

## Japanese Syllables

### 1) Basic syllables

		<b>r</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>m</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>k</b>	
n	wa	ra	ya	ma	ha	na	ta	sa	ka	<b>a</b>
		ri		mi	hi	ni	chi	shi	ki	<b>i</b>
		ru	yu	mu	fu	nu	tsu	su	ku	<b>u</b>
		re		me	he	ne	te	se	ke	<b>e</b>
	o	ro	yo	mo	ho	no	to	so	ko	<b>o</b>

### 2) Contracted Sounds

<b>ri</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>hi</b>	<b>ni</b>	<b>chi</b>	<b>shi</b>	<b>ki</b>	
rya	mya	hya	nya	cha	sha	kya	<b>ya</b>
ryu	myu	hyu	nyu	chu	shu	kyu	<b>yu</b>
ryo	myo	hyo	nyo	cho	sho	kyo	<b>yo</b>
	<b>pi</b>	<b>bi</b>			<b>ji</b>	<b>ga</b>	
	pya	bya			ja	gya	<b>ya</b>
	pyu	byu			ju	gyu	<b>yu</b>
	pyo	byo			jo	gyo	<b>yo</b>

↙	↘		↓	↓	↓	
<b>p</b>	<b>b</b>		<b>d</b>	<b>z</b>	<b>g</b>	
pa	ba		da	za	ga	<b>a</b>
pi	bi		ji	ji	gi	<b>i</b>
pu	bu		zu	zu	gu	<b>u</b>
pe	be		de	ze	ge	<b>e</b>
po	bo		do	zo	go	<b>o</b>

### 3) Double Consonants (pp, tt, tts, tch, kk, ss, ssh, dd, gg)

saka – sakka      kako - kakko      kite – kitte

### 4) Vowel in sequences

ha i      ma e      ri e

### 5) Long vowels

aa      ii      uu      ee      oo

☆In your text book: ā, ī, ū, ē, ō

### 6) Voiceless vowels

des(u)      mas(u)

## Japanese Writing System

テ レ ビ を 見 ま す 。  
 ↑            ← ↑            ↑  
 Katakana   Kanji            Hiragana

Japan had no writing system before Kanji characters were introduced from China in the 4th century. Hiragana and Katakana characters were devised from Kanji characters by the 9th century. Hiragana characters were made by modifying the shape of corresponding Kanji characters. Hiragana were used for writing diaries, letters, and poems especially by women. Katakana characters were made by taking a part of Kanji characters. Katakana were used mainly to write the readings of Buddhist scripts. Each Hiragana and Katakana does not carry any meaning. They are the representation of syllables.

- **Kanji** (山川木人田, etc) are used for representing concrete concepts expressed as nouns, verbs, and adjectives and adverbs.
- **Hiragana** (あいうえお, etc) is used to write various grammatical markers, inflectional endings and other words not written in Kanji.
- **Katakana** (アイウエオ, etc) is generally reserved for words and names borrowed from other languages, excepting Chinese.

### Hiragana

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

Different fonts: あいうえおかきくけこ (Textbook)

あいうえおかきくけこ (Gothic)

あいうえおかきくけこ (Mincho)