

Oh, hi there.

I assume you already learned Hiragana, which is why you're here. If you haven't, I suggest checking out the Hiragana PDFs at linguajunkie.com.

Alright, want to learn to learn the Japanese Katakana FAST? You can. But you also won't if you're a stuck-up basement dwelling intellectual that doesn't try things.

So, lets start under these conditions.

1. You actually try.
2. You don't aim for perfection. Only slow learners do that. *(You'll perfect 'em all once you start reading and writing.)*
3. You skip the slow one character-at-a-time tutorials.
4. You immediately jump into reading and writing right after you learn the alphabet. Otherwise, you'll forget it as fast as you've learned it.

Ready? Good. This will take you an hour or less to get all the characters in your head so you can read and write Japanese.

This tutorial will comprise of a few steps. And it's the same exact method I've used to master Hiragana.

1. Get a sheet that shows all the katakana characters all at once.
2. Separate them into groups
3. Memorize these groups – at least the English versions.
4. Get acquainted with the stroke order or... the writing style for these funky characters.
5. Write them out for practice.
6. Repeat steps 3 – 6 for all groups.

Step 1. The Katakana Chart that you must cherish and constantly refer to in your beginner times.

Print it and love it.

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-		
ン	ワ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア	-a
N	WA	RA	YA	MA	HA	NA	TA	SA	KA	A	
	ヰ	リ		ミ	ヒ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ	-i
	WI	RI		MI	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	KI	I	
		ル	ユ	ム	フ	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ	-u
		RU	YU	MU	FU	NU	TSU	SU	KU	U	
	エ	レ		メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ	-e
	WE	RE		ME	HE	NE	TE	SE	KE	E	
	ヲ	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ	-o
	WO	RO	YO	MO	HO	NO	TO	SO	KO	O	

Step 2. Separate them into 10 groups and write ONLY the romanized/ English versions.

We'll separate all Characters into 10 groups.

1. A, I, U, E, O
2. KA, KI, KU, KE, KO
3. SA, SHI, SU, SE, SO
4. TA, CHI, TSU, TE, TO
5. NA, NI, NU, NE, NO
6. HA, HI, HU, HE, HO
7. MA, MI, MU, ME, MO
8. YA, YU, YO
9. RA, RI, RU, RE, RO
10. WA, WO, N

All separated. For now, let's focus on the first 5 groups for the sake of simplicity.

Step 3.1. Memorizing the first 5 groups.

So, going group by group, starting with the first one, you're going to memorize JUST the English/Romanized parts.

This is not hard at all because all mostly follow the A, I, U, E, O pattern.

There are a few exceptions that are bolded below.

- **Sit down, take the first 5 groups and memorize them. We'll do the first 5 for the sake of simplicity.**
- **Say them out loud. Close your eyes. Write them down. This will take you a minute or three at most.**

1. A I U E O
2. KA KI KU KE KO
3. SA SHI SU SE SO
4. TA **CHI TSU** TE TO
5. NA NI NU NE NO

Quick test: Can you repeat these 25 sounds without looking at this page?

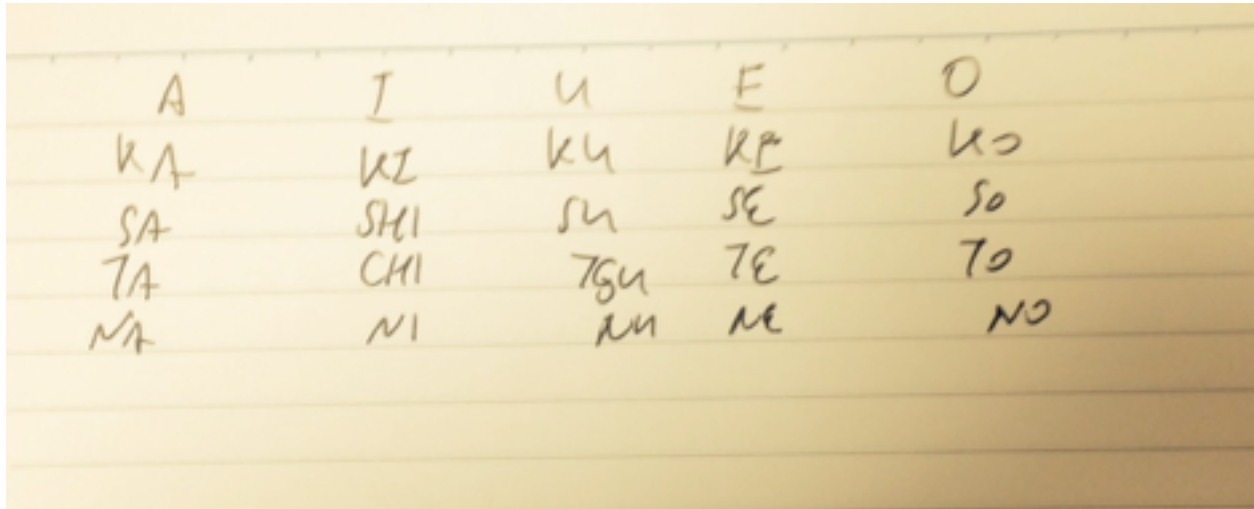
Yes? Good.

Now, let's line them up with their Japanese Counterparts.

Step 4.1: Get acquainted with the stroke order for these characters.

Alright, get a pen and paper and write down the 5 groups you've memorized.

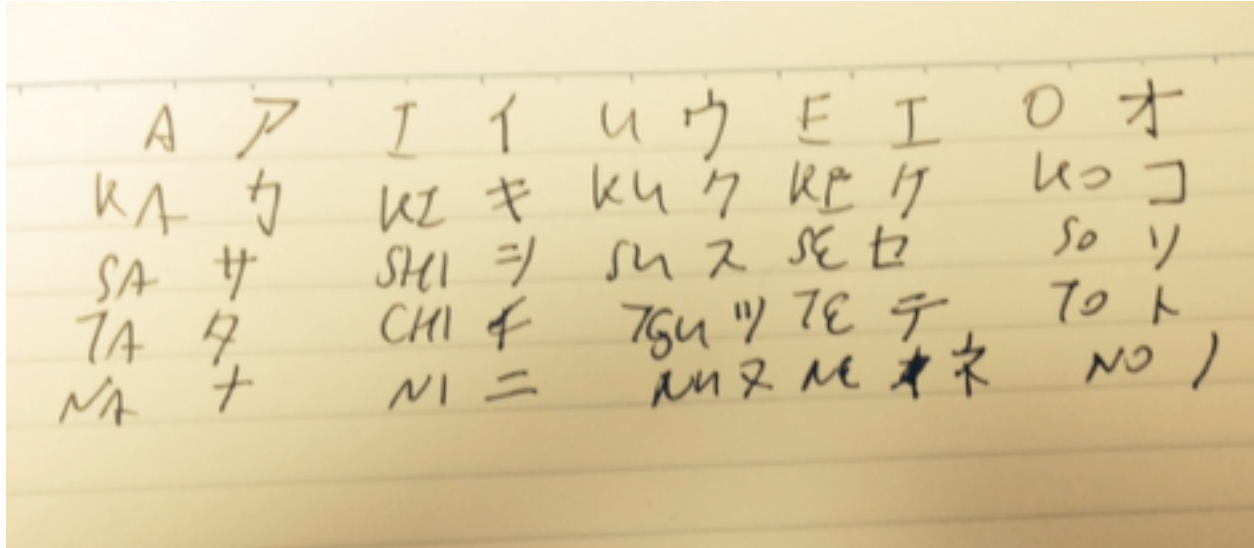
Make sure to give yourself space to write in the corresponding katakana characters.



Done? Use this Katakana Chart, (already shown above and I've added it below again) to see the stroke order and write the character. **Forget perfection.** We'll get to that later.

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-		
ン	ワ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア	-a
N	WA	RA	YA	MA	HA	NA	TA	SA	KA	A	
	ヰ	リ		ミ	ヒ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ	-i
	WI	RI		MI	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	KI	I	
		ル	ユ	ム	フ	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ	-u
		RU	YU	MU	FU	NU	TSU	SU	KU	U	
	エ	レ		メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ	-e
	WE	RE		ME	HE	NE	TE	SE	KE	E	
	ヲ	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ	-o
	WO	RO	YO	MO	HO	NO	TO	SO	KO	O	

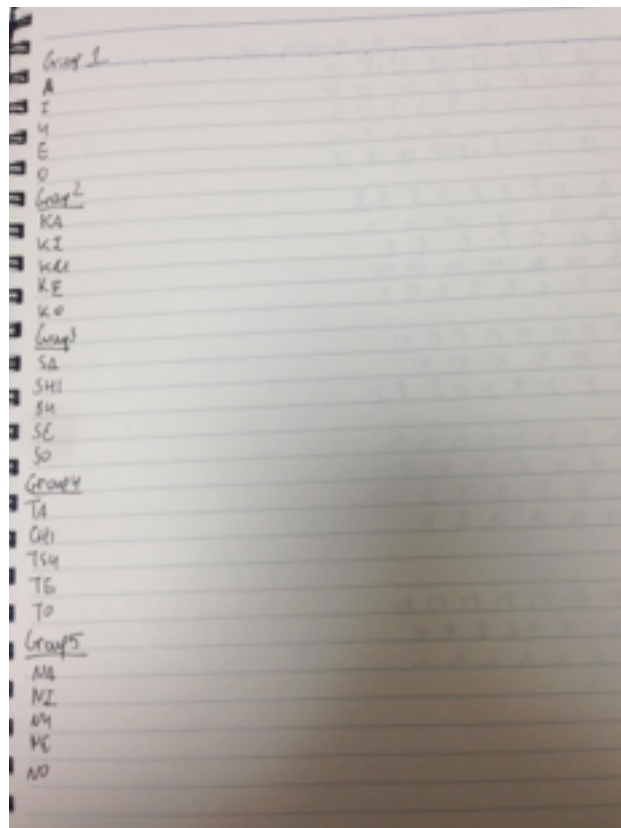
So, now, your first 25 Romanized characters should be matched up with their Katakana equals. And if you left space between the letters as requested, it should look like this. Once again, don't worry about perfect; we just need to get the job done.



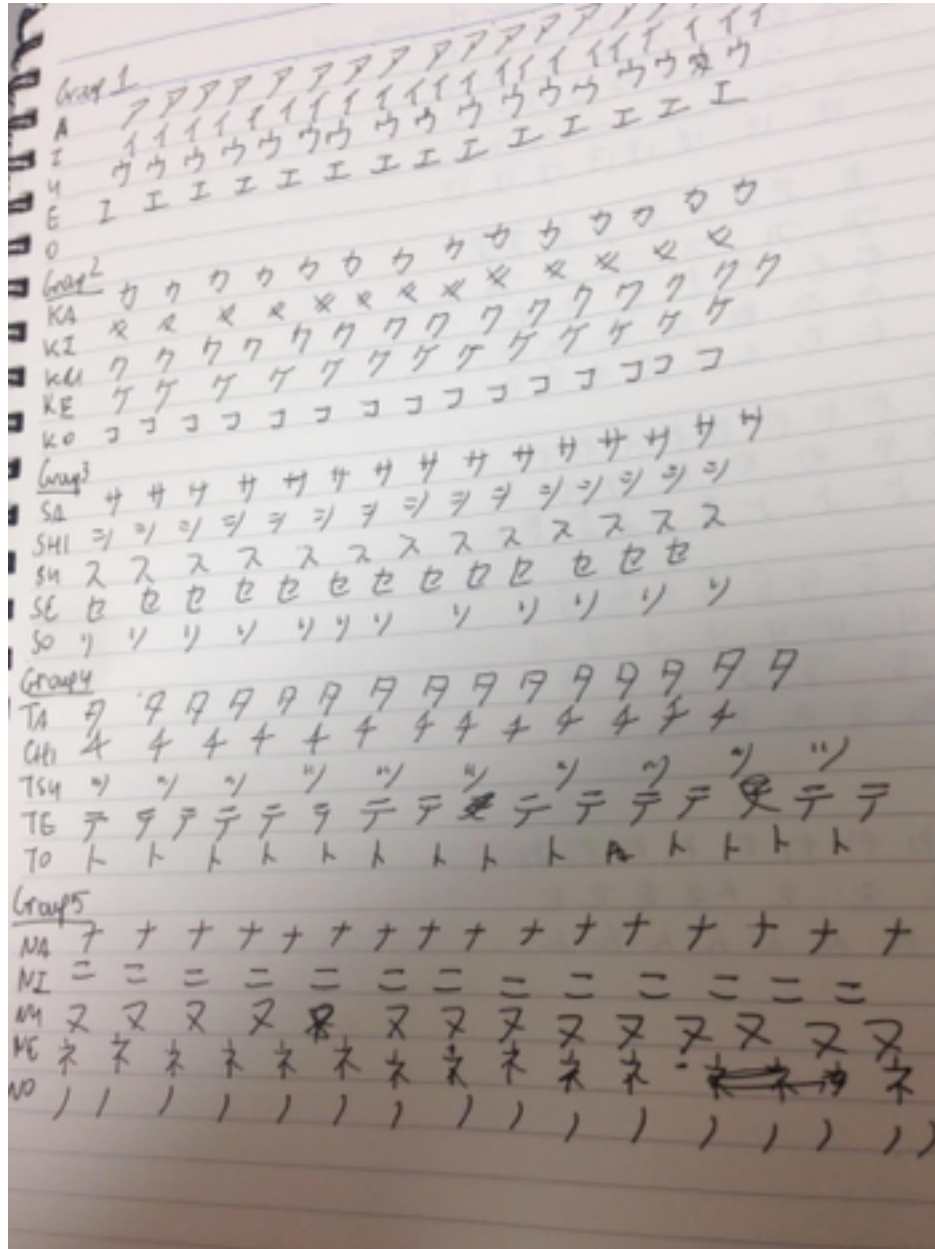
Step 5.1 Write 'em out.

Well you didn't expect to learn them just by reading a PDF did you? Now that you've memorized the English/Romanized sounds and got some writing experience down, we need to start practicing the katakana characters for each group.

So, once again, write down all 5 groups down the left side of a page like this.



Now, this is where the magic happens. Write the Katakana characters you just learned across the sheet for practice. It should look like this, if not messier than mine.



This first half should take you 30 minutes if not less. Most of the time would go into writing these characters out, I assume. Before we proceed to part 2 and the next groups, 6-10, make sure to take some time to quickly drill quiz yourself on the newly learned characters.

Remember all 25 English sounds, write them down on the left side of the paper as I've done above. Then, for review, write in the Japanese Katakana characters too.

Association tips to help you remember Katakana.

- Ka or カ looks very similar to the Hiragana か。 Just remove that stroke on the right.
- Ki or キ looks very similar to its Hiragana version, き, minus the rounded bottom.
- I or イ pretty much looks like a I, just with a long slanted roof. Or a T.
- E or エ is just a wider I. Imagine extending the lines on the top and bottom further.

Proceed onto the 2nd Katakana in Under 1 Hour PDF on linguajunkie.com.

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