.  
3. とけい and せいと have an *e i* combination. Pronounce it as a long vowel of *e*.

Task 2  Let's write Japanese words in *hiragana*!


Practice writing each word in *hiragana* many times as directed by your teacher. In your vocabulary notebook, write each new word in *hiragana* accompanied by its English translation.

Activity  Demonstrate your vocabulary mastery as directed by your teacher.

**Vocabulary**                      Seven Japanese words listed above



# How Are You?

Task 1  On the first day of school after a long summer break, a Japanese teacher greets the students. Read the following and translate it into English. Do you remember what *mo* means?

se n se i: o ha yo u go za i ma su.

se i to: o ha yo u go za i ma su.

se n se i: o ge n ki de su ka.

se i to: ha i, ge n ki de su. se n se i wa.

se n se i: a ri ga to u. wa ta shi mo ge n ki de su.

Note: 1. *Ge n ki* means *vigor, energy*, etc. It is used to imply that a person is full of vitality or in good health; therefore, *wa ta shi wa ge n ki de su* means *I am fine*.

2. *O ge n ki de su ka* means *Are you in good health?* and it is equivalent to *How are you?* The *o* before *ge n ki* is an honorific prefix, and it is commonly attached to show respect when greeting someone. You should not attach the honorific *o* when you speak of yourself, so you should not say, "*wa ta shi wa o ge n ki de su.*"

3. Unlike the English *How are you?* which is regularly used throughout the day, Japanese do not use *o ge n ki de su ka* unless they have not seen each other for at least a few weeks.

4. Notice that the teacher does not say, "*a na ta wa o ge n ki de su ka.*" The subject of a sentence is often omitted when it is clearly understood.

5. The students respond by saying, "*se n se i wa.*" It actually means *se n se i wa o ge n ki de su ka*; however, it is not necessary to say the entire question because it is understood. It must be pronounced with a slightly rising intonation. The English equivalent is *And you?*

## Vocabulary

o ge n ki de su ka      How are you?

ge n ki                  vigor; energy

a ri ga to u              Thank you. The *o u* combination is a long *o* vowel.

Activity 2 😊 Let's use possessive expressions.

Say the following in Japanese, using *no* correctly.

my friend	my friend's mother	my teacher
my teacher's voice	my father's nephew	your umbrella
Toshio-kun's cat	Reiko-san's friend's watch	a dog's face
a teacher's desk	my father's chair	a flower's name
my friend's father's boat	my mother's money	your cat's name
Yuuji-kun's chopsticks	this person's shoes	a student's legs

Activity 3 😊 の in various functions

The particle の is versatile. It often shows a relation, but not necessarily ownership. Can you tell what each of the following examples means?

ko u ko u se i の つくえ	ni ho n go の se n se i
chu u go ku の おかね	ni ho n の とけい
to u kyo u の ちかてつ	a me ri ka の すし

Can you say the following in Japanese?

China's ship	fish-meat	autumn flower
Japanese language student	high school teacher	

**Vocabulary**

chu u go ku	China. Pronounce the <i>uu</i> combination as a long <i>u</i> vowel.
to u kyo u	Tokyo (Japan's capital). Pronounce the <i>ou</i> combination as a long vowel of <i>o</i> .
a me ri ka	America

Learn *Hiragana*: Line 9: ら り る れ ろ



Task 1  Writing practice: Line 9

Practice writing Line 9 syllables as shown by your teacher. Pay attention to the stroke order of each symbol. Identify it with its correct sound as you practice.


Activity 

Now you should know 40 symbols. Your teacher shows you *hiragana* flashcards. Read each card correctly. The symbols may not be in order. How fast can you read them all? Who can read them all correctly?


**Japanese Words in *Hiragana***

れいこ (re i ko)	Reiko	さくら (sa ku ra)	cherry blossom
りす (ri su)	squirrel	はる (ha ru)	spring
まさひろ (ma sa hi ro)	Masahiro (Reiko's father's name)		

**Note:** Pay attention to the pitch accent in each word as your teacher pronounces it. Japanese *r* is a flap-*r*. Practice the pronunciation for らりるれろ many times.

Task 2  Let's write Japanese words in *hiragana*!


Practice writing each word in *hiragana* many times as directed by your teacher. In your vocabulary notebook, write each new word in *hiragana* accompanied by its English translation.

Activity  Practice your vocabulary as directed by your teacher.

**Vocabulary** Five Japanese words listed above

## Learn *Hiragana*: Dotted Syllables



Task 1  Practice writing the dotted syllables, which were introduced on p.6. Pay attention to the positioning of the dots or the circle as instructed by your teacher.

12. が ぎ ぐ げ ご (ga gi gu ge go)  
13. ざ じ ず ぜ ぞ (za ji zu ze zo)  
14. だ ぢ づ で ど (da ji zu de do)  
15. ば び ぶ べ ぼ (ba bi bu be bo)  
16. ぱ ぴ ぷ ぺ ぽ (pa pi pu pe po)

Note: Both じ and ぢ are pronounced as *ji*; however, じ is normally used to represent the sound. Both ず and づ are pronounced as *zu*; however, ず is normally used.

### Japanese Words in *Hiragana* with Dotted Syllables

おはようございます。	Good morning!	すうがく	mathematics
はじめまして。	How do you do?	にほんじん	Japanese people
どうぞよろしく。	Nice to meet you.	かんこくじん	Korean people
おげんきですか。	How are you?	ともだち	friend
にほんご	Japanese language	だれですか。	Who is (it)?
どうもありがとうございます。	Thank you very much.	えいご	English
どういたしまして。	You are welcome.	おんがく	music
なにじんですか。	What nationality (are you)?		

Task 2  Let's write Japanese words in *hiragana*!

Practice writing the words and phrases with dotted syllables. In your vocabulary notebook, write each one of them in *hiragana* accompanied by its English translation.

### Vocabulary


Fifteen Japanese words and phrases listed above

1. あ い う え お
2. か き く け こ
3. さ し す せ そ
4. た ち つ て と
5. な に ぬ ね の
6. は ひ ふ へ ほ
7. ま み む め も
8. や い ゆ え よ
9. ら り る れ ろ
10. わ い う え を
11. ん
12. が ぎ ぐ げ ご
13. ざ じ ず ぜ ぞ
14. だ ぢ づ で ど
15. ば び ぶ べ ぼ
16. ぱ ぴ ぷ ぺ ぽ
17. きゃ きゅ きょ
18. しゃ しゅ しょ
19. ちゃ ちゅ ちょ
20. にゃ にゅ にょ
21. ひゃ ひゅ ひょ
22. みゃ みゅ みょ
23. りゃ りゅ りょ
24. ぎゃ ぎゅ ぎょ
25. じゃ じゅ じょ
26. びゃ びゅ びょ
27. ぴゃ ぴゅ ぴょ

# Reading and Writing Japanese Sentences

There are some rules to be observed when you write Japanese.

1. The subject marker *wa* is always written as は, but it is pronounced *wa*. It is always attached to the end of a subject word or a phrase in a sentence.
2. No capitalization exists in Japanese writing.
3. Spacing is used between phrases, clauses, or sentences, but not between every word or particle as it is in English; however, in this textbook series, spacing may be applied more often than normally done in order to make Japanese words or phrases easier to recognize.
4. The direct object marker *o* such as in "*to mo da chi o sho u ka i shi ma su*" is always written as を, but it is pronounced as お. It is always attached to the end of a direct object noun or a phrase in a sentence.
5. Japanese period (。 ) and comma (、 ) must be applied correctly.
6. Japanese quotation marks are 「 」 .
7. Japanese can be written vertically or horizontally. This textbook series uses horizontal writing for convenience.

Task  Read the following Japanese expressions. Translate them into English.

1. こんにちは。\* はじめまして。わたしは さかい れいこです。  
どうぞよろしく。 \**Wa* in *konnichiwa* is always written as a particle は.
2. 「こんばんは。\* おげんきですか。」 「はい、げんきです。」  
\**Wa* in *konbanwa* is always written as a particle は.
3. ぼくのなまえは やまだ としおです。にほんじんです。  
こうこうせいです。
4. ともだちを しょうかいします。このひとは いわた ゆうじくんです。
5. わたしのおかあさんは おんがくのせんせいです。
6. としおくんの すうがくのせんせいのなまえは まついせんせいです。